

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 9th day of February, 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
Rolando Rodriguez	
JoAdrian Vara	Absent
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 Hernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

#3. Visitors.

Felipe Rodriguez, 519 Victoria, stated that he would like to know the current status of the playgrounds at the parks if they are open. He also stated that he is concerned about substandard structures around the city and dogs running at large.

#4. Consider and discuss update regarding the city's financial condition as it relates to bonded debt, past dues, recurring payments, revenues and expenditures.

Mary Alice updated the council on the city financial condition. The balance of the TQIC fund was \$89,488.12 and the Street fund was \$87,025.61. The collection for city taxes was at 72.29% and the deannexed area was 54.71%.

#5. Discussion on street lights throughout the city and responsibilities.

Mayor went over the current agreements with AEP and TxDot with the council.

#6. 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 set a date of March 27, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. for a workshop related to a proposed housing development and a request for the creation of a Public Improvement District. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#7. Consider, discuss and take action on the contracted rate for the prosecutor to increase municipal prosecutorial services from once a quarter to an as needed basis.

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#8. Discussion on the detailed report on what has been purchased, submitted, and reimbursed due to Covid-19. (Councilman Vasquez)

Hailey from SMMP explained the spreadsheet provided to the council.

#9. Consider, discuss, and take action to obtain a diesel mechanic for emergency repairs to the Taft Volunteer Fire Department apparatus. (Councilman Vasquez)

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to obtain a diesel mechanic for all mechanical repairs for city related vehicles. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#10. Consider, discuss, and take action to adopt Ordinance No. 1068, an ordinance to adopt and enact a new code for the City of Taft, Texas; providing for the repeal of certain ordinances not included therein; providing a penalty for the violation thereof; providing for the manner of amending such code; and providing when such code and this ordinance shall become effective.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1068, an ordinance to adopt and enact a new code for the City of Taft, Texas; providing for the repeal of certain ordinances not included therein; providing a penalty for the violation thereof; providing for the manner of amending such code; and providing when such code and this ordinance shall become effective. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#11. Status update on MuniCode. (Councilman Vara)

This item was tabled for the next meeting.

#12. Discussion on Ordinance No. 968 and Ordinance 984. (Councilman Vara)

This item was tabled for the next meeting.

#13. Discussion on process to demolish run down houses. (Councilman Vara)

This item was tabled for the next meeting.

#14. Discussion on placing speed bumps on Victoria Ave. (Mayor Lopez)

Mayor addressed this item and alternatives like flashing lights and more police patrol were discussed.

#15. Discuss monthly reports for police department, animal control, code enforcement, and public works.

Chief Trevino went over the reports for police department, animal control, and code enforcement. Joe went over the report for public works.

#16. 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.

Mayor updated the council on the status of vaccines to be provided to the public by San Patricio County.

#17. City Council Requests and Announcements.

Councilman Rodriguez would like the retention period for audio recordings from 90 day to a year.

Councilman Hernandez would like an estimate on costs for item #7.

#18. 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. Sharon Watts vs City of Taft, Texas and Roberto M. Moreno, Civil Action No. 5:20-CV-1392- JKP in the U.S. District Court or the Western District of Texas.
2. Taft Volunteer Fire Truck

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

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

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#20. Adjournment.

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara

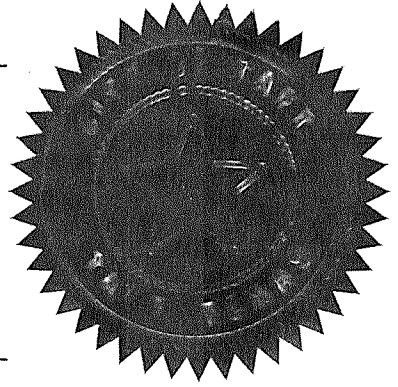
The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT

Randy Powell

Randy Powell

Mayor



ATTEST:

Jennifer Pineda

Jennifer Pineda

City Secretary