

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 25th 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 Jo Adrian Vara
Councilman Leonard Vasquez

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 6:30p.m.

#2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Hernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

#3. Visitors.

Pastor Jim Ward – commented on his concerns regarding the cement company.

#4. Discuss, consider and act to approve the final plat drawings for Woodlands Reserve Phase 1 with the legal description of ABST 135 John Gibbs Sur (7.4AC) ABST 86 (9.4AC) ABST 187 (3.2AC), Taft, Texas 78390. (city staff)

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve the Phase 1 final plat for the Woodlands Reserve. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

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

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#5. 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)

This item was moved into executive session. (Consultation with Attorney Sec. 551.071)

Motion made in open session:

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to entertain the idea of a temporary placement of a mobile concrete plant for one year and evaluate at six months, pending the approval of a variance by the Planning and Zoning Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

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

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#6. Discuss, consider, and act to approve budget amendments to the Fireman's Operating Fund. (Fire department)

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to table items #6, 7&8 on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

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

Nays: none

The motion carried.

Later in the meeting...

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve the budget amendment for the Fireman's Operating fund in the amount of \$63,000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

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

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#7. Discuss, consider, and act to approve the purchase of bunker gear in the amount of \$23,875.00 for the Taft Volunteer Fire Department. (Fire department)

Item tabled on a preceding motion (item #6).

Later in the meeting...

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve the purchase of bunker gear in the amount of \$23,875. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

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

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#8. Discuss, consider, and act to approve the purchase of equipment for the new fire truck in the amount of \$24,983.00. (Fire department)

Item tabled on a preceding motion (item #6).

Later in the meeting...

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve the purchase of equipment for the new fire truck in the amount of \$24,983. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

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

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#9. Discuss, consider, and take action to enter into an Interlocal Purchasing Agreement between the City of Taft and San Patricio County for the purpose of participating in cooperative purchasing for procuring materials, supplies, goods, services or equipment. (city staff)

City Manager Gonzalez explained to the council that the agreement would ensure that the City of Taft receive the same cost regarding purchasing/procurement of goods and services as the San Patricio County.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the Interlocal Purchasing Agreement between the City of Taft and San Patricio County regarding services for Road and Bridge, Pct. 1. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

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

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#10. Discuss, consider and take action to approve an interlocal government contract and agreement with San Patricio County regarding services for Road and Bridge, Pct. 1. (city

staff)

City Manager Gonzalez explained to the council that Commissioner Sonia Lopez Pct. 1, had offered her services to assist in road repair and/or approved services for the city. In order to move forward the city would have to approve an Interlocal Contract with precinct 1.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve the Interlocal Government Contract with San Patricio County Road and Bridge, Pct. 1. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

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

Nays: none

The motion carried.

#11. Discuss, consider and take action on accepting a proposal from Brenda P. McELWEE, P.C., Certified Public Accountant for a performance audit for the period of October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021 and authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to execute such documents. (Santos/McBain)

Ray De Los Santos of Santos/Mcbain explained to the city council that an engagement letter was obtained from Brenda P. McElwee outlining the scope of work for the performance audit with an estimated cost of \$25,000-\$30,000.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to accept the proposal from Brenda P. McElwee, CPA for a performance audit. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez. Councilman Rodriguez amended the motion to include the fee range from \$25,000-\$30,000 and the audit of a \$75,000 deficit (Rincon Appt. Utility Bill), seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

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

Nays: Councilman Vasquez

The motion carried.

#12. 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)

City Manager Gonzalez explained to the city council that the monthly cost for each light would be \$19.24 per month, times (7) security lights, would be \$134.68 month and \$1,616.16 per year.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve the cost estimate for the security lights. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

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

Nays: none

The motion carried.

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

Councilman Vara expressed his concerns regarding the condition of the Senior Center at Hidalgo Park and also mentioned the needed repairs for the Fire Department Building. He further stated that these projects have been stationary for quite some time. City Manager Gonzalez explained that the city had only received one bid for the repair of the roof at the Fire Department building and the funds available were not sufficient to proceed with the repairs at this time. She further stated that she was awaiting the completion of the annual audit to assess the city's current financial position to come up with a financial plan to fund pending capital projects.

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

City Manager Gonzalez advised the city council that spring city wide cleanup was already in the works and that it was being coordinated with Commissioner Sonia Lopez and the help of the Port of Corpus Christi. No action taken on this item.

#15. Discussion on the organizational chart. (Councilman Vasquez)

Councilman Vasquez requested the item be discussed in executive session. (Consultation with Attorney Section 551.071)

No action taken.

#16. Discussion on Boll Weevil Festival dates of September 16th, 17th, and 18th.

Ms. Raquel Ruvo addressed the city council discussing the idea of the Boll Weevil Festival. She explained that it would be a three (3) day event and requested that she be allowed to coordinate the carnival at the Little League Fields. The dates mentioned for the event was September 16th-18th.

#17. City Council Requests and Announcements.

Councilman Vara requested the following items to be placed on the next agenda:

- a. Re-visit discussing the five (5) day work week.
- b. Discussion regarding the current crime rate and what mitigating measures are being taken.
- c. Update on the roads.
- d. Accountant/Auditor
- e. Review training documents and certifications to ensure they are current.
- f. Update on Fire Hydrants.

Councilman Rodriguez wanted clarification on the City Manager's contract probationary period.

#18. Executive Session:

1. **Rincon Point water bill delinquency.**
2. **Update information on investigation being conducted by the Texas Ranger**

Councilman Vara made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:54 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez

The following votes were polled:

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

Nays: none

The motion carried.

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

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to on Item #1 Rincon point water bill delinquency to file a bankruptcy claim in the Texas Southern Bankruptcy Court. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

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

Nays: none

The motion carried.

No action taken on Item #2

#20. Adjournment.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez to adjourn the at meeting at 9:29 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

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

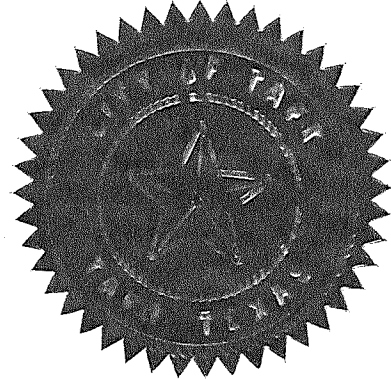
Nays: none

The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT

Randy Powell

Randy Powell Mayor



ATTEST:

Jennifer Pineda

Jennifer Pineda City Secretary