

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

On the 9th day of August, 2022, the City Council of Taft, Texas, convened in a regular meeting at 402 Park Street, at the Kiva Hut at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Randy Powell	Mayor
Rolando Rodriguez	Mayor Pro-Tem
Lolo Hernandez	
Jo Adrian Vara	Absent
Leonard Vasquez	

Others Present: Sid Arismendez, Interim City Manager; Molly Topper, Finance Director/HR Director; Jennifer Pineda, City Secretary; Michael Vasquez, Asst. Fire Chief; Amanda Powell; Roselia Cearcy; Glenn Cearcy; Bryanne Hamilton; Denise Hitt.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM CHECK

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Powell at 6:33 p.m.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

There was no invocation and Pledge of Allegiance since it has just been done at the special meeting at 6:00 p.m.

3. VISITORS

Glenn Cearcy addressed the Council in regards to a structure located at the corner of HWY 181 across from his business that is sub-standard and a public nuisance. He asked that Council take action to abate this issue.

No other visitors addressed the Council.

4. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT TO APPROVE THE JULY 19, 2022, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES AND THE JULY 26, 2022, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

Councilman Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Councilman Hernandez to approve the special meeting minutes of July 29, 2022, and the regular meeting minutes of July 26, 2022.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell
Noes: None
Absent: Vara
The motion carried.

5. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT TO APPROVE A JOINT ELECTION CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY AND SAN PATRICIO COUNTY ELECTION ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE COUNTY TO CONDUCT THE CITY'S GENERAL ELECTION FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2022.

The proposed contract was provided to Council for review. After consideration, Councilman Hernandez motioned, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez, to approve a joint election contract between the City and San Patricio County Election Administrator for the County to conduct the City's General Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell
Noes: None
Absent: Vara
The motion carried.

6. CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 1095, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAFT, TEXAS, CALLING AND ORDERING A GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING ONE ALDERMAN FOR WARD 1 AND ONE ALDERMAN FOR WARD 2.

The proposed Ordinance No 1095 was provided to Council. After review, Councilman Vasquez motioned, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez, to approve Ordinance No. 1095, an ordinance of the City of Taft,

Texas, calling and ordering a general election to be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2022, for the purpose of electing one Alderman for Ward 1 and one Alderman for Ward 2.

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell

Noes: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

7. CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION UPON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF TAFT AND TAKE RECORD VOTE.

Mr. Arismendez informed Council of the proposed .66600/1000 tax rate for 2022. This is less than last year's rate and is the highest that can be adopted without an election. Councilman Rodriguez motioned to accept the proposed tax rate of .66600, seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell

Noes: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

8. CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION UPON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF TAFT DEANNEXED SW AND TAKE RECORD VOTE.

Mr. Arismendez informed Council of the proposed .192366/1000 tax rate for 2022. Councilman Hernandez motioned to accept the proposed tax rate of .192366, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell

Noes: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

9. CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 1096, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAFT, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING A REVISED RATE SCHEDULE FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES IN THE CITY OF TAFT, TEXAS.

Mr. Arismendez explained the purpose of this ordinance was to raise revenue needed to pay for part of the \$3,000,000 loan, in addition to I & S Funds, if the loan is approved. The amount of this increase for water service is \$3.33 and for wastewater services is \$3.33 for all customers. This amount would generate approximately \$129,035. After further discussion, Councilman Hernandez motioned, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez, to approve Ordinance No. 1096, an ordinance of the City of Taft, Texas, establishing a revised rate schedule for water and wastewater services in the City of Taft, Texas.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell

Noes: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

10. CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING ORDINANCE NO. 1097, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAFT, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING A REVISED RATE SCHEDULE FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION, TRANSPORTATION, AND DISPOSAL SERVICES IN THE CITY OF TAFT, TEXAS.

Mr. Arismendez informed Council of the proposed \$3.33 increase to all customers due to the expected increase, as a result in increased fuel and diesel charges, in the upcoming year. After further discussion, Councilman Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Mayor Powell, to adopt Ordinance No. 1097, an ordinance of the City of Taft, Texas, establishing a revised rate schedule for solid waste collection transportation, and disposal services in the City of Taft, Texas.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell

Noes: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

11. CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE NO. 1089, PRESCRIBING RULES, REGULATIONS, RATES AND FEES AND APPLICATION PROCESS FOR WATER, SEWER AND GARBAGE SERVICE.

Mr. Arismendez advised Council that he would be amending this ordinance with suggested service charges. Mayor Powell asked if senior customers would be taken into consideration, he replied yes. Councilman Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Councilman Hernandez, to table this item.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell

Noes: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

12. CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT ON APPROVING AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A NEW CITY NUISANCE ABATEMENT ORDINANCE TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE.

Mr. Arismendez informed Council that staff had met with the code enforcement officer regarding the sub-standard structures. This ordinance will provide for leniency and filing of liens. Staff also met William Davis, owner of Absolute Waste Services, and that he had agreed to provide pick-up for three (3) days at the end of August, and also a couple of roll-offs for a City-wide clean up. Mayor Powell motioned, seconded by Councilman Hernandez, to table this item.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell

Noes: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

13. CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND ACT TO AMEND THE PROCUREMENT POLICY TO COMPLY WITH THE FINANCIAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS.

Mr. Arismendez informed Council of the need to implement the recommended and accepted changes to the procurement and purchasing policy as a result of the 2022 Performance Audit and State purchasing guidelines. After much discussion, Mayor Powell motioned, seconded by Councilman Hernandez, to make the following changes to Resolution 658, a Resolution Setting the City of Taft Purchasing Policy and Procedures: "changes to include amending Section 1. B. to include from \$50.00 to \$1,000.00; under 1. C. changing from \$1,001.00 - \$4,999.00; D. 2. Changing language: Requires two quotes, three if possible; striking #6, under 1 E.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Hernandez, Powell

Noes: Rodriguez

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

14. CONSIDER, DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION TO APPOINT 1 MEMBER TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

After discussion, Councilman Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Councilman Vasquez, to table this item.

Ayes: Vasquez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Powell

Noes: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

15. City Council Requests and Announcements:

Councilman Rodriguez: discussion of salaries for City Manager and HR positions

Councilman Hernandez: status of animal shelter and non-compliance of code enforcement

Councilman Vasquez: none

Mayor Powell: none

After discussion regarding the suggested items, Council agreed to hold another budget workshop on August 23, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., prior to the next regular scheduled Council meeting.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

CITY OF TAFT

Randy Powell

Mayor

ATTEST:

Molly Topper for Jennifer Pineda, City Secretary