

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

On the 9th day of January 2024, 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 Vasquez called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

2. CALL ROLL AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM IS PRESENT

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Pro-tem Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

Others Present: Andrea Gomez, Kandi Hubert, John Landreth

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Vasquez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PRAYER

Councilman Keeney led the prayer.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were none.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. POLICE REPORT

Chief Landreth reported, Officer Robles resigned. Traffic accidents have gone down, they have issued about 600 citations. The units are being put together and they should have them any day now. Councilman Molina asked "How many officers have we lost, 8 months to current?" Chief Landreth named 3.

B. CITY SECRETARY REPORT

Corrected minutes will be presented at the next council meeting for approval.

C. FINANCE REPORT

LeeAnn Goben reported, the print out handed to the council is directly from Incode. It is expenses from the last quarter. Also presented to the council were the balances in the accounts from Prosperity Bank. LeeAnn Goben informed the council that monies spent in December include past due invoices.

D. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Jessie Rodriguez reported, there are no major leaks at the moment and streets are being worked on. Manuel Espinoza informed the council that the TQIC committee was able to purchase and donate a Kubota to the public works department.

E. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Kandi Hubert reported, Rikki Medina has been doing wonderful with court. Timothy Williams has stepped in to help with public works who has the proper license along with Dave Frazer. At this time Jessie Rodriguez is doing a wonderful job. The interest rate for prosperity has been increased and is retroactive to the 1st of January 2023.

7. PRESENTATION BY COMMISSIONER SONIA LOPEZ REGARDING PROJECTS FOR THE CITY OF TAFT

Commissioner Lopez reported that San Patricio County was there to present the Taft Project. Other Speakers present were John Hernandez the County Engineer, Melanie Hoover the Grant Writer. Cori the Project Manager presented a PowerPoint presentation, the idea is to improve channel length. Randy Powell raised concern with the water flowing from the West side of town to the East. Councilman Keeney also stated he was concerned about the drainage.

8. PRESENTATION BY FERNANDO GARCIA WITH BUREAU VERITAS TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.

Inspector Fernando Garcia with Bureau Veritas reported he has been in contact with employees to help with any issues. Documents are electronically submitted and are sent to City employees along with the contractors. The inspection company is an in person company, if notified before 4 pm they are able to come the next day.

9. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SAN PATRICIO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Kandi Hubert reported, it is an agreement with the health department regarding the inspections.

Councilman Keeney motioned to enter into an agreement with the San Patricio Health Department, 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
Mayor Pro-tem Kenney	<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.

10. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING AWARDING BY RESOLUTION A CONTRACT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING SERVICES PERTAINING TO THE APPLICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION, IF AWARDED, OF THE CITY'S 2022 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROGRAM (RPC) GRANT FUNDED AND ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE (GLO). POSSIBLE ACTION MAY INCLUDE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MAYOR OR MAYOR PRO-TEM TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT.

Andrea Gomez announced there were three applicants that applied; Traylor and Associates, Grant Works and Langford. After reviewing the applications, Traylor and Associates had the best ranking/results therefore the staff recommends that Traylor be awarded the contract.

Councilman Garza motioned that Traylor and Associates be awarded the contract for administration and planning services, seconded by Councilman Molina.

The following Votes were polled:

- Councilman Molina for against abstain absent
- Councilman Garza for against abstain absent
- Mayor Pro-tem Kenney for against abstain absent
- Mayor Vasquez for against abstain absent

The motion carried.

11. PRESENTATION BY PERFORMANCE SERVICES REGARDING WATER METER REPLACEMENT OPTIONS.

Performance Services did not appear.

12. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING METER REPLACEMENT.

Councilman Keeney made a motion to table item numbers 12 and 13, seconded by Councilman Garza.

The following Votes were polled:

- Councilman Molina for against abstain absent
- Councilman Garza for against abstain absent
- Mayor Pro-tem Kenney for against abstain absent
- Mayor Vasquez for against abstain absent

The motion carried; the item is tabled.

13. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING PERFORMANCE SERVICES CONTRACT.

Councilman Keeney made a motion to table item numbers 11 and 12. Seconded by Councilman Garza.

The following Votes were polled:

- Councilman Molina for against abstain absent
- Councilman Garza for against abstain absent
- Mayor Pro-tem Kenney for against abstain absent
- Mayor Vasquez for against abstain absent

The motion carried; the item is tabled.

14. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING TIMOTHY WILLIAMS, TO APPOINT AS THE PUBLIC WORKS CONSULTANT.

Timothy Williams reported, he has been able to resolve 14 different TCEQ violations and progress is being made. Timothy is working on properly training the employees and getting procedures situated.

Councilman Keeney motioned to appoint Timothy Williams as the public works consultant, seconded by Councilman Molina.

