

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

On the 11th day of June 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: Ryan Smith, others present listed on sign in sheet

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Garza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. PRAYER**

Rev. Steve Boetcher led the prayer.

**5. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Marcus Adams spoke before the Council on a non – agenda item. Mr. Adams stated he was concerned with gossip being heard around town.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

This section shall provide for items that require action by the Council, but where little or no discussion is anticipated. By a single motion, second and affirmation majority vote. Items under this section are approved without further discussion or action.

**A. CITY SECRETARY REPORT**

- Approval of minutes for Regular Council Meeting on 05/14/2024
- Approval of minutes for Regular Council Meeting on 05/28/2024

Councilman Keeney moved to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes for the dates of 5/14/2024 and 5/28/2024, the motion was 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
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.**

**7. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING THE ISSUES OF PARKING ON THE GRASS.**

Councilman Keeney inquired on progress of enforcing the Ordinance of parking on the grass. There were no updates.

Councilman Keeney moved to table item number 7 to a later date, the motion was seconded.

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.**

**8. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING REPEALLING ORDINANCE #1075 AND AMENDING ORDINANCE #1064 AS ORDINANCE #2024-0601 AN ORDINANCE SETTING RATES FOR PROVIDING FEES FOR BUILDING, ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL PERMITS AND THE INSPECTION THERE OF.**

Ryan Smith stated this would be to update the permits and the fee schedules provided by Bureau Veritas. This Ordinance states that whichever vendor we choose to utilize now or in the future, the City of Taft will then adopt their fee's as well.

Councilman Keeney moved to repeal Ordinance #1075 and amend Ordinance #1064 as Ordinance#2024-0601, the motion was seconded.

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.**

**9. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING A POSSIBLE ANNEXATION WITH TEXAS SLUDGE.**

Councilman Keeney stated this had been brought to his attention and he believes this property should be annexed. After further discussion the Council decided to table this item after further research and clarification.

Councilman Garza motioned to table item number 9 to a later date, the motion was seconded.

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.**

**10. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING IMPLEMENTING A HARDSHIP PTO SALE POLICY.**

Ryan Smith stated this is the same policy that was brought to the council previously, it was asked to have the City Attorney review prior to approval. The City Attorney has reviewed it and approved.

Councilman Keeney moved to implement a hardship PTO sales policy, the motion was seconded.

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.**

**11. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING IMPLEMENTING A CELL PHONE USE POLICY.**

Ryan Smith informed the Council that this policy dictates the use of cell phones while working. This would make sure to limit phone usage along with texting and talking on the phone while on the clock to as needed or emergencies only. This would also ensure no cell phone usage while driving.

Councilman Garza motioned to implement the cell phone use policy, the motion was 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
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 REGARDING ANNEXING CITY OWNED PROPERTIES INTO THE CITY LIMITS OF TAFT.**

- A. CITY OF TAFT PROPERTY AT COUNTY ROAD 3067 (SHOOTING RANGE/OLD DUMP)  
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: GEO H PAUL SUBD CFP CO SEC 55 (23.4 ACRES)  
PROPERTY ID NUMBER: 51983
  
- B. CITY OF TAFT PROPERTY AT 7134 CR 3561 TAFT, TX 78390 (WASTE WATER PLANT)  
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TR 1 SEC 9 TAFT FARM LANDS 2ND S/D NE COR TR 1 10 ACRES  
PROPERTY ID NUMBER: 53320

Ryan Smith informed the Council that item A is the “city dump/shooting range” and item B is the “waste water plant”. Annexing these properties would expand the City Limits.

Councilman Keeney moved to table item number 12 to a later date, the motion was 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
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. The item was tabled.**

**13. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO INSTALL A FLAG POLE AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 230 GREEN AVE.**

Councilman Garza moved to install a new flag pole at City Hall, the motion was 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
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.**

**14. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO REAPPOINT JERRY PERKINS TO THE TAFT QUALITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION (TQIC) COMMITTEE.**

Manuel Espinosa informed the Council on how the TQIC committee would like to have Jerry placed back on the board.

Councilman Garza moved to reappoint Jerry Perkins to the Taft Quality Improvement Corporation (TQIC) committee, the motion was 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
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.**

**15. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO ENFORCE A TAFT PD OFFICER TO ACT AS BAILIFF DURING MUNICIPAL COURT SESSIONS.**

Ryan Smith stated the Judge has requested that a bailiff sit in during the court sessions.

