



MINUTES
City of Taft City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday June 9, 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 four members Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz, Councilwoman Lopez, Councilwoman Moreno and Councilman Molina were present and have a certified quorum.
Mayor Castillo was absent.
3. Pledge of allegiance and Texas pledge was done
4. Invocation was given by Pastor Steve
5. Proclamations, presentations and council and staff announcements:
 1. Councilwoman Lopez stated that the access to the new meters, apparently there are still people that are having problems with not being able to monitor their usage. It was stated that one thing that they can do is to turn off their phone and reinstall the app. again. Councilwoman Lopez stated that this link should be put on the City of Taft website and instructed and what needs to be done to get into it. Councilman Molina stated that the America 250th celebration honoring our military will be held on Saturday June 27, 2026, at the Blackland Museum and the opening ceremony will start at 10:00 am. Everyone is welcome to come. Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz stated that Ms. Zimmermann was asking for volunteers to move tables and chairs for the 250th celebration.
 2. DeeDee Arsmendez, with Grantworks, stated that Grantworks has been around for over 46 years. At this time, they are working are grants for the City of Taft. She just wanted to come by to meet the council and see if they had any concerns at this time.
6. Citizens Communication:
 1. Susan Zimmermann stated America 250th celebration honoring our military will be held on June 27, 2026. Everyone is welcome to come. The celebration will be held at the Blackland Museum and it will start at 10:00 a.m.. Opening ceremony with local dignitaries and there will be a veteran's band performance. They welcome anyone that wants to volunteer to make this a very successful event.
 2. Beverly Gilbreath, with the Taft Chamber of Commerce, stated that their website should be complete and up by July. They currently have 16 members. Monthly Market Days are on the 2nd Saturday of each month. The next one will be on June 13, 2026, from noon to 5:00 p.m. The September Festival will be on September 5, 2026, from 10:00 am till 10:00 pm. The Christmas Festival will be on December 2, 2026, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm with a night parade. The 250th year celebration on June 27th the Chamber will be assisting with this event. She wanted to give updates on the a/c that was not working, thanks to Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz it's been fixed and so has their bathroom. Thanks to Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz the lights are ordered and will be installed when they arrive. The library will be moving their items out by this weekend, and they can start transforming the space into the Visitors Center. There are still some broken windows. They want to know if the city has received funds to get their sign repaired. They want to request that the ordinance for carnivals be changed. The Chamber would like to have a carnival at the Independence Celebration in September.
7. Consent Agenda – None

8. Staff reports and other discussion items:

a. City Manager Updates: Wendy, Interim City Manager, stated that she had hired a part-time employee, his name is Isiah Gonzales. He was present to meet the council. He is taking utility bill payments and helping Carmel with permits. She thanked Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz for getting the a/c unit replaced. There is no update on the finance report at this time. She has been working closely with TDEM. These are the FEMA funds that were received back in 2019. To get an extension for the Fire Station with this request, which would be the last request, they can get an extension till August 2027. The water park project has also gotten an extension till August 2027. She, Fire Chief Vasquez and his assistant will be meeting with FEMA on Friday. The question was asked if she had any updated information from Incode Technology for the utility billing. She was not able to get through to them all day. She has checked with the bank and there are some charges that seem to be extremely high. There are still several questions concerning the utility billing being incorrect. That issue does need to be taken care of as soon as possible to make sure that everyone's bill is going out correctly. That way the city can go back to normal collection of late fees and disconnections. That is also revenue that the city is not getting at this time.

b. Departmental Updates:

1. Library Report - At this time Councilwoman Lopez read the Public Library report for the month of May 2026.

2. Police Department – Police Chief Massey. He stated that in the month of May, 2026 there were a total of 115 citations, total events there was a total of 217 and total citation violations of 27. He gave the council the hurricane preparedness plan for the Taft, Texas Police Department effective for the 2026 Hurricane Season starting June 1 through November 30, 2026. The question was asked if the code enforcer and the animal control positions were still combined. Chief Massey stated that she was doing both jobs. He would like to see those jobs separated, as it is a lot for one person to do both jobs.

3. Fire Department – Fire Chief Vasquez stated that there were 2 investigations, 2 EMS assist, 2 mutual aid, 2 utility lines and 1 grass fire for a total of 9 fires for the month of May.

4. Public Works Department – Jozua Garcia. He was not present at this time. They are working on water breaks currently. Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz stated that they had purchased the box truck.

9. Action Items:

9.1 Motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Councilwoman Moreno to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 12, 2026, with the corrections under item 8a. and to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting held on May 26, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

9.2 Hector Castaneda, with Ardurra, stated that bids were received on May 15, 2026, for the Wastewater Improvement Project. Seven bids were received, and the results are shown on the attached bid tabulation sheet. The low /best bidder on the project is Experts Underground Solutions with a total base bid in the amount of \$357,620.00. They have reviewed the contractor's qualifications and bid documents, and it is their recommendation that the City award this project to Experts Underground Solutions in the total base bid amount of \$357,620.00. After some discussion motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Councilwoman Moreno that this item be tabled at this time, as the Mayor has questions concerning this item. Motion carried unanimously.

