

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 11th day of January 2022, the City Council of Taft, Texas, convened in a regular session at 402 Park St., at the Kiva Hut, at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Randy Powell
Mayor Pro-tem Rolando Rodriguez
Councilman Lolo Hernandez
Councilman Leonard Vasquez
Councilman JoAdrian Vara Absent

Others present: Melissa Gonzalez, City Manager, David Aken, City Attorney, Mary Alice Sandoval, Finance Director and Jennifer Pineda, City Secretary.

#1. There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

#2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Powell and the invocation was given by Pastor Jim Ward.

#3. Visitors.

Armando Perez – commented on a vehicle and a BBQ pit that needed to be removed from his property. He claims that his neighbor is encroaching on his property line.

Jim Ward – Express his concerns for item #13 Cement Company moving in on 631/Rincon Road and commented about the road conditions.

Bryanne Hamilton – commented on the City of Taft's work days and expressed that she would like the Library to be open on Fridays.

#4. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the January 12, 2021 regular meeting minutes, January 21, 2021 special meeting minutes, January 26, 2021 regular meeting minutes, and January 28, 2021 special meeting minutes. (city staff)

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021 regular meeting, the January 21, 2021 special meeting, the January 26, 2021 regular meeting and January 28 special meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Hernandez and Rodriguez

Nays: none

Abstain – Mayor Powell

The motion carried.

#5. Discuss and consider update regarding the city's financial condition as it relates to bonded debt, past dues, recurring payments, revenues and expenditures. (city staff)

Mary Alice Sandoval updated the city council on the city finances for the month of December 2021.

#6. Discuss, consider, and approve a resolution authorizing the submission of a Texas Community Resiliency Program (CRP) application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs authorizing the mayor and/or City Manager to act as the City's executive Officer and authorized representative in all matters pertaining to the City's participation in the CRP program. (city staff)

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Mayor Powell and Councilmen Vasquez, Rodriguez, and Hernandez

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#7. Discuss, consider, and take action on approving the cost estimate for providing security lights for the walking trail at the Taft Recreation Park. (city staff)

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to table item # 7 to take action on approving the cost estimate for providing security lights for the walking trail at the Taft Recreation Park. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Mayor Powel and Councilmen Hernandez, Rodriguez, and Vasquez

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#8. Discuss, consider and take action on approving the cost estimate submitted by Bridges Specialties, Inc. for the repair of the sewer main on Davis Street (city staff)

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve the cost estimate submitted by Bridges Specialties, Inc. in the amount of \$142,650 for the sewer main. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Mayor Powell, Councilmen Rodriguez, Vasquez and Hernandez.

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#9. Discuss, consider, and take action to approve a license agreement with Taft Little League for the use of the Taft Little League Park. (Councilman Vasquez)

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the license agreement with the Taft Little League. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Mayor Powell, Councilmen Hernandez, Rodriguez, and Vasquez

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#10. Discuss, consider and take action on authorizing community rental use of the Kiva Hut. (city staff)

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve authorizing the use of the Kiva Hut for community rentals. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Mayor Powell, Councilmen Rodriguez, Hernandez, and Vasquez

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#11. Discuss, consider and take action on renewing the contract between the City of Taft and Texas Sludge Disposal, Inc. (city staff)

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve renewing the contract between the City of Taft and Texas Sludge Disposal, Inc. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Mayor Powell, Councilmen Vasquez, Hernandez and Rodriguez.

The motion carried.

#12. Discuss, consider and take action on approving the cost for a Fire Records Management Program in the amount of \$2903 that will come from the Fire Department Training budget. (Fire Dept.)

The Assistant Fire Chief Ryan Smith explained the purpose and need for the Fire Records Management Program. Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve the cost of \$2903 for the Fire Records Management Program. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Mayor Powell, Councilmen Rodriguez, Vasquez and Hernandez

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#13. Discuss, consider, and act on putting a cement company within the area from FM 631 and Old Rincon Road to help assist on the Jessie Torres' homes. (Councilman Vasquez)

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to table this item. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Mayor Powell, Councilmen Rodriguez, Hernandez and Vasquez

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#14. Consider, discuss and act on selling surplus city vehicles from the Public Works, Police and Fire Departments. (Mayor Powell)

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to sell surplus city vehicles name as; 1968 Fire Truck, 1988 Ford Engine, 1999 diesel trailer and two 2009 Crown Victoria's The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Mayor Powell, Councilmen Rodriguez, Vasquez and Hernandez

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#15. Consider, discuss and act on dilapidated residential structures (David Aken)

There was a discussion regarding dilapidated residential structures in town and the procedures outlined resolution. David Aken, City Attorney communicated to the council that he had reviewed the ordinances regarding the procedures for addressing dilapidated structures and stated the ordinances were in order to proceed. Mr. Aken recommended to wait to get a Code Enforcement Officer in place.

