

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 22nd day of March, 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	Absent	
JoAdrian Vara	Absent	
Leonard Vasquez		

Others present: Melissa Gonzales, City Manager, Donald Kubicek, Interim 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.

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

#3. Visitors.

Marcus Adams sign up to speak but stated that he will hold off until the next meeting.

Mayor moved to Item #12.

#12. Discuss, consider, and act on ratifying the appointment of Donald Kubicek, Attorney at Law, as Interim City Attorney for the City of Taft. (city staff)

Mr. Kubicek introduced himself to the council. Mrs. Gonzalez stated that this would be on an interim basis and she is still receiving rfqs for a permanent attorney.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to appoint Donald Kubicek, Attorney at Law, as Interim City Attorney for the City of Taft. The motion was seconded by Mayor Powell.

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

Mayor moved to Item #7.

#7. Update regarding the Performance Audit by Brenda P. McElwee, CPA., approved on January 25, 2022. (city staff)

Mrs. McElwee updated the council on the progress started today. She answered questions from the council and stated that she will be looking at the processes of the city.

Mayor moved to Item #11.

#11. Discuss, consider and act on Resolution No. 656, a resolution by the City of Taft, Texas suspending the May 2, 2022 effective date of the proposal by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., D/B/A CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas-South Texas Division to implement interim grip rate adjustments for gas utility investment in 2021 and requiring delivery of this resolution to the company and legal counsel. (city staff)

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 656, a resolution by the City of Taft, Texas suspending the May 2, 2022 effective date of the proposal by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., D/B/A CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas-South

Texas Division to implement interim grip rate adjustments for gas utility investment in 2021 and requiring delivery of this resolution to the company and legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

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

Mayor moved to Item #19.

#19. Discuss, consider and act on City of Taft deeding portion of property North of City Hall to Ritchie Foundation to build a new library. (Mayor Powell)

Mayor informed the council on this item and Mrs. Gonzalez is to get in contact with the Ritchie Foundation.

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

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

Mayor moved to Item #4.

#4. Discuss, consider, and act on Ordinance No. 1092, an ordinance readopting Ordinance No. 1054 establishing juvenile nighttime and daytime curfew hours within the City of Taft. (city staff)

Mayor Powell made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1092, an ordinance readopting Ordinance No. 1054 establishing juvenile nighttime and daytime curfew hours within the City of Taft. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

#5. Discuss, consider and act to approve the final plat drawings for Friendly Village Phase I with the legal description of PT SEC 1 PAUL S/D CFP CO WILLIAMS ADDN 0.716 ACRES. (city staff)

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve the final plat drawings for Friendly Village Phase I with the legal description of PT SEC 1 PAUL S/D CFP CO WILLIAMS ADDN 0.716 ACRES. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

#6. Discuss, consider, and act on a proposal for 138 KV Transmission Line Easement on city property for a Peacock Energy Project. (city staff)

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to act on a proposal for 138 KV Transmission Line Easement on city property for a Peacock Energy Project. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

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

Mayor moved to Item #10.

#10. Discuss, consider, and act on request to extend the foot print of the fire department 12 feet to the East of the current fire station property line to erect a roof simulator for training purposes. (fire department)

Mayor Powell made a motion to extend the foot print of the fire department 12 feet to the East of the current fire station property line to erect a roof simulator for training purposes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

Mayor moved to Item #8.

#8. Discuss, consider, and act on beginning the process to convert Devilbiss Drive (private road) to a city street. (city staff)

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to act on beginning the process to convert Devilbiss Drive (private road) to a city street. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

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

#9. Discuss, consider, and act on participating financially in the purchase of a street sweeper for the City of Taft. (city staff)

After much discussion, Mrs. Gonzalez is to check into the costs of renting a street sweeper for the meantime.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to table Item #9. The motion was seconded by Mayor Powell.

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

Mayor moved to Item #16.

#16. Update from the Taft Quality Improvement Corporation on current and future projects. (Mayor Powell)

TQIC President Herman Rodriguez updated the council on the ongoing projects that TQIC has been working on.

Mayor moved to Item #13.

#13. Discussion of the hourly rates for the police officers. (Councilman Hernandez)

This item was tabled so that Councilman Hernandez could be present.

#14. Discuss, consider, and act on amendment to Police Department budget to include a K9 and K9 officer. (Mayor Powell)

Captain Soliz informed the council that the department already has a dog that was donated.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to act on amendment to Police Department budget to include a K9 and K9 officer for \$5,000.00 amended to the budget until October. The motion was seconded by Mayor Powell.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor

Nays: Vasquez

Absent: Vara, Hernandez

The motion carried.

#15. Discuss, consider and act on the sale of unused or unnecessary equipment in the Taft Volunteer Fire Department, Police Department, and Public Works Department. (Mayor Powell)

Fire department informed council that they already sold their equipment. Mayor addressed public works on the equipment that they may have to sale. There was no action on this item.

#17. Discuss, consider and act on waiving "peddlers fee" fee for the Taft Blackland Festival/Cinco De Mayo Celebration sponsored by Pride of Taft. (Mayor Powell)

Councilman Vasquez made a motion on waiving "peddlers fee" fee for the Taft Blackland Festival/Cinco De Mayo Celebration sponsored by Pride of Taft. The motion was seconded by Mayor Powell.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Mayor

Nays: none

Absent: Vara, Hernandez

The motion carried.

#18. Discuss, consider and act on allowing Pride of Taft the use of Green Avenue from Mathis Street to Kirkpatrick and the use of City Lot East of Fire Station on Saturday, May 7th to have the Taft Blackland Festival/Cinco de Mayo Celebration. (Mayor Powell)

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion on allowing Pride of Taft the use of Green Avenue from Mathis Street to Kirkpatrick and the use of City Lot East of the Police Department on Saturday, May 7th to have the Taft Blackland Festival/Cinco de Mayo Celebration. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

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

#20. Consider, discuss and take action on forwarding all complaints against Sgt. Reynaldo Cortez, Chief Ponce Trevino, and City Manager Melissa Gonzales to a third party to investigate. (Councilman Vasquez)

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to take action on forwarding all complaints to Mr. Kubicek against Sgt. Reynaldo Cortez, Chief Ponce Trevino, and City Manager Melissa Gonzales to a third party to investigate. The motion was seconded by Mayor Powell.

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

#21. City Council Requests and Announcements.

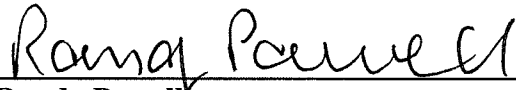
Councilman Vasquez would like a discussion to find money to patch up the Fire Department building and discussion on the welding work that needs to be done at the animal shelter. Mayor informed the councilman that he will be welding it on Thursday.

#22. Adjournment.

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

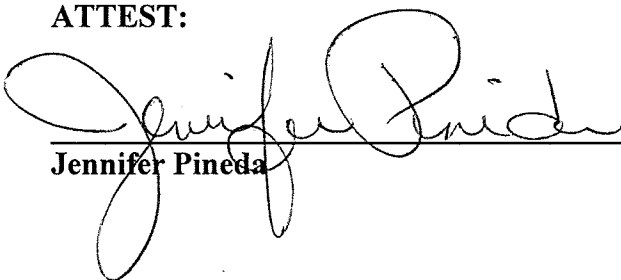
The following votes were polled:
Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Mayor
Nays: none
Absent: Vara, Hernandez
The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT



Randy Powell Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda City Secretary

