

## MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING

On the 31st day of July 2023, the City Council of Taft, Texas, convened in a special meeting at 230 Green Avenue, Taft, Texas, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the following:

### **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 type="checkbox"/> present            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> absent |
| Mayor Powell            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present | <input type="checkbox"/> absent            |

Others Present: William Linn, City Manager; Molly Topper, City Secretary; Christie Watkins, Accountant; John Landreth, Chief of Police (see attached list for additional guests)

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

Councilman Rodriguez led the Pledge of Allegiance

### **4. PRAYER**

Reverend Steve Boettcher led the prayer.

### **5. CITIZEN COMMENT**

Norma Fuentes, 515 Victoria Ave -- comments and support for Elvia Hernandez for Municipal Court Judge

### **6. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

#### City Manager Report:

##### Operations:

- TML Annual Conference will be held at the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center, on Oct. 4-6, 2023;
- proposed budget will be filed with the City Secretary by August 2<sup>nd</sup>;
- our tafttx.gov domain has been approved and all emails are being converted to @tafttx.gov;
- SAVVY Citizen App is live and currently utilized;
- GLO Harvey MOD grant – have engineer and grant administrator on board
- GLO has granted 60-day extension to prepare the scope of work and engineer's estimate of probable costs and submit the application
- TxDOT Alternative Transportation – Phase 3 will be under way soon; Phase 4 has not kicked off yet
- TWDB – will be looking for projects eligible for TWDB loan/grant
- FEMA TDEM – DR-4705 will begin looking at City's eligibility 75/25 match; applications due no later than November 3<sup>rd</sup>; eligible projects: flood risk reduction, infrastructure, mitigation reconstruction

- DR-4332-126: reviewing original application to determine if we need the City procured GA and Engineer or if we need to complete those steps currently; generators will be installed at City Hall, PD, Kiva Hut and water storage pump site

Projects:

- Water Tank Repair: materials still being fabricated with a scheduled delivery date of 9/18 and repairs to begin thereafter
- Street Replacement Projects: Juarez, Allende, Bravo & Murray will be placed out for bid soon; Dirt Boys, Inc. to began work on Retama & Gregory Streets on Monday

Other

- Reached out to TxDOT and they do not street sweep anymore – that is outlined in the MMA; TxDOT will consider whether they are willing to undertake another traffic survey this year on CR 631 from HWY 181 to Rincon; working with an organization that will bring faster internet to Taft residents, provide them a second option for internet, and reduce City operations expenses.

Current Operations and/or Future Operations

- Mayor Powell would like to look into restoring a fire truck and installation of sprinkler systems throughout the parks

Presentation of Financials

- Mr. Linn reported on the expenditures and revenues and budget balances for the month of July 2023. Mayor Powell had a few questions regarding some allocations, which Mr. Linn answered.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. No Minutes for consideration

B. Consideration and approval of Financials

Councilman Keeney motioned, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez, to approve the financials.

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

**8. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ACCURATE METER & SUPPLY FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF NEW CELLULAR WATER METERS; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXPEND THE PREVIOUSLY DEDICATED ARPA FUNDS AT THE JUNE 23, 2023, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING.**

Mr. Linn reported that he had received only one (1) bid for the water meters at a cost of \$492,120.00 that includes installation and 1 year warranty. Installation predicted to take 2-3 months for completion. Councilman Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Mayor Powell, to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Accurate Meter & Supply for the purchase and installation of new cellular water meters; and further authorize the City Manager to expend the previously dedicated ARPA funds at the June 23, 2023, regular City Council meeting.

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 type="checkbox"/> for            | <input type="checkbox"/> against | <input type="checkbox"/> abstain | <input checked="" 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 23-04 ESTABLISHING, ADOPTING AND IMPLEMENTING THE CITY OF TAFT SOCIAL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS POLICY; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Mr. Linn explained the need for a media policy that will control the way information is disseminated to the media. Mayor Powell motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to table this item to a future meeting.

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

**13. CLOSE REGULAR MEETING**

At this time, 7:05 p.m., Councilman Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Mayor Powell, to close the regular meeting to enter into closed session to discuss the following:

**Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney) A governmental body may conduct a private consultation with its attorney when the governmental body seeks the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation.**

**Joe Ellen Perez v City of Taft  
Marcus Adams v City of Taft, et al**

**Section 771.073 (Prospective Gift or Donation) A governmental body may conduct a closed meeting to deliberate a negotiated contract for a prospective gift or donation to the state or the governmental body if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person.**

**Ritchie Library Donation**

**Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.**

**Municipal Court Judge  
Police Chief**

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

**14. OPEN SESSION**

At this time, 8:41 p.m. Councilman Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to return to open session.

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

**Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney) A governmental body may conduct a private consultation with its attorney when the governmental body seeks the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation.**

**Joe Ellen Perez v City of Taft  
 Marcus Adams v City of Taft, et al**

No action was taken on this matter.

**Section 771.073 (Prospective Gift or Donation) A governmental body may conduct a closed meeting to deliberate a negotiated contract for a prospective gift or donation to the state or the governmental body if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person.**

**Ritchie Library Donation**

Mayor Powell announced that no action would be taken on this matter. This contract has not been signed.

**Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.**

**Municipal Court Judge**

Mayor Powell motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to direct the City Manager to appoint a Municipal Court Judge for the remainder of the year.

The following votes were polled:

|                    |                              |   |                                  |                                 |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Councilman Vasquez | <input type="checkbox"/> for | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> for            | <input type="checkbox"/> against | <input type="checkbox"/> abstain | <input checked="" 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.

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

Vasquez – none

Keeney – asked if the City is ready for the grand opening of the Alvarado Senior Center and the Miguel Garcia Park – Mr. Linn reported that Mariah is working on the details; noticed that a stump grinder was used in the City park, wants to make sure that any holes are backfilled

Rodriguez – Toland Road and Second Street currently have caliche, need to complete the paving; Cottage St. needs paving

Molina – absent

Powell – asked about repairs at the water tower; the sprinkler system at the parks; restoration of fire truck #12; asked about the Hurricane Preparedness Plan; completion of the fire station; asked about the City Manager’s bond

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

Vasquez – none

Keeney – memorial for war veterans

Rodriguez – would like a report from Chief Smith in regards to the property on Toland Road close to the cemetery; asked about zoom availability for future meetings

Molina – absent

Powell – none

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

Vasquez – none

Keeney – none

Rodriguez – none

Molina – absent

Powell – asked about aging reports for utilities and a policy for account holders

City Manager – none

City Secretary -- none

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Councilman Vasquez motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 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 type="checkbox"/> for            | <input type="checkbox"/> against | <input type="checkbox"/> abstain | <input checked="" 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