



MINUTES
City of Taft City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
Taft City Hall
230 Green Avenue, Taft, TX 78390

1. Call to order was at 6:30 p.m.
2. The roll was called and all Council members were present and have a certified quorum
3. Pledge of allegiance and Texas pledge was done
4. Invocation was given by Pastor Steve
 5. Proclamation, presentation and council and staff announcements
 - a. City Council Announcements

Councilman Molina commented on the Town Hall meeting that was held on Saturday, April 11, 2026

Mayor Castillo mentioned the water crisis at this time. Citizens need to conserve, wherever possible. The next stage will be level 1 emergency. She wanted to thank the Public Works department for all the work that they do.
6. Citizen's Communication:
 1. Chris Keeney – Informed the Council about a request that he had put in over a month ago and hadn't gotten a respond back yet. He had a concern with the City sending the City Manager for training to Las Vegas.
 2. Melissa DeLeon – Stated that she had just purchased a carwash. She wanted to see if the City could pave the easement between the car wash and the Ace Hardware store.
 3. Andrew Kane – stated that there should be just one master meter. He commented that the city could be charging outside citizens 10 – 20% more on their water rates
 4. Tammy Delaplain – commented on the water rates for trailer parks.
7. Consent agenda – None
8. Staff report for the month of March and other discussion items:
 - a. City Manager Updates: Received 2 bids from auditors that came in between \$20,000.00 and \$24,000.00. The training was with Tyler Technology; they are the city's main software providers. There were over 5,800 that attended. Attended between 2 and 4 classes per day.
 - b. Financial Report – None
 - c. Police Department – Chief Massey reported that for the month of March 2026 there was a total of 198 activity analysis, 43 citation violations and 130 citations.
 - d. Public Works Department – Mayor Castillo reported that for the month of March 2026 there was a total of 50 service orders. That included sewer line backups/collapse, water line leaks, new customer, after hour call out and some swap out meters.
 - e. Concerning Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for settlement purpose – Mayor Castillo stated this settlement was from 2022, 2023, and 2024. Nothing has been done at this time. She has o respond to TCEQ

stating how the city will take care of the \$18,000.00 fine. The city has 180 days to take care of this settlement. After some discussion it was decided to make these into an action item. Motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Councilman Molina to let the city take care of this settlement, so as not to have to pay for the fine. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Action Items:

- 9.1 Motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Councilman Molina to approve the minutes of the Regular meetings held on March 10, 2026 and March 24, 2026 as presented, with the typo correction on the March 10, 2026 minutes correcting House Bill 468 to read House Bill 1268. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9.2 Councilwoman Moreno is concern with the rates that are being charged thru Incode. There have been citizens that have received bills for over \$400.00. The council is concerned that there might be a problem with Incode not properly charging the right amount per gallons used. The question was asked as to what citizens have smart meters and who doesn't. After some discussion motion was made by Mayor Castillo and second by Councilman Molina to have the staff do an internal investigation on the accounts that have excessive or less usage based on the last six (6) months. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9.3 Councilwoman Moreno stated that the last signed contract with the Little League was May 2024. Mr. Cruz, Little League Chairman, stated that the season for Little League starts in March thru July. The Little League has already provided the liability insurance for the current year. They have been trying to get donations for field lights. After some discussion motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Councilman Molina to table this item, and allow Mr. Cruz, to come back with a contract, so that the Council could review. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9.4 Mayor Castillo stated that the purchase of a box truck for the Public Works department was going to cost around \$68,000.00. After some discussion motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Mayor Castillo to table this item. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9.5 Mayor Castillo stated that the generators that Able Petroleum had installed were leaking and that several attempts have been made to contact this company and there has been no communication with them. There was a loss of over 69,000 gallons of water due to this leak. The City Attorney, Mr. Ysassi, will be looking into this and writing them a letter concerning the lack of communication and not addressing issues with the generators. No action was taken at this time.
- 9.6 Mayor Castillo stated that Janie Martinez was hired as the Interim City Secretary. After a brief introduction, the motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Councilman Molina that the position was set for part time at 30 hours a week, salary at \$3,333.33 per month, retirement and full benefits. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9.7 After some discussion motion was made by Mayor Castillo and second by Councilwoman Moreno to approve the renewal of the IT maintenance agreement, with the effective date of April 14, 20026 thru March 31, 2027. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9.8 Mayor Castillo stated that at this time she was looking for members of the community to serve in the Records/Ordinance Review Committee. After some discussion motion was made by Mayor Castillo and second by Councilwoman Cruz-Molina to appoint city staff Wendy Pullin, Interim City Manager, and Janie Martinez, Interim City Secretary,

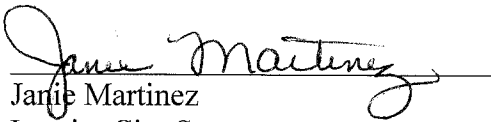
community members Felipe Rodriguez and Ray Reyes and City Council members Councilwoman Cruz-Molina and Councilwoman Moreno as members to the Records/Ordinance Review Committee. Councilwoman Lopez will be an alternate member, if one of the other councilmembers cannot make it. Motion carried unanimously.

- 9.9 City Council discussed repealing Ordinance 2025-1310. At this time City Attorney Ysassi explained that the city could not charge RV parks for individual meters by charging an administration fee. The charge must be to a master meter to the RV park. After some discussion motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Councilwoman Moreno to approve Ordinance No. 2026-1400 which establishes unit-based water utility billing and providing for transition to the City's standard water billing structure. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment was at: 8:30 p.m.

Elida Castillo
Mayor
City of Taft

ATTEST:


Janie Martinez
Interim City Secretary
City of Taft

Approved on: 5/12/2026