

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 14th day of July, 2020, the City Council of Taft, Texas, convened in a regular session via video and telephone conference, 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 Maria Nino, Accounts Payable Clerk.

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

#5. Discuss, consider and take action to enter into contract with Santos McBain Management & Planning for Professional Services: Emergency Management Proposal.

Councilman Vara made a motion to enter into contract with Santos McBain Management & Planning for Professional Services: Emergency Management Proposal. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#6. Presentation by Brian Keeney, Attorney at Law, who opened an office in Taft. (Councilman Vasquez).

Mr. Keeney presented himself to the council and answered questions that the council had.

#7. Consider, discuss and take action to enter into interlocal agreement between the City of Taft and Taft Volunteer Fire Department for the use of the City's shooting range for training purposes. (Councilman Vasquez)

Councilman Vara made a motion to table this item. 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 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 Vasquez 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.

#9. 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 Vasquez 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.

#10. Discussion on status of getting new street signs installed. (Councilman Vara).

Joe gave an update on this project and stated that Phase 1 was complete but is still working on Phase 2. There are four phases to complete the project.

#11. Discussion on Hidalgo Center renovations. (Councilman Vara).

This item was discussed with Item #12.

#12. Discuss, consider and take action to hire contractor for remaining work at the Hidalgo Center. (Mayor Pedro Lopez).

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#13. Consider, discuss and take action on whether to require all city boards and committees to post on their respective agendas that a quorum of the City Council may participate in their open meetings. (Councilman Rodriguez).

Councilman Rodriguez 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. Discuss, consider and take action on renewing the search for the city manager position for City of Taft (Councilman Rodriguez) or remain as is with current directors until further notice. (Mayor Pedro Lopez).

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to table this item. There was no second. The motion died.

Councilman Vara made a motion to remain as is with current directors until further notice. The motion was seconded by Mayor Lopez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Mayor

Nays: Rodriguez, Hernandez

Absent: Vasquez

The motion failed.

#15. Discussion on options for the Lamas Memorial Park Cemetery. (Mayor Pedro Lopez)

Mayor updated the council on this item. Mr. Lamas did propose to have the city purchase the cemetery.

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

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

#17. 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

Mayor updated the council on the condition of covid cases in the county. Mayor also let the council know that there will be a mobile testing site at the Kiva Hut.

#18. City Council Requests and Announcements

Councilman Hernandez wants to discuss the certification pay for employees and needed improvements to the Animal Shelter and Code Enforcement buildings.

#19. Discussion of City of Taft Fiscal Year 18-19 Financial Audit. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Councilman Rodriguez is wanting to know when the presentation will be made.

#20. 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 the City's Emergency Ambulance Service Contract

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

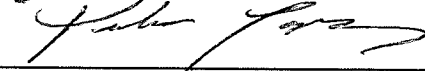
The motion carried.

#21. Adjournment.

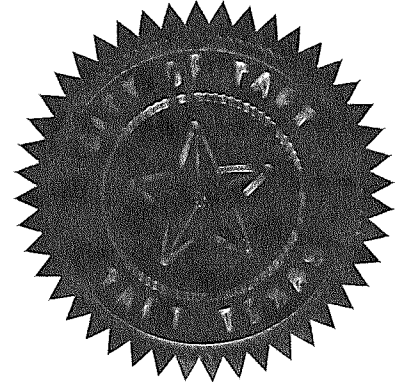
There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Hernandez to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

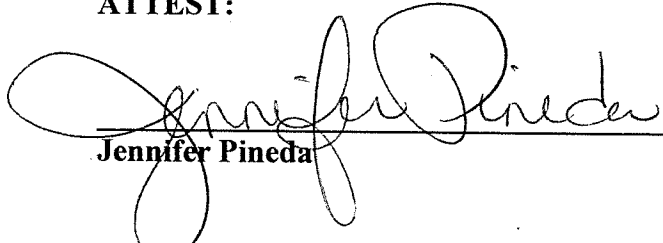
CITY OF TAFT



Pedro Lopez **Mayor**



ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda **City Secretary**