

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

On the 13th day of December, 2022, the City Council of Taft, Texas, convened in a regular meeting at 402 Park Street, Kiva Hut, at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Others Present: Molly Topper, Finance Director/City Secretary/HR Director; Adolfo Ruiz, City Attorney, Bernie Saenz, Public Works Director; David A. Smith; Amanda Reagan; Stephanie Hayducik; Jay Phagan; Melanie Hickey

1. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM CHECK

Randy Powell	Mayor
Rolando Rodriguez	Mayor Pro-Tem
Leonard Vasquez	Absent
Chris Keeney	
Alonso Molina	

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Powell.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Councilman Rodriguez led the invocation and Mayor Powell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. NEW COUNCILMEMBER ORIENTATION – CITY ATTORNEY ADOLFO RUIZ TO COVER MANDATED ISSUES REGARDING OPEN RECORDS, OPEN MEETINGS AND ETHICS FOR NEWLY ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNCILMEMBERS

Mr. Ruiz reviewed the required agenda posting timeline and examples of the Open Meetings Act violations. He also addressed the Open Records Act and responded to Council questions.

4. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE TAFT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

David Smith introduced Ms. Stephanie Hyducik who addressed Council and spoke of her qualifications and willingness to be appointed to fill the open seat on the Taft Economic Development Board.

Councilman Keeney motioned, seconded by Councilman Molina to appoint Stephanie Hyducik to the Taft Economic Development Board.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Keeney, Rodriguez, Molina, Powell
Noes: None
Absent: Vasquez
The motion carried

5. VISITORS

There were no visitors requesting to address the Council.

6. CONSIDER, AND ACT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 11, 2022, AND NOVEMBER 22, 2022

After a few corrections, Councilman Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to approve the Minutes of October 11, 2022, and November 22, 2022.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Keeney, Rodriguez, Molina, Powell
Noes: None
Absent: Vasquez
The motion carried

7. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON RESOLUTION NO. 665, AN OFFER TO PURCHASE TAXABLE PROPERTY: SUIT NO. S-15-1133TC; TAFT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, SAN PATRICIO COUNTY AND CITY OF TAFT VS. JAKE VALDEZ, ET AL, ACCT NO. 7870; LOT 19, BLOCK 4, FOURTH HIDALGO ADDITION, AN ADDITION TO SAN PATRICIO COUNTY, TEXAS

ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN VOLUME 3, PAGE 58, MAP RECORDS OF SAN PATRICIO CO., TEXAS

Councilman Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Mayor Powell, to approve Resolution 665, an offer to purchase taxable property: Suit No. S-15-1133TC; Taft ISD, San Patricio County and City of Taft vs. Jake Valdez, et al, Acct No. 7870; Lot 19, Block 4, Fourth Hidalgo Addition, an addition to San Patricio County, Texas, according to the map or plat thereof, recorded in Volume 3, Page 58, Map Records of San Patricio Co., Texas, for the amount of \$1,498.96.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Keeney, Rodriguez, Molina, Powell
Noes: None
Absent: Vasquez
The motion carried

8. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO GO OUT FOR REQUEST FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF GLO GRANT PROJECTS

Councilman Keeney motioned, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez, to authorize the City Manager to advertise for the professional services for the administration of GLO Grant projects.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Keeney, Rodriguez, Molina, Powell
Noes: None
Absent: Vasquez
The motion carried

9. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO GO OUT FOR REQUEST FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE APPLICATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF CDBG FUNDING APPLICATION AND PROJECTS THEREIN

Councilman Keeney motioned, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez, to authorize the City Manager to advertise for the professional services for the application and administration of CDBG funding application and projects therein.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Keeney, Rodriguez, Molina, Powell
Noes: None
Absent: Vasquez
The motion carried

10. DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND ACT ON SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING AUTHORIZING THE POSTING OF SAME AS PROVIDED FOR THE NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE CDBG 2023-2024 APPLICATION

Mayor Powell motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to schedule a public hearing as required for the CDBG 2023-2024 application, on December 19, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Keeney, Rodriguez, Molina, Powell
Noes: None
Absent: Vasquez
The motion carried

11. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND ACT ON APPROVING THE SPLASH PAD TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT HIDALGO PARK AND AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS

Councilman Keeney motioned, seconded by Councilman Rodriguez, to authorize the City Manager to execute contract with Adventure Playground Systems for construction of a splash pad to be constructed at the Hidalgo Park at a cost of \$121,745.85.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Keeney, Rodriguez, Molina, Powell

Noes: None
Absent: Vasquez
The motion carried

12. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS:

Chief Landreth reported on the animal control shelter and number of tickets and animals picked up; on Code Enforcement and the Police Department staff.

Bernie Saenz reported on on-going projects and completed projects.
Molly Topper reported on the bank reconciliations for all City accounts and the expense and revenue reports.

13. DISCUSS AND GET UPDATE ON DAVIS ROAD LIGHTS AND AEP WALKING TRAIL LIGHTS

Molly Topper reported that the lights on Davis Road have been addressed and the City is awaiting the completed work order from AEP on the walking trail lights.

14. DISCUSS AND GET UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW TAFT LIBRARY

Adolfo Ruiz reported of communication with Wesley Ritchie of the Ritchie Foundation regarding the agreement for library construction. He will have an updated report at the next meeting.

15. DISCUSS AND GET UPDATE ON CITY PROJECTS

Molly Topper reported on behalf of the city manager on the following:

Fire Building bid sheets;
Hidalgo Center bid status for renovation;
Splash Pad update;
Walking Trail lights update;
Picnic tables and grills update at the Hidalgo and Taft Recreational Park;
Bid Sheets for the basketball courts;
Flooring at Wells Fargo Building;
Air Conditioning Bids at Wells Fargo Building

16. DISCUSS AND REVIEW ORDINANCE REGARDING PLACEMENT OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SIGNS ON CITY PROPERTY

Council discussed and reviewed the existing Ordinance No. 920, Political Campaign Signs on Public Property. No further action or discussion occurred.

17. CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Vasquez – absent
Councilman Keeney – none
Councilman Rodriguez – none
Councilman Molina – revisit Devilbiss Road
Mayor Powell – house condemnation; meeting with Robert Vierra, Ardurra Engineering, regarding an environmental study; Hidalgo Center and Kiva Hut improvements

18. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Councilman Keeney, to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 pm.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Keeney, Rodriguez, Molina, Powell
Noes: None
Absent: Vasquez
The motion carried

CITY OF TAFT

Randy Powell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Molly Topper, City Secretary