

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

On the 14th day of November 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Pro-tem Rodriguez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Powell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

Councilman Rodriguez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PRAYER

Rev. Steve Boettcher led the prayer.

5. CITIZEN COMMENT

There were no citizen comments.

6. CANVASSING VOTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 ELECTION

Mayor Randy Powell read aloud the results of the general election for November 7, 2023. Office of Mayor Leonard Vasquez – 210 votes, Randy Powell – 177 votes, Elida Castillo write in – 18 votes. Office for Alderman Ward 1 – Rolando “Ronnie” Rodriguez – 54 votes, Isaiah Garza – 58 votes. Office for Alderman Ward 2 – Chris Keeney – 148 votes, Omar Alaniz – 131 votes.

Councilman Keeney motioned to accept the canvassing votes from Nov. 7th election, seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Rodriguez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Powell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried.

7. OATH OF OFFICE

Andrea Gomez City Secretary swore in Leonard Vasquez as Mayor, Chris Keeney for Alderman Ward Two and Isaiah Garza was sworn in as Alderman for Ward One.

8. SEAT THE NEW COUNCIL

The newly elected council took their seats as Mayor Vasquez, Councilman Garza as Alderman Ward One and Councilman Keeney Alderman Ward Two.

9. DISCUSS CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION ON APPOINTING AN ALDERMAN FOR WARD ONE.

Mayor Vasquez - suggested tabling until the next council meeting.

Councilman Keeney - suggested Mr. Ronnie Rodriguez fill the vacant seat due to his experience on the council.

Mayor Vasquez - stated there's more candidates as well that are interested in being a part of the council.

Councilman Keeney – stated if they were that interested in the position in his opinion they should have signed up to run in the most recent election, Councilman Keeney feels that the council should give Mr. Rodriguez a chance to finish the unexpired term.

Councilman Molina – agreed with councilman Keeney to consider Mr. Rodriguez. It is on the agenda to move forward to consider and act.

Councilman Garza – agreed with Mayor Vasquez to table the item and discuss it amongst themselves while considering other applicants.

Mayor Vasquez motioned to table item number 9, discuss consider and necessary action to appoint an alderman for Ward one, seconded by Councilman Keeney.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input type="checkbox"/> for	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input type="checkbox"/> for	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion failed

Councilman Keeney confirmed that was just for the tabling of the motion. Mr. Keeney asked Mr. Quittner if they are able to still consider the motion, Mr. Quittner stated they could.

Councilman Molina motioned to appoint Rolando “Ronnie” Rodriguez as Alderman for Ward one, seconded by Councilman Keeney.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input type="checkbox"/> for	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input type="checkbox"/> for	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

Councilman Keeney then called point of order stating, “the mayor does not get a vote”. Mr. Keeney proceeded to read aloud the LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, Section 22.010 Filling the vacancy on governing bodies or in other municipal office. “The majority of remaining members who are present and

voting may fill the vacancy excluding the mayor. The Mayor may vote on the appointment only if there is a tie”. Mayor Vasquez – stated that the mayor has always voted.

Andrew Quittner City Attorney – informed council that the section read addressed a specific portion of the code. Mayor Vasquez then read Section 2 of a federal court order, “the mayor may vote in all matters not only in the event of a tie”. Councilman Molina asked Mayor Vasquez to continue reading on page 8 section 6. Attorney Andrew Quittner stated it is state law that the mayor cannot vote on filling vacancies. Mayor Vasquez stated he will vote on this matter until told otherwise, it has been done this way for years and if they want to now change it then it can be taken to court. Councilman Molina asked that statement be taken down for the record. Councilman Garza stated that there appeared to be confusion and a marked difference regarding the interpretation of the local government code and suggested they discuss it amongst each other. Mayor Vasquez stated he will vote, attorney Andrew Quittner stated he had given his opinion on the matter.

No action taken at this time.

10. DISCUSS CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION ON APPOINTING MAYOR PRO TEM

Mayor Vasquez asked Councilman Keeney if he would accept the position of Mayor Pro Tem, Councilman Keeney stated yes if nominated.

