



MINUTES

City of Taft City Council Workshop Meeting
Friday, May 16, 2025 at 5:30 pm
Taft City Hall- Council Chambers
230 Green Ave., Taft, TX 78390

The City of Taft City council held a Workshop Meeting on Friday, May 16, 2025, at the Taft City Hall Council Chambers. A notice of this meeting was posted at least 72 hours in advance per Section 551, Texas Government Code.

1. CALL TO ORDER

City Secretary Jessica Gonzalez called the City Council Workshop to order at 5:37 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL AND CERTIFY A QUORUM

A roll call was called by City Secretary Jessica Gonzalez and a quorum was established. Council Members present were Council Members Alonzo Molina, Isaiah Garza and Chris Keeney. Mayor Leonard Vasquez and Mayor Pro Tem Elida Castillo were absent.

Due to the absence of the presiding officers, Council Member Garza made a motion to appoint Council Member Chris Keeney as the presiding officer for the meeting, seconded by Council Member Molina, with the following vote: Molina, Garza, and Keeney voted Aye. Vasquez and Castillo was absent.

Also present was City Manager Ryan Smith.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND TEXAS PLEDGE

The Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge were recited.

Council Member Isaiah Garza delivered an invocation.

4. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

No citizen comments were received.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Strategic Plan

City Manager Smith provided an overview of the City's strategic planning efforts, outlining key focus areas aimed at aligning City Council, staff, and community priorities. Emphasis was placed on infrastructure rehabilitation, economic development, public safety, code enforcement, and community engagement.

Highlights included:

- Addressing aging water and wastewater infrastructure through phased replacement strategies and utilization of grants such as the GLO and EDA.
- Developing long-term street maintenance plans in coordination with San Patricio County through interlocal agreements.
- Strengthening code enforcement via the Building Standards Commission, targeting substandard structures and nuisance properties.

- Advancing beautification initiatives, including the use of façade improvement grants, downtown murals, and revitalization of Memorial Park.
- Enhancing governance through increased communication among Council, staff, and the public; encouraging citizen participation on boards and commissions; and supporting capital improvement planning.
- Promoting economic development and affordable housing opportunities in conjunction with the EDC and new developments in the downtown area.

Council discussion followed:

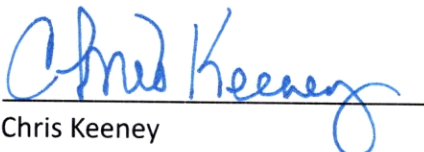
- Council Member Garza emphasized the importance of fiscal responsibility, improvements to public works, and continued code enforcement efforts to elevate community image and attract investment.
- Council Member Molina recommended adopting a structured strategic planning model and a three- to five-year vision, along with bi-weekly meetings with department heads to facilitate top-down and bottom-up communication.
- Council Member Keeney highlighted the necessity of addressing community blight and deteriorating structures as a means of improving property values and civic morale.

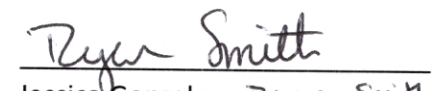
Ray Reyes raised concerns regarding historical community divisions and suggested visual and infrastructure improvements to foster a more unified city identity.

Additional topics included the exploration of alternative water sources in response to regional drought concerns, tire disposal efforts, legal proceedings related to property demolitions, and the importance of continued community engagement and transparency.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Keeney adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.


Chris Keeney
Council Member, Presiding Officer


~~Jessica Gonzalez~~ Ryan Smith
City Secretary
Manager

Approved on: 11/12/2025