Councilman Keeney moved to table item number 15 to a later date, the motion was 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
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.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**16. 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 551.071 (Advice of Counsel) and Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters): to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee:
  - CITY MANAGER INTERVIEWS
  - CITY ATTORNEY INTERVIEWS
  - INTERIM CITY MANAGER KANDI HUBERT
  - CITY SECRETARY ANDREA GOMEZ
  - CHIEF OF POLICE JOHN LANDRETH

John Landreth requested his item be held in open session.

**The Council moved into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.**

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

- Section 551.071 (Advice of Counsel) and Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters): to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee:
  - CITY MANAGER INTERVIEWS

- CITY ATTORNEY INTERVIEWS
- INTERIM CITY MANAGER KANDI HUBERT
- CITY SECRETARY ANDREA GOMEZ
- CHIEF OF POLICE JOHN LANDRETH

Councilman Garza motioned to move into Open Session, the motion was seconded  
**The Council Reconvened Session at 8:25 p.m.**

Councilman Keeney moved to reconvene into open session, the motion was 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
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.**

**Matters of Executive Session:**

**The Council announced:**

- CITY MANAGER INTERVIEWS – No Action
- CITY ATTORNEY INTERVIEWS – No Action
- CITY SECRETARY ANDREA GOMEZ – No Action
- INTERIM CITY MANAGER KANDI HUBERT

Councilman Garza moved to accept interim Kandi Hubert’s resignation effective June 2024 , the motion was 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
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.**

- CHIEF OF POLICE JOHN LANDRETH

Councilman Keeney read aloud an email of which listed some inaccuracies regarding Chief John Landreth. Mr. Keeney stated Ms. Kandi Hubert has recommended the termination of Chief John Landreth prior to her resignation. Mr. Keeney also read aloud sections of the Police Departments manual. Mr. Keeney stated that he also expected the overtime, and all the overtime had been approved by the City Manager. Mr. Keeney asked Mayor Vasquez if the City Manager okayed the overtime, Mr. Vasquez stated yes she did.

Chief John Landreth stepped up to the podium and expressed his concerns regarding his item.

Mr. Keeney also informed the Council of the issue of citation not being brought to the Municipal Court due to the Police Dept. choosing to not bring citations to City Hall. Mr. Keeney stated even after the Council and City Manager had instructed the Police Dept. to submit the tickets to the Municipal Court they still chose to take them elsewhere.

Councilman Keeney motioned that the City Terminate John Landreth as Police Chief. There was no second.  
**The motion died.**

**18. COUNCIL AND STAFF COMMENTS: COMMENTS MAYBE MADE BY STAFF OR COUNCIL BUT NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN**

Councilman Garza stated he had concerns with trash in the parks. Possibly double the schedule of public works to pick up the trash around the parks and splash pad.

Mayor Vasquez stated he appreciated the hard work LeeAnn Goben and Ricardo Medina were doing along with the Police Department.

LeeAnn Goben stated that the City Secretary Andrea Gomez also has done an amazing amount of work and a good job as well.

**19. ITEMS TO CONSIDER FOR PLACEMENT ON FUTURE AGENDAS**

Councilman Molina – Trash Cans and the amount of time they stay on the curb.

Mayor Vasquez – Appoint Maxine Bowen as the liaison between the City of Taft and the San Patricio County Emergency Management committee.

**20. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST AND/OR UPCOMING EVENTS**

Ryan Smith announced the Movie in the Park will be on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mayor Vasquez will be hosting a meeting on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. for the movie in the park donations and sponsors.

**21. ADJOURN – TIME 9:11 p.m.**

Councilman Garza motioned to Adjourn, the motion was seconded.

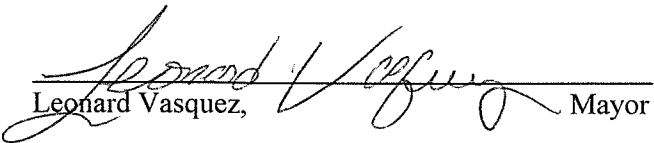
The following Votes were polled:

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
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 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024.

CITY OF TAFT

  
Leonard Vasquez, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Andrea Gomez, City Secretary