

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 23rd day of June, 2020, the City Council of Taft, Texas, convened in a regular session at 501 Green Ave, at the City Hall, 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 6:33 p.m.

#2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#3. Visitors.

Lucio Moreno, 302 Ash, was wanting to know why his water was closed and his trash can was taken without warning.

Sandra Moreno, Third St., wanted to let the council know that she has complaints against the Lamas cemetery.

Joe Martinez, Portland, Texas, wanted to let the council know that he was here to support Ms. Moreno and had complaints of his own complaints against the Lamas cemetery.

Robert Torres, 333 Ave C, stated that he had signatures and phone numbers of people who had complaints against Mr. Lamas himself on being rude and using profanity.

Patricia Escamilla, Sinton, stated that she had complaints about the condition of the cemetery.

#4. Update and discussion from Blanca Fradera with the U.S. Census Bureau on the self-response for the 2020 Census.

Blanca Fradera informed the council on the ways and process for the citizens to self-respond to the 2020 Census. She also gave a quick PowerPoint.

#5. Update and discussion from Mr. Jeff Snowden with Capex on the water rate study.

Mr. Snowden gave an update on the rate study and stated that he would be providing preliminary rate suggestions to the council.

#6. Consider and take action to select a plan and carrier for the City of Taft's annual windstorm insurance coverage from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to accept Option #2 to pay a total cost of \$91,512.75 for the insurance coverage as needed for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#7. Consider and act upon selecting financing for the City's windstorm insurance and authorizing the execution of documents related thereto from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to act upon selecting financing for the City's windstorm insurance and authorizing the execution of documents related thereto from July 1, 2020 through

June 30, 2021. 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 interlocal government contract and agreement with San Patricio County regarding services for Road and Bridge, Pct. 1. from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve an interlocal government contract and agreement with San Patricio County regarding services for Road and Bridge, Pct. 1. from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#9. Discuss, consider and act upon approving an agreement with Santos McBain Management & Planning for professional services related to the tracking of COVID-19 expenses, submission of expenses to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and monitoring the reimbursement process.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve an agreement with Santos McBain Management & Planning for professional services related to the tracking of COVID-19 expenses, submission of expenses to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and monitoring the reimbursement process. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#10. Consider, discuss and take action to approve a contract with Santos McBain Management & Planning to perform grant administration services for the GLO Contract No. 20-065-097-C269, Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery Program Infrastructure Projects, Non-Research & Development, Harvey Round 1 Funding.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve a contract with Santos McBain Management & Planning to perform grant administration services for the GLO Contract No. 20-065-097-C269, Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery Program Infrastructure Projects, Non-Research & Development, Harvey Round 1 Funding. 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 file a Release of Lien regarding a Notice of Lien filed by the City of Taft on April 16, 1979 on land with legal descriptions of: (1) West 50 Ft of Lots 13 to 16, Blk 21 Taft Townsite, commonly known as 205 Green Ave and (2) All of Lots 17 to 18, Blk 21, Taft Townsite, commonly known as 209/211 Green Ave.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to take action to file a Release of Lien regarding a Notice of Lien filed by the City of Taft on April 16, 1979 on land with legal descriptions of: (1) West 50 Ft of Lots 13 to 16, Blk 21 Taft Townsite, commonly known as 205 Green Ave and (2) All of

Lots 17 to 18, Blk 21, Taft Townsite, commonly known as 209/211 Green Ave. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#12. Consider, discuss, and take action on a check received from San Patricio County Drainage District in the amount of \$5,320.00 for the removal and repair of (2) 4x6 inlets on Green Ave. completed by Lone Star Sitework.

Councilman Vara made a motion on approve to take action on a check received from San Patricio County Drainage District in the amount of \$5,320.00 for the removal and repair of (2) 4x6 inlets on Green Ave. completed by Lone Star Sitework. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#13. Consider, discuss, and take action on the completion of the Taft Animal Control Shelter building.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve to complete the engineering specifications not to exceed \$5,000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#14. Consider, discuss, and take action to amend Resolution 635 by approving Resolution 636 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 Vara made a motion to set the effective date for July 4th and revisit on Monday, June 29, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: Rodriguez

The motion carried.

#15. Consider, discuss and take action to approve a one-day waiver on Ordinance No. 779, Section V, to allow the sale of alcohol by an approved Pride of Taft vendor provided that said vendor obtains a valid city permit to sell alcohol at the Fireworks Extravaganza on July 4, 2020

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve a one-day waiver on Ordinance No. 779, Section V, to allow the sale of alcohol by an approved Pride of Taft vendor provided that said vendor obtains a valid city permit to sell alcohol at the Fireworks Extravaganza on July 4, 2020 and provide additional information on June 29, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: Rodriguez
The motion carried.

#16. Discussion on the use of the City of Taft shooting range by the Taft Volunteer Fire Department for training purposes. (Councilman Vasquez)

Mary Alice stated that the Fire Department, firefighters, and the area to be used are covered under the TML insurance. Council directed staff to add this item as an action item on the next meeting agenda.

#17. Discussion on the trees at the Taft Memorial Park located on Green Ave. (Councilman Vara)

Bobby McCool, Texas A&M Forest Service, updated the council and let them know that he had collected tree root samples but has not received any of the results as of this day. He also informed the council of some of the remedies that can be taken to help save some of the trees.

#18. Discussion on how police interact with businesses when there is a complaint. (Councilman Vara)

Chief Cornish informed the council on the complaint process against any officer.

#19. Taft Municipal Court Judge Diaz to report status and update of the municipal court. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Judge Diaz addressed the council and updated them on the changes that have been made in processing cases in order to comply with Covid-19 CDC guidelines.

#20. Discussion on wording to be placed on all city committees or boards agendas that a quorum of the city council may attend to participate. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Councilman Rodriguez explained this item and wanted to see if the council would consider this. Council directed staff to add this as an action item on the next agenda.

#21. Discussion of neighbor's yards affected by sidewalk to the park project. (Councilman Rodriguez).

Councilman Rodriguez explained this item to the council and stated that maybe this is a safety issue.

#22. Discussion on renewing the search for the city manager position for City of Taft. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Councilman Rodriguez addressed the council on this item and stated that he feels that the council should renew the search.

#23. Consider, discuss and take action to approve a car allowance for the City Secretary/Court Clerk and the Finance/Human Resources Director.

Mayor Lopez made a motion to approve a car allowance for the City Secretary/Court Clerk and the Finance/Human Resources Director. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#24. 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

Roxann briefed the council on the latest information that Governor Abbott released in regards to Covid-19. There was no action on this item.

#25. City Council Requests and Announcements

Councilman Rodriguez would like to have an update on the audit at the next meeting.

#26. 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.

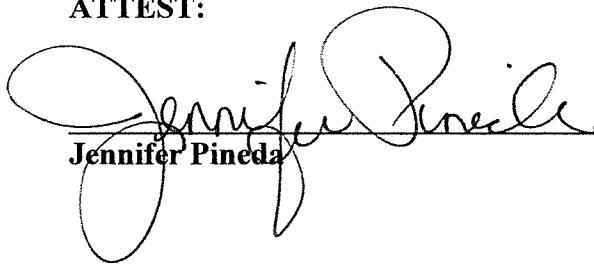
CITY OF TAFT



Pedro Lopez

Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda

City Secretary

