

## MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020, 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

Others present: Mary Alice Sandoval, Finance Director, and Jennifer Pineda, City Secretary.

**#1.** There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

**#3. Visitors.**

There were no visitor comments.

**#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. The TQIC account had \$68,791.83 and the Street account had \$127,168.33.

**#5. Consider, discuss and take action on the contract with the Taft Independent School District for the use and maintenance of the Taft Recreational Park.**

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to move forward with negotiations. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#6. Update on citizen complaint about smoke blowing into homes from burning that is occurring in the county off of Abazola.**

Fire Chief Dan Gibson gave the council the update. Council instructed staff to contact Ms. Garcia to let her know of the update.

**#7. Consider, discuss and take action to approve a proposal from Nevill Document Solutions for software and leasing equipment.**

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve a proposal from Nevill Document Solutions for software and leasing equipment. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#8. Consider, discuss and take action to approve an ordinance repealing and replacing Ordinance No. 1035; prescribing rules, regulations, rates and fees and application process for water, sewer and garbage service; providing penalties for non-payment of utility bills; providing for disconnection of service for non-payment and related fees; establishing fees**

**for unauthorized use of water; establishing penalties for tampering with or damage to city equipment; identifying rates and fees for water and sewer services, taps, permits and inspections; providing additional rules and regulations, severance, repeal of conflicting ordinances, and an effective date.**

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve an ordinance repealing and replacing Ordinance No. 1035. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#9. Consider, discuss and take action on a resolution of the City of Taft Texas adopting TCAP's professional services agreement and Gexa Energy's commercial electric service agreement for power to be provided on and after January 1, 2023.**

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to take action on a resolution of the City of Taft Texas adopting TCAP's professional services agreement and Gexa Energy's commercial electric service agreement for power to be provided on and after January 1, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#10. Consider, discuss and take action to appoint Cindy Dyer to the Library Board.**

Councilman Vara made a motion to appoint Cindy Dyer to the Library Board. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#11. Consider, discuss and take action to appoint Justin Ruvo, Jerry Perkins, Sandra Cardenas, Jeremiah Perez, and Robert Mendoza to the Pride of Taft Board of Directors.**

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to appoint Justin Ruvo, Jerry Perkins, Sandra Cardenas, Jeremiah Perez, and Robert Mendoza to the Pride of Taft Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#12. Consider, discuss and act to approve a revised and restated interlocal agreement between San Patricio Municipal Water District and the City of Taft for the SCADA system.**

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve a revised and restated interlocal agreement between San Patricio Municipal Water District. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#13. Consider, discuss and act to approve an ordinance authorizing the City Council of the City of Taft to create a planning and zoning commission.**

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve an ordinance authorizing the City Council of the City of Taft to create a planning and zoning commission. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#14. Consider, discuss and act to appoint 5 members to the Planning and Zoning Commission**

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to appoint Jerry Nino, Rudy Mirabal, Joe Hernandez, Robert Mendoza, and Martin Salcido. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#15. Consider, discuss and act to approve an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with Texas Department of Public Safety for the Failure to Appear Program**

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with Texas Department of Public Safety for the Failure to Appear Program. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#16. Consider, discuss and possible action to authorize an extension of paid administrative leave for Animal Control Officer Denney**

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to not extend the paid administrative leave. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#17. Discussion Only. Update of water and wastewater rates to include a new rate class for senior citizens and disabled veterans and revised cost structure for nonresidential customers in order to assure new development is paying its full share of system costs**

Council discussed this item.

**#18. Discussion only. Consider implementing sales tax program that will allow developers and contractors to site construction materials to Taft for the purpose of taking advantage of the building boom and generating more sales taxes locally**

Council discussed this item.

**#19. Update on the police department operations. (Councilman Rodriguez)**

Chief Cornish gave an overview of the operations of the police department to the council.

**#20. Discussion on water loss and corrective action plan in place**

Joe Sandoval gave an update to the council on where we are at on this item.

**#21. Discuss monthly reports for animal control, code enforcement, and public works**

Chief Cornish explained the animal control and the code enforcement reports. Joe Sandoval explained the public works report.

**#22. Discuss having a traffic study done in Taft.**

Mayor instructed staff to get with Txdot on this item.

**#23. Discuss having a forensic audit completed before hiring a new city manager. (Councilman Rodriguez)**

Council discussed this item.

**#24. Consider, discuss and take action on moving forward to get the Hidalgo Community Center completed. (Councilman Vara)**

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#25. Staff update on current Hurricane Harvey related projects in need of repair**

Staff answered questions that the council had on this item.

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

Councilman Vara would like to have an update on the search for a city manager and discussion on the street conditions on the next agenda.

Councilman Rodriguez would like to have discussion on the 20% charge on the water payments on the next agenda.

**#27. Adjournment.**

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

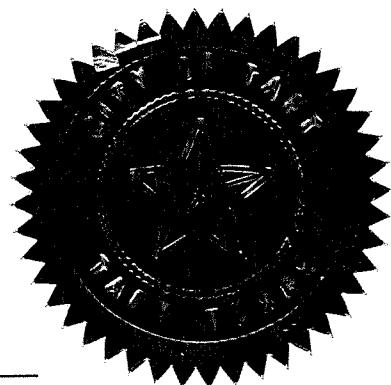
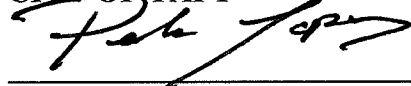
The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

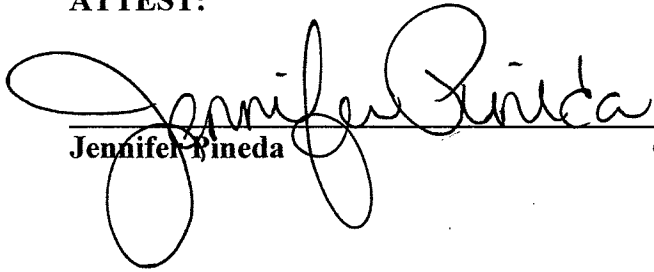
CITY OF TAFT



**Pedro Lopez**

**Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

  
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**Jennifer Pineda** **City Secretary**