

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 14th day of May, 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 Absent
Leonard Vasquez Mayor Pro-tem
Felipe Rodriguez, III
Donnie Riojas
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 6:30 p.m.

#2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#3. Visitors.

Chris Wright with AEP Texas addressed the council in regards to item #13. She stated that the council had 3 options on this item, either to accept it, deny it, or not do anything.

Council jumped to item #13.

#13. Consider, discuss and take action to approve Resolution No 619 a resolution of the City of Taft suspending the June 5, 2019 effective date of AEP Texas Inc.'s requested rate change to permit the city time to study the request and to establish reasonable rates; approving cooperation with the cities served by AEP Texas and authorizing intervention in AEP Texas Inc.'s requested rate change proceedings before the commission; hiring Lloyd Gosselink Attorneys and Consulting Services to negotiate with the company and direct any necessary litigation and appeals; requiring reimbursement of cities' rate case expenses; finding that the meeting at which this resolution is passed is open to the public as required by law; requiring notice of this resolution to the company and legal counsel.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to Resolution No 619 a resolution of the City of Taft suspending the June 5, 2019 effective date of AEP Texas Inc.'s requested rate change. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

#4. Discuss, consider, and act to approve the Annual Financial Report for the year ended September 30, 2018.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to table items 4, 5, 20, 28, 29, and 30. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

#5. Discuss, consider, and act to approve the expenditures on additional monies for the expanded scope of the audit.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to table items 4, 5, 20, 28, 29, and 30. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

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. She stated that the TQIC account was at \$76,790.27 and the streets account was at \$107451.66. The collection of taxes for the city were 87.61%.

#7. Consideration and approval of offer to purchase tax sale property with legal description of Lots 6, and 7, Block 13, Second Roosevelt Addition, an addition to the City of Taft, San Patricio County, Texas.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to accept offer to purchase tax sale property with legal description of Lots 6, and 7, Block 13, Second Roosevelt Addition, an addition to the City of Taft, San Patricio County, Texas. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

#8. Consideration and approval of offer to purchase tax sale property with legal description of Lot 24, Block 2, Fourth Hidalgo Addition, an addition to the City of Taft, San Patricio County, Texas.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve offer to purchase tax sale property with legal description of Lot 24, Block 2, Fourth Hidalgo Addition, an addition to the City of Taft, San Patricio County, Texas. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

#9. Consider, discuss and take action to approve the January 8, 2019 regular meeting minutes, January 22, 2019 regular meeting minutes, February 12, 2019 regular meeting minutes, February 21, 2019 special meeting minutes, February 26, 2019 regular meeting minutes, March 12, 2019 regular meeting minutes, and April 2, 2019 special meeting minutes.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve January 8, 2019, January 22, 2019 regular meeting minutes, February 12, 2019 special meeting minutes, February 26, 2019, March 12, 2019, and April 2, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

#10. Consider, discuss and take action to approve the purchase of body cameras from WatchGuard for the Taft Police Department.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to take action to approve the purchase of body cameras from WatchGuard for the Taft Police Department with the amendments of adding four chargers and adding the no fault warranty beginning October 1, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

#11. Consider, discuss and take action to approve switching the Taft Police Department report writing system from Eforce to COPsync.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to table this item to May 19, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

#12. Consider, discuss and take action, if necessary, to extend the contract with South Texas Airmed for emergency medical services.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to extend the contract with South Texas Airmed for emergency medical services for 2 years. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

#14. Consider, discuss and take action to approve a request for qualifications for grant administration services for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Project.

The city received no bids.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to table item #14. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

#15. Consider, discuss and take action to approve a request for qualifications for engineering services for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Project.

The city received 3 bids.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to table item #15. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

#16. Consider, discuss and take action to approve advertising to receive bids for a 1995 Dodge Dually and a 1997 Caterpillar backhoe.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to table item #16. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

#17. Consider, discuss and take action on naming a five (5) member advisory board for the Hidalgo Community Center operations.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to name Sulema Martinez. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

#18. Consider, discuss and take action to approve the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

#19. Consider, discuss and take action to approve the construction of a parking lot at the Taft City Park donated by GCGV.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve the construction of a parking lot at the Taft City Park donated by GCGV. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Mayor

The motion carried.

#20. Discussion on the agreement for the new Taft Public Library.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to table items 4, 5, 20, 28, 29, and 30. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

#21. Discussion on streets and pot holes progress.

Joe updated the council and let them know that they are about 89% complete.

#22. Discussion on brush/bulk pick up progress for City of Taft and Absolute Waste Management.

Joe informed the council that all four sections have been completed and they are currently on Section 2.

#23. Discuss, consider and act to remove and replace the fencing around the elevated storage tank.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve \$2,945 with AZ Fencing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

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

#24. Discuss, consider and act to approve Ordinance No 1004 an ordinance of the city council of the City of Taft, Texas appointing a municipal court judge and establishing the fees for service to be paid the municipal court judge for services performed; providing for severability and an effective date.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to appoint Karen Diaz for the Municipal Court Judge for City of Taft. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

#25. Discuss, consider, and act to trade in Hamm street roller and purchase 2005 Kubo 36".

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

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

#26. Discuss, consider, and act to place the street user fee on the November 2019 ballot and determine a length of time.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to place the street user fee on the November 2019 ballot for 5 years. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

#27. Discussion of Taft Municipal Court collections.

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

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

#28. Discussion on the annexation process.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to table items 4, 5, 20, 28, 29, and 30. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

#29. Discuss, consider and Act to approve the Mayor signing documents to allow voluntary annexation into the ETJ of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Property (10 acres).

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to table items 4, 5, 20, 28, 29, and 30. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

#30. Discuss, consider and Act to annex into the City of Taft ETJ (voluntarily) the following parcels of land: See Attachment 1 for Ordinances

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to table items 4, 5, 20, 28, 29, and 30. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

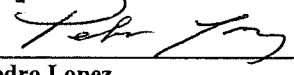
#31. Adjournment.

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

The following votes were polled:
Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None
Absent: Mayor
The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT

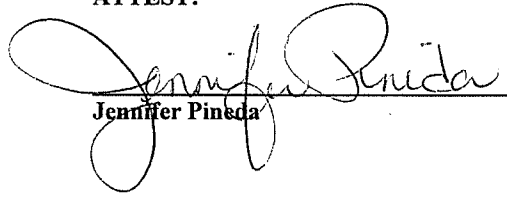


Pedro Lopez

Mayor



ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda

City Secretary