Mayor Vasquez motioned to nominate Councilman Chris Keeney as Mayor Pro Tem, seconded by Councilman Molina.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

11. STEPHANIE HAJDUCEK PRESENTATION – DONATION OF BOOK DEPOSIT FOR THE LIBRARY.

Stephanie Hajducek spoke and stated she was representing the non-profit organization called “this one’s for the gals” and stated the organization helps expose girls to different skills. Middle school girls helped create a book exchange, it’s a take a book leave a book type of exchange. A few girls from Taft helped build the portable library, and the organization would like to place one at the park.

12. DISCUSS CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING BOOK DEPOSIT DONATION

Councilman Keeney motioned to accept the book deposit donation from Stephanie Hajducek, Councilman Garza seconded the motion.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

13. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CITY SECRETARY REPORT

Approval of minutes for Regular Council Meeting on 10/24/2023
Request to Cancel Council Meeting on 11/28/2023 for the Thanksgiving Holiday
Request to Cancel Council Meeting on 12/26/2023 for the Christmas Holiday

Councilman Keeney motioned to approve the minutes for 10/24/2023 with amendments and the City Secretaries requests, seconded by Mayor Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

B. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Gabriel Morales, Public Works Director spoke on the matter of the Retama Bridge. Councilman Keeney asked if Gabriel would look into the quickest and cheapest way to repair the bridge with maybe a center support beam and have it permanently repaired in the future. Mayor Vasquez asked if the drainage district will be getting involved, Gabriel Morales informed him, yes.

Gabriel Morales spoke on the issues of fire hydrants and informed the council of the bad valves, working hydrants and hydrants with little to no pressure.

Gabriel Morales spoke about small water leaks and a collapsed sewer line on Wilburn and Escobedo Street.

Mrs. Garcia spoke up about the sewer line on Escobedo St. that is her house and it is under her driveway, but the City has taken responsibility and is working with her on this matter.

14. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION APPROVING MINUTES FOR TQIC

Manuel Espinoza President of TQIC suggested to table this item.

Councilman Molina motioned to table item 14, Councilman Keeney seconded the motion.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

15. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING THE TAFT HOUSING AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR INSURANCE TO BE REIMBURSABLE.

Donnie Riojas, spoke on this matter. Kandi Hubert had spoken to TML Riskpool prior to the meeting and also to Donnie Riojas. Mrs. Riojas has requested no action be taken.

No action was taken.

16. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO REQUEST PROPOSALS FOR AN ATTORNEY.

Kandi Hubert would like to speak with Attorney Andrew Quittner about possible negotiations.

Councilman Keeney motioned to table item 16, Councilman Molina seconded.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion was tabled

17. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #1123 FOR AEP FRANCHISE.

Mr. King with AEP presented an amended contract reducing the terms from 30 years to a 20 year agreement. Mr. Keeney would like to agree and push the agreement through.

Councilman Molina motioned to adopt the Ordinance 1123 regarding the AEP franchise, Councilman Keeney seconded.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

18. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO HIRE BUILDING INSPECTORS FROM BUREAU VERITAS.

Kandi Hubert has given AOKA their 30 day notice. Bureau Veritas will work out better due to in person inspections instead of them being done remotely. Mayor Vasquez thinks residents would prefer in person inspections.

Councilman Molina motioned to Hire Building Inspectors from Bureau Veritas, seconded by Councilman Garza.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

19. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION FOR APPOINTMENT TO SAN PATRICIO EDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Kandi Hubert informed the council that the San Patricio EDC Board has requested a nominee for the Board replacing Mr. Delo Santos. Councilman Keeney asked if there is a timeline, as he would like to table and decide before the term is up. Councilman Molina suggested he'd like to represent Taft on the board.

Councilman Keeney motioned to appoint Councilman Molina as Taft's representative on the San Patricio EDC board of Directors, seconded by Councilman Garza.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

20. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION OF THE TX DOT PROCLAMATION.

Presenter Robert G. Isassi, presented information regarding the TX DOT proclamation stating "END THE STREAK". Mayor Vasquez read aloud the written Proclamation.

