

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING

On the 13th day of February 2023, the City Council of Taft, Texas, convened in a special meeting at 402 Park Street, Kiva Hut, at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

1. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM CHECK

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

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

Others Present: Sid Arismendez, Interim City Manager; Molly Topper, Bernie Saenz, Director of Public Works; William Davis; Amanda Reagan; Robbin McCarty; David Trevino; Jay Phagan; Ryan Smith

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Councilman Rodriguez led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Councilman Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to approve the Minutes of January 10, 2023, January 17, 2023, January 23, 2023, and January 30, 2023.

The following votes were polled:

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

4. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON EXISTING CONTRACT WITH ABSOLUTE WASTE AND/OR AUTHORIZING STAFF TO GO OUT FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION SERVICES FOR CONTRACT TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2023.

Mr. William Davis was present to respond to Council questions regarding the existing contract. He advised that the current contract expires September 30, 2023, and not in December. The current contract has a provision that allows a three (3) year extension after its expiration. After further discussion, Councilman Keeney motioned, seconded by Mayor Powell, to authorize City staff to go out for proposals for garbage collection services.

The following votes were polled:

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

5. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON PLANNING AND ZONING'S RECOMMENDATION ON THE APPLICATION FOR A REZONING REQUEST WHICH, IF APPROVED, WOULD REZONE FROM RESIDENTIAL TO COMMERCIAL AND ALLOW THE PLACEMENT OF A 16' X 44' BUILDING TO BE USED AS A DAYCARE, ON LOT 2, BLOCK 4, 1ST FITE, TAFT, TEXAS, TO B-1 CLASSIFICATION.

Mr. Arismendez reported that this application filed by Amanda Reagan and had appeared before the Planning & Zoning Commission and public hearing with no citizen commenting negatively against the variance. The Planning & Zoning Commission approved the variance request and is recommending approval by the Council. Councilman Keeney motioned, seconded by Councilman Molina, to approve the variance request filed by Amanda Reagan to rezone Lot 2, Block 4, 1st Fite, Taft, Texas, to B-1 classification and to place the 16' x 44' building to be used as a daycare.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina

Noes: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried

6. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON NAMING PEGGY BENAVIDEZ TO THE TAFT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Mayor Powell reported the existence of a vacant seat on the EDC Board, that the Board had nominated Peggy Benavidez to fill that position and asked for Council's approval. Councilman Molina motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to name Peggy Benavidez to the Taft Economic Development Corporation's Board of Directors.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina

Noes: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried

7. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON BUDGET AMENDMENT ALLOWING FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO AEDs TO BE UTILIZED BY THE TAFT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Mayor Powell reported on the request by the Fire Department to purchase two AED units to be placed on fire trucks and used in the event of an emergency. He requested a budget amendment in the amount of \$3,208.50 to allow for the purchase. Councilman Keeney motioned, seconded by Mayor Powell, to amend the current budget allowing for the purchase of two AEDs to be utilized by the Tat Volunteer Fire Department.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina

Noes: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried

8. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON THE DESIGNATION OF TWO STREETS TO BE RESURFACED AS PART OF THIS BUDGET YEAR.

After much discussion, Mayor Powell motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to identify Retama Avenue and Gregory Street as the two streets to be resurfaced.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina

Noes: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried

9. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AN ACT ON AUTHORIZING CITY STAFF TO GO OUT FOR RFPs FOR STREET RESURFACING PROJECT.

Mayor Powell motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to authorize staff to advertise for request for proposals to repair of Retama Avenue and Gregory Street.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Keeney, Powell, Rodriguez, Molina

Noes: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried

10. CITY MANAGER PROJECT UPDATES

Interim City Manager Sid Arismendez reported on the following projects:

Municipal Court: this item to be addressed in Executive Session

Julia Montez Alvarado Senior Center: almost finished renovation, still need to install flooring.

Taft City Hall (Wells Fargo Building): flooring is installed, SKY IT is working on the wiring for internet
Splash Pad: site inspection to scheduled for this week. AEP ready for light poles.
Fire Station: Cost estimated at \$160,000 for frame, \$40,000 on the inside work. The building was delivered and construction to begin.
Elevated Water Tower: Inspection cost estimated at \$3,000, an agreement has been signed to inspect in March or April.
AEP Lighting for Miguel Garcia Park: they are ready to install light poles.
Revenues & Expenses Report: in Council packet for review.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION: CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.074 INVOLVING THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR DISMISSAL OF A PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE.

At this time, 7:16 p.m. Councilman Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to close the regular meeting and go into executive session.

The following votes were polled:

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

12. RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION

At this time, 7:40 p.m., Councilman Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to reconvene in regular session.

The following votes were polled:

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

Action taken following the Executive Session: None

13. CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Vasquez – Absent
Councilman Keeney – a memorial for wars recognizing local veterans; annexation process update; lights at walking trail
Councilman Rodriguez – none
Councilman Molina – activate water wells; swimming pool update
Mayor Powell – 12” water line; Ardurra & Langford on GLO grant projects

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro- Tem Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 pm.

The following votes were polled:

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

CITY OF TAFT

Randy Powell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Molly Topper, City Secretary