

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 8th day of December, 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 Absent
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 6:30 p.m.

#2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Vasquez led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Hernandez 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 financials. The TQIC account had \$79,584.15 and the Streets account had \$110,031.76. The collection for the city taxes was 8.40% and for the deannexed area was 10.43%.

#5. Consider, discuss and take action on retention incentives for city employees.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to take action on retention incentives for city employees. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor Lopez

The motion carried.

#6. Discuss monthly reports from Allegiance Mobile Health.

Stephanie Newsom with Allegiance updated the council on the monthly run reports.

#7. Discuss and take action on whether to approve a rezoning request which, if approved, would add Manufactured Home District to the residential zoned property on Toland with legal description PT SEC I Paul S/D CFP CO WILLIAMS ADDN 6.847 ACRES in Taft, Texas.

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor Lopez

The motion carried.

#8. Discuss and take action on whether to approve a variance request which, if approved, would allow the placement of a mobile home outside of designated zones or a mobile home park and be placed at 206 Oriente St, Taft, TX with legal description BLK 6 LT 8 HIDALGO SECOND 0.115 acres in Taft, TX.

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez

Nays: Vara, Vasquez, Hernandez

Absent: Mayor Lopez

The motion failed.

Councilman Vara made a motion to deny the request to allow the placement of a mobile home outside of designated zones or a mobile home park and be placed at 206 Oriente St, Taft, TX with legal description BLK 6 LT 8 HIDALGO SECOND 0.115 acres in Taft, TX. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: Rodriguez

Absent: Mayor Lopez

The motion carried.

#9. Discuss and take action on getting custody of any all financial records to include the checkbook pertaining to Pride of Taft.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to give them copies of all financial records dating back 3 years from today's date in regards to the checkbook to the Pride of Taft and ask the city staff help with the transition for the Pride of Taft to become independent. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor Lopez

The motion carried.

#10. Consider, discuss and take action on replacing and appointing new directors on the Pride of Taft Director Board.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to appoint Omar Alaniz, Felipe Rodriguez, Jason Kenney, and Margie Guzman. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor Lopez

The motion carried.

#11. Consider, discuss and take action on the City of Taft 2021 Holiday Schedule.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve the City of Taft 2021 Holiday Schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor Lopez
The motion carried.

#12. Consider, discuss and take action upon appointing a member of the City Council to serve as the City's Mayor Pro Tem for a term of one year pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 22.037.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to appoint Lolo Hernandez. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

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

#13. Consider, discuss, and take action on appointment to the San Patricio County Economic Development Board of Directors.

Councilman Vara made a motion to appoint Ray De Los Santos to the San Patricio County Economic Development Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

#14. Consider, discuss, and take action to cast votes for the 2021/2022 TCAP Board of Directors election.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to cast votes for the 2021/2022 TCAP Board of Directors election. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

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

#15. Consider, discuss and take action to add employees of The Housing Authority of the City of Taft, Texas to the City of Taft medical insurance effective date January 1, 2021.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to add employees of The Housing Authority of the City of Taft, Texas to the City of Taft medical insurance effective date January 1, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

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

#16. Consider, discuss, and take action on approving financing for the purchase of video cameras for the Taft Police Department.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion on approving financing for the purchase of video cameras for the Taft Police Department with 4 yearly payments. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor Lopez

The motion carried.

#17. Consider, discuss and take action to approve or reject proposals for depository of municipal funds.

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor Lopez

The motion carried.

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

Councilman Vara made a motion to approve mud pit and burn out events at Little League Park on March 13, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor Lopez

The motion carried.

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

Mr. Rodriguez stated that he would like to know the status of the playgrounds and that if they are closed, they need to be barricaded. He also stated that he has noticed that crime in the city has gone up.

#20. Consider, discuss and act to approve the City of Taft compensation scale.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve the City of Taft compensation scale. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor Lopez

The motion carried.

#21. Presentation and discussion on City of Taft organizational chart.

Roxann gave the presentation on the organizational chart and discussed any changes that the council would like to see for the next council meeting.

#22. Presentation and discussion on City of Taft job descriptions.

Roxann gave the presentation of the job descriptions and discussed any changes that the council would like to see for the next council meeting.

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

Mary Alice went over the reports for police department, animal control and code enforcement. Joe went over the report for public works.

#24. Consider, discuss and take action to approve Ordinance No. 1066, an emergency ordinance of the City of Taft, Texas extending a local state of disaster declaration due to a public health emergency for ninety (90) calendar days from date of ordinance.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1066, an emergency ordinance of the City of Taft, Texas extending a local state of disaster declaration due to a public health emergency for ninety (90) calendar days from date of ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor Lopez

The motion carried.

#25. 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 the pandemic and what changes have arisen.

#26. City Council Requests and Announcements.

Councilman Vara wants to discuss the recent crime spike and an update on the trailer at Mi Ranchito.

Councilman Rodriguez wants an update on the swimming pool.

#27. Discuss, consider and act to approve the final plat drawings for Taft Acres with the legal description of ABST 268 George Clark Survey, Packing House Ave & Industrial, Taft, Texas 78390.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve the final plat drawings for Taft Acres with the legal description of ABST 268 George Clark Survey, Packing House Ave & Industrial, Taft, Texas 78390. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor Lopez

The motion carried.

#28. Adjournment.

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor Lopez

The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT

Randy Powell

Randy Powell

Mayor



ATTEST:

Jennifer Pineda

Jennifer Pineda

City Secretary