9.3 Jeff Price, General Manager, with San Patricio Municipal Water District, stated that he did appreciate the Mayor putting this back on the agenda. The purpose of this resolution is to support us in asking Corpus Christi to reconsider the base lines that they were setting. What this means is that the City of Corpus Christi will allow their residential customers to use around 8,000 gallons per month and only

allowing the SPMWD residential customers to use around 5,200 gallons per month. They have concern that the ordinance revision currently under consideration by the City of Corpus Christi on April 28, 2026 will not provide baseline volumes sufficient to ensure fairness and consistency. To address this, they respectfully request that the city adopt the baseline allocations outlined in the attached materials for SPMWD. Their goal is to ensure a fair and equitable approach for all communities and customers served. They have gotten support for the City of Portland, City of Rockport, City of Aransas Pass, and City of Ingleside on the Bay. After some discussion motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Councilman Molina to approve Resolution No. 26-011 authorizing request to the City of Corpus Christi for modifications to its proposed ordinance setting baselines and approving curtailment percentage for water customer's during a level one water emergency. Motion carried unanimously.

9.4 Fire Chief Vasquez went over the material list in reference to the plans provided. Interim City Manager, Pullin asked the Fire Chief if they were considering the budgeted funds and the subsidy money that just came in. She wants to coordinate with FEMA requirements. If they can get the FEMA approval on the repairs that they want to make, then that way they don't have to spend an additional \$40,000.00. After some discussion, motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz and second by Councilwoman Moreno that item 9.4 and item 9.5 be tabled at this time and brought back on the June 23rd council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

9.5 This item was tabled with item 9.4

9.6 Councilman Molina stated that he would want to see these two jobs separated. At the beginning when they started these positions together, they were done to try to save money. The number of hours that each job requires is a lot for one person. It was mentioned that perhaps they could combine the code enforcement and permits. After some discussion motion was made by Councilman Molina and second by Councilwoman Moreno to approve the separation of animal control services and code enforcement service into two distinct departmental categories, including associated budgetary and staffing impacts. Motion carried unanimously.

9.7 Councilwoman Cruz stated that her concern was for the Public Works Department. There are commercial trucks that are parked in the grass area and there are sewer lines that run underneath there. That is not a designated area for any kind of vehicle to park. The city attorney will be looking at the ordinance to see if perhaps there is one that states that commercial vehicles cannot be parked in some areas of the city. Once the ordinance is reviewed, then signs can be purchased and put in place where commercial vehicles are not allowed to be parked. After some discussion there was no action taken.

9.8 Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz stated that the apartment complex on 235 Myer Street has been dormant for years, now it has apartments for rent. At 504 McIntyre Avenue that was church, it is now an apartment complex. Do we have Certificates of Occupancy, how has this not gone before Planning and Zoning or the City Council for approval? After some discussion, the Interim City Manager was instructed to make contact with the San Patricio County Fire Marshal. No action was taken.

9.9 Councilwoman Moreno stated that she wants to table this item as she reviewed Jozua Garcia, Public Works Director, monthly report and saw an update on the street signs. Motion was made by Councilwoman Moreno and second by Councilman Molina to table this item. Motion carried unanimously.

9.10 After some discussion motion was made by Councilwoman Moreno and second by Councilman Molina to approve Resolution No. 26-012 adopting a purchasing card (P-Card) policy with the corrections on Section 3 to eliminate the per day spending limits. Motion carried unanimously.

9.11 After some discussion motion was made by Councilwoman Moreno and second by Councilman Molina to approve the set amounts on the credit card (P-Card) for the Interim City Manager, Wendy Pullin at \$5,000.00 per month, Chief of Police, Kirk Massey at \$2,500.00 per month and Public Works Director, Jozua Garcia at \$2,500.00 per month with the excess limit to be determined by the City Council. Motion carried unanimously.

9.12 Interim City Manager, Wendy stated that the current ordinance is soft and needs to be amended. This would create charges immediately and put a reasonable time limit on PIR request and it would set forth a time limit of 15 hours per month per requestor.

It would limit the hours to 36 hours per requestor per year. After some discussion motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Councilman Molina to table this item and allow the city attorney to review the current ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

9.13 Councilwoman Moreno stated that they could get Public Works employees to go to the public park located on Green Avenue and put some caution tape on the equipment. That park is in no condition for anyone to be using it at this time. It has rust, holes in the slides from hail damage. It is not safe for our citizens to use at this time. Perhaps they can look into the budget and see if they can do some updating on this park. It was mentioned