

## MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 25<sup>th</sup> 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	Absent
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 6:37 p.m.

### **#2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.**

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

Mayor moved to Item #15.

### **#15. Consider, discuss, and take action on approving an agreement for professional legal services with David Aken to provide city attorney and prosecutor services.**

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve an agreement for professional legal services with David Aken to provide city attorney and prosecutor services. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara, Hernandez

The motion carried.

Mayor went back to Item #3.

### **#3. Visitors.**

There were no visitor comments.

### **#4. Public Hearing: Application for a rezoning request which, if approved, would zone land/property as "Business District" as defined by the Taft Code of Ordinances at 301 Kirkpatrick with the legal description of Lots 1 & 2 Block 49 Taft.**

Raul Gonzalez stated that he is against the rezoning as that it would bring too much traffic and there are a lot of kids in the neighborhood.

Jean Woods stated that she has no problem with the business coming in but not in that particular area.

Starling Cromwell showed the council pictures of his proposed laundry mat that he wishes to build on that property.

### **#5. Discuss and take action on whether to approve a rezoning request which, if approved, would zone land/property as "Business District" as defined by the Taft Code of Ordinances at 301 Kirkpatrick with the legal description of Lots 1 & 2 Block 49 Taft.**

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to disapprove a rezoning request which, if approved, would zone land/property as "Business District" as defined by the Taft Code of Ordinances at 301 Kirkpatrick with the legal description of Lots 1 & 2 Block 49 Taft. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

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

**#6. Discuss, consider, and act to approve Resolution No. 646, a resolution of the City of Taft, Texas finding that AEP Texas Inc.'s application to amend its distribution cost recovery factors to increase distribution rates within the city should be denied.**

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 646, a resolution of the City of Taft, Texas finding that AEP Texas Inc.'s application to amend its distribution cost recovery factors to increase distribution rates within the city should be denied. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

**#7. Discuss, consider, and act to approve the purchase of a 82x20 foot trailer to be used by the public works department.**

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve the purchase of a 82x20 foot trailer to be used by the public works department. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

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

**#8. Discuss, consider, and act on Gexa Energy Ancillary Services costs increase due to the severe winter storm.**

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

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

**#9. Discuss, consider and act to approve the lease or purchase of a security camera system for the Taft Animal Control Shelter and Taft Volunteer Fire Department through Kyocera.**

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve the lease of a security camera system for the Taft Animal Control Shelter and Taft Volunteer Fire Department through Kyocera. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

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

**#10. 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 Vasquez.

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

**#11. Discussion on the Taft Volunteer Fire Department building roof. (Mayor Lopez)**

Mayor Lopez would like to have the attorney review this item and see if it needs to go out for bids.

**#12. Discussion with Chief Dan Gibson on the fire truck. (Mayor Lopez)**

Chief Gibson presented the council with a quote for a new fire truck. The quote is good for 30 days and will be placed on the next agenda for action.

**#13. Discuss, consider, and act on the advertisement of the Taft Firework Extravaganza. (Mayor Lopez)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Councilman Rodriguez would like to have the fuel farm on the next agenda.  
Mayor Lopez would like to have the liability insurance for the alcohol and fireworks for the Taft Fireworks Extravaganza.

**#17. Executive Session: Convene into executive session pursuant to Section 551.074 Personnel matters involving the appointment and employment of the City Manager.**

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

by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara, Hernandez

The motion carried.

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

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara, Hernandez

The motion carried.

**#19. Adjournment.**

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

The following votes were polled:

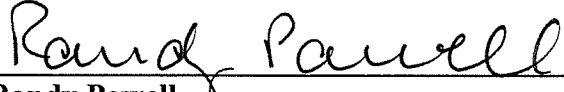
Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara, Hernandez

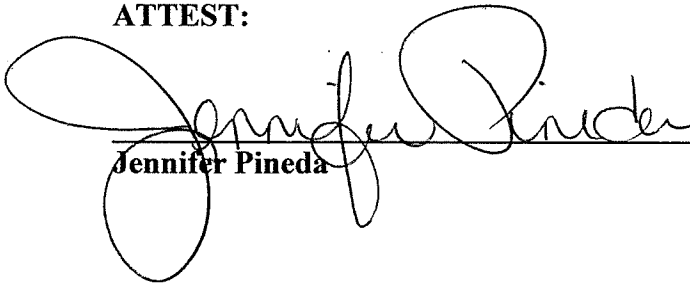
The motion carried.

**CITY OF TAFT**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Powell Mayor



**ATTEST:**

  
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Jennifer Pineda City Secretary