



**MINUTES**  
**City of Taft City Council Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 6:30 pm**  
**Taft City Hall**  
**230 Green Ave., Taft, TX 78390**

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order by Mayor Vasquez at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll call and certify a quorum

Present: Molina, Garza, Keeney, Vasquez. Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Castillo. Quorum declared.

3. Pledge of allegiance and Texas pledge

U.S. and Texas Pledges of Allegiance recited.

4. Invocation

Rev. Steve Boettcher gave the invocation.

5. Proclamations, presentations and council and staff announcements

a. City Council Announcements

Council Member Molina requested recognition of "Willie Lowe Day."

Council Member Keeney requested mowing along Masonic Lodge corridor.

Mayor Vasquez discussed potholes and trailer ordinance follow-up.

b. City Staff Announcements

i. Update on January 13<sup>th</sup> Workshop Meeting

6. Citizen Communication

**Ben Rios** expressed concerns regarding ARPA funds, city management oversight, and turnover

**Jerry King** (Former Mayor) opposed potential \$5 million water-well project and cautioned about Municipal Water District contract

**Infrastructure Consultant (Parker ISG)** offered to perform no-cost assessment of water and wastewater systems.

**Marcus Adams** addressed public-records fees and disputed charges; City Attorney Gwosdz clarified TPIA cost rules

The decision was made to take item 9 out of order and the council moved into executive session.

7. Staff reports and other discussion items

a. 2024 Racial Profiling Report

No discussion

b. Status of Old City Hall Building

City Manager discussed the status of the old City Hall and the current foundation issues. Discussed also was the previous repairs prior to Harvey and the current situation.

c. Current and future regional water supply issues affecting the City

The council discussed the current water issues, the expected cost increase related to the Corpus Christi Desalinization project and the possibility of drilling wells. The city decided not to take any action at this time.

d. Taft Pride Involvement with Taft Independent School District to have a competition to repaint street signs

Alderman Molina proposed high-school sign-painting initiative “Taft Pride” for street signs

e. Monthly Department Reports

Public Works report: street sweeping, tree overhang enforcement, wastewater plant equipment failures, water quality sampling, lead/copper testing.

Mayor Pro Tem Castillo questioned criteria for Public Works layoffs; City Manager explained department-head discretion and compliance with Class C operator requirements.

Municipal Court and Animal Control — discussion of weekend coverage and park pet waste issues.

Code Enforcement and Police Department reports; staffing and recruitment updates.

Finance Report — sales-tax catch-up to EDCs, INS fund transfer, budget outlook.

Mayor Pro Tem Castillo inquired about city credit rating and loan eligibility; City Manager responded on audit status and financing options.

Finance Director recruitment status; temporary staffing discussion.

8. Action items

- a. Approve Ordinance 2025-1300 establishing fees and procedures for handling credit and debit card chargebacks and disputes; providing a mechanism to recover financial losses resulting from disputed transactions; providing for supersession of conflicting ordinances; providing for severability; providing for codification; authorizing enforcement; and declaring an effective date.

The council discussed the ordinance and why it is needed. Alderman Keeney motioned to approve the ordinance and Alderman Garza seconded. The council was polled and all members were in favor.

- b. Approve Ordinance 2025-1301 establishing fees and procedures for commercial brush removal services provided by city staff; providing for supersession of conflicting ordinances; providing for severability; providing for codification; authorizing enforcement; and declaring an effective date.

The council discussed the provisions of the ordinance and the process currently in place. Alderman Garza Motioned to approve the ordinance and it was seconded by Alderman Molina with all in favor.

- c. Approve Ordinance 2025-1302 regulating smoking and tobacco use near public building entrances; providing a penalty; providing for codification; and establishing an effective date.

Alderman Keeney moved to approve the ordinance and it was seconded by Alderman Molina with all in favor.

- d. Approve Ordinance No. 2025-1303 establishing a Code of Conduct for elected officials and boards created and governed by the City of Taft, Texas; providing for supersession of conflicting ordinance; providing for severability; providing for codification; and declaring an effective date

The council discuss the proposed ordinance stemming from the workshop. Alderman Keeney motioned to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Alderman Molina with all in favor.

- e. Authorize the City Manager to enter an agreement with Tyler Technologies on Tyler Output Processor

Discussion only; tabled pending cost/benefit review. Motion to table by Alderman Garza and seconded by Alderman Molina with all in favor

- f. Authorizing the City Manager to purchase security equipment for the Public Library from Ubiquity

Authorize purchase of library security equipment (\$6,500 Ubiquiti system) — Motioned by Alderman Keeney and seconded by Alderman Molina with All in favor.

- g. Approve the resignation of Glen Searcy from the Taft Quality Improvement Corporation board

Alderman Garza motioned to accept the resignation and it was seconded by Alderman Keeney with all Alderman Molina, Garza, Keeney, and Mayor Vasquez in favor and Mayor Pro Tem Castillo abstaining.

## 9. Executive session

- a. Tex. Gov't Code Section 551.087: To discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the City has received from a business prospect that the governmental body seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the territory of the City and with which the City is conducting economic development negotiations
- b. Section 551.074, Personnel Matters involving the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a Public Officer or employee or to hear a complaint against an officer or employee:
  - i. City Manager Ryan Smith

Entered Executive Session at: 6:57 pm

## 10. Action on executive session items

- a. Tex. Gov't Code Section 551.087: To discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the City has received from a business prospect that the governmental body

seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the territory of the City and with which the City is conducting economic development negotiations

- b. Section 551.074, Personnel Matters involving the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a Public Officer or employee or to hear a complaint against an officer or employee:
  - i. City Manager Ryan Smith

Returned to Executive session at: 7:48 pm

No action was taken on any item from executive session.

## 11. Adjournment

Alderman Garza and seconded by Alderman Keeney with all in favor.

  
Leonard Vasquez (Oct 22, 2025 21:21:32 CDT)

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Leonard Vasquez

Mayor

  
Ryan Smith (Oct 21, 2025 08:41:06 CDT)

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Ryan Smith

City Manager

Approved on: 18 October 2025












# Binder1

Final Audit Report

2025-10-24

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By:	Ryan Smith (rsmith@tafttx.gov)
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