

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 11th day of August, 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 Jennifer Pineda, City Secretary.

#1. There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 6:38 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.

At this time the council jumped to Item #19.

#19. Discuss utility accounts that exceed \$300.00 and the impact it makes on payment of bills due to Covid-19 waivers. (Councilman Vasquez)

After discussion, council would like to place this item as an action item on the next agenda.

The council went back to Item #5.

#5. Consider, discuss, and take action to schedule meeting dates for Fiscal Year 20/21 budget workshops.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to schedule meeting dates for Fiscal Year 20/21 budget workshops for Thursday August 20th, 27th, and Friday August 28th. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#6. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve a Joint Election contract between the City and San Patricio County Election Administrator for the County to conduct the City's General Election for Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve a Joint Election contract between the City and San Patricio County Election Administrator for the County to conduct the City's General Election for Tuesday, November 3, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#7. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve Ordinance No. 1059, an ordinance of the City of Taft, Texas calling and ordering a general election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 for the purpose of electing one Alderman for Ward One and one Alderman for Ward Two.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1059, an ordinance of the City of Taft, Texas calling and ordering a general election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 for the purpose of electing one Alderman for Ward One and one Alderman for Ward Two. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#8. Consider, discuss, and take action to enter into an Interlocal Purchasing Agreement between the City of Taft and San Patricio County for the purpose of participating in cooperative purchasing for procuring materials, supplies, goods, services or equipment.

Councilman Vara made a motion to enter into an Interlocal Purchasing Agreement between the City of Taft and San Patricio County for the purpose of participating in cooperative purchasing for procuring materials, supplies, goods, services or equipment. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#9. Consider, discuss, and take action upon the proposed tax rate for the City of Taft and take record vote.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to set the proposed tax rate for the City of Taft at \$0.770000 for the 20/21 fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#10. Consider, discuss, and take action upon the proposed tax rate for the City of Taft Deannexed SW and take record vote.

Councilman Vara made a motion to set the proposed tax rate for the City of Taft Deannexed SW at \$0.246785. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

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

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

#12. Discuss City of Taft chain of command policies for city staff and council members. (Mayor Lopez)

Mayor discussed this item with the council and directors to make sure everyone follows the chain of command.

#13. Discuss and update on Lexipol. (Councilman Hernandez)

Chief Cornish updated the council and stated that this would be for the proposed budget.

#14. Discussion regarding Taft Police Department peace officer/employee certification pay. (Councilman Hernandez)

Councilman Hernandez addressed the council on this item and would like to consider certification pay for all employees who have certifications.

#15. Discussion and update to create a scope of work for the Animal Control Shelter. (Councilman Hernandez)

Councilman Hernandez would like the council to visit the Animal Control Shelter to see what improvements are needed.

#16. Discuss purchasing automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and attachments. (Councilman Vasquez)

Chief Cornish updated the council and stated that the defibrillators will be ordered.

#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.

SMMP updated the council on the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

#18. Discuss expenses and reimbursement of Covid-19. (Councilman Vasquez)

There was no further discussion on this item.

#20. Discuss the process/ordinances which the developer can adhere to the present Hotel/Module project on the Martin Salcido property. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Councilman Rodriguez was asking for the process in regards to a developer who wants to develop on a property. Jennifer gave an overview of the process.

#21. Consider, discuss and act on wording with support of legal department to be added for all agendas in regards to respective organizations, i.e. TQIC, Taft EDC, Pride of Taft, to allow any councilmember to include the mayor to attend meetings without compromising the quorum statue, permanently. (Councilman Rodriguez)

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#22. Consider, discuss and act on renewing the search for applicants for city manager for the City of Taft. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to renew the search for applicants for city manager for the City of Taft and advertise accordingly. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#23. 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 Vasquez made a motion to table this item. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#24. Consider, discuss, and take action to amend Resolution 636 by approving Resolution 637, 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 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.

#25. 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)

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.

#26. Discuss a preliminary report on audit of 2018/2019 budget. (Councilman Vasquez)

Mayor Lopez stated that there are unanswered questions before the audit can be completed.

#27. City Council Requests and Announcements.

Councilman Rodriguez would like an analysis pay in regards to labor for next fiscal year.

Councilman Hernandez would like and update on the Taft Cemetery situation.

Councilman Vasquez would like to change the date of the Taft Firework Extravaganza.

Mayor Lopez wants the water study with Jeff Snowden on the next agenda.

#28. 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 contract(s) for emergency ambulance services

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#29. Consider, discuss and take action on whether to continue, terminate and/or enter into a contract for emergency ambulance services

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to action to give 30 day written notice to South Texas AirMed to terminate their contract for emergency ambulance services with their last date of service to be September 15, 2020 at 11:59 pm unless otherwise agreed to by both parties. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to enter into contract with Allegiance Mobile Health for emergency ambulance services to begin on September 16, 2020 at 12:00 am unless otherwise agreed to by both parties. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#30. Adjournment.

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

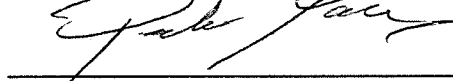
The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

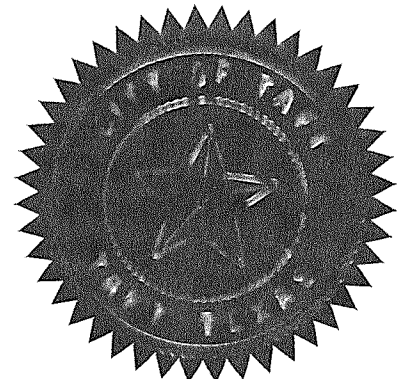
The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT

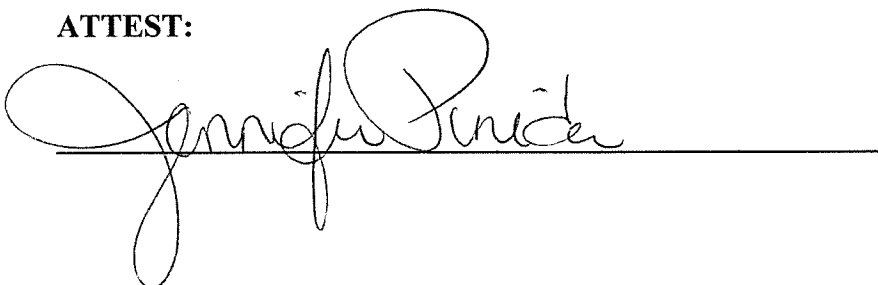


Pedro Lopez

Mayor



ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda

City Secretary