Councilman Molina motioned to adopt the TX DOT Proclamation "End the Streak", seconded by Councilman Keeney.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

21. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO ADD ISAIAH GARZA, MICHAEL VASQUEZ, ZACHARY VASQUEZ AND CONNIE THIELEN TO THE PENSION BOARD AND CONFIRM THE PENSION BOARD.

Ryan Smith fire chief spoke of the conflict of interest due to Mayor Vasquez being part of the pension board. All pension board members have already voted, the matter is being brought to the council for approval.

Councilman Molina motioned to add Isaiah Garza, Michael Vasquez and Zachary Vasquez and confirm the pension board, seconded by Mayor Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

22. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO REPAIR THE FIRE TRUCK FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Ryan Smith fire chief informed the council of leaking valves and pumps on 1996 Fire Truck. The bill for repairs is estimated at \$10,811.44. In the budget Chief Smith stated he has \$28,000 for repairs and maintenance. Councilman Molina inquired if there is a warranty, Ryan stated the parts are warranted and he will check if labor is included.

Councilman Keeney motioned to approve the repairs to the 1996 Fire Truck, seconded by Councilman Molina.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

23. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO ENTER AN AGREEMENT WITH ADURRA TO ENGINEER THE FIRE STATION.

Ryan Smith fire chief stated that the volunteers have had the new station since around March of 2023. However, they still do not have lights or electricity in the inside of the building. Additionally the inside has not been finished out. Adurra has submitted a proposal to do the architectural and electric engineering for the building. Kandi Hubert will see if the engineering can be done in stages as our revenue increases. Councilman Molina offered to reach out to refineries for help.

Councilman Keeney motioned to enter an agreement with Adurra under stipulation that before the agreement is signed and finalized we find out that this can be done in stages instead of as a lump sum, seconded by Councilman Garza.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

24. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO APPROVE CITY STAFF TO RESPOND TO DAYTIME FIRES.

Ryan Smith fire chief, would like city employees who would like to help with any daytime fires be allowed to do so without any penalties. Councilman Molina asked how that would work. Ryan stated they would have to go through training. If it is passed they would need to get gear for the employees which is about \$3500.00 per head. Councilman Keeney asked if there is any issues with a city employee being paid and being allowed to go fight a fire in a volunteer fire dept. and if there is any issue with a city employee getting hurt at a volunteer fire. The council decided there were complications and the cost needed to be discussed further.

Councilman Garza motioned to table item 24 to approve staff to respond to daytime fires, seconded by Councilman Molina.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

25. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRE CHIEF TO GO OUT FOR R.F.P. (REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR A GRANT)

Ryan Smith fire chief, stated item 25 & 26 are the same. The AFG grant is offered by FEMA and he is trying to get a truck that would hold 23 gallons of water. The Grant process will be opening sometime in early 2024 and the Fire Dept. will have to go out for bids, the truck would help with a constant water supply while out fighting fires. Kandi Hubert asked if the truck could possibly cost less, Ryan stated he would have to go out for bids to see how much it would cost. Hubert also stated if you don't try for the grant you won't get it, it can always be turned down if it isn't what is expected.

Councilman Molina motioned to authorize the fire chief to go out for requests for grants, seconded by Councilman Garza.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

26. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING FEMA – AFG FOR GRANT (ASSISTANCE/FIRE GRANT)

This item number falls into the same item number as 25.

27. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO CANCEL THE LEASE WITH KYOCERA (COMPUTER LEASE, PRINTER LEASE, SECURITY CAMERA LEASE)

Kandi Hubert stated she would like to look into a more cost effective options for needed office equipment. Attorney Andrew Quittner will review the lease, Hubert would like the council's approval to sending the lease to the attorney to see what the options are.

Councilman Keeney motioned that they allow the city manager to cancel the lease with Kyocera with the stipulation that the City attorney approves the cancellation, seconded by Councilman Molina.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

28. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION FOR SAN PAT. APPRAISAL DISTRICT.

