

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

On the 24th day of January 2023, the City Council of Taft, Texas, convened in a regular meeting at 402 Park Street, Kiva Hut, at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

#1. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM CHECK

Randy Powell Mayor – arrived at 6:15 p.m.
Rolando Rodriguez Mayor Pro-Tem
Leonard Vasquez
Chris Keeney arrived at 6:20 p.m.
Alonso Molina

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriguez.

Others Present: Sid Arismendez, Interim City Manager; Molly Topper, Finance Director/City Secretary/HR Director; Epi Ysassi, Interim City Attorney; Bernie Saenz, PW Director, (see attached list for guests present)

#2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Councilman Rodriguez led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

WORKSHOP

#3. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON COUNCILMEMBERS' POLICY FOR REQUESTING INFORMATION

Interim City Attorney Epi Ysassi gave Council a brief explanation of requesting public information in the role of a city council member or the role of a public information request. After questions and answers, Mayor Powell motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney to adopt the City of Taft Council Request for Information Documents and Records.

The following votes were polled:

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

#4. REGULAR MEETING BEGAN AT 6:38 PM

#5. VISITORS

None

#6. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON LITTLE LEAGUE CONTRACT FOR 2023 SEASON

Mr. Arismendez reported to Council that the suggested changes had been made to the existing contract. Councilman Vasquez reported that he was unable to print the Certificate of Insurance, but would provide it as soon as it is available. After continued discussion, Councilman Keeney motioned, seconded by Mayor Powell, to approve the Little League contract for 2023, upon the Certificate of Insurance submittal showing Taft, the City, as additional insured.

The following votes were polled:

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

#7. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT TO RENAME THE HIDALGO COMMUNITY CENTER, THE JULIA AVARADO SENIOR CENTER

After discussion about the contributions and actions performed by Julia Alvarado to the senior citizen community and the City of Taft, Mayor Powell motioned, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez, to rename the Hidalgo Community Center to The Julia Montez Alvarado Senior Center.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina

Noes: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

#8. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT TO RENAME THE HIDALGO PARK, THE MIGUEL "MIKE" GARCIA PARK

After discussion and comments, Councilman Vasquez motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to rename the Hidalgo Park, the Miguel Garcia Park.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina

Noes: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

#9. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON CITY OF TAFT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SAN PATRICIO COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION ACTION PLAN (HMAP)

Mr. Arismendez reported that this participation was requested by Shanna K. Owens, Deputy Emergency Mgt. Coordinator and was an annual event and requirement as part of the San Patricio County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan. Councilman Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, that the City of Taft's participation in the San Patricio County Hazard Mitigation Action Plan (HMAP) be signed by the Mayor.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina

Noes: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

#10. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT TO ACCEPT THE TAFT POLICE DEPARTMENT RACIAL PROFILING REPORT FOR 2022

Mr. Arismendez explained that this report is an annual report submitted by the Police Department and recommended acceptance by the City Council. Councilman Keeney motioned, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez, to accept the Taft Police Department Racial Profiling Report for 2022.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina

Noes: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

#11. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON REQUEST FROM TAFT ISD TO RESERVE THE KIVA HUT FOR THEIR ELECTION FROM APRIL 24-2023 – MAY 6, 2023

Mr. Arismendez explained the request to Council. Councilman Vasquez motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to approve the request from TAFT ISD as written.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina

Noes: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

#12. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON ORDINANCE 779 REGULATING THE USE OF THE TAFT RECREATIONAL PARK & FACILITIES

Discussion continued regarding the needed improvements to the fields and buildings, and additional amendments to the contract. Mayor Powell motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to amend Ordinance No. 779, Section 2 No. 1, strike item No. 1, and No 4. to strike the word “tennis”.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina

Noes: None

Absent: None

The motion carried.

#13. CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Vasquez – none

Councilman Keeney – RFQ for City attorney; litter in town; annexation by City of Portland in Taft ISD

Councilman Rodriguez –RFPs for trash removal

Councilman Molina – walking trail lighting; park signs for dogs; cameras at parks; municipal judge

Mayor Powell – Blackland Museum Centennial Celebration; San Patricio County EDC participation; presentation to football team, coaches & band

14. CITY MANAGER PROJECT UPDATES

Interim City Manager Sid Arismendez reported on the following projects:

Wells Fargo Building and The Julia Montez Alvarado Senior Center renovations

Splashpad and canopy update

Lighting at Miguel Garcia Park

Bbq pit donations;

Picnic tables for parks

Grand opening projection for spring break

Frontier easement request for 1800 homes

Municipal Judge for executive session next meeting

Fire station update

Trackhoe damage by rodents

Water tower inspection

Court collections and municipal court reports not being completed

Texas Water Development Board funding options

#15. UPDATE FROM CITY ATTORNEY ON ANNEXATION/CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS

There was much discussion on the need to annex contiguous property in the Taft ETJ. Councilman Keeney reported the intent of the City of Portland to annex some properties within the Taft ISD. He also has three recommendations for attorneys who specialize in annexations. A special meeting was called for January 30 2023, to continue discussion.

No action taken on this discussion.

16. DICUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON SELECTION OF ONE OR TWO STREETS TO PAVE

Mayor Powell named streets that need repairs and estimate cost per square yard to repair. Mayor Powell motioned to send out Request for Proposals for repairs per square yard. Mr. Arismendez suggested that TQIC meet and make recommendation to the City for street repairs. Due to lack of a second, the motion died. Mayor Powell motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to table this item until the next meeting.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina

Noes: None

Absent: None

The motion carried

17. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Vasquez motioned, seconded by Councilman Molina, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina

Noes: None

Absent: None

The motion carried

CITY OF TAFT

Randy Powell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Molly Topper, City Secretary