

## MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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	
Leonard Vasquez	Absent

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.**

Joe Hernandez, 121 Ash, stated the dirt used to cover the ruts on Ash St. has lots of rocks in it. Jason Keeney stated that the City of Taft failed its citizens by not communicating with them during the winter storm.

Felipe Rodriguez, 519 Victoria, wants to discuss the Payment for Funds request form on the next agenda and also commented that he did not get any responses to the emails that he sent out to the council.

### **#4. Presentation and discussion by Jill Sweeney, Senior Advisor for Phillips 66 on the Bluewater Texas Terminal Project.**

Jill Sweeney did a presentation on the Bluewater Texas Terminal project and informed the council on how it will work.

### **#5. Consider, discuss and take action to approve a resolution in support of the Bluewater Texas Terminal Project.**

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve a resolution in support of the Bluewater Texas Terminal Project. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

### **#6. Discussion of the current status of the playgrounds and the parks.**

Mayor read Governor Abbott's orders for parks, beaches, and bodies of water.

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

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to pay the prosecutor not to exceed \$1,400.00 a month for up to 10 hours on an as needed basis. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: Vara

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

Councilman Vasquez joined the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

**#8. Status update on MuniCode. (Councilman Vara).**

Jennifer informed the council that MuniCode is up and running and may be accessed through the City of Taft website.

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

Council discussed these ordinances and will have an action item on the next agenda.

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

Roxann informed the council on the process of removing dilapidated houses.

**#11. Discussion and action, if any, on the status of LexiPol.**

Chief Trevino addressed the council on this item and gave an update on the status of LexiPol.

**#12. Discussion on status of fire hydrants. (Councilman Hernandez)**

Joe Sandoval stated that he has been working with the fire department on identifying the fire hydrants that are not working. Staff has placed black bags over those hydrants.

**#13. Consider, discuss and act on operational and logistical measures related to the City's preparedness and response to the State and City's local state of emergency declaration due to public health and safety emergency known as severe winter weather.**

Mayor updated the council on the status of purchasing generators and the quotes he has received so far.

Jennifer updated the council on the status of CodeRed and will be bring a contract before the council at a future meeting.

**#14. 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 this item and stated that we will continue to follow CDC guidelines.

**#15. City Council Requests and Announcements.**

Councilman Rodriguez wants to review the ordinance in regards to turning off water in dire conditions.

Councilman Vara wants a report on the findings on the winter crisis corrective action and

**#16. Executive Session:**

- 1. 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 Taft Volunteer Fire Truck.**
- 2. Convene into executive session pursuant to Section 551.074 Personnel matters involving the appointment and employment of the City Manager.**
- 3. Water issue findings during the 2021 winter weather storm disaster**

**4. Citizens speaking during the 2021 winter weather storm disaster**

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Councilman Vasquez left the meeting at 11:35 p.m.

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

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

**#18. 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:

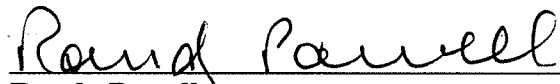
Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

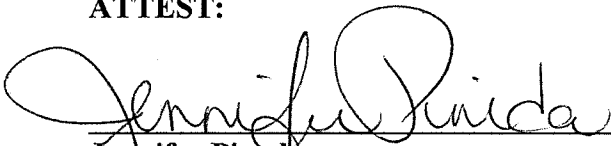
**CITY OF TAFT**

  
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Randy Powell

Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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Jennifer Pineda

City Secretary

