

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

On the 27th day of February 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, LeeAnn Goben, Ricardo Medina, Timothy Williams, John Landreth. (see sign in sheet for others present)

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Garza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PRAYER

Rev. Steve Boettcher led the prayer.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- 1) Melanie Hickey spoke on behalf of the Friends of the Taft Public Library. Ms. Hickey reminded everyone about the groundbreaking for the new Taft Public Library. It is going to be a big celebration on March 18th at 10:00 a.m.
- 2) Marcus Adams stated that he feels the town is being ran worse than the last administration. Mr. Adams stated, "You go in here and you pick on people who are trying to correct the city. You don't look into people's backgrounds that don't belong here. And we got water leaks and they don't know how to fix". "You put a splash pad up where you should have fixed the swimming pool". Mr. Adams also expressed to the council that possibly hiring from a temp service would assist in hiring employees.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CITY SECRETARY REPORT

Approval of Minutes for 02/13/2024 regular council meeting.

Councilman Keeney motioned to approve minutes for 02/13/2024, seconded by Councilman Molina.

The following Votes were polled:

Councilman Molina for against abstain absent

Councilman Garza for against abstain absent
Mayor Pro-tem Keeney for against abstain absent
Mayor Vasquez for against abstain absent

The motion carried.

B. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Kandi Hubert stated that the public works director Timothy Williams was out working on a sewer.

C. Police Report

Chief John Landreth reported that there are four police officers another should be ready to hire soon. The sheriff's office is also shorthanded. Chief stated he has assisted with traffic stops and invited the Council to a ride along. Councilman Keeney questioned if Sgt. Easley running for office be an issue with him working as part of Taft PD. Chief responded that it will not be an issue, he will then move to part time for the City. Councilman Molina suggested that the ad to hire for the PD be re-posted so that it is at the top of the list when searching the job listings.

D. City Manager Report

Kandi Hubert reported that on March 13th, TXDOT will be working on a portion of highway 181 and at the next meeting they will be here to ask for an ordinance for a reduced speed limit for their construction zone. The Alvarado Center has completed the corrections for the fire marshal and we are now waiting for it to be re-inspected. P&Z is looking at their ordinances to outtake the requirements. They're going to review ordinances from the neighboring towns. The auditor will be here the second week of March for last year's budget. 4B has had a possible housing project encounter and a member from the Texas Economic Development Council is reviewing dates so we can come to town and talk to our 4A and our 4B board and council is invited to come. San Pat is proposing replacing their service line and would like to meet with the council individually to discuss plans.

7. Discuss, consider and necessary action to re-appoint Planning & Zoning members; Gerald Nino, Jose Hernandez, and Rudy Mirabal and to appoint a new Planning & Zoning member (Nominations: Bobby Mendez and Arnulfo Banda)

Councilman Molina announced that he would like to remove himself from the P&Z board. Kandi Hubert asked Councilman Molina if that was his resignation, Mr. Molina responded yes. Gerald Nino, chairman of the board of P&Z stated if Mr. Molina removes himself, then the two nominations will be able to be passed.

Councilman Molina motioned to table item number 7, seconded by Councilman Garza.

The following Votes were polled:

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

The motion carried. The item is tabled.

8. Discuss, consider and necessary action amend Ordinance #2024-2-27-2 for Planning & Zoning.

Kandi Hubert stated, the changes is the time, date and meeting location and the Planning & Zoning Commission would pick their own chairman. The dates would be changed to the third Thursday of the month rather than the fourth Tuesday and that they will meet at City Hall 230 Green Ave. in place of the Kiva Hut.

Councilman Keeney motioned to amend Ordinance #2024-2-27-2 as stated, 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 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.

9. Discuss, consider and necessary action to set a location for the Recyclables.

Kandi Hubert reminded the Council that it was their decision to designate an area to place the bins for the recyclables. Councilman Keeney stated the current place where the city dump is already placed would be a good spot if the road could be paved to make it better accessible for the public. Council agreed to discuss this at a later time after researching and finding resources to make the area more accessible to the public.

No action was taken on item number 9.

10. Discuss, consider and necessary action to approve the Library Board members; Kelli Bergoon, Betty Sanders, Karen Ivey, Enedelia Suarez and Mary Ward.

Councilman Keeney motioned to approve the name of the board members for the library, 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 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.

11. Discuss, consider and necessary action for the Council to reserve a table at the Friends of the Taft Library Event on April 20th, 2024.

Kandi Hubert stated it is a wonderful opportunity to meet their constituents and say thank you for the library. It is a worthy cause.

Councilman Keeney motioned to approve item number 11, 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.

