

## MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 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:

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

Others present: Melissa Gonzalez, City Manager, David Aken, City Attorney and Jennifer Pineda, City Secretary.

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

Before the meeting continued Mayor Powell read a statement out loud in regards to conducting the meeting in the upmost civility and anyone who disrupts the meeting will be asked to leave the premises. He also stated that he has asked Mr. Sid Arismendez to join him and is representing Mayor personally and not the City of Taft.

### **#2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.**

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

### **#3. Visitors.**

Jesus Trevino, 738 McIntyre, addressed the city council on his water bill. He stated that he wants to get reimbursed for the plumber that he contracted.

Amanda Powell, 544 Field Ave, read a statement to the council in regards to their decisions and agenda items.

Marcus Adams, 614 San Patricio, stated that attached the police chief is not right. He also stated that he doesn't believe some employees should receive car allowances and that some of the employees are not qualified.

Chris Keeney, 524 Field Ave, read a statement to the council in regards to the town not prospering, always making the news for bad events, and the lack of leadership.

Glenn Searcy, 301 Reynolds, addressed the council in regards to the chief taking care of the problem with the drug dealers two houses down.

Andrew Perez, 746 Tutt, wanted to know how does an investigation get started for misappropriation of funds. He also stated that the chief is doing the best that he can with what he has but asked are the rest of the officers doing their best.

### **#4. Proclamation Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention month 2022.**

Mayor read the proclamation out loud and presented it to Kayla Perez from the Purple Door.

### **Mayor Powell moved to Item #24.**

#### **#24. Executive Session:**

- 1. Convene into executive session pursuant to section 551.074 of the Texas Open Meetings Act to consider and evaluate current engagement between City of Taft and City Attorney David Aken. (Mayor Powell)**
- 2. Convene into executive session pursuant to Section 551.074 Personnel matters involving the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, to wit: Chief of Police Ponce Trevino. (Councilman Vasquez)**

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Vara, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell

Nays: none

The motion carried.

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

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to terminate the contract with David Aken on a 30 day notice from today, seek an interim attorney, and advertise with the local media and TML for the next city attorney. The motion was seconded by Mayor Powell.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Vara, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell

Nays: none

The motion carried.

There was no action taken on Item #2.

Mayor moved to Item #5.

**#5. Discuss, consider, and take action on Audit presentation for FYE 2020 by Raul Hernandez & Company, P.C.**

Mr. Raul Hernandez presented the audit and stated that it was an unmodified audit. He went over pages 24 and 27 with the council.

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Vara, Rodriguez, Hernandez

Nays: none

Abstain: Mayor

The motion carried.

**#6. Discuss, consider and take action on Request for Proposals for Auditing Services for FYE 2021. (city staff)**

Mrs. Gonzalez stated that there was only 1 proposal received from New Mexico.

Mayor Powell made a motion to not accept the 1 proposal but continue on looking for an auditor. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Vara, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell

Nays: none

The motion carried.

**#7. Discussion, consider and take action on a Preliminary Capital Improvement Plan for the City of Taft. (city staff)**

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to take action on a Preliminary Capital Improvement Plan for the City of Taft with some group meeting in regards to this possible plan in the near future. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Vara, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell

Nays: none

The motion carried.

**#8. Discuss, consider and act to approve the plans and overall layout for an access ramp from the city sidewalk into the Taft Blackland Museum located at 301 Green Avenue. (Mayor Powell)**

Wesley Childers explained the plan to the council. The ramp will be built with help by some of the high school students to teach them how to use some of the tools.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the plans and overall layout for an access ramp from the city sidewalk into the Taft Blackland Museum located at 301 Green Avenue. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Vara, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell

Nays: none

The motion carried.

