

## MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, 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 arrived at 6:55 p.m.  
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 6:40 p.m.

**#2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.**

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

**#3. Consider and take action to approve Ordinance No. 1065 an ordinance of the City of Taft, Texas to canvass the returns and declare the results of the General Election held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 for the purpose of electing one Alderman for Ward One and one Alderman for Ward Two for a term of two years.**

Councilman Vara made a motion to accept the canvass for Ward 1. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

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

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to accept the canvass for Ward 2. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

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

**#4. Swearing In and Oath of Office of newly elected officials.**

Leonard Vasquez and Lolo Hernandez were sworn in by Jennifer.

**#5. Visitors.**

There were no visitor comments.

**#6. Discuss, consider, and act to approve the Annual Financial Report for the year ended September 30, 2019.**

Councilman Rodriguez arrived at 6:55 p.m.  
Auditor Raul Hernandez discussed the audit with council.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the Annual Financial Report for the year ended September 30, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez  
Nays: None  
The motion carried.

**#7. Consider, discuss and act to approve an engagement letter from Raul Hernandez & Company, P.C. for fiscal year audit 19/20.**

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve an engagement letter from Raul Hernandez & Company, P.C. for fiscal year audit 19/20. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

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

**#8. 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 discussed the financials with council. The TQIC account had \$72,986.08 and the Streets account had \$109,251.35. The collection rate for the city taxes was at 3.78% and the deannexed area was 6.67%.

**#9. Consider, discuss and act to approve an interlocal agreement with San Patricio County to provide health related services.**

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve an interlocal agreement with San Patricio County to provide health related services. 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 act on allowing employees to receive the accumulated annual leave and longevity pay on the November 25, 2020 pay date.**

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve as read. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

**#11. Discuss, consider, and act to approve Resolution 643, a resolution of the City of Taft, Texas authorizing the City's \$10,000 in-kind and financial support and sponsorship issued to the Pride of Taft for the Taft Fireworks Extravaganza be reassigned to the Pride of Taft to produce a fireworks show to be held in conjunction with the Taft Chamber of Commerce Illuminated Christmas Parade on December 5, 2020.**

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve Resolution 643. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

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

**#12. Discuss update on all outstanding projects due to damage caused by Hurricane Harvey.**

Mary Alice updated the council on the outstanding projects. Council would like for staff to look into the scoreboard at the Little League Park.

**#13. Discussion on trailer house parked at the business located next to the Mi Ranchito. (Councilman Vara)**

Chief Cornish updated the council on the trailer house and when it should be removed.

**#14. Discuss and act upon the final process of obtaining the new fire truck. (Councilman Hernandez)**

Mayor updated the council on this item.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to act upon the final process of obtaining the new fire truck. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#15. Consider, discuss, and take action on mud pit and burn out events at Little League Park. (Councilman Vasquez)**

This item was tabled.

**#16. Discuss with a citizen of Taft Felipe Rodriguez with complaints and concerns within the City of Taft. (Councilman Vasquez)**

This item was tabled.

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

Chief Cornish went over the reports for the police department, animal control and code enforcement. Joe Sandoval went over the reports for public works.

**#18. 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 gave an update on this item.

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

Councilman Rodriguez would like the city manager process added to the next agenda.

Mayor Lopez updated the council on the Mayor's meeting that he attended.

**#20. Executive Session: Convene into executive session pursuant to Section 551.072 of the Texas Open Meetings Act to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property to wit: the Taft Cemetery.**

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez  
Nays: None  
The motion carried.

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

The council reconvened into regular session.

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

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

**#22. Adjournment.**

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

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

CITY OF TAFT

Randy Powell  
Randy Powell Mayor



ATTEST:

Jennifer Pineda  
Jennifer Pineda City Secretary