

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 10th day of December, 2019, 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
Leonard Vasquez Mayor Pro-tem Absent
Rolando Rodriguez
JoAdrian Vara
Lolo Hernandez

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

#1. There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

#2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#3. Visitors.

Mrs. Saundra Syma, 417 Victoria, informed the council that she was upset for getting a charge for turning the water meter off.

Gilbert Ortiz, 114 Devilbiss, wants to know what the process is to turn Devilbiss from a private road to a city road.

Adam Babcock, 417 Victoria, wanted to know what the definition of tampering was

Tazh Fonville, 743 Retama, stated that he doesn't think the time to respond to a code violation letter is long enough and wants the council to revisit the ordinance.

Lisa Martinez, 518 Third St., wanted to suggest to the council to put updates on the website on what is considered brush and what is considered bulk, and stated that there is not enough room in front of her property to place the items.

#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 financial condition. The TQIC account had \$57,364.35 and the Street account had \$130,527.78.

#5. Presentation by Noel Snedeker on the City of Taft 5 year plan.

Noel updated the council on the 5 year plan and stated that it will only work if we stay on track with the budget.

#6. Discuss, consider and take action to approve the final plat for the Mesquital Subdivision.

Councilman Vara made a motion to approve the final plat for the Mesquital Subdivision. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#7. Consider, discuss and take action on the City of Taft 2020 Holiday Schedule.

Councilman Vara made a motion to approve the City of Taft 2020 Holiday Schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#8. 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 Hernandez made a motion to nominate himself as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#9. Discussion on water loss and corrective action plan in place. (Mayor Lopez).

Joe Sandoval explained to the council that the city is at a 33% water loss and we should only be at a 10%. Council instructed staff to work on this and bring it back to the council for updates.

#10. Consider, discuss and take action to direct staff to advertise for the city manager position. (Mayor Lopez)

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to take action to direct staff to advertise for the city manager position. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#11. City manager to give status on all future City of Taft projects with start dates and project end dates. (Mayor Lopez)

Denise updated the council on all outstanding projects.

#12. Discussion with city attorney for legal direction or recommendation for Southwest Taft annexation process. (Mayor Lopez)

Matthew Longoria updated the council on the annexation process.

#13. Discussion on a resolution supporting the development and implementation of a comprehensive industrial master plan for San Patricio County, Texas. (Mayor Lopez)

Mayor explained the resolution and instructed staff to place it on the next agenda.

#14. Consider, discuss and take action to approve Ordinance No. 1050, an ordinance of the City of Taft, Texas establishing a revised rate schedule for water and wastewater services in the City of Taft, Texas.

Councilman Vara made a motion to table this item until we get more information in writing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

#15. Felipe Rodriguez, President of Pride of Taft, to brief the council of their mission, future plans, and ongoing projects. (Councilman Rodriguez)

This item was tabled to the January 2020 meeting.

#16. Discuss, consider, and act on reactivating the Planning and Zoning committee with the council to select members for said committee in the January 2020 council meeting. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to table to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

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

#17. Discuss Devilbiss being a city street or a private road. (Councilman Vasquez)

Legal counsel will email the council the process it takes to turn a private road into a city street.

#18. Consider, discuss and act on purchasing upgrades to the current water meters.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to table to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

#19. Consider, discuss and act to amend Ordinance No 1035, an ordinance prescribing rules, regulations, rates and fees and application process for water, sewer and garbage service.

Councilman Vara made a motion to table for further legal review. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

#20 Discuss Taft Independent School District to terminate the contract with the City of Taft for the use and maintenance of the Taft Recreational Park.

Denise explained this item to the council.

#21. Consider, discuss and act to authorize the City Manager to extend the duration of paid administrative leave for Animal Control Officer Denney.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to authorize the City Manager to extend the duration of paid administrative leave for Animal Control Officer Denney for another 30 days. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vara.

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

#22. Consider, discuss and act on Resolution No. 630, a resolution sponsoring and submitting an application to the Texas Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School and Transportation Alternatives Program In support of the City of Taft's SRTS & Connectivity/Accessibility Sidewalk Project and authorizing the Mayor to execute all documents pertaining thereto.

Councilwoman Rodriguez made a motion to act on Resolution No. 630, a resolution sponsoring and submitting an application to the Texas Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School and Transportation Alternatives Program In support of the City of Taft's SRTS & Connectivity/Accessibility Sidewalk Project and authorizing the Mayor to execute all documents pertaining thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

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

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

Chief Cornish explained the animal control and the code enforcement reports. Joe Sandoval explained the public works report.

#24. Adjournment.

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

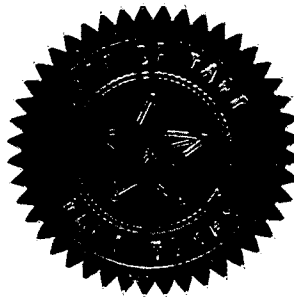
The following votes were polled:
Ayes: Vara, Rodriguez, Mayor, Hernandez
Nays: None
Absent: Vasquez
The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT

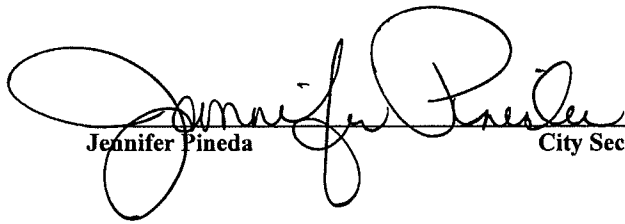


Pedro Lopez

Mayor



ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda City Secretary