

## MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

On the 11th day of July 2023, the City Council of Taft, Texas, convened in a regular meeting at 230 Green Avenue, Taft, Texas, at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

### **1. CALL REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO ORDER**

There being a quorum, Mayor-Pro Tem Rolando Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

### **2. CALL ROLL AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM IS PRESENT**

Councilman Vasquez	<input type="checkbox"/> present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Pro-tem Rodriguez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Powell	<input type="checkbox"/> present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> absent

Others Present: William Linn, City Manager; Molly Topper, Finance Director/City Secretary, Police Chief John Landreth, Maria Moreno (see list for other guests present)

### **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Molina led Pledge of Allegiance

### **4. PRAYER**

Councilman Keeney led the prayer.

### **5. CITIZEN COMMENT**

No citizens wished to address the Council.

Councilman Vasquez arrived at 6:34 p.m.

### **6. CITY MANAGER REPORT:**

- Water Leak: caused by fire hydrant on 1<sup>st</sup> Street
- SAVVY Citizen: encouraged citizens to sign up for notices
- TML Conference: at Kay Bailey Convention Center in Dallas on October 4-6, 2023
- Budget: workshop on July 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
- Taft.gov: needs approval
- Kyocera: contract ending at the end of July 2023; SKY IT will re-configure computers & cameras
- Parks dedication – have scheduled dedication for September 2, 2023.
- GLO grant: two agenda items
- TxDOT Alternative Transportation Grant: no word on status
- DR4322: meeting with FEMA tomorrow regarding generators grant
- Library: will be agenda item on July 25<sup>th</sup>
- Fire Department: seeking architect for building; received one electrical work bid, awaiting 2<sup>nd</sup> bid
- Parks: dedication for Miguel Garcia Park scheduled for September 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Veteran's Memorial: working to gather ideas
- City Hall: landscaping bids accepted
- Park Equipment: needs rubber chips around equipment for child safety, waiting for quote for material
- Taft Recreational Park: improvement for next year budget, including swimming pool

- Julia Alvarado Center: have 3 quotes for hurricane screens; they will be ordered; need to purchase tables & chairs
- Davis Road: received one bid for repair of the sidewalk & curb
- Street Repairs: crews still filling pot holes; will repair Juarez St. to Bravo, and Allende St. to Bravo and Murray Street
- Robert’s Rules of Order: brief presentation of meeting rules

**7. CONSENT AGENDA:**

A. Consideration and Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes:

Councilman Keeney motioned, seconded by Councilman Molina, to approve the Minutes of June 13, 2023, and June 27, 2023, as amended.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Rodriguez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Powell	<input type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried.

**8. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION IN REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FAMILY DOLLAR/DOLLAR TREE BUILDING LOCATED ON HWY 181 IN TAFT, TX**

Mr. Linn reported that the Planning & Zoning Board had held a public hearing to hear citizen comment regarding construction and the Board voted unanimously to recommend that construction move forward. Council discussed drainage concerns and Mr. Linn will investigate and report back to Council. Councilman Keeney motioned, seconded by Councilman Vasquez, to approve the construction of the Family Dollar/Dollar Tree building located on HWY 181 in Taft, TX.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Rodriguez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Powell	<input type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried.

**9. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION IN REGARD TO AWARDING A CONTRACT TO DIRT BOYS, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$144,300.00 FOR THE GREGORY STREET MILLING AND OVERLAY PROJECT; AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE PROJECT**

Mr. Linn explained the project and bid process. Dirt Boys, Inc. submitted two bids on specs prepared by Ardurra Engineering. He reported that an extra bid for curb-to-curb was submitted and the one that he recommends for approval. If accepted, he would give Dirt Boys, Inc. a 10-day notice to proceed. Council asked that residents be notified of street work commencing. Councilman Vasquez motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to award a contract to Dirt Boys, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$144,300.00 for the Gregory Street milling and overlay project; and authorizing the City Manager to sign all documents relating to the project.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Rodriguez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Powell	<input type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried.

**10. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION IN REGARD TO AWARDING A CONTRACT TO DIRT BOYS, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$210,000.00 FOR THE RETAMA STREET MILLING AND OVERLAY PROJECT; AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE PROJECT**

Mr. Linn explained the project and bid process. Dirt Boys, Inc. submitted a bid for \$210,000.00 curb-to-curb. If accepted, he would give Dirt Boys, Inc. a 10-day notice to proceed. Councilman Molina motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to award a contract to Dirt Boys, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$210,000.00 for the Retama Street milling and overlay project; and authorizing the City Manager to sign all documents relating to the project.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Rodriguez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Powell	<input type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried.

**11. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION IN REGARD TO SELECTION OF A GRANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR GRANT ADMINISTRATION OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE (GLO) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MITIGATION (CDBG – MIT) FUNDS COASTAL BEND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS’ (CDBG) METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION (MOD) FUNDING OPPORTUNITY AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR GRANT ADMINISTRATION WITH THE SELECTED FIRM**

Mr. Linn reported that he had received a bid from Traylor Associates, Inc. for grant administration. Councilman Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Councilman Molina, to award the grant administration of the General Land Office (GLO) Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Funds Coastal Bend Council of Governments’ (CDBG) Method of Distribution (MOD) funding opportunity to Traylor Associates, Inc. and authorize the City Manager to enter into a professional services agreement for grant administration with the selected firm.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Rodriguez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Powell	<input type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried.

**12. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION IN REGARD TO THE SELECTION OF AN ENGINEERING FIRM FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE (GLO) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MITIGATION (CDBG-MIT) FUNDS COASTAL BEND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' (CDBG) METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION (MOD) FUNDING OPPORTUNITY AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES WITH THE SELECTED FIRM**

Mr. Linn explained the scoring of two bids received. One from Ardurra Engineering and the other from the MLB Group. Councilman Vasquez motioned, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez, to award the project to Ardurra.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Rodriguez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Powell	<input type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried.

**13. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION IN REGARD TO RATIFYING ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS FOR THE CITY OF TAFT JUNE SUMMER BASH EVENT AND ISSUING THANK-YOU LETTERS TO THE DONORS**

Mr. Linn reported that several local businesses have donated funds or goods to be used for the Summer Bash event held on June 23 and the need to acknowledge their donation in the form of a thank you letter. Councilman Vasquez motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to ratify acceptance of donations for the City of Taft June Summer Bash Event and issuing thank you letters to the donors.

Councilman Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Rodriguez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Powell	<input type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried.

**14. CONSIDERATION, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION IN REGARD TO NON-HUMAN RELATION CITY MATTERS WITH THE CITY MANAGER**

Mr. Linn explained that the purpose of this agenda item was to give Council an opportunity to discuss items, not necessarily agenda items, but items they wanted to discussed.

Vasquez – mentioned a street light at Stripes that had been out for quite some time. Also asked if TxDot could be contacted regarding sweeping HWY 181 of loose rocks.

Keeney – thoroughly impressed with changes at City Hall; asked about mapping for water valves not being available

Rodriguez – possibility of flooding from a water leak on HWY 181 and that TxDOT or San Patricio County Drainage District should be contacted to help address this concern; asked for speed limit study on FM 631

Molina – brush not being picked up on schedule

Powell -- Absent

**15. ITEMS TO CONSIDER FOR PLACEMENT ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

Vasquez – None

Keeney – none

Rodriguez – Municipal Judge appointment

Molina – covers at parks

Powell -- Absent

**16. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST AND/OR UPCOMING EVENTS**

Vasquez – None

Keeney – None

Rodriguez – None

Molina – None

Powell -- Absent

City Manager – next summer bash on 07/21/23. He introduced Mariah Moreno as the City’s Community Events Director effective 07/16/2023. Mariah introduced the next bash events: dunking booth; she gave thanks to Councilman Vasquez for cooking hot dogs; THS cheerleaders have asked to hold a 50/50 raffle as a fundraiser for their trip to Florida to participate in the Citrus Bowl next year; corn hole tournament at the next event with funds gathered to be donated to a youth program

City Secretary – Molly Topper reminded Council of the TML Conference on October 4-6, 2023 and asked for attendees in order to reserve accommodations. Councilman Rodriguez and Councilman Molina expressed an interest in attending.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussions, Councilman Vasquez motioned, seconded by Councilman Molina, to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 pm.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Rodriguez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Powell	<input type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT

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Randy Powell, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Molly Topper, City Secretary