



Minutes
City of Taft City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
Taft City Hall
230 Green Avenue, Taft, Texas 78390

1. Call to order was at 6:30 p.m.
2. The roll call was called and all Council members were present and have a certified quorum.
3. The Pledge of allegiance and Texas pledge was done.
4. Invocation was given by Councilwoman Lopez.
5. Proclamations, presentations, council and staff announcements:
 1. Mayor Castillo recognized Alex Martinez for placing 2nd place at the Nationals for Powerlifting. At this time the Mayor and Council members took pictures with Alex Martinez. The Mayor stated that she will issue a certificate to be delivered to his house. At this time, Mayor Castillo wanted to see if any of the council members had any announcements or comments at this time. Councilwoman Cruz stated that she just wanted to thank all of those that helped with the clean up of the alleys. Mayor Castillo stated that she just wanted to thank the public works workers for their help with taking care of the leaks that they had over the weekend. Interim City Manager stated that the finance director, Sandra Garcia, was no longer with the city so that she had to do payroll.
 2. Sarah Villarreal the MHU clinic Coordinator for South Texas Family Planning & Health gave a presentation via zoom. Sarah stated that with her was Dr. Peralez, Chief Medical Officer, she oversees all of the medical providers. They provide free medical services. Even if you have insurance, sometimes the deductible is very expensive, they can help with that. They can provide several medical issues. They also have a pharmacy on site. They do physical exams, steroid shots and they provide several other services on site. They have a full lab, so they can give you the results within about 15 minutes, all of this is on site done through their mobile unit. The question was asked if all that was mentioned is all free of charge. Sarah stated yes, it is all free of charge. There is no cost to the patient and no cost to the city either. They have programs that cover the cost. The question was how often they would come. It all depends on the demand. Some sites they do twice a month, some sites they go once a month, some sites every other month and some sites once every quarter. It all depends on the demand. The question was asked if there is an age requirement to be seen through this mobile clinic. Sarah stated that the age would be from 15 to 64 years of age. The question was asked as to who determines the location of the mobile unit. Sarah stated that if they partner with the City of Taft, then the city can tell them where they can set up. Mayor Castillo stated that this sounds like an incredible opportunity for the citizens. This sounds like something that the community can benefit from. The earliest that they can come to Taft would be in July. There will be an agreement that will be forwarded to the mayor to be reviewed before they come. Mayor Castillo stated that she had received an email from Workforce Solutions stating that they want to have a mobile career center sometime around July 15 from 10 am till 2 pm.
6. Citizen Communication: None
7. Consent agenda: None

8. Staff reports and other discussion items:

a. City Manager Updates – Wendy, Interim City Manager, stated that the auditors should be starting the audit sometime in June. The question was asked as to how are work orders over seen. It was stated that work orders should be sent out throughout the day, through emails and then they should be taken care of depending on the importance of the work order. The work orders do come back through an email once they are completed. At this time Wendy introduced Dave Furze. He will be helping Jozua Garcia in the Public Works water department. Mr. Furze was hired full-time. He has all the licenses and certificates that are required for the Public Works Director. Mayor Castillo stated that she would want them to go and look at the water park to see what is needed to get it fixed, as there is \$42,000.00 from the Harvey grant money that was designated to the water park. If that money is not used, then the city will have to return that money back. The question was asked to Jozua Garcia that there used to be a vehicle assigned to the wastewater department and what happened to that vehicle. Jozua Garcia stated that the vehicle is being used in the water department at this time.

b. Wendy, Interim City Manager, stated that the budget revenue was set at 2.8 million dollars. Year to date the total revenue was over \$986,000.00. The cash balance is very strong. The question was asked if these totals included the total loss of the vehicles from the hail damage. This loss is not reflected in the totals, since the budget was already in place when the damage happened. It was stated that Ms. Garcia did not reconcile the statements for 2025. The council has not gotten any financial updates since March. As Ms. Garcia did not come to the April or May meetings. There are also issues with the IRS payment that need to be taken care of.

