

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 8th day of January, 2019, the City Council of Taft, Texas, convened in a regular session at 402 Park St, at the Kiva Hut, at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Pedro "Pete" Lopez Mayor
Leonard Vasquez Mayor Pro-tem arrived at 6:08 p.m.
Felipe Rodriguez, III
Donnie Riojas
Lolo Hernandez

Others present: Denise Hitt, City Manager.

#1. There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

#2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

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

At this time the council moved to Item #21.

#21. EXECUTIVE SESSION - Pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, the City of Taft will consult in closed session with its attorney to receive legal advice regarding pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this chapter", to include the following matters:

1. **Legal briefing on the status of an ongoing personnel investigation**

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

The council entered into executive session.

#22. Reconvene into Regular Session and consider action, if necessary, on any item(s) discussed in Executive Session.

The council reconvened into regular session.

There was no action taken on this item.

Council went back to Item #3.

#3. Visitors.

Ryan Trevino, President, Friends of Taft City Parks, read a letter he prepared for the council in regards to item #11.

The council moved to Item #11.

#11. Discuss, consider and Act to lease the Hidalgo Park to the Friends of the Taft City Parks.

Ryan stated that they are a non-profit organization and are trying to keep the application fees low and feasible for the community. Mayor discussed liability insurance for the use of the Hidalgo Park. Ryan will need to return on to the January 22nd meeting with an update.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to table item #11 until January 22nd. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

They continued the meeting with Item #5.

#5. Consider, discuss and take action to designate a design and professional engineering provider for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) 2017 project.

There were two bids. The bid from Acon Engineers did not meet the bid requirements.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to accept a design and professional engineering provider for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) 2017 project awarded to LNV. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#6. Public Hearing: Application for a variance request which, if approved, would rezone the property from "1st Business District" to "2nd Business District" as defined by the Taft Code of Ordinances at 702 HWY 181 with the legal description of Lt 6 Blk 29 Taft 0.207 Acres.

Mayor opened the public hearing

The owner would like to change from B1 to B2 because the setback requirements are less in a B2. He answered questions from the council in regards to the use and size of the building.

Mayor closed the public hearing.

#7. Discuss and take action on whether to approve a variance request which, if approved, would rezone the property from "1st Business District" to "2nd Business District" as defined by the Taft Code of Ordinances at 702 HWY 181 with the legal description of Lt 6 Blk 29 Taft 0.207 Acres.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to rezone the property from "1st Business District" to "2nd Business District" as defined by the Taft Code of Ordinances at 702 HWY 181 with the legal description of Lt 6 Blk 29 Taft 0.207 Acres. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#8. Consider, discuss and act upon adjusting water rates to reflect and incorporate rate increases from the San Patricio Municipal Water District.

Denise informed the council that the rate will increase by 2 cents per thousand gallons.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve adjusting water rates to reflect and incorporate rate increases from the San Patricio Municipal Water District. The motion was seconded by

Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#9. 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 Rodriguez made a motion to appoint Councilman Leonard Vasquez 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. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#10. Discuss, consider and act on naming a seven (7) member advisory board for the Hidalgo Community Center operations.

Denise explained this item to the council. There will only be a 5 member advisory board.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to table naming a seven (7) member advisory board for the Hidalgo Community Center operations. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#12. Discuss, consider and act, if necessary, to approve the employee job descriptions. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Councilman Rodriguez informed the council that they came up with job descriptions for all the employees and would like Denise to have input to modify them if needed.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to table item #12 on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#13. Consider, discuss and take action on evaluating pay rates for each job description and the cost of living increase for hourly employees. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Councilman Rodriguez stated that he feels the city is losing good quality employees due to the compensation they receive.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve the pay rates for the job descriptions in the packet. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#14. Discuss on progress for the chlorine conversion project. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Joe Sandoval stated that the project would begin in about a month.

#15. Discuss, consider and act on approving the Pride of Taft Request to allow them to install a new flagpole and brick memory patio at Memorial Park. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve the Pride of Taft request to allow them to install a new flagpole and brick memory patio at Memorial Park. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#16. Discuss suggestions for handling brush/bulk pickup for residents that do not pay for service. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Councilman Rodriguez explained that he would like the council to find a resolution for this situation. Council discussed getting an estimated cost to pick up on inactive lots.

#17. Consider, discuss and take action on approving pay incentives for the Taft Police Department.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the pay incentives for the Taft Police Department. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#18. Discuss how to improve issues with sanitation collection. (Mayor Lopez)

Mayor Lopez wants recommendations on how to improve the sanitation collection.

#19. Discuss, consider and act to approve the City of Taft as a sponsor for the Fireworks Extravaganza.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to table item #19. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#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 city's financial condition.

#20. City manager's report on:

- **Housing Authority Meters** – Denise informed the council that all the meters have been installed.

- **Electrical Usage** – Denise informed the council that she would give the update in 2 weeks.
- **Update on ongoing projects** – Denise informed the council on the process of the sidewalk project.

#23. Adjournment.

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

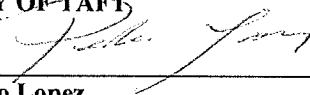
The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT

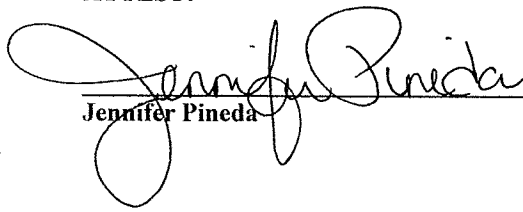


Pedro Lopez

Mayor



ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda

City Secretary