

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 28th 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 Absent
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 6:33 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 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 Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez

Nays: None

Absent: Hernandez

The motion carried.

#5. 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.

Councilwoman 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

Nays: None

Absent: Hernandez

The motion carried.

#6. 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

Nays: None
Absent: Hernandez
The motion carried.

#7. Update on 1st Street, 2nd Street and 3rd Street Road Construction Project.
(Councilmember Leonard Vasquez)

Ray with SMMP updated the council on this item. Agreements with LNV and SMMP have been put in place. Roxann informed the council that the interlocal agreement with San Patricio County will be placed on the agenda soon.

#8. Update and discussion on options for the Lamas Memorial Park Cemetery. (Mayor Pedro Lopez)

Mayor updated the council on this item and stated that Mr. Lamas will be getting back with the council on the amount that he wants to sell the cemetery for.

#9. 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 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
Nays: None
Absent: Hernandez
The motion carried.

#10. Discussion regarding Taft Police Department peace officer/employee certification pay. (Councilmember Lolo Hernandez)

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

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

#11. Discussion and update to create a scope of work for the Animal Control Shelter. (Councilmember Lolo Hernandez)

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
Nays: None
Absent: Hernandez
The motion carried.

#12. 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 Pedro Lopez)

Mayor updated the council on the covid situation in San Patricio County.

#13. Discuss, consider and act on the operational and logistical measures related to Tropical Storm Hanna. (Mayor Pedro Lopez)

Mayor updated the council on the outage that happened during the storm at the water storage tank.

#14. City Council Requests and Announcements.

Councilman Rodriguez wants staff to do research in the pay rates of city employees.
Councilman Vara is requesting the ordinance for alleyways.

#15. 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 enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

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

Council returned into open session.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to take no action. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

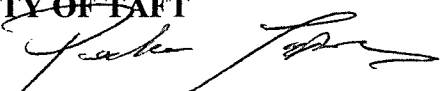
The following votes were polled:
Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez
Nays: None
Absent: Hernandez
The motion carried.

#16. Adjournment.

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

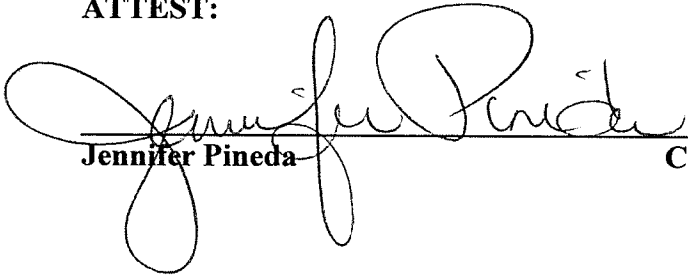
The following votes were polled:
Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez
Nays: None
Absent: Hernandez
The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT



Pedro Lopez Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda **City Secretary**

