

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 10th day of September, 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
Felipe Rodriguez, III
Donnie Riojas
Lolo Hernandez

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

#1. There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

#2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Riojas led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

#3. Visitors.

Martin Salcido, 206 Kirkpatrick, was accompanied by Jose Garcia and read a complaint out loud in regards to not placing a sewer tap on his property..

Jesus Trevino, 738 McIntyre, stated that his water bill was too high.

Marcus Adams, 614 San Patricio, stated that he had a complaint against the hiring process of police officers .

#4. Consider, discuss and act to select an insurance carrier for employee medical, life, dental, vision, and supplemental insurance.

Mr. Will Heavin spoke to the council about the different rates for each plan.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve the Blue Cross Blue Shield recommendation from the city manager. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#5. Conduct a public hearing to hear comments for and against the City's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, which begins October 1, 2019 and ends September 30, 2020.

Mayor opened the public hearing at 7: 42 pm.

Mayor read the agenda item four times.

There were no comments made.

Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:27 p.m.

#6. Consider, discuss and act to adopt Ordinance No. 1041, an ordinance to approve the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, which begins October 1, 2019 and ends September 30, 2020.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1041. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#7. Consider, discuss and act to adopt Ordinance No. 1042 to:

- (1) **Approve and levy an ad valorem total tax rate of \$0.800790 for the use and support of the City for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 on each \$100.00 of assessed valuation on all property within the corporate City limits;**
- (2) **Approve, levy and apportion ad valorem taxes for the maintenance and operations (M&O) of the City at a tax rate of \$0.547927 on each \$100.00 of assessed valuation on all taxable property within the corporate City limits;**
- (3) **Approve, levy and apportion ad valorem taxes for the debt service (I&S) of the City at a tax rate of \$0.252863 on each \$100.00 of assessed valuation on all taxable property within the corporate City limits; and**
- (4) **Approve, levy and apportion ad valorem taxes for the debt service (I&S) of the City at a tax rate of \$0.246954 on each \$100.00 of assessed valuation on all taxable property within the Deannexed Southwest Taft area.**

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve Ordinance No 1042. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#8. "TXPAN Program" presentation by Juanita Martinez with the San Patricio County Department of Public Health.

Juanita Martinez read the pamphlet in the packet and describe the program. The program will be for the next 4 years and will be based out of the health department.

#9. "Post Disaster Recovery Plan" presentation by Tony Lamberth with HELP Disaster Management.

Sara Williams informed the council that this plan is a result of Hurricane Harvey and would include meetings with the public in the future.

#10. Consider, discuss and act to approve an engagement letter from Raul Hernandez & Company, P.C.

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#11. Consider, discuss and take action on contracting with Bureau Veritas to provide services for building, electrical, and plumbing inspections.

Mr. Gregory Hallmark spoke about Bureau Veritas and what the company would be doing as the city inspectors. He also informed the council that a 30 day notice would be needed to cancel the contract.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to take action on contracting with Bureau Veritas to provide services for building, electrical, and plumbing inspections. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez
Nays: None
The motion carried.

#12. Consider, discuss and act on approving the replacement of playground equipment at the Hidalgo if the Friends of the Taft City Parks is approved for the Kaboom Grant.

Ryan Trevino explained that this grant would be at no cost to the city.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve the replacement of playground equipment at the Hidalgo. 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 act to approve an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with Texas Department of Public Safety for the Failure to Appear Program.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve an Interlocal Cooperation Contract with Texas Department of Public Safety for the Failure to Appear Program. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

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

#14. 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 city council on the city's financial condition.

#15. Consider, discuss and take action to approve road rehab for Cummins, North, Victoria, Calle, Hidalgo, and Kirkpatrick.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve the road rehab for Cummins, North, Victoria, Calle, Hidalgo, and Kirkpatrick. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

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

#16. Consider, discuss and take action to approve new patch design for the Taft Police Department.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to approve the new patch design for the Taft Police Department. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

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

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

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

#18. Adjournment.

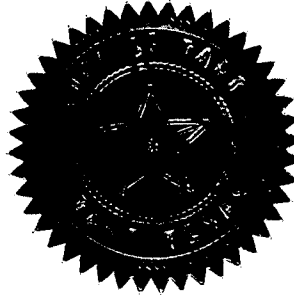
There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Rodriguez to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

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