MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

On the 24th day of October 2023, the City Council of Taft, Texas, convened for a regular meeting at 230 Green Avenue, Taft, Texas, Taft City Hall at 6:30 P.M.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

There being a quorum, Mayor Powell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

2. CALL ROLL AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM IS PRESENT

Councilman Vasquez		☐ absent
Councilman Keeney	☑ present	☐ absent
Mayor Pro-tem Rodriguez	☑present	☐ absent
Councilman Molina		☐ absent
Mayor Powell	present	☐ absent

Others Present: Kandi Hubert, Temporary City Manager; Andrew Quittner, City Attorney; Andrea Gomez, Interim City Secretary; John Landreth, Chief of Police (See attached list for additional guests)

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Powell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PRAYER

Councilman Rodriguez led the prayer.

5. CITIZEN COMMENT

There were no citizen comments.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Police Report (Chief)

Chief Landreth reported the Police Department is doing well. They currently have 7 total officers, no citizen complaints, and are up to date on all cases.

B. City Secretary Report

<u>Minutes:</u> Councilman Rodriguez motion to approve the Minutes of August 22, 2023 (Regular Meeting), August 22, 2023 (Budget Hearing), August 28, 2023 (Budget Workshop), September 9, 2023 (Tax Rate Meeting), October 10, 2023 (Regular Meeting) and October 11, 2023 (Emergency Meeting).

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Vasquez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Keeney	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Rodriguez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Molina	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Mayor Powell	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
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The motion carried.

C. FINANCIAL REPORT

Christie Watkins provided information on the council Report dated September 2023. Mayor Powell questioned why Taft Quality Improvement Corp and City of Taft Street Maintenance show the same amount paid, Ms. Watkins informed him they both get the same amount. Ms. Watkins also explained the reason the Incode Report is dated from the last fiscal year is that the fiscal years budget has not yet been closed out. An updated report will be worked on and given to council.

D. BILLS PAID

Christie Watkins reported to the council she would like to get more information before presenting any of the balances currently at Prosperity Bank. Council agreed.

E. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Gabriel Morales reported there have been leaks at the Cardinal apartments and they have been repaired. The leaks from Green Ave. and College St. caused a shut off through certain areas of the city, a sample was sent for testing and came back bad which caused the water boil. As of 10/24/2023 at 3:00 p.m. the water boil notice was rescinded and the Public Works Director's contact number was included on the notice to assist the public with any questions or concerns. Mr. Morales also informed the council the water tower had some repairs done, the crane used for those repairs was not included in the bid approved by the precious city manager William Linn. Mayor Powell asked what the status was regarding a map for the city showing the water shut off valves. Mr. Morales is still looking into that.

F. CITY MANAGER REPORT

There was none.

7. Discuss, consider and necessary action to enter into a new franchise agreement with AEP.

Patrick King with AEP presented he would like to renew the franchise agreement with The City of Taft. Councilman Keeney asked for more detail on Section 3 to keep alleyways and trees clear. An example was given to MR. King by Mr. Keeney asking if a citizen calls about an overgrown tree would AEP cut the tree from pole to house. Mr. King informed Mr. Keeney they would disconnect service so that the resident or a tree service would be able to come in. The customer would be responsible from pole to house; AEP is responsible from pole to pole. Councilman Rodriguez asked about the length of the agreement being 30 years. Mr. King responded he would look into amending the contract to adjust the terms.

Mayor Powell motioned to table item 7 renewing the franchise agreement with AEP, Councilman Rodriguez seconded.

Councilman Vasquez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Keeney	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Rodriguez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Molina	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Mayor Powell	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
The motion carried.		J		

8. Discuss, consider and necessary action to Appoint Chrsite Watkins and Andrea Gomez as TML Administrators.

Christie Watkins explained this was to gain access to Benefits, Payments, Adding and Removing members.

Councilman Keeney motioned to appoint Christie Watkins and Andrea Gomez as TML Administrators, Councilman Vasquez seconded.

The	fol	lowing	votes	were	nolled
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Councilman Vasquez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Keeney	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Rodriguez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Molina	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Mayor Powell	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
The motion carried.		•		

9. Discuss, consider and necessary action to authorize Gabriel Morales to train on meter reading equipment.

Gabriel Morales informed the council the tablet and laptop receivers are obsolete and it's hard to find the parts to fix them. Councilman Keeney asked if they were in the process of installing the new meters. Mr. Morales informed him they are just replacing the transmitter and registers. Mayor Powell was told by precious City Manager William Linn that the meters would be replaced. Mr. Morales informed the council he is in the process of obtaining a copy of the contract.

