

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 13th day of October, 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	Absent
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 6:32 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. Proclamation designating October as Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

Kayla Perez, with the Purple Door, explained the proclamation and the services the Purple Door provides.

Mayor read the proclamation out loud.

#5. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the April 28, 2020 regular meeting minutes, May 12, 2020 regular meeting minutes, and May 22, 2020 regular meeting minutes.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve the April 28, 2020 regular meeting minutes, May 12, 2020 regular meeting minutes, and May 22, 2020 regular meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#6. 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. The Streets account had a total of \$103,880.30 and the TQIC account had a total of \$69,116.03. The debt collection rate for the city taxes was at 92.46% and for the deannexed area at 83.53%.

#7. Discuss, consider, and act on the appointment of Mr. Rolando Rodriguez to the Board of Directors of the City of Taft Economic Development Corporation.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to appointment of Mr. Rolando Rodriguez to the Board of Directors of the City of Taft Economic Development Corporation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

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

#8. Discuss, consider and act to appoint Randy Powell, Amanda Powell, Paul Trevino, Jason Keeney and Philip Martinez to the Pride of Taft.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to table this item for a special meeting or the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

#9. Consider, discuss, and take action on Halloween on Green.

Jennifer presented this item to the council and stated that all CDC guidelines would be followed.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to take action on Halloween on Green. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

#10. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve an agreement for use of subscription material with Lexipol.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve an agreement for use of subscription material with Lexipol. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

Councilman Rodriguez made an amendment to Hernandez's motion by adding with legal department review. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

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

The following votes were polled on the original motion with amendment:
Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez
Nays: Vasquez
Absent: Vara
The motion carried.

#11. Status update on the memorial bricks. (Councilman Vara).

This item was tabled.

#12. Discussion of all outstanding projects due to damage caused by Hurricane Harvey. (Mayor Lopez).

Mayor stated that if the projects are not completed by the end of October, then he would like for staff to go out for bids.

#13. Update on Taft Cemetery Situation. (Mayor Lopez).

Council would like to have this item in executive session at the next meeting to discuss making an offer.

#14. Discussion on a forensic audit for the City of Taft financial accounts to be administered by an independent group. (Councilman Rodriguez).

Councilman Rodriguez asked to remove this item for right now.

#15. 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 indefinitely. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#16. Discuss, consider, and act on assisting Pride of Taft city wide cleanup with containers and backhoe operator on November 21, 2020. (Councilman Vasquez)

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to act on assisting the Pride of Taft city wide cleanup on November 21, 2020 as it serves a public purpose. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#17. Discuss with Pride of Taft to host a Christmas festival and a tractor pool and other events. (Councilman Vasquez)

Councilman Vasquez asked to remove this item.

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

Councilman Vasquez asked to table this item.

#19. Discuss on hiring the city attorney position. (Councilman Vasquez)

Councilman Vasquez asked to table this item.

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

Councilman Vasquez asked to table this item.

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

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

Councilman Vasquez left the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

#22. 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.

There was no action taken on this item.

#23. City Council Requests and Announcements.

Councilman Hernandez informed the council on the illuminated parade and would like to have an update on the fire engine on the next agenda.

#24. 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: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

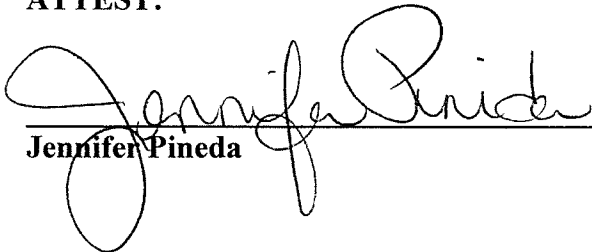
CITY OF TAFT



Pedro Lopez

Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda

City Secretary

