

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 11th day of May, 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.

There were no visitor comments.

#4. Plaque presentation to Commissioner Gary Moore.

Mayor read the plaque out loud and presented it to Commissioner Moore.

#5. Plaque presentation to Frank Gonzalez.

Mayor read the plaque out loud but Frank was not able to be in attendance.

#6. Discuss and consider 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 financial condition of the city.

#7. Discuss, consider, and act to approve the lease or purchase of a Dell PowerEdge T340 Server through Kyocera.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve the lease of a Dell PowerEdge T340 Server through Kyocera at the \$129.00 a month. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: none

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#8. Discuss, consider and act to approve the lease or purchase of a security camera system for the Taft Police Station, Animal Control Shelter, Taft City Hall, and Public Works Building through Kyocera.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve the lease or purchase of a security camera system for the Taft Police Station, Taft City Hall, and Public Works Building through Kyocera. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: none

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#9. Discuss, consider and act upon approving the Site Plans for the CDBG-DR GLO Street Improvement Project Contract No. 20-065-097-C269.

Councilman Vara made a motion to act upon approving the Site Plans for the CDBG-DR GLO Street Improvement Project Contract No. 20-065-097-C269. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: none

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#10. Discuss, consider, and act upon approving the COVID-19 Response Continuity of Government/Operations Plan created by Santos McBain.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion **approving the COVID-19 Response Continuity of Government/Operations Plan created by Santos McBain to be updated accordingly.** The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: none

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#11. Discuss, consider, and act to approve a request for street closures on May 21, 2021, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for the Taft ISD 2021 Senior Graduate's Parade.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to a request for street closures on May 21, 2021, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for the Taft ISD 2021 Senior Graduate's Parade. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: none

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#12. Discuss, consider, and act to add the utility phone payments option to services provided by The Payment Group

Councilman Vara made a motion to add the utility phone payments option to services provided by The Payment Group. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: Rodriguez

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#13. Discuss, consider, and act to participate in an ACH payment option pilot program through The Payment Group for utility customers.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to participate in an ACH payment option pilot program through The Payment Group for utility customers. The motion was seconded by Councilman

Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: Rodriguez

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#14. Discuss, consider, and act to approve a license agreement with Taft Little League for the use of the Little League Complex located at the Taft Recreational Park.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve a license agreement with Taft Little League for the use of the Little League Complex located at the Taft Recreational Park. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: none

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#15. Discuss, consider, and act to approve an expenditure in the amount of \$19,414.49 for repairs to the Taft Volunteer Fire Department 2006 Ford F550.

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: none

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#16. Discuss, consider, and act on moving forward with the repairs from Hurricane Harvey to the Taft Water Park or to set up dialogue with Taft ISD. (Councilman Vara)

Councilman Vara made a motion on moving forward with the repairs from Hurricane Harvey to the Taft Water Park or to set up dialogue with Taft ISD. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: none

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#17. Discussion on the security lighting needs at the Hidalgo Park. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Councilman Rodriguez stated that the lighting is really bad and needs to have more lighting installed.

#18. Discuss, consider, and act on charging penalty fees on utility bills. (Councilman Vasquez)

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez
Nays: none
Absent: Vasquez
The motion carried.

#19. Discuss a Fuel Farm set-up to be utilized for everyday needs and also in case of catastrophic weather. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Councilman Rodriguez addressed this item with the council and the next step would be to start getting bids.

#20. Discuss, consider, and act to restore and advertise for the Code Enforcement Officer position.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to restore and advertise for the Code Enforcement Officer position. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:
Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez
Nays: none
Absent: Vasquez
The motion carried.

#21 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 Sandoval went over the reports for public works.

#22 Discussion on implementing a COVID-19 exposure prevention, preparedness, and response plan.

Councilman Vara had supplied a plan to the rest of the council. The council discussed this item.

#23 City Council Requests and Announcements

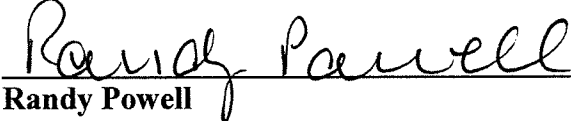
Councilman Vara would like to recognize the Pride of Taft, wants to discuss painting the parking areas on Green Ave, and want to discuss the vacant buildings on Green Ave.

#24. Adjournment.

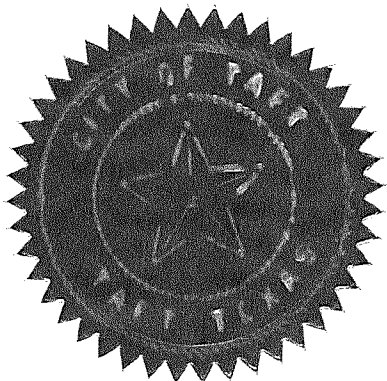
There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:
Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez
Nays: none
Absent: Vasquez
The motion carried.

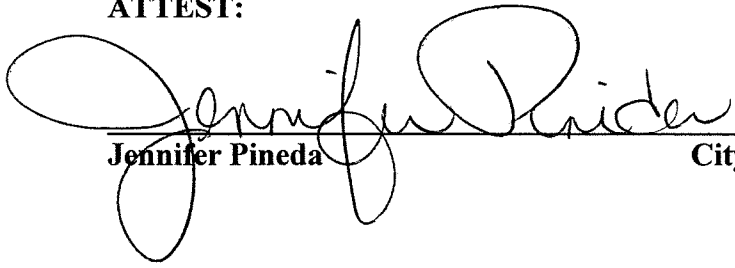
CITY OF TAFT


Randy Powell

Mayor



ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda **City Secretary**