

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 8th day of June, 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 6:41 p.m.

#2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#3. Visitors.

Scott Patton, Taft Volunteer Fire Department, read a statement out loud in regards to following the procurement policy in place in the future.

#4. Plaque presentation to Commissioner Sonia Lopez.

Mayor read the plaque out loud, said a few words and then presented it to Commissioner Lopez.

#5. Presentation on the San Patricio County drainage improvements project GLO Contract No. 20-065-078-C221.

Craig Thompson from Hanson Engineering and John Hernandez from San Patricio County Engineering updated the council on the details of the project. They stated that the construction plans should be out for bid in August and the construction should start in September.

#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 city's financial condition and the balances of the TQIC and Street accounts. She also stated that in May the vehicle for animal control had been paid off.

#7. 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.

#8. Discuss, consider, and act to address the concerns of the placement of the dumpster used by Dr. Kolb's office. (Mayor Lopez).

William Davis from Absolute stated that he would spin the container so that it is more accessible. There was not action on this item.

#9. Discuss, consider and act to approve either the rental, purchase, or enter into a standby agreement of a generator for the public works department.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to purchase a generator for the public works department pending the payment plan and financing. 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 Vasquez made a motion to approve an expenditure in the amount of \$19,414.49 for repairs to the Taft Volunteer Fire Department 2006 Ford F550. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez

Nays: none

Absent: Vara, Hernandez

The motion carried.

#11. Discuss, consider, and act to approve the purchase of a fire truck for the Taft Volunteer Fire Department.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to purchase of a fire truck for the Taft Volunteer Fire Department pending the options in the amount of \$358,842.09. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez

Nays: none

Absent: Vara, Hernandez

The motion carried.

#12. Discuss, consider and act to get bids for a Fuel Farm. (Councilman Rodriguez)

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.

#13. Consider, discuss and take action to approve Ordinance No. 1074, an emergency ordinance of the City of Taft, Texas extending a local state of disaster declaration due to a public health emergency known as Covid-19 for ninety (90) calendar days from date of ordinance.

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.

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

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

#15. City Council Requests and Announcements.

Councilman Vasquez wants to schedule a workshop with the police department to compare with other departments and make sure that backgrounds are completed correctly.

Mayor would like a special meeting for the fire department to move with the financial options, the covid resolution, and discussion on the lease for a 5g tower.

#16. Executive Session:

1. **Convene into executive session pursuant to Section 551.074 Personnel matters involving the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, to wit: Finance Director/HR Director Mary Alice Sandoval.**
2. **Convene into executive session pursuant to Section 551.074 Personnel matters involving the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, to wit: City Secretary/Court Clerk Jennifer Pineda.**
3. **Convene into executive session pursuant to Section 551.071 Contemplated or pending litigation or matters where legal advice is requested of the City Attorney**

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

The following votes were polled:

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

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

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to take no action on 1, 2, or 3. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

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

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

CITY OF TAFT

Randy Powell
Randy Powell Mayor



ATTEST:

Jennifer Pineda
Jennifer Pineda City Secretary