9. Action Items:

9.1 Zach Simmons, with Frontier Waste Solutions, stated that the last accurate count was done back in January 2026. They currently have 942 residential with one cart, 476 with two carts, and 28 with three carts. Commercial currently have 38 with one cart, 7 with two carts, and 2 with three carts. There are about 65 dumpsters throughout the town that are various sizes. It is important to keep a current count. Back in April of 2024, the previous Mayor went with them on an actual trash day, and they did a count of the carts that were out per home. It's not 100% accurate but it's very close. He believes that it needs to be done again, with him and either city staff or any council member that can go. The question was asked that once a customer leaves how is the trash cart handled, is it left there, does the city pick it up, how does that work. It was stated that at the time of disconnection that is something that the utility clerk will have to turn that request to Frontier showing the address and letting them know how many carts should be picked up at that point. At the end of every month the total cart count should change with more or less carts, depending on the transactions that were made during that month.

9.12 Zach Simmons stated that in the month of July, they will be going to do a count on all the carts. Mayor Castillo asked who would want to go with them. Councilwoman Moreno stated that she could go on Tuesday and Councilman Molina could go on Thursday. Zach stated that at any time that the city has a clean up to let them know so that way they can provide a cart or dumpster at no cost to the city. Motion was made by Mayor Castillo and second by Councilman Molina to approve that Councilwoman Moreno and Councilman Molina will go on a ride along with Frontier Solutions sometime in July to ensure the number of carts is accurate. Motion carried unanimously.

9.2 Councilman Molina stated that Fire Chief Vasquez had reached out to him to let him know that Cheniere and the Fire Chief were still trying to finalize the material list. Fire Chief Vasquez wanted to see if this item could be put off to another meeting.

9.3 At this time, Stephanie Newsom, with Allegiance stated that they have been with the City of Taft for the past five years. The building that they were originally in was next door to the city hall. The building that they were in was in very bad condition, it had holes in the ceiling. When city hall was moved, they moved into the old city hall building. The a/c unit doesn't work sometimes, there is no place for showers, there is exposed electrical wires and there is no actual place for them to actually cook. They did get a donation for the ceiling tiles. Those have already been purchased and will be installed. That will help with the a/c system because that will stop the heat from coming through the attic. The question was asked concerning the agreement with Allegiance. Ms. Newsom stated that it was her understanding that when they were brought in, they were provided with a building. The council would like to see a copy of the agreement to see what is stated in there, as to what the city should be providing for the EMS at this time. After some discussion motion was made by Councilwoman Moreno and second by Councilman Molina to get the City Manager to get at least three bids to start the process of repairing the EMS building. Motion carried unanimously.

9.4 Jozua Garcia stated that he had gotten three more bids for them to review. The question was asked if there was enough money from the Harvey reimbursement to cover the purchase of a new truck. City Manager stated that there were enough funds to cover a new truck. After some discussion motion was made by Mayor Castillo and second by Councilwoman Lopez to approve the purchase of a box truck not to exceed \$65,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

9.5 Glen Searcy stated that he had given the mayor and council his resume and recommendations. He has been in project management for several years. He has over 33 years of experience in a vast range of industries. Also, been in numerous supervisor positions. The city has several projects going on at this time, however, those projects already have been assigned engineers and other professional services as needed. Perhaps he wants to volunteer his time. If he wants to meet with the Public Works department and give them some ideas about how to make their work easier. They would have to consult with the city attorney to see if a citizen can be allowed to do that. Mayor Castillo stated that City Manager set up a meeting with Jozua Garcia, Dave Fuzer and Mr. Searcy to see how they can move forward to facilitate some things. They want to see about bringing it back to the next agenda because of the idea of having Mr. Searcy in a supervisor's position because of his expertise. After some discussion there was no action taken on this item.

9.6 Councilwoman Lopez stated that would like to see a comparison of the water usage from April 2025 to April 2026. She wants to see how much of a difference there is from one year to the next. City Manager will get that information for her. She would like to have it for the next meeting. She would also like to have a spreadsheet of the addresses that already have new meters installed and those that still need new meters. This was just a discussion item.

9.7 Mayor Castillo stated that at this time the City of Corpus Christi has now possibly moved the emergency level one crisis to December 2026. We need more information from the City of Corpus Christi. Motion was made by Mayor Castillo and second by Councilwoman Lopez to table this item at this time until they get more updates from the San Patricio Water District and the City of Corpus Christi. Motion carried unanimously.