Councilman Vasquez motioned to authorize Gabriel Morales to train on meter reading equipment, Mayor Powell seconded.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Vasquez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent □absent □absent □absent
Councilman Keeney	☑for	□against	□abstain	
Councilman Rodriguez	☑for	□against	□abstain	
Councilman Molina	☑for	□against	□abstain	
Councilman Molina	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent □absent
Mayor Powell	☑for	□against	□abstain	
The motion carried.				

10. Discuss, consider and necessary action to initiate and activate a TX Pool Account.

Kandi Hubert informed the council that there is currently no interest being paid monies currently deposited at Prosperity Bank. Any funds not being used would be best in a TX Pool account. Councilman Keeney asked if the funds would be readily available or if it would need to sit for a period of time. Ms. Hubert informed Mr. Keeney they would be readily available.

Councilman Vasquez motioned to activate a TX Pool Account, Councilman Keeney seconded.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Vasquez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Keeney	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Rodriguez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Molina	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Mayor Powell	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
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The motion carried.

11. Discuss, consider and necessary action to adopt job descriptions. Kandi Hubert suggested council take a couple of meetings to review descriptions. Mayor Powell motioned to Table item 11 adopt job descriptions, Councilman Molina seconded. The following votes were polled: Councilman Vasquez ☑for □against □abstain □absent Councilman Keenev ☑for □against □abstain □absent Councilman Rodriguez ☑for □against □abstain □absent Councilman Molina ☑for □against □abstain □absent Mayor Powell ☑for □against □abstain □absent The motion carried. 12. Discuss, consider and necessary action to adopt the chain of command. Mayor Powell asked City Attorney Andrew Quittner if he's had a chance to review the chain of command. Mr. Quittner responded briefly, it is common to have that chain of command. Councilman Rodriguez motioned to adopt the chain of command, Councilman Keeney seconded. The following votes were polled: □against □abstain □absent Councilman Vasquez ☑for Councilman Keeney □against □abstain □absent ☑for Councilman Rodriguez ☑for □against □abstain □absent Councilman Molina □against □abstain □absent ☑for Mayor Powell □absent ☑for □against □abstain The motion carried. 13. Discuss, consider and necessary action to authorize utilizing Tyler Technology for credit card processing. Christie Watkins presented utilizing Tyler Technologies for credit card processing instead of Wells Fargo and Payment Group. Tyler Tech. does both in one program and it will help clean and make the reports benefit the community. The transition will not happen until Jan. 2024. The cost is similar to what is currently being paid possibly slightly under. Councilman Keeney motioned to authorize utilizing Tyler Technology for credit card processing, Mayor Powell seconded.

Councilman Vasquez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Keeney	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Rodriguez	\Box for	☑against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Molina	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Mayor Powell	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
The motion carried.		_		

14. Discuss, consider and necessary action to utilize Prosperity Bank for remote capture.

Christie Watkins presented to the council this would be to scan the checks in house to make things easier for the employees and public. If any issues come up with any checks the city would be able to locate that check as it will be stored in house.

Mayor Powell motioned to table to utilize Prosperity Bank for remote capture, Councilman Rodriguez seconded.							
The following votes were polled	The following votes were polled:						
Councilman Vasquez Councilman Keeney Councilman Rodriguez Councilman Molina Mayor Powell The motion carried.	☑for ☑for ☑for ☑for ☑for	□against □against □against □against □against	□abstain □abstain □abstain □abstain □abstain	□absent □absent □absent □absent □absent			
15. Discuss, consider and nece	ssary ac	ction to autl	norize signa	tories on the city's accounts.			
city's accounts. Mayor Powell i	informed tary as a	l her everyo	ne on the cou	on stating who is designated to sign on the uncil are currently signatories. Ms. Hubert g bonded and it is mandated in the TEXAS			
Councilman Keeney motioned Councilman Vasquez seconded.		orize the C	city Secretar	y as a signatory on the City's account,			
The following votes were polled	i:						
Councilman Vasquez Councilman Keeney Councilman Rodriguez Councilman Molina Mayor Powell The motion carried.	☑for ☑for ☑for ☑for ☑for	□against □against □against □against □against	□abstain □abstain □abstain □abstain □abstain	□absent □absent □absent □absent □absent			
16. Discuss, consider and nece	ssary a	ction to cros	ss train emp	oloyees.			
Mayor Powell motioned to cross train employees, Councilman Keeney seconded.							
The following votes were polled	i :						
Councilman Vasquez Councilman Keeney Councilman Rodriguez Councilman Molina Mayor Powell The motion carried.	☑for ☑for ☑for ☑for ☑for	□against □against □against □against □against	□abstain □abstain □abstain □abstain □abstain	□absent □absent □absent □absent □absent			