The following Votes were polled:

- Councilman Molina for against abstain absent
- Councilman Garza for against abstain absent
- Councilman Keeney for against abstain absent

Mayor Vasquez for against abstain absent

The motion carried.

15. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO APPOINT ANDREA GOMEZ AS THE OPEN RECORDS MANAGER (PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER)

Mayor Vasquez stated, a few years back the city had appointed the public works director, Bernie Saenz to handle the open records. He is no longer with the city and this matter should be changed back to the city secretary.

Councilman Molina motioned to appoint Andrea Gomez as open records manager, seconded by Councilman Keeney.

The following Votes were polled:

Councilman Molina for against abstain absent
Councilman Garza for against abstain absent
Mayor Pro-tem Kenney for against abstain absent
Mayor Vasquez for against abstain absent

The motion carried.

16. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO PLACE AN AD FOR CITY MANAGER.

Councilman Molina stated that he feels it is time to place an ad for the position of City Manager, as in the past it has been a long process to hire. Kandi Hubert stated she will stay as long as she is needed and would like to be here through the audit. Mayor also stated he would like to wait until the audit is complete to possibly come back to this item.

Councilman Garza motioned to table placing an ad for City Manager, seconded by Councilman Molina.

The following Votes were polled:

Councilman Molina for against abstain absent
Councilman Garza for against abstain absent
Mayor Pro-tem Kenney for against abstain absent
Mayor Vasquez for against abstain absent

The motion carried; the item is tabled.

17. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION ON THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BUILDING AND THE ELECTRICITY.

Chief Landreth stated he has spoken with the fire chief, they have two bids. One bid contains a smaller voltage and is about \$7000 and a third bid is anticipated.

Kandi Hubert stated if the Fire Dept. and Council agree that the smaller voltage would work it can be approved by the City Manager.

Councilman Keeney motioned to allow the Fire Dept. to be fitted with the 240 volt electrical panels with the quote that was provided so that the City Manager may approve without council approval, seconded by Councilman Molina.

The following Votes were polled:

Councilman Molina for against abstain absent
Councilman Garza for against abstain absent
Mayor Pro-tem Kenney for against abstain absent

Mayor Vasquez for against abstain absent
The motion carried.

18. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO DO A FORENSIC AUDIT.

Kandi Hubert stated we have called our auditor/accountant to see what the price would be, once we receive a few more prices we can revisit this item.

Councilman Keeney motioned to table item number 18, seconded by Councilman Garza.

The following Votes were polled:

Councilman Molina for against abstain absent
Councilman Garza for against abstain absent
Mayor Pro-tem Kenney for against abstain absent
Mayor Vasquez for against abstain absent

The motion carried; the item is tabled.

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

City Manager – Happy New Year

Chief Landreth – Asked if anyone had any questions regarding the issue between him and Gabriel. Councilman Keeney stated he read all the documentation that was provided and he has a clear picture of the situation and that there are no issues due to being asked to be acting City Manager by Kandi Hubert.

Councilman Keeney – Would like to have on record that he would like to see the 4th position filled. Mayor Vasquez stated he would like to stick with the court order and the information has been sent to the attorney general.

Councilman Molina – Noticed on the Library, the circulation of books was low. Georgina Silvas stated they have literacy night coming in mid Feb., she has also reached out to other libraries and they are having the same problem.

20. ITEMS TO CONSIDER FOR PLACEMENT ON FUTURE AGENDAS.

Councilman Keeney – Would like to see Ronnie Rodriguez’s name, would like to have him on the agenda and appointed him to the seat that he was appointed to at the meeting in November.

Councilman Molina – Would like to have someone look into Park Lane between McIntyre and Fetick.

Councilman Garza – None

Mayor Vasquez – None

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

Councilman Molina – Will we be having the Alvarado Center open for the Freeze? Chief Landreth responded that the Kiva Hut will be open and readily available if there is a freeze with cots and blankets. There will be a warming center.

Councilman Garza – Is now a part of a group with the Taft ISD, they are preparing to go out for a bond.

Councilman Keeney – It is going to be cold, please take care of pipes.

Mayor Vasquez – None

30. ADJOURN - TIME : 8:30 P.M.

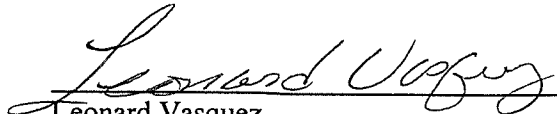
Councilman Molina motioned to Adjourn, Seconded by Councilman Garza.

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
Mayor Pro-tem 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

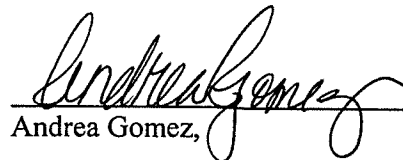
The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT



Leonard Vasquez, Mayor

ATTEST:



Andrea Gomez, City Secretary