

## MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

On the 27th day of June 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 Powell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

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

Councilman Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

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

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Rodriguez led Pledge of Allegiance

### **4. PRAYER**

Reverend Steven led the prayer.

### **5. CITIZEN COMMENT**

No citizens wished to address the Council.

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

- Budget process - Conducted citizen budget seminar for residents on 06-22-23.
- Website - TaftTx.gov domain has been registered. Will be completing the new website soon.
- SAVVY Citizen: a citizen engagement app to provide information to citizens is now live.
- Grants (GLO) - MOD distribution – \$3.2 million. Posted RFPs for grant administrator and project engineer.
- DR40332 – Mayor to execute forms for \$427,350 with a 75/25 match (\$106,837.50) from FEMA for generators.
- Library Project – awaiting for final agreement from Mr. Ritchie.
- Fire Department Building - need architect and electrician for completion.
- Parks dedication – have scheduled dedication for September 2, 2023.
- Trees in park – dead trees have been removed.
- Splashpad – operational and a big success.
- Sprinkler system – inoperable, will be looking into installing in parks and baseball fields.
- Shades – will be purchasing canopy style shades over picnic tables at parks.
- Senior Citizen Center – have installed a stove and indoor blinds, will be purchasing tables, chairs and outdoor hurricane screens.
- Received two bids for sidewalk and curb repair on Davis Road.
- Crews have been filling pot holes throughout the City. Will be working on a weekly schedule from now on.

- Have received an engineering bid for Gregory/Retama Streets.
- Financials – reviewed for the month of May 2023, are different from last month due to EDC & TQIC books being off-site and we have to wait for bank statements. Current month revenues are at 51.45% and expenditures are at 34.42%. Mr. Linn explained the financial statement to Council.
- Overview of House bills affecting cities.

**7. CONSENT AGENDA:**

No items on the consent agenda for consideration.

**8. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING RESOLUTION 23-01 SUBMISSION BY THE TAFT POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE FY22 BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM GRANT TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Mr. Linn reported that a resolution must be approved by Council and submitted as part of the application requirement for the Body-Worn camera grant submitted by and awarded to the Taft Police Department. Chief Landreth reported the purchase of a server and 12 cameras with the amount of \$7,666.67 with a 25% match (\$1,766.00). Councilman Kenney motioned, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez, to accept Resolution 23-01 submission by the Taft Police Department for the FY22 Body-Worn Camera Program to the Office of the Governor.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried.

**9. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING RESOLUTION 23-02 SUBMISSION BY THE TAFT POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE FY23 LOCAL BORDER SECURITY PROGRAM (CBSP) GRANT TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Mr. Linn and Chief Landreth reported that this was another resolution requirement for a personnel grant submitted by the Taft Police Department. Amount of the grant is \$10,000.00 with no matching funds. Councilman Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Councilman Vasquez, to approve Resolution 23-02 submission by the Taft Police Department for the FY23 Local Border Security Program (CBSP) Grant to the Office of the Governor.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried.

**10. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING RESOLUTION 23-03 SUBMISSION BY THE TAFT POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE FY24 CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM GRANT TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Mr. Linn and Chief Landreth reported that this grant was a technology grant to be used to replace every computer and monitor at the Police Department. Councilman Vasquez motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to approve Resolution 23-03 submission by the Taft Police Department for the FY24 Criminal Justice Program Grant to the Office of the Governor.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried.

**11. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION IN REGARD TO RENEWING THE WINDSTORM AND HAIL DAMAGE INSURANCE POLICY WITH VICTOR INSURANCE MANAGERS, INC.; DIRECTING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE RENEWAL AND EXPEND CITY BUDGETED FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$179,002.05 TO COVER THE WINDSTORM AND HAIL DAMAGE POLICY INSURANCE**

Mr. Linn reported that the windstorm and hail insurance are up for renewal on July 1<sup>st</sup> at a rate of approximately \$20,000 over last year's rate. Councilman Vasquez motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to renew the windstorm and hail damage insurance policy with Victor Insurance Managers, Inc. and direct and authorize the City Manager to execute the renewal and expend City budgeted funds in the amount of \$179,002.05 to cover the windstorm and hail damage policy insurance.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried.

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

**Vasquez:** None

**Keeney:** City memorial for current and former war dedication or any armed forces member; dead trees in the City Memorial Park (city manager mentioned possible dedication for Lafayette Pool)

**Rodriguez:** address municipal judge position; Wi-Fi in the City parks; a bus stop on Victoria Street

**Molina:** status on tennis courts at the park; park lighting; weed killer for grass growing on street curbs; review status of basketball courts; method of Councilmembers requesting information

**Powell:** street sweeper; water meters; wastewater treatment plant; Juarez & Reynolds Street improvements; Library; sprinkler system at Memorial & Miguel Garcia Parks & little league fields; awnings on City owned buildings on Green Avenue

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

**Vasquez:** none

**Keeney:** has spoken to members of Miguel Garcia, they will attend the dedication; asked to notify the family of Julia Alvarado

**Rodriguez:** None

**Molina:** None

**Mayor Powell:** none

**City Manager:** reminded Council of the Summer Bash on 06-23-23; next event scheduled for 07/21/23, with the movie “Coco” being shown; intend to spruce up downtown for Christmas this year

**City Secretary:** first day to file for place on the November 7<sup>th</sup> election is on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussions, Councilman Keeney motioned, seconded by Councilman Vasquez, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input 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