

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 8th day of September, 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	
JoAdrian Vara	Absent
Leonard Vasquez	(7:10 pm)

Others present: Mary Alice Sandoval, Finance Director and Jennifer Pineda, City Secretary.

#1. There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 6:57 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. Conduct a public hearing to hear comments for and against the City's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, which begins October 1, 2020 and ends September 30, 2021.

Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

The public hearing closed at 7:01 p.m.

#5. Conduct a public hearing to hear comments for and against the proposed 2020 property tax rate for the City of Taft.

Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

There were no comments from the public.

The public hearing closed at 7:03 p.m.

#6. Consider, discuss and take action to adopt Ordinance No. 1061, an ordinance to approve the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, which begins October 1, 2020 and ends September 30, 2021.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1061, an ordinance to approve the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, which begins October 1, 2020 and ends September 30, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara, Vasquez

The motion carried.

#7. Consider, discuss and take action to adopt Ordinance No. 1062 to: Approve and levy an ad valorem total tax rate of \$0.770000 for the use and support of the City for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 on each \$100.00 of assessed valuation on all property within the corporate City limits; Approve, levy and apportion ad valorem taxes for the maintenance and operations (M&O) of the City at a tax rate of \$0.497072 on each \$100.00 of assessed valuation on all taxable property within the corporate City limits; Approve, levy and apportion ad valorem taxes for the debt service (I&S) of the City at a tax rate of \$0.272928 on each \$100.00 of assessed valuation on all taxable property within the corporate City limits; Approve, levy and apportion ad valorem taxes for the debt service (I&S) of the City

at a tax rate of \$0.246785 on each \$100.00 of assessed valuation on all taxable property within the Deannexed Southwest Taft area.

Councilman Vasquez joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1062 to: Approve and levy an ad valorem total tax rate of \$0.770000 for the use and support of the City for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 on each \$100.00 of assessed valuation on all property within the corporate City limits; Approve, levy and apportion ad valorem taxes for the *maintenance and operations (M&O)* of the City at a tax rate of \$0.497072 on each \$100.00 of assessed valuation on all taxable property within the corporate City limits; Approve, levy and apportion ad valorem taxes for the *debt service (I&S)* of the City at a tax rate of \$0.272928 on each \$100.00 of assessed valuation on all taxable property within the corporate City limits; Approve, levy and apportion ad valorem taxes for the *debt service (I&S)* of the City at a tax rate of \$0.246785 on each \$100.00 of assessed valuation on all taxable property within the Deannexed Southwest Taft area. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#8. Consider, discuss and take action to approve a contract for professional website design with Tech Rehome LLC.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve a contract for professional website design with Tech Rehome LLC. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#9. 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 informed the council on the current financial condition of the city and answered questions that the council had.

#10. Consider, discuss and take action to approve the purchase of a Scag Turf Tiger 72" mower for the public works department.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the purchase of a Scag Turf Tiger 72" mower for the public works department. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#11. Consider, discuss and take action to cast votes for the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool Board of Trustees election.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to cast votes for Place 1 Robert T Herrera, Place 2 John W. Fullen, Place 3 Jeffrey Snyder, and Place 4 Dave Martin in regards to the Texas Municipal

League Intergovernmental Risk Pool Board of Trustees election. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#12. Discussion on re-establishing the Hidalgo Community Center Advisory Board.

Mayor Lopez informed the council that there is an open seat on the board and would like the council to appoint someone at the next meeting.

#13. Discuss update of individuals applying for city manager. Also, set original criteria/standards which will be used as guidelines in regards to the process for the future city manager. These criteria/standards will be fluid, not permanent and upon majority consensus become the standard which will be applied as part of the process of hiring the future city manager, respectively. (Councilman Rodriguez).

Council reviewed the advertisement used in the past and directed the city secretary to post the advertisement as read.

#14. Discuss incorporating Pride of Taft, Planning & Zoning, TQIC minutes, information on the City of Taft website as links etc. for decimation to the public for total transparency by Brandon Cornish/Computer Consultant. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Council discussed this item and gave a directive to send an email to each organization.

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

This item was tabled.

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara
The motion carried.

#18. 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. (Councilman Vasquez)

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

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

#19. Consider, discuss, and take action on National Night Out 2020.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to cancel National Night Out 2020. The motion was seconded by Mayor Lopez.

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

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

Mayor updated the council on this item and stated that Mr. Lamas has not returned the Mayor's phone calls.

#21. Consider, discuss, and take action on delinquent water accounts due to Covid-19 waivers. (Councilman Vasquez)

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to table this item and bring it back along with the order that was signed. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

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

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

Chief Cornish updated the council on the monthly reports for police department, animal control, and code enforcement.

Joe Sandoval updated the council on the public works monthly report.

#23. Consider, discuss and take action to approve Ordinance No. 1063, 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. 1063, 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 Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vara

The motion carried.

#24. 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 Lopez stated that he wanted to make sure everyone continues to wear their masks and take safety measures.

#25. City Council Requests and Announcements.

Councilman Rodriguez wants to receive more history on the delinquent water accounts. Councilman Hernandez would like to discuss the fire department siren and get a time line on when it will be installed.

#26. 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

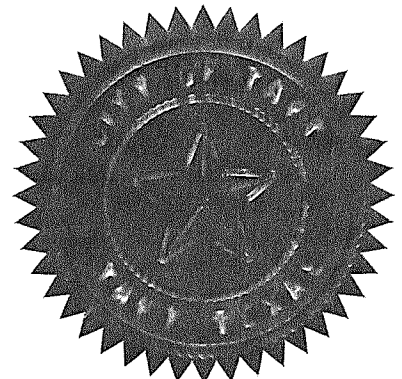
The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT

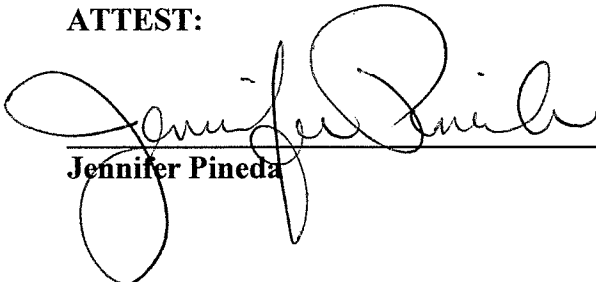


Pedro Lopez

Mayor



ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda

City Secretary