12. Discuss, consider and necessary action to amend Ordinance #2024-2-27-1 regarding location of City Hall Meetings.

Kandi Hubert stated that the previous Ordinance has the meeting location at the Kiva Hut. This amended Ordinance will update the location to meet at City Hall.

Councilman Molina motioned to amend Ordinance #2024-2-27-1 regarding the location of City Hall meetings, seconded by Councilman Garza.

The following Votes were polled:

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

The motion carried.

13. Discuss, consider and necessary action regarding the Little League Liability Contract.

Mayor Vasquez stated that he is requesting that the council approve the same agreement from last year. As soon as the insurance is received, then that's the date of the approval of the contract for little league season 2024. That should be finalize by next week and a copy of the contract will be turned it in to the city.

Councilman Keeney motioned to accept this years Little League liability contract on the basis that the proof of the insurance is presented to the city before practice begins, seconded by Councilman Garza.

The following Votes were polled:

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

The motion carried.

14. Discuss, consider and necessary action regarding the Deposit for the Garcia Park.

Kandi Hubert stated that she wanted to clarify through the council what charges would go into effect when using Garcia Park for events as far as permits that are required.

No action was taken on item number 14

15. Discuss, consider and necessary action regarding the Policy for Comp. time.

Councilman Garza motioned to table items number 15 &16, seconded by Councilman Molina.

The following Votes were polled:

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

The motion carried. The item was tabled.

16. Discuss, consider and necessary action regarding the Policy for On Call time.

Councilman Garza motioned to table items number 15 &16, seconded by Councilman Molina.

The following Votes were polled:

Councilman Molina for against abstain absent

Councilman Garza for against abstain absent

Mayor Pro-tem Keeney for against abstain absent

Mayor Vasquez for against abstain absent

The motion carried. The item was tabled.

17. Discuss, consider and necessary action to designate two members for the Coastal Bend Council of Governments.

Kandi informed the council that the two selected members would be established as one actual board member and one alternate. If the elected board member is not able to attend the alternate would step in. Councilman Keeney motioned to nominate Councilman Molina as the board member and Manuel Espinoza as the alternate for the Coastal Bend Council of Governments, seconded by Councilman Garza.

The following Votes were polled:

Councilman Molina for against abstain absent

Councilman Garza for against abstain absent

Mayor Pro-tem Keeney for against abstain absent

Mayor Vasquez for against abstain absent

The motion carried.

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

Councilman Molina – Would like to have the ad for the Public Works Director reposted.

Councilman Keeney – Would like to pass on his sincerest gratitude to the Public Works crew for doing a good job in patching holes.

Mayor Vasquez – Would like water leaks to be taken care of right when they occur.

Councilman Garza – Would like to possibly look into using the Workforce as a resource.

19. Items to consider for placement on future agendas.

Councilman Molina – Would like to look into the status of the demolition of unsafe abandoned homes.

Councilman Keeney – Would like to look into the benefits, salary, and incentives offered to the Police Dept. sometime in the future.

Mayor Vasquez – Would like to look into a Public Works Supervisor.

20. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST AND/OR UPCOMING EVENTS

Councilman Molina – Announced he was going to Goliad to attend the TML training.

Councilman Keeney – Announced the Ribbon Cutting for the New Library on Monday March 18th at 10 a.m. Also announced the Open Fields Church Blessing Box located at 115 Toland was available for those who need or would like to donate any non-perishable items.

21. ADJOURN – TIME 7:34 P.M.

Councilman Keeney motioned to Adjourn, Seconded by Councilman Molina.

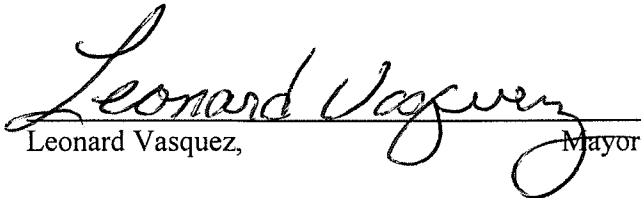
The following Votes were polled:

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 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

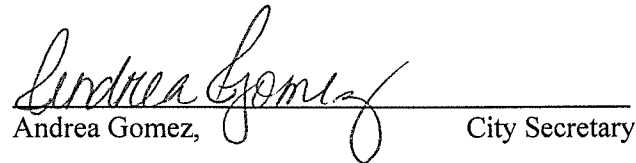
The motion carried.

Passed and Approved this 12th day of March, 2024.

CITY OF TAFT


Leonard Vasquez, Mayor

ATTEST:


Andrea Gomez, City Secretary