

## MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 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	Absent
Leonard Vasquez	Absent

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

**#1.** There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 6:36 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. 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 on the city's financial condition. The Streets account had a total of \$143,921.65 and the TQIC account had a total of \$84,018.59. The debt collection rate for the city taxes was at 85.91% and for the deannexed area at 69.02%.

**#5. Consider, discuss and take action on approving the road rehabilitation of Victoria Ave. and McIntyre Ave.**

Councilman Hernandez made a motion on approving the road rehabilitation of Victoria Ave. and McIntyre Ave. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara, Vasquez

The motion carried.

**#6. Consider, discuss and possible action to appoint Rolando Rodriguez to the Taft Quality Improvement Corporation board of directors.**

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to appoint Rolando Rodriguez to the Taft Quality Improvement Corporation board of directors. The motion was seconded by Mayor Lopez.

←

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara, Vasquez

The motion carried.

**#7. 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.**

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to leave everything as is. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

**#8. Discuss and take any action necessary regarding Signature Inspection Services' testing of the Taft Volunteer Fire Department building.**

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

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

**#9. Discussion of the possibility of hosting the Boll Weevil Festival in the future. (Councilman Vara)**

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

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

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

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to suspend the search for a city manager and let legal advice that the search will continue at a later date. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

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

**#11. Consider, discuss and take action to approve a professional services agreement between Capex Consulting Group and the City of Taft to provide water and wastewater utility rate analysis services.**

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve a professional services agreement between Capex Consulting Group and the City of Taft to provide water and wastewater utility rate analysis services in the amount of \$28,000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

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

**#12. Discuss monthly updates for animal control, code enforcement, police department, and public works.**

Chief Cornish updated the council on animal control, code enforcement, and police department. Joe Sandoval updated the council on public works.

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

Councilman Hernandez would like to have the new animal control officer at the next council meeting.

Councilman Rodriguez would like to have a briefing from the Taft EDC.

Mayor Lopez would like to have a brief summary of existing projects with FEMA and future projects.

**#14. 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.**
- **Kayla Denney regarding unemployment benefits and possible litigation.**

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:54 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara, Vasquez

The motion carried.

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

Council reconvened into regular session at 9:00 pm.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to pay Kayla Denny her vacation pay in the amount of \$933.68. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara, Vasquez

The motion carried.

**#16. Adjournment.**

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

The following votes were polled:

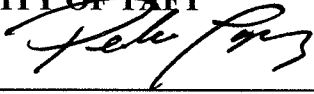
Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara, Vasquez

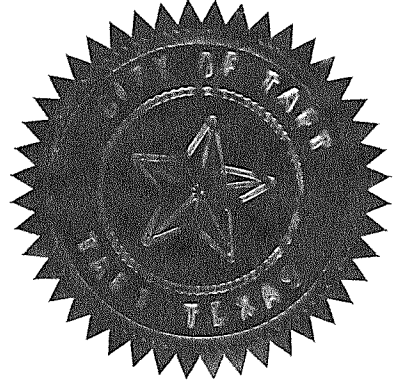
The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT

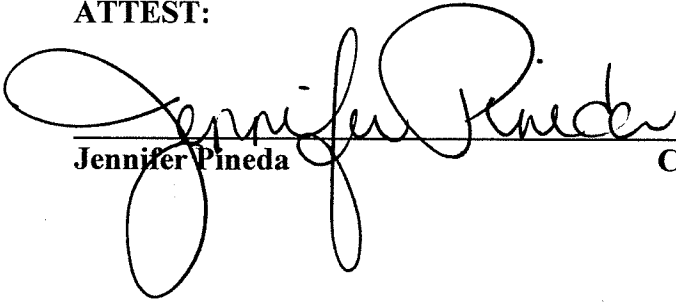


Pedro Lopez

Mayor



ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda

City Secretary