

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 16th day of January, 2021, 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:

Pedro "Pete" Lopez Mayor
Lolo Hernandez Mayor Pro-tem Absent
Rolando Rodriguez
JoAdrian Vara
Leonard Vasquez

Others present: Mary Alice Sandoval, Finance Director and Jennifer Pineda, City Secretary.

#1. There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

#2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#3. Visitors.

Felipe Rodriguez, 519 Victoria, wanted to know who's responsible for security lighting on city streets and who's responsibility is it to report outages to AEP. He also stated that there is a light pole on Green Ave next to the Shell gas station that might be hot.

#4. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the May 26, 2020 regular meeting minutes, June 9, 2020 regular meeting minutes, June 23, 2020 regular meeting minutes, and June 29, 2020 special meeting minutes.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve the May 26, 2020 regular meeting minutes, June 9, 2020 regular meeting minutes, June 23, 2020 regular meeting minutes, and June 29, 2020 special meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez

Nays: None

Absent: Hernandez

The motion carried.

#5. Consider, discuss, and take action, if necessary, on updated water study presentation from Jeff Snowden with Capex Consulting Group. (Mayor Lopez)

Mr. Snowden updated the council on the water study and water loss.

Councilman Vara made a motion to take action, if necessary, on updated water study presentation from Jeff Snowden with Capex Consulting Group. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez

Nays: None

Absent: Hernandez

The motion carried.

#6. Update on the sidewalk project and the First, Second and Third Street grant project.

SMMP gave an update on these projects. The sidewalk project had a kick off meeting and the next step is a meeting with the Railroad Commission. The startup documents and the first draw request have been made in the street project.

#7. Consider, discuss and take action on setting a date for a workshop related to a proposed housing development and a request for the creation of a Public Improvement District. (Mayor Lopez)

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to take action on setting a date for a workshop related to a proposed housing development and a request for the creation of a Public Improvement District for February 13th at 2p.m. at the Kiva Hut. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez

Nays: None

Absent: Hernandez

The motion carried.

#8. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve Ordinance No. 1067, an ordinance of the City of Taft, Texas establishing a certificate pay system for city employees.

Councilman Vara made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1067, an ordinance of the City of Taft, Texas establishing a certificate pay system for city employees. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez

Nays: None

Absent: Hernandez

The motion carried.

#9. Consider, discuss and take action to increase municipal prosecutorial services from once a quarter to monthly. (Mayor Lopez)

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to increase municipal prosecutorial services from once a quarter to monthly as needed and come back at another meeting to determine the rate for at least 6 months. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez

Nays: None

Absent: Hernandez

The motion carried.

#10. Discussion on the status of Covid-19 vaccines in San Patricio County. (Councilman Hernandez)

Mayor Lopez updated the council on the status of the Covid-19 vaccines availability.

#11. Discuss, consider and act on the operational and logistical measures related to the City's preparedness and response to the federal, state, and city's local state of emergency declarations due to a public health emergency known as Covid-19 pandemic.

SMMP updated the council and stated that a total of \$130,768.00 has been submitted to TDEM for reimbursement and \$32,692.00 has been received.

#12. City Council Requests and Announcements.

Councilman Vasquez wants a breakdown report of what was submitted for reimbursement. Councilman Rodriguez wants a workshop on what needs to be done to get ready for the future. Councilman Vara wants to visit the city manager ordinance and discussion of the run down

houses, and the steps to demolish those properties.

#13. Executive Session: Convene into executive session pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Open Meetings Act to meet with its Attorney to seek legal advice on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the City Council under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act regarding:

1. **Taft Volunteer Fire Truck**
2. **Taft Police Department**

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez

Nays: None

Absent: Hernandez

The motion carried.

Council entered into executive session at 8:21 p.m.

#14. Reconvene into Regular Session and consider, discuss, or take action, if necessary, on any item(s) discussed in Executive Session.

Council reconvened into regular session at 9:54 p.m.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to take no action. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez

Nays: None

Absent: Hernandez

The motion carried.

#15. Adjournment.

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

The following votes were polled:

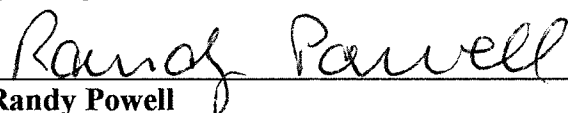
Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez

Nays: None

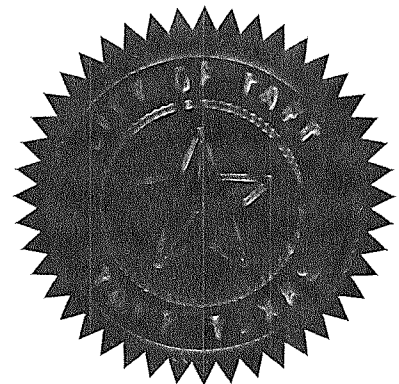
Absent: Hernandez

The motion carried.

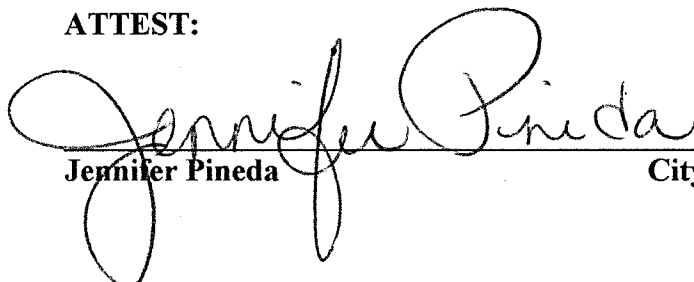
CITY OF TAFT



Randy Powell Mayor



ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda City Secretary