9.8 Mayor Castillo stated that they had this discussion earlier and that they do have the City Manager looking into getting contractors for the repairs of the buildings. This is just a discussion item; there is no action taken.

9.9 Councilwoman Moreno stated that she had this put back on the agenda because it was discussed and there was action made by the council regarding an in-house investigation on the water bills. She just wanted an update on that from the City Manager. The City Manager stated that she had

met with Badger Meter Company. She was told that that the leaks that they are having are a very small percentage and that everyone is having them. The meeting was not to determine whether our meters are old, it was to determine what is happening with our water bills. They went to see the meters that are in the ground and there are no reading parts, there is calcium deposit, condensation, the meters sticking like a watch sticks. They are old meters. Old meters get stuck; some are over 20 years old. The previous administration did not set up the new meters with serial numbers; the size of the meter might not have been input correctly. Once the meters are installed, they will be glad to come out and make sure that the meters are set up correctly. They were very nice and very helpful. With the internal investigation that the council had asked for was there any findings that there had been any numbers had been manipulated or had been changed. City Manager stated that she has seen where the previous City Manager had changed some readings to some of the higher water usage to make it more consistent to the way the reading should read. The findings did show some discrepancy. Councilwoman Moreno stated that she would like to get this resolved as soon as possible, not only for the citizens but also for the city, as we are losing on revenue if we can not do disconnections at this time, till all of this is resolved. She would like to recommend that Incode comes in at this time and make sure that the city staff is properly trained on this situation, especially since the City Manager mentioned that the new meters were not properly put into the new system. There was no action taken on this item.

9.10 Councilwoman Moreno stated that she would want for Incode to come on site and help with the utility billing and make sure that everything is installed properly. They just want a clear understanding that it has been checked by Incode and the city cannot continue to hold off on late fees and have the billing incorrectly. They would want for Incode to come in and do an internal review of the billing, The City Manager will check with Incode to see if there is a charge to come in house and do the internal review, if there is a cost to let the council know before doing it. They want a report brought back to council. There was no action taken on this item.

9.11 Councilwoman Moreno stated that it had been brought to her knowledge that there have been some donations to the center, however, those donations are coming to the city, and the city is issuing those donations to Alvarado Senior Center. Ms. Gonzalez, a volunteer that runs the Senior Center stated that she was told that the donations go to the city and then the city issued that donation to them. They do have a bank account under the name Senior Circle. The city attorney will work on an agreement between the city and the senior center. He will also look to see if they need to have some kind of insurance or not, since the city owns that building. After some discussion there was no action taken on this item.

9.13 City Manager stated that Dave hasn't seen the estimate that she got at this time. This is only one company, perhaps she could get other quotes from other companies. Mayor Castillo stated that the public works department could replace the bulbs themselves at the wastewater treatment plant. It is important to have these light bulbs replaced because it's dangerous not to have proper lighting out there for security issues and safety issues. They need to have the proper lighting. There was no action taken at this time on this item.

At this time Councilman Molina stated that due to the late time, he would like to have table items no. 9.14 and 9.15 and have them put on next month's meeting. Motion was made by Councilman Molina and second by Councilwoman Moreno to table items no. 9.14 and 9.15 to next month meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION: City Council will meet in closed session pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551.071 of the Texas Government Code and Texas Disciplinary rule of professional conduct rule to consult with attorney concerning legal issues related to:

1. Ryan Smith vs City of Taft, Texas
2. Andrea Gomez vs City of Taft, Texas
3. City of Taft vs LeeAnn Gobon

Executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee, or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee, including the evaluation of Police Chief Massey.

The City Council moved into Executive Session at 8:59 p.m.

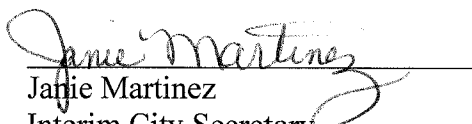
The City Council reconvened session back at 10:37 p.m.

11. At this time Mayor Castillo stated that no action was taken on the matters discussed in closed session.

12. Adjournment: Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz and seconded by Councilman Molina that this meeting be adjourned at 10: 40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Elida Castillo
Mayor
City of Taft

ATTEST:


Janie Martinez
Interim City Secretary
City of Taft

Approved on: 6-9-2024