**#9. Discuss, consider, and take action to approve the use of Memorial Park and the Taft Recreational Park, the waiver of peddler and rental fees, and the closure of streets on September 16, 17, and 18, 2022 for a Boll weevil Festival hosted by the Taft Chamber of Commerce. (Councilman Vasquez)**

Ms. Raquel Ruvo addressed the council on this item and explained that the chamber board still needs to approve the carnival.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve the use of Memorial Park and the Taft Recreational Park, the waiver of peddler and rental fees, and the closure of streets on September 16, 17, and 18, 2022 for a Boll weevil Festival hosted by the Taft Chamber of Commerce. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Vara, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell

Nays: none

The motion carried.

**#10. Discuss, consider and take action to approve a three-day waiver on Ordinance No. 779, Section V, to allow the sale of alcohol by the Taft Chamber of Commerce on September 16, 17, and 18, 2022 for the Boll weevil Festival. (Councilman Vasquez)**

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to table Item #10. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Vara, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell

Nays: none

The motion carried.

**#11. Discuss, consider and take action on revisiting the five (5) day work week for the City of Taft. (Councilman Vara)**

Councilman Vara made a motion to put the 5 day work week back into effect effective Monday February 14, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Vara, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell

Nays: none

The motion carried.

**#12. Discussion regarding the Crime Rate and mitigating measures taken. (Councilman Vara)**

Councilman Vara addressed the council on this item. He stated that this has been brought up by the citizens and wants to know what can be done to help keep the crime rate down.

**#13. Discussion regarding Employee Certification/Training Status. (Councilman Vara)**

Councilman Vara stated that he just wants to make sure that staff is keeping on top of certifications/training that employees may need or are required.

**#14. Update regarding Rincon Road. (Councilman Vara)**

Councilman Vara addressed the council on this item. Mayor stated that the materials came in but that the county is waiting on two weeks of good weather to complete the project.

**#15. Update regarding Fire Hydrants. (Councilman Vara)**

Councilman Vara just wants to make sure that the fire hydrants are being maintained regularly.

**#16. Update regarding preconstruction meeting regarding the New Fire Truck. (city staff)**

Fire Chief Smith updated the council and stated that he and other members of the fire department sat down with the manufacturer and went over the specs and equipment list in detail.

**#17. Update regarding the preconstruction meeting for the CDBG-DR GLO Project for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets. (city staff)**

Mrs. Gonzalez stated that the project should begin in March and will take 3 weeks to complete.

**#18. Update regarding the Texas Community Resiliency Program Grant Application. (city staff)**

Mrs. Gonzalez informed the council on the application details and the preliminary drawings of the facility that would be built.

**#19. Update regarding the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application. (city staff)**

Mrs. Gonzalez went over the scope of work to be done and the sketch that would show the location of the drainage improvements.

**#20. Update on the street sweeper. (Councilman Vasquez)**

Mrs. Gonzalez stated that the City of Sinton has not received their street sweeper and may not be delivered until the middle of March. An agreement has been sent to the city manager of Sinton but he has not responded.

**#21. 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)**

Mrs. Gonzalez went over the financials for the month of January 2022.

**#22. Discuss monthly reports for police department, animal control, code enforcement, public works, and fire department. (city staff)**

Chief Trevino went over the reports for the police department, animal control and code enforcement.

Joe Sandoval went over the report for public works.  
Scott Patton went over the report for the fire department.

**#23. City Council Requests and Announcements**

Councilman Vara wants a report or presentation by the EDC on future and current projects. He would also like to consider, discuss, and act on car allowances.  
Councilman Rodriguez would like to have the municipal court report presented once a quarter.  
Councilman Hernandez would like an update on the juveniles arrested.  
Mayor Powell would like to review Ordinance 1083 with action. He would also like to have the alcohol ordinance and the curfew ordinance on the next meeting.

**#26. Adjournment.**

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

The following votes were polled:  
Ayes: Vasquez, Vara, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell  
Nays: none  
The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT

Randy Powell  
Randy Powell Mayor

ATTEST:

Jennifer Pineda  
Jennifer Pineda City Secretary