17. Discuss, consider and nece	essary a	ction to hire	e a custodia:	<u>a.</u>
Council asked if the custodian buildings.	would b	e just for Cit	y Hall, Kand	di Hubert informed they can be for all city
Mayor Powell motioned to hire	a custoo	lian for all c	ity buildings	, Councilman Rodriguez seconded.
The following votes were polled	d:			
Councilman Vasquez Councilman Keeney Councilman Rodriguez Councilman Molina Mayor Powell The motion carried.	☑for ☑for ☑for ☑for ☑for	□against □against □against □against □against	□abstain □abstain □abstain □abstain □abstain	□absent □absent □absent □absent □absent
18. Discuss, consider and nece	essary a	ction to acc	ept Molly To	oppers resignation.
Mayor Powell asked for resigna was September 29, 2023.	tion date	e of Molly T	opper, Andre	ea Gomez informed the date of resignation
Councilman Keeney motioned t	to accept	t Molly Top	pers resignat	ion, Councilman Molina seconded.
The following votes were polled	d:			
Councilman Vasquez Councilman Keeney Councilman Rodriguez Councilman Molina Mayor Powell The motion carried.	☑for ☑for ☑for ☑for ☑for	□against □against □against □against □against	□abstain □abstain □abstain □abstain □abstain	□absent □absent □absent □absent □absent
19. Discuss, consider and nece	ssary ac	ction to issu	e credit car	ds for Department Heads.
cards are to stay in the vault or	with the	e City Secre	tary and wil	k any expenses made and by whom. The l need to be signed in and out before use tional cards to be added will be for City

Secretary, Finance Director and Public Works Director.

Councilman Vasquez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Keeney	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Rodriguez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Molina	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Mayor Powell	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
The motion carried		-		

20. Discuss, consider and necessary action to hiring Bureau Veritas to conduct building inspections.

Mayor Powell informed that AOKA is currently who the City use now and they are remote. Kandi Hubert informed the council Bureau Veritas are available to appear in person with a 24-hour notice. Once notice is given they are on site the next day. Mayor Powell asked what the contract with AOKA states and suggested this item be tabled until further information is gathered.

Councilman Vasquez motioned to table hiring Bureau Veritas to conduct building inspections, Mayor Powell seconded.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Vasquez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Keeney	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Rodriguez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Molina	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Mayor Powell	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
The motion carried.		•		

21. Discuss, consider and necessary action to enter into a Public Service Agreement (PSA) with Donald L. Allman, CPA, PC,; regarding professional auditor services for the City of Taft.

Councilman Keeney and Vasquez stated the city was already in contract with Mr. Allman. Kandi Hubert informed him she has spoken to Mr. Allman and he stated there was no contract. Mayor Powell asked to get a copy of a contract and have the city attorney review.

Mayor Powell motioned to table item number 21 to enter into a Public Service Agreement (PSA) with Donald L. Allman, CPA, PC, regarding professional auditor services for the City of Taft, Councilman Keeney seconded.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Vasquez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Keeney	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Rodriguez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Molina	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Mayor Powell	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
The motion carried		Ū		

22. Discuss, consider and necessary action to sign the amended Right – of Way agreement with Peacock Energy.

Mayor Powell stated Peacock Energy will pay the City for temporary work space. Need to look into the square footage of what they need, the agreement looks alright subject to providing a map. Mayor Powell asked for Kandi Hubert to get in contact with Seth Green because this has already been approved.

No action taken on item 22 sign the amended Right – of – Way agreement with Peacock Energy until Ms. Hubert reaches out to Seth Green.

23. Discuss, consider and necessary action to amend Chapter 10 Building and Building regulations of the City of Taft codified Ordinances.

Mayor Powell stated the Ordinances do not have any action behind them. Suggested no action be taken at his time, council agreed.

No action taken on item 23 to amend Chapter 10 Building and Building Regulations of the City of Taft Codified Ordinances.

