

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 12th day of April, 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	
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.

Andrew Perez, 746 Tutt, stated that the mayor is trying to take control over the police department when there is a city manager in place. He said that the mayor's duty is to run the council meeting and being over the police department is a conflict of interest.

Marcus Adams, 614 San Patricio, stated that no city official is in charge of the police department and they answer to a certain person. He also stated that if there are any investigations going on against anyone in the city, they outside source the investigation so there would not be any conflicts of interest. Mr. Adams also brought up that the dump truck is on the road uninsured and unregistered. He stated that if the truck is in an accident, it could bankrupt the city. Mr. Adams also stated that the city does not need to contract with SMMP because nothing has been done in regards to development.

Chris Keeney, 524 Field, read a statement stating that the citizens of Taft voted for change and that the mayor has run into a brick wall for change. He also read that he is upset of the false accusations that have been made to disparage the elected mayor.

Bryanne Hamilton, 413 McIntyre, read a statement stating that the citizens voted Randy Powell as the mayor but did not vote on a city manager. She also read a portion of a text message that she sent to 3 council members in regards to mismanagement of documents, mismanagement of personnel, and gross mismanagement of judgement by the city manager.

Mayor moved to Item #8.

#8. Proposal of New Taft Public Library by the Ritchie Foundation. (Mayor Powell)

Wes Ritchie of the Ritchie Foundation informed the council that if the city would deed a half acre of land then the foundation would build the library at their expense.

Mayor moved to Item #9.

#9. Discuss, consider, and act on proposed lease agreement for the new Taft Public Library. (Mayor Powell)

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to act on proposed lease agreement for the new Taft Public Library. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Mayor

Nays: none

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

Mayor moved to Item #7.

#7. Discuss Grant Program applications, current and future opportunities, with descriptions of eligibility and match considerations. (Langford Community Management)

Mrs. Langford went over the LMI of the city and Taft Southwest. She stated that the master park plan has expired and would need to be updated. She also informed the council on several grants that will be coming up and gave the council a packet of information on those grants.

Mayor moved to Item #10.

#10. Discuss, consider and take action on Resolution No. 657, a resolution of the City of Taft, Texas finding that AEP Texas Inc.'s application to amend its distribution cost recovery factors to increase distribution rates within the city should be denied; authorizing participation with the cities served by AEP Texas; authorizing hiring of legal counsel; Finding that the City's reasonable rate case expenses shall be reimbursed by the company; finding that the meeting at which this resolution is passed is open to the public as required by law; requiring notice of this resolution to the company and legal counsel. (city staff)

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to take action on Resolution No. 657, a resolution of the City of Taft, Texas to participate with other cities to amend its distribution cost recovery factors in regards to AEP. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Mayor

Nays: none

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

Mayor moved to Item #17.

#17. Update of the City website. (Mayor Powell)

Brandon Cornish spoke to the council about the website and that he is the one who places items on the website when sent in from staff. Mayor pointed out information that needed to be updated on the website in regards to council members and hours of operation and asked that the website be updated.

Mayor moved to Item #11.

#11. Discuss, consider and take action on participating in the "Low Income Household Water Assistance Program" with Community Action Corporation of South Texas. (city staff)

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion for the City of Taft to participate in the "Low Income Household Water Assistance Program" with Community Action Corporation of South Texas. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Mayor

Nays: none

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#12. Discuss, consider and take action on providing notice to Absolute Waste Services Inc. of cancellation of the contract for solid waste services effective 9/30/23 and begin the process to issue a Request for Proposals for solid waste services. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to provide notice to Absolute Waste Services Inc. of cancellation of the contract for solid waste services effective 9/30/23 and begin the process to issue a Request for Proposals for solid waste services. The motion was seconded by Councilman

Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Mayor

Nays: none

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#13. Discuss, consider and take action on Resolution 658, a resolution adopting an Investment Policy for the City of Taft. (city staff)

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to table Resolution 658, a resolution adopting an Investment Policy for the City of Taft. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Mayor

