

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 14th day of April, 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 6:31 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. Proclamation proclaiming April 2020 Fair Housing Month.

The proclamation was read out loud and signed.

#5. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the September 10, 2019 regular meeting minutes, September 24, 2019 regular meeting minutes, October 8, 2019 regular meeting minutes, October 22, 2019 regular meeting minutes, and November 12, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve the September 10, 2019 regular meeting minutes, September 24, 2019 regular meeting minutes, October 8, 2019 regular meeting minutes, October 22, 2019 regular meeting minutes, and November 12, 2019 regular meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Abstain: Rodriguez

The motion carried.

#6. 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 Sandoval addressed the council on this item. The balance for the TQIC fund was \$78,998.06 and the Street fund was \$138,901.12. The collection rate of taxes for the city was 84.49% and the deannexed area was 66.88%.

#7. Consider, discuss, and take action on the water bills for Elsa Cantu and Alonzo Arce at 529 Green Ave., Taft, Texas.

Mrs. Cantu from 529 Green Ave addressed the council on this item.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to give Mrs. Cantu the bulk price of \$296.38. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None
The motion carried.

#8. Presentation and discussion by developer Jayson Amason to the council about a project on the corner of HWY 181 and Packinghouse Rd., Taft, Texas.

Mr. Amason addressed the council on this item and explained the project that he would like to develop on the corner of Hwy 181 and Packinghouse Rd.

#9. Consider, discuss, and take action to repair or make new all of Victoria Ave. from HWY 181 to Rincon Rd., Taft, Texas.

Ray De Los Santos explained this item.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to have TQIC get quotes for Victoria Ave from HWY 181 to Rincon Rd. and to come back to the council. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

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

#10. Consider, discuss and take action to repair or make new all of McIntyre Ave from HWY 181 to Rincon Rd and use hot mix from Rincon Rd to New Rincon Rd., Taft, Texas.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion that Item #10 in regards to McIntyre Ave be included in the next presentation to secure information at the next council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

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

#11. Consider, discuss, and take action on Pride of Taft Fireworks Extravaganza policies and procedures.

Noel explained the procedures and policies.

Councilman Vare made a motion to table this item to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

#12. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve a resolution of the city council of the City of Taft, Texas authorizing the Taft Fireworks Extravaganza; authorizing the in-kind and financial support and sponsorship of the event by the city; and establishing an effective date. (Councilman Vasquez)

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to table this item to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Lopez.

The following votes were polled:
Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez
Nays: None

The motion carried.

#13. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve a Resolution renaming the Hidalgo Community Center to the Julia Alvarado Center. (Councilman Vasquez)

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to table this item. 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 and discuss the 20% penalty charge on water payments. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Council discussed this item and requested this item to be placed on the next meeting for action.

#15. Discussion on the City of Taft employees, to include police officers, to assist on local fire calls. (Councilman Hernandez)

Council discussed this item and instructed staff to research to see if there are any existing interlocal mutual aid agreements.

#16. Discuss update on testing for the possibility of mold at the Taft Volunteer Fire Department building. (Councilman Vara)

Jennifer Pineda gave an update and stated that testing would be set up.

#17. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the Stay at Home Order, Amendment No. 2, which extends the Order until April 30, 2020.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve the Stay at Home Order, Amendment No. 2, which extends the Order until April 30, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#18. 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.

There was no action taken.

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

Chief Cornish presented the animal control, code enforcement, and police department reports. Joe Sandoval presented the public works report.

#20. City Council Requests and Announcements.

Councilman Rodriguez would like to have the 20% penalty fee on the next agenda.

Councilman Vara would like to have a discussion on hurricane season.

Mayor Lopez would like to have a discussion on the city manager position.

#21. 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: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT

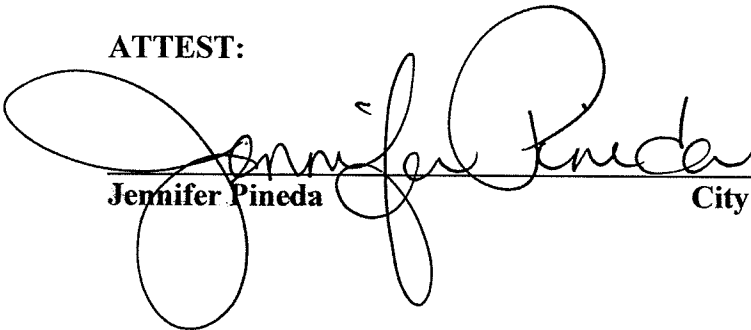


Pedro Lopez

Mayor



ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda

City Secretary