24. Idea of completion of fire department and library.

Mayor Powell stated Mr. Linn had an electrical engineer he planned to bring in but nothing came of it. Mayor Powell spoke to Randy and Robert Martinez about the issue and they can draw up drawings in a day. They discussed putting windows and a door in the fire dept. for proper entry and exit. Mayor Powell asked Kandi Hubert to take over and bring information back to council for approval. Mayor Powell also stated the library will sign the donation agreement which has increased to \$860,000 on October 30th at 10 a.m. however it will not break ground until January 2024.

Executive Session

25. Closed Session: City council will meet in closed session pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, in accordance with the authority contained in:

At this time, 7:00 p.m., Councilmen Keeney motioned to close the regular meeting and enter into executive session, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

- Section 551.074 (Personal Matters) and Section 551.071 (Advice of Counsel) and Section 1.05 (Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct):
 - Appointment of Kandi Hubert as temporary City Manager
 - Appointment of Christie Watkins as interim Finance Director
 - Appointment of Andrea Gomez as interim City Secretary
 - Discuss, consider and necessary action regarding the position of Events coordinator
 - Appointment of Ricardo Medina as interim municipal court clerk
 - Municipal Judge Fontaine Gonzalez compensation
 - Discussion with City Attorney concerning legal matters pertaining to personnel matters
 - William Linn's separation agreement

Councilman Vasquez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent	
Councilman Keeney	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent	
Councilman Rodriguez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent	
Councilman Molina	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent	
Mayor Powell	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent	
The motion carried.		•			

Open Session

At this time, 8:09 p.m., Councilman Keeney motioned to open session, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The City will reconvene in Open Session at which time action on the matter(s) discussed in Closed Session may be considered.

- > Section 551.074 (Personal Matters) and Section 551.071 (Advice of Counsel) and Section 1.05 (Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct):
 - Appointment of Kandi Hubert as temporary City Manager
 - Appointment of Christie Watkins as interim Finance Director
 - Appointment of Andrea Gomez as interim City Secretary
 - Discuss, consider and necessary action regarding the position of Events coordinator
 - Appointment of Ricardo Medina as interim municipal court clerk
 - Municipal Judge Fontaine Gonzalez compensation
 - Discussion with City Attorney concerning legal matters pertaining to personnel matters
 - William Linn's separation agreement

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Vasquez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Keeney	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Rodriguez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Molina	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Mayor Powell	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
The motion carried.		J		
Appointment of Kandi	Hubert as	temporary	City Mana	ger
Mayor Powell motioned to Rodriguez.	appoint Ka	ndi Hubert	as temporary	City Manager, seconded by Councilman
The following votes were po	lled:			
Councilman Vasquez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Keeney	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Rodriguez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Molina	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Mayor Powell	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
The motion carried.		_		

• Appointment of Christi Watkins as interim Finance Director

No action taken.

Appointment of Andrea Gomez as interim City Secretary

Mayor Powell motioned to appoint Andrea Gomez as interim City Secretary, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Vasquez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Keeney	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Rodriguez	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Councilman Molina	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
Mayor Powell	☑for	□against	□abstain	□absent
The motion carried.		Ü		

Discuss, consider and necessary action regarding the position of Event Coordinator.

Mayor Powell stated there was no position of Events Coordinator. However, the employee who was handling this will still be employed by the City of Taft in another department.

• Appointment of Ricardo Medina as interim municipal court clerk

No action taken.

Municipal Judge Fontaine Gonzalez compensation

No action taken.

• Discussion with City Attorney concerning legal matter pertaining to personnel matters.

No action taken.

• William Linn's separation agreement

No action taken

27. Council and staff comments: Comments may be made by staff or council but no action will be taken.

Rodriguez - Municipal Judge to report to City Council, would like a status report on fines, cases resolved, tickets, wants to see where the court is at.

Keeney – Asked Gabriel Morales to check on drainage problem and over grown grass on San Patricio / Reynolds / Retama.

28. Items to consider for placement on future agendas.

Vasquez - none

Keeney - none

Rodriguez - none

Molina - none

Powell – Report on fire hydrants

29. Announcements of community interests and/or upcoming events. Vasquez - Halloween on Green Keeney - none Rodriguez - none Molina - none Powell - none City Manager - none City Secretary - none 30. Adjournment Councilman Vasquez motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m., seconded by Councilman Molina. The following votes were polled: Councilman Vasquez □against □abstain □absent ☑for Councilman Keeney □against □abstain □absent ☑for Councilman Rodriguez ☑for □against □abstain □absent □against Councilman Molina □abstain □absent ☑for Mayor Powell □against □abstain □absent ☑for The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT

Leonard Vasquez,

Mayor

ATTEST:

Andrea Gomez.