Nays: none

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#14. Discuss, consider and take action on an extension for the GLO CDBG-DR Street Improvements Project, Contract Number 20-065-097-C269. (city staff)

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to take action on an extension for the GLO CDBG-DR Street Improvements Project, Contract Number 20-065-097-C269. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Mayor

Nays: none

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#15. Discuss, consider and take action on authorizing a change order for the GLO CDBG-DR Street Improvements Project, Contract Number 20-065-097-C269. (city staff)

Mayor Powell made a motion to approve **authorizing a change order CO1-2 and authorize deductions D-3 and D-2 for the GLO CDBG-DR Street Improvements Project, Contract Number 20-065-097-C269.** The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Mayor

Nays: none

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#16. Discuss, consider and take action on a budget amendment to the Street Fund in the amount of \$23,855.00 to cover 50% of the cost associated with the additive alternatives and the added cost of a 5' concrete valley gutter regarding the CDBG-DR GLO Project Contract #20-065—097-C269. (city staff)

Mrs. Gonzalez stated that after the motion that passed in item #15, this item would be irrelevant. There was no action taken on this item.

#18. Discuss, consider, and take action on officially appointing a K-9 officer to ensure proper compensation. (city staff)

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Mayor

Nays: none

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#19. Discussion on finding money to patch up the Fire Department building. (Councilman Vasquez)

Councilman Vasquez wanted to see if there was any extra funding anywhere to fix up the building.

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

Councilman Hernandez addressed the council on this item and wanted to see if the rates are competitive.

#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)

Mary Alice updated the council on the financials for the month of March 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 police department, animal control and code enforcement.

Joe Sandoval went over the public works report.

Fire Chief Smith went over the fire department monthly report.

#4. Proclamation honoring Chief Rickey Thielen.

Mayor Powell read the proclamation out loud and presented it to Fire Chief Smith.

#5. Proclamation Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month 2022.

Mayor Powell read the proclamation out loud.

#6. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the March 9, 2021 regular meeting minutes, March 15, 2021 special meeting minutes, and March 19, 2021 special meeting minutes. (city staff)

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve the March 9, 2021 regular meeting minutes, March 15, 2021 special meeting minutes, and March 19, 2021 special meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez

Nays: none

Abstain: Mayor

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#23. City Council Requests and Announcements

Councilman Rodriguez stated that the lights along Davis Rd need to be checked for outages.

Councilman Hernandez wants to see if code enforcement could look into the abandoned building on Hwy 181 and San Patricio by the Inland Motel.

#24. Executive Session:

1. **Convene into executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 – Private consultation with attorney on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Texas Government Code Chapter 551, and specifically, to receive an update regarding *Sharon Watts vs. City of Taft*.**
2. **Convene into executive session pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Open Meetings Act on Personnel matters involving the duties and responsibilities of the City Manager.**

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Mayor

Nays: none

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#25. Reconvene into open session and take any action necessary as a result of discussion in Agenda Item No. 21(1) pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney).

There was no action taken on this item.

#26. Consider action, if necessary on any other item(s) discussed in Executive Session.

On item #2, the matter was turned over to legal counsel for review.

#27. Adjournment.

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

The following votes were polled:

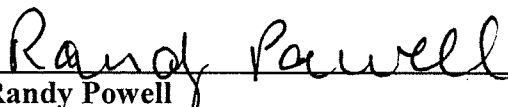
Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Mayor

Nays: none

Absent: Vara

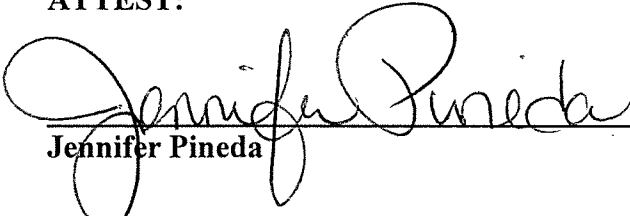
The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT



Randy Powell Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda City Secretary

