

## MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

On the 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020, the City Council of Taft, Texas, convened in a special 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  
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 6:33 p.m.

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

Pastor Ward led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

**#3. Visitors.**

There were no visitor comments.

**#4. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the March 21, 2020 emergency meeting minutes, March 24, 2020 regular meeting minutes, April 7, 2020 emergency meeting minutes, and April 14, 2020 regular meeting minutes.**

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the March 21, 2020 emergency meeting minutes, March 24, 2020 regular meeting minutes, April 7, 2020 emergency meeting minutes, and April 14, 2020 regular meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#5. Consider, discuss and take action upon accepting Santos McBain's amended contract for grant administration services for the GLO Contract No. 20-065-097-C269, Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery Program Infrastructure Projects, Non-Research & Development, Harvey Round 1 Funding.**

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion on accepting Santos McBain's amended contract for grant administration services for the GLO Contract No. 20-065-097-C269, Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery Program Infrastructure Projects, Non-Research & Development, Harvey Round 1 Funding. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#6. Consider, discuss, and take action upon accepting Santos McBain's amended proposal for Professional Services related to Emergency Management.**

Councilman Vara made a motion to take action upon accepting Santos McBain's amended proposal for Professional Services related to Emergency Management. 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 take action to approve Resolution No. 639 designating authorized signatories for contractual document and documents requesting funds pertaining to the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR), Contract No. 20-065-097-C269.**

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 639 designating authorized signatories for contractual document and documents requesting funds pertaining to the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR), Contract No. 20-065-097-C269. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

**#8. Consider, discuss and take action to approve Resolution No. 641 regarding civil rights for compliance with the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program from the Texas General Land Office. Said resolution includes: 1. Citizen Participation Plan and Grievance Procedures; 2. Section 3 Policy; 3.Excessive Force Policy; 4. Limited English Proficiency Standards Plan; 5. Section 504 Policy Grievance Procedures; 6. Code of Conduct Policy; 7. Fair Housing Policy; and 8. Procurement Policy and Procedures for Federal Grants.**

Councilman Vara made a motion to approve Resolution No. 641 regarding civil rights for compliance with the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program from the Texas General Land Office. Said resolution includes: 1. Citizen Participation Plan and Grievance Procedures; 2. Section 3 Policy; 3.Excessive Force Policy; 4. Limited English Proficiency Standards Plan; 5. Section 504 Policy Grievance Procedures; 6. Code of Conduct Policy; 7. Fair Housing Policy; and 8. Procurement Policy and Procedures for Federal Grants. 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 appointing a Section 3 Coordinator for the GLO Contract No. 20-065-097-C269, Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery Program Infrastructure Projects, Non-Research & Development, Harvey Round 1 Funding.**

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to appoint Jennifer Pineda Section 3 Coordinator for the GLO Contract No. 20-065-097-C269, Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery Program Infrastructure Projects, Non-Research & Development, Harvey Round 1 Funding. 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 take action upon appointing a Labor Standards Officer for the GLO Contract No. 20-065-097-C269, Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery Program Infrastructure Projects, Non-Research & Development, Harvey Round 1 Funding.**

Councilman Vara made a motion to appoint Jennifer Pineda as Labor Standards Officer for the GLO Contract No. 20-065-097-C269, Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery Program Infrastructure Projects, Non-Research & Development, Harvey Round 1 Funding. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#11. Consider, discuss, and take action upon appointing a Civil Rights Officer for the GLO Contract No. 20-065-097-C269, Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery Program Infrastructure Projects, Non-Research & Development, Harvey Round 1 Funding.**

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to appoint Jennifer Pineda as Civil Rights Officer for the GLO Contract No. 20-065-097-C269, Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery Program Infrastructure Projects, Non-Research & Development, Harvey Round 1 Funding. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#12. Consider, discuss and take action to approve Resolution 642, a resolution of the City of Taft, Texas approving entering into an Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program project number 0916-28-081.**

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve Resolution 642, a resolution of the City of Taft, Texas approving entering into an Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program project number 0916-28-081. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#13. Consider, discuss and take action to approve a contractual agreement for professional legal services with Roxann Pais Cotroneo for city prosecutor.**

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to go out for RFQs. There was no second. The motion died.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve a contractual agreement for professional legal services with Roxann Pais Cotroneo for city prosecutor. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: Vasquez

The motion carried.

**#14. Consider, discuss and take action to approve Ordinance No. 1064 to adopt: 2018 International Building Code; ICC A117.1-2017 Standards for Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities; 2018 International Energy Code; 2018 International Existing**

**Building Code; 2018 International Fire Code; 2018 International Fuel Gas Code; 2018 International Mechanical Code; 2018 International Plumbing Code; 2018 International Property Maintenance Code; 2018 International Residential Code, Including Appendices D and J; 2018 International Swimming Pools and Spa Code; 2018 International Zoning Code; 2017 NFPA 70; and 2017 National Electrical Code; Providing a penalty for violation of the ordinance; Providing for publication; Providing a savings clause; Providing a severability clause; and ordaining other matters pertaining to the foregoing.**

Councilman Vara made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1064. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#15. Consider, discuss and take action to appoint a City of Taft Fire Marshall and approve a professional services contract with Nathan Kelley for fire marshal services.**

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to appoint a City of Taft Fire Marshall and approve a professional services contract with Nathan Kelley for fire marshal services. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#16. Consider, discuss and take action to approve Resolution No. 640, a resolution of the City of Taft, Texas adopting TCAP's professional services agreement and Gexa Energy's commercial electric service agreement for power to be provided on and after January 1, 2023.**

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 640, a resolution of the City of Taft, Texas adopting TCAP's professional services agreement and Gexa Energy's commercial electric service agreement for power to be provided on and after January 1, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#17. Consider, discuss and take action on naming (1) member to the advisory board for the Hidalgo Community Center operations.**

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to appoint Amanda Powell. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

**#18. Discussion on awareness plan for National Night Out 2020.**

Mary Alice updated the council on the plans of making National Night Out as a drive up event coordinated with the Taft Housing Authority.

**#19. Update on Taft Cemetery Situation. (Mayor Lopez)**

Mayor updated the council that there has been no response from Mr. Lamas.

**#20. Status update on the sidewalk project. (Mayor Lopez)**

Jennifer updated the council on this project and let the council know the next steps.

**#21. Discuss the status of the siren for the Taft Volunteer Fire Department. (Councilman Hernandez)**

Mayor updated the council on this item. The pole has been delivered.

**#22. 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.

**#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 remove this item. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

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 Hernandez.

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. (Councilman Vasquez)**

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

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

Mary Alice updated the council on the debt letter that was sent to all delinquent account holders. No action was taken on this item.

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

Jerry Perkins, Pride of Taft President, addressed the council on this item.

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

**#28. Discuss findings on mud pit and burn out events at Little League Park. (Councilman Vasquez)**

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

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

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

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

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

**#31. 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.**

Santos McBain updated the council on the Coronavirus Relief Fund and the amounts that have been allocated to the city.

**#32. Discussion on the October 13, 2020 regular council meeting.**

Jennifer informed the council that the October 13, 2020 council meeting will have to be held virtually due to early voting.

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

Councilman Rodriguez would like to see about having Zoom meetings instead of GoTo meetings.

Councilman Vara wanted a status update on the memorial bricks.

Mayor wanted a list of all outstanding projects and discussion on the next meeting.

**#34. Adjournment.**

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Vasquez, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

*Pedro Lopez*

**Pedro Lopez**

**Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

*Jennifer Pineda*

**Jennifer Pineda**

**City Secretary**