No action taken on this item.

#16. Update on the Fire Department and Hidalgo buildings. (Councilman Vara)

No discussion, Councilman Vara was absent.

#17. Consider, discuss and act on city wide clean-up (Mayor Powell)

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to table. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Mayor Powell, Councilmen Vasquez, Rodriguez, and Hernandez.

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#18. Consider, discuss and act on Pride of Taft Spring Fest (Mayor Powell)

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to waive peddlers permit fees and the closure of the streets for the Fest on April 9, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Councilmen Vasquez, Hernandez and Rodriguez.

Nays: none

Abstain: Mayor Powell

The motion carried.

#19. Revisit the ordinances on beautification for the downtown buildings and home demolition. (Councilman Vara)

No further discussion, this was discussed on Item #15.

#20. Discuss, consider and take action on setting a date for a Town Hall meeting. (Mayor Powell)

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to set the Town hall Meeting date to January 20, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Mayor Powell, Councilmen Rodriguez, Hernandez and Vasquez.

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#21. Discuss monthly reports for police department, animal control, code enforcement, public works, and fire department.

Captain Solis from the Police Department, Ryan Smith, Fire Chief and Jose Sandoval, Public Works Department all gave their monthly statistics and reports to the city council.

#22. City Council Requests and Announcements.

Councilman Rodriguez discussed having a future dialogue regarding the procedures of issuing checks.

#23. Executive Session:

- 1. Convene into executive session pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Open Meetings Act to meet with its attorney and outside legal counsel to seek legal advice on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the City Council under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act regarding Municipal Fire Apparatus, LLC and James F. Farrell Jr.**
- 2. Convene into executive session pursuant to section 551.071 of the Texas Open Meetings Act to consult with attorney, to seek legal advice regarding:**
 - a. Rincon Point water bill delinquency**

3. Convene into executive session pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Open Meetings Act on Personnel matters involving complaints and grievances regarding:
a. Sergeant of Patrol
b. Chief of Police
c. City Manager

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez. The city council convened into Executive Session at 8:09 p.m.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Mayor Powell, Councilmen Rodriguez, Hernandez and Vasquez.

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#24. Reconvene into open session and take action, if any, to accept a settlement offer between the City and Municipal Fire Apparatus, LLC/James F. Farrell Jr. regarding a fire truck and pay legal counsel for professional legal services provided.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to accept a settlement of \$180,000 and to pay legal counsel Roxanne Controneo in the amount of \$19,800 for legal fees. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez. The funds received are to be distributed as follows:

\$112,000 to the Firemen's Pension Fund

\$63,000 to the Firemen's Operating Fund

\$5,000 to the General Fund

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Mayor Powell, Councilmen Hernandez, Vasquez and Rodriguez.

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#25. Reconvene into open session and consider action, if necessary, on any other item(s) discussed in Executive Session

NO ACTION TAKEN ON OTHER EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS.

#26. Adjournment.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Hernandez to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

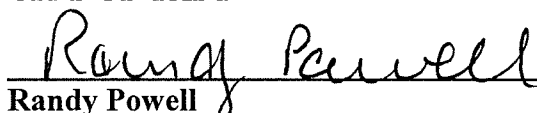
Ayes: Mayor Powell, Councilmen Hernandez, Vasquez and Rodriguez.

Nays: none

The motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35 P.M.

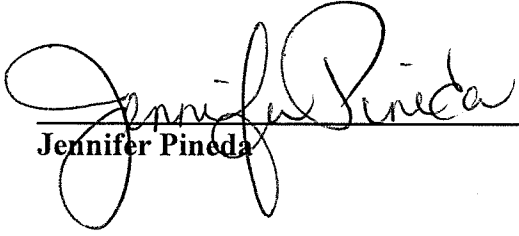
CITY OF TAFT


Randy Powell

Mayor



ATTEST:



Handwritten signature of Jennifer Pineda in cursive script.

Jennifer Pineda

City Secretary