

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 10th day of May, 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.

There were no visitor comments.

#4. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the March 23, 2021 regular meeting minutes, March 27, 2021 special meeting minutes, March 30, 2021 special meeting minutes, April 23, 2021 special meeting minutes, May 11, 2021 regular meeting minutes, May 13, 2021 special meeting minutes, May 25, 2021 regular meeting minutes, June 1, 2021 special meeting minutes, June 8, 2021 regular meeting minutes, June 15, 2021 special meeting minutes, and June 22, 2021, 2021 regular meeting minutes. (city staff).

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve the forementioned minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez

Nays: none

Abstain: Mayor

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#5. Discuss, consider, and take action on audit presentation for FYE 2021 by Armstrong, Vaughan & Associates, P.C.

Phil, with Armstrong, Vaughan & Associates, informed the council that this is a clean report. He did say that there were a few adjustments but there were no big deficiencies. He went over the recommendations that he had for staff to implement that were included in the letter given to council. Phil also went over pages 22, 19, and 61 of the audit with the council.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the audit presentation for FYE 2021 by Armstrong, Vaughan & Associates, P.C. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Mayor

Nays: none

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#6. Presentation regarding delinquent tax report by Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP.

Robert Cuevas informed the council of the time frame on the delinquent taxes and the methods that they use in order to recoperate the delinquent taxes. He stated that there are 157 pending tax lawsuits at the moment in the City of Taft.

#7. Discussion regarding Texas Commission on Environmental Quality notice on exceeding the maximum contaminant level for total trihalomethanes (THM). (staff and SPMWD)

Brian Williams, General Manager of San Patricio Municipal Water District, addressed the council on this item. He let the council know what trihalomethanes are and that the source water coming in had a higher level of trihalomethanes. He also stated that the cities of Portland, Taft, Rockport, Rincon Water Supply all had elevated numbers and received a violation from TCEQ. He did state that the water is safe to drink.

#8. Discuss, consider, and take action on awarding grant administrative services contract for the preparation of the city's 2022 Texas Community Block Grant (TXCDBG) FAST application and subsequent administrative services contract if funded. (staff)

Mrs. Gonzalez informed the council that she only received one proposal from Langford.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to award the grant. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Mayor

Nays: none

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#9. Discuss, consider, and take action on Planning & Zoning recommendation regarding a variance to erect a mobile concrete plant on the corner of Rincon Rd and FM 631 on city property currently zoned as residential. (staff)

Mayor Powell made a motion to approve the zoning variance for the the corner of Rincon Rd and FM 631. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Mayor

Nays: none

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

Mayor moved to Item #11.

#11. Discuss, consider, and act on functionality of city fire hydrants and maintenance. (Mayor Powell)

This item will be on the next meeting agenda for an interlocal agreement to include this item.

#12. Discussion with Taft Volunteer Fire Department on fire station building in regards to new fire truck. (Mayor Powell)

Fire Chief Smith explained that the new fire truck is too high to be parked in the bays of the fire station. The fire department will be getting quotes for a new building or any solutions for this issue.

#13. Discussion regarding a status update on Rincon road. (Councilman Vara)

Mrs. Gonzalez informed the council that the county will have the materials delivered on May 16th and the road work will begin after that.

#14. Discuss, consider, and take action on Resolution No. 658, a resolution setting the City of Taft purchasing policy and procedures. (staff)

Mrs. Gonzalez informed the council that the only change was adding Section 2 Cooperative Purchasing Program Participation and amending Section 1E from \$25,000 to \$50,000 to correspond with the state law.

Mayor Powell made a motion to approve Resolution 658 with the changes Section 1 including replacing E with E Purchases of \$25,001 to \$49,999 and adding F Purchases of \$50,000 or more and Section 7 in the last paragraph Duties of Department Heads to include the word services in the second sentence. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

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 the cost of the survey for Devilbiss Drive. (staff)

Mrs. Gonzalez stated that the survey would cost \$27,000. Councilman Vasquez stated that new homes will be built in that area and that not all residents are in agreement with making the road a public road. After discussion this item was tabled.

#16. Discussion regarding the selection and hiring process of police officers. (Councilman Vasquez)

This item was tabled since Chief Trevino was not present.

#17. Discuss, consider and take action on street lights on Davis Road. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Mrs. Gonzalez informed the council that there are about 10 lights that are out and they have been reported to AEP. There was no action on this item.

#18. Discussion regarding Ordinance No. 891 Substandard Building Ordinance and steps moving forward. (staff)

The code enforcement officer Jerry Martin introduced himself to the council and informed them that he would be attending a class for code enforcement and would be ready to proceed forward once he received the training.

Mayor moved to Item #20.

#20. 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 April 2022.

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

Captain Soliz went over the reports for police department, animal control and code enforcement. Joe Sandoval went over the public works report. He also informed the council that the city will be purchasing culverts in bulk to sell to the public as needed. Fire Chief Smith went over the fire department monthly report.

At this time Councilman Hernandez made a motion to enter into executive session on items #10 and #19. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Mayor

Nays: none

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

Council entered into executive session for the following:

#10. Discuss, consider, and take action on a lease agreement between the City of Taft and Isais Franco of Franco Paving, LLC., DBA Texas Sand and Resources for the placement of a mobile concrete plant on the corner of Rincon Rd & FM 631. (staff)

#19. Discuss, consider, and take action on clarification of the power and duties of the City Manager. (Councilman Hernandez)

Council reconvened into regular session and no action was taken on any item in executive session.

#22. City Council Requests and Announcements.

Councilman Rodriguez wants to see if we can have an ordinance for the meetings to be held at other locations and the possibility of creating a fuel farm.

Councilman Hernandez stated that he is concerned about the crematorium that is being built at the Lamas Cemetery.

Mayor would like to discuss the development of the 23 acres owned by the city for fire department use.

#23. 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:

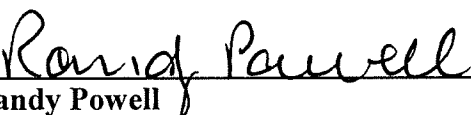
Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Mayor

Nays: none

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

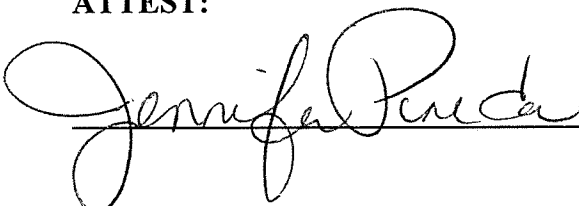
CITY OF TAFT


Randy Powell

Mayor



ATTEST:


Jennifer Pineda

Jennifer Pineda

City Secretary