

## MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 28<sup>th</sup> 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	Absent
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 6:35 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, discuss and take action on whether to approve a variance request which, if approved, would allow the placement of a manufactured home outside of designated zones or a mobile home park and be placed at 408 Field Ave, Taft, Tx with legal description 3RD FITE BLK 8 LOT 2 0.224 acres in Taft, Tx.**

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve to allow the placement of a manufactured home outside of designated zones or a mobile home park and be placed at 408 Field Ave, Taft, Tx with legal description 3RD FITE BLK 8 LOT 2 0.224 acres in Taft, Tx. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

### **#5. Consider, discuss and take action to approve an Interlocal Agreement for Mutual Aid between the City of Taft and Taft Independent School District related to police protection services during the Covid-19 crisis.**

Councilman Vara made a motion to approve an Interlocal Agreement for Mutual Aid between the City of Taft and Taft Independent School District related to police protection services during the Covid-19 crisis. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

### **#6. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve Texas General Land Office Contract No. 20-065-097-C269 Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery Program Infrastructure Projects Non-Research & Development, Harvey Round 1 Funding in the amount \$283,664 to repair and reconstruct certain streets located within the City.**

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve Texas General Land Office Contract No. 20-065-097-C269 Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery Program Infrastructure

Projects Non-Research & Development, Harvey Round 1 Funding in the amount \$283,664 to repair and reconstruct certain streets located within the City. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

**#7. Consider, discuss and take action to authorize staff to advertise for request for qualifications for grant administration services for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Project.**

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to authorize staff to advertise for request for qualifications for grant administration services for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Project. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

**#8. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve Resolution No. 633, 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. 633, 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 Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

**#9. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve Resolution No. 634, a resolution by the City of Taft, Texas suspending the May 4, 2020 effective date of the proposal by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. to implement interim grip rate adjustments for gas utility investment in 2019.**

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 634, a resolution by the City of Taft, Texas suspending the May 4, 2020 effective date of the proposal by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. to implement interim grip rate adjustments for gas utility investment in 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

**#10. Consider, discuss and take action to approve a proposal for the purchase of an air conditioner unit at the Hidalgo Community Center.**

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve a proposal for the purchase of an air

conditioner unit at the Hidalgo Community Center from Ken-Air. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

**#11. Consider, discuss and act to approve the change of two new police vehicles from 2020 Ford Explorers to 2020 Chevy Tahoes.**

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve the change of two new police vehicles from 2020 Ford Explorers to 2020 Chevy Tahoes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

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

Councilman Vara made a motion to take action on Pride of Taft Fireworks Extravaganza policies and procedures. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

**#13. 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 Vasquez made a motion to 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. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: Rodriguez

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

**#14. Consider, discuss, and take action on the 20% penalty charge on water payments. (Councilman Rodriguez)**

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor  
The motion carried.

**#15. 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.**

Discussion took place on the Governor's order to start opening different businesses.

**#16. Discuss a more detailed financial report. (Councilman Vasquez)**

This item was tabled.

**#17. Discuss Ordinance No. 544, an ordinance adopting and promulgating rules and regulations governing the platting of land into subdivisions in the City of Taft. (Councilman Vasquez)**

Council instructed legal to review this ordinance.

**#18. Discussion on preparedness for Hurricane Season. (Councilman Vara)**

Staff discussed procedures that are put in place to prepare for Hurricane Season.

**#19. Consider, discuss and take action related to City Manager positions and its applicants. (Mayor Lopez)**

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

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

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

Councilman Hernandez spoke about the food distribution taking place at the Kiva Hut. He would also like to have Chief Cornish talk about the animal shelter on the next meeting. Councilman Vara would like to have an update on the fire department possible mold and a discussion on the possibility of a boll weevil festival in the future.

**#21. Executive Session: Convene into executive session pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Open Meetings Act to meet with its Attorney to seek legal advice on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the City Council under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act regarding Emergency Ambulance Service Contract between the City and Hidalgo County Emergency Service Foundation dba South Texas Airmed.**

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

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

**#22. Reconvene into Regular Session and consider action, if necessary, on any item(s)**

**discussed in Executive Session**

Executive session was tabled.

**23. Adjournment.**

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

The following votes were polled:

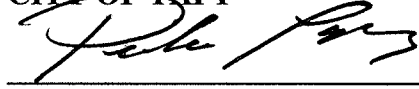
Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

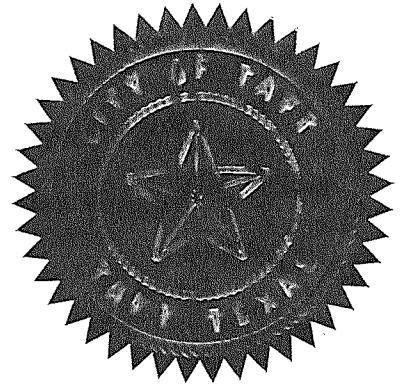
The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT

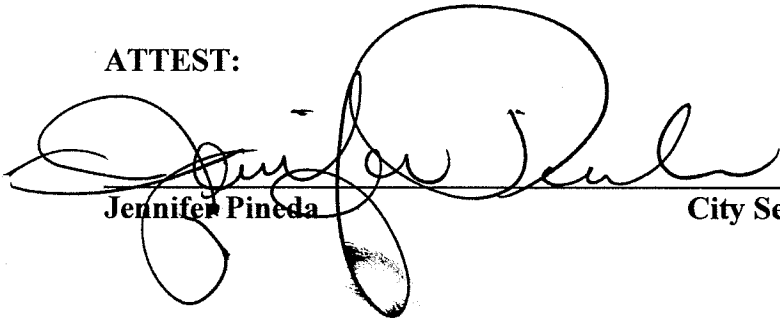


Pedro Lopez

Mayor



ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda

City Secretary