Mayor Vasquez asked if they were able to put all their votes to just one person. Hubert informed him they can use their votes any way they want to. Mayor Vasquez and Councilman Keeney would like to put all 17 votes to Marci Thormalen.

Councilman Molina motioned that the city’s 17 votes be allocated to Marci Thormalen to serve on the San Pat. Appraisal District Board of Directors, seconded by Councilman Keeney.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

29. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO CANCEL THE LEASE WITH DREWA DESIGNS (WEBSITE AND EMAIL)

David Drewa, spoke on item number 29. He stated he has been working for the City of Taft since June 2023, the website is paid through May of 2024. Nothing further would be due until June of 2024, it would be about \$100 a month as a hosting cost. Andrea Gomez stated although David does great work we could probably find something more cost affordable and eventually have the Website done in house. Kandi Hubert stated we do have someone on staff that can do a web page, as we are trying to make sure we are making the best of what we’ve got. He also stated that Microsoft 365 is separate from his services and it is \$350 a month. Mayor Vasquez suggested the item be tabled for further discussion. Kandi Hubert stated we will see what David can do.

Councilman Keeney motioned to table item 29 to cancel the lease with Drewa Designs, seconded by Councilman Molina.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

30. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO CHANGE I.T. PROVIDERS.

No action taken

31. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING THE AMENDED CONTRACT WITH PEACOCK ENERGY.

Hubert stated there is no one here to speak on this and she has yet to see the contract. Mayor Vasquez stated he would reach out to them.

Councilman Molina motioned to table item 31 the contract regarding Peacock Energy, seconded by Councilman Keeney.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

32. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO UPDATE SIGNATORIES FOR PROSPERITY BANK.

Hubert informed the council we needed the minutes to update the city’s bank accounts. The sitting council needs to be added as signatories along with the city secretary and Mayor Vasquez needs to be listed as mayor.

Councilman Keeney motioned to update the signatories at Prosperity Bank to reflect the most current election, seconded by Councilman Molina.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION

33. 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:

- Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) and Section 551.071 (Advice of Counsel) and Section 1.05 (Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct):
 - Discussion with City Attorney concerning legal matter pertaining to personnel matters.

Moved into Closed session. TIME: 8:17 p.m.

Councilman Molina motioned to moved into closed session, seconded by Councilman Keeney.

Council reconvened from Executive Session. TIME: 8:55 p.m.

OPEN SESSION:

- Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) and Section 551.071 (Advice of Counsel) and Section 1.05 (Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct):

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

No action taken on the matter discussed in closed session.

34. COUNCIL AND STAFF COMMENTS: COMMENTS MAY BE MADE BY STAFF OR COUNCIL BUT NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN.

Kandi Hubert, Christmas is coming. There will be a parade and lights. Mariah Moreno informed the council Mr. Issasi would like a photo with the council after the meeting. Mariah also discussed the Christmas festival with a possible toy drive and floats. Date confirmed of December 2nd and the festival will be a 1 day event.

35. ITEMS TO CONSIDER FOR PLACEMENT ON FUTURE AGENDAS.

Councilman Molina – Possible suggestions on how to keep kids away or out of the Retama bridge to avoid something dangerous happening.

Councilman Garza – none

Councilman Keeney – none

Mayor Vasquez – discussion on the Peacock agreement

36. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST AND/OR UPCOMING EVENTS.

Councilman Molina – none

Councilman Garza – none

Councilman Keeney – would like to encourage the entire council to attend the Christmas Festival

Mayor Vasquez – opening ceremonies for the family dollar / dollar tree on 11/18/2023

37. ADJOURN.

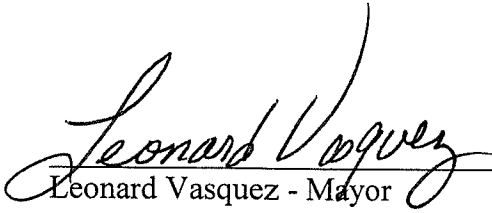
Councilman Keeney motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Garza.

The following votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried

Passed and Approved this 12th day of December, 2023.


Leonard Vasquez - Mayor

Attest


Andrea Gomez - City Secretary