

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

On the 14th day of March 2023, the City Council of Taft, Texas, convened in a special meeting at 402 Park Street, Kiva Hut, at 6:31 p.m. with the following members present:

#1. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM CHECK

Randy Powell	Mayor
Rolando Rodriguez	Mayor Pro-Tem
Leonard Vasquez	
Chris Keeney	
Alonso Molina	

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Powell.

Others Present: Molly Topper, Finance Director/City Secretary; Epi Ysassi, Interim City Attorney; Bernie Saenz, Director of Public Works (see attached list for additional guests)

#2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Pro-tem Rodriguez led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

#3. VISITORS

Marcus Adams commented on lack of response to his open records requests.

#4. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2023 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING AND FEBRUARY 28, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Pro-tem Rodriguez motioned seconded by Councilman Molina, to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 13, 2023, with one correction, and the Minutes of February 28, 2023.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina
Noes: None
Absent: None
The motion carried.

#5. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Discuss, consider and act on Resolution # _____, termination of interim city manager, Sid Arismendez, declaring Lack of Confidence, pursuant to Texas Local Government code Section 22.077 (b).

Discuss, consider and act on Resolution # _____, termination of interim city attorney, Epi Ysassi, declaring Lack of Confidence, pursuant to Texas Local Government code Section 22.077 (b).

#6. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON THE AWARD OF THE ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE CITY'S 2023-2024 TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (TXCDBG) APPLICATION AND SUBSEQUENT ENGINEERING CONTRACT IF FUNDED

#7. DISCUSS CONSIDER AND ACT ON RESOLUTION NO. _____ AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND AND ADOPTING THE FOLLOWING CIVIL RIGHTS POLICIES: 1. A1003 EXCESSIVE FORCE POLICY; 2. A1015 FAIR HOUSING POLICY; 3. A1004 SECTION 504 POLICY AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES; 4. CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY; AND 5. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN

#8. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON RESOLUTION NO. _____ AUTHORIZING CITY REPRESENTATIVES TO ACT IN MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

- #9. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH BOUNDARIES OF A HISTORIC DOWNTOWN/COMMERCIAL DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
- #10. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE AN AREA OF THE DESIGNATED HISTORIC DOWNTOWN/COMMERCIAL DISTRICT AS A SLUM/BLIGHTED AREA
- #11. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND APPROVE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM (DRP) APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
- #12. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND APPROVE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SIGNATORIES FOR THE 2023 DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM (DRP) APPLICATION AND FUTURE GRANTS ADMINISTERED THROUGH TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TDA GO GRANTS ONLINE
- #15. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON 2023 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ADJUSTMENT TO MUNICIPAL TELECOMMUNICATION RIGHT OF WAY ACCESS LINE RATES

Interim City Attorney advised Council that the language used for the Executive Session Items was not in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, therefore, advised against proceeding with the Session. Mayor Powell motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney to table Items #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12 & #15.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina
 Noes: None
 Absent: None
 The motion carried.

- #13. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON ASSIGNMENT LETTER FROM ABSOLUTE WASTE TO FRONTIER SERVICES ASSIGNING THE REMAINDER OF THE CONTRACT TERM WITH THE CITY OF TAFT

William Davis introduced the VP for Frontier Waste, Bill Killeen, and informed that Absolute Waste had sold the company to Frontier Waste with no changes to the existing contract. They asked that the City accept the assignment letter from Frontier Waste. Councilman Vasquez motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to sign the contract assignment letter from Absolute Waste Services to Frontier Waste with the City of Taft.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina
 Noes: None
 Absent: None
 The motion carried.

- #14. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON CENTERPOINT ENERGY 2023 ANNUAL GRIP ADJUSTMENT FOR THE SOUTH TEXAS DIVISION

Mr. Rich Silva, CenterPoint Energy reported on the 2023 Grip Adjustment for the South Texas Division affecting the Taft customer rate to an increase from \$27.02 per month to \$30.75 per month, an increase of \$3.72. It would take effect May 1, 2023, unless suspended by Council. Suspension would delay the adjusted rate effective date to June 1, 2023. Mayor Powell motioned, seconded by Councilman Vasquez, to suspend the GRIP Adjustment for the South Texas Division.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina
 Noes: None
 Absent: None
 The motion carried.

- #16. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT TO APPOINT MEMBER TO VACANT SEAT ON THE TAFT QUALITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION (TQIC)

Mayor Powell reported speaking with Robbin McCarty of TQIC and she recommended Glenn Searcy be named to fill one of the vacant seats. Councilman Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Mayor Powell, to accept the appointment of Glenn Searcy as the 5th member and continue the search for the two more members to have seven TQIC members.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina

Noes: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

#17. CITY COUNCIL REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Requests by Mayor and Councilmembers for items on future City Council agendas

Councilman Vasquez: to review City Manager applications and schedule a workshop to appoint a City Manager
Councilman Keeney: wants to meet three-day window and do something with City Manager and City Attorney
Powell: for special meeting at 6:30 on Monday, include executive session & reconvene wording and review of applications

Rodriguez: schedule special meeting for Monday, March 20, 2023

Molina: fill vacant seat on Planning & Zoning; update of city projects along with report from Director of Public Works

- Announcements by Mayor and Councilmembers

None

#18. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Keeney motioned, seconded by Councilman Vasquez, to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 pm.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina

Noes: None

Absent: None

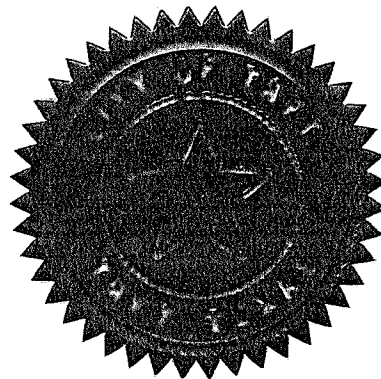
The motion carried

CITY OF TAFT

Randy Powell
Randy Powell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Molly Topper
Molly Topper, City Secretary



REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 14, 2023

6:30 P.M.

Use Sign In – PLEASE PRINT

1 Adams

19.

Adams

20.

William Davis

21.

Howell

22.

Phagan

23.

George

24.

Rich Silva

25.

Deva Gonzalez

26.

Gonzalez

27.

V. Arellano

28.

L. Mendo

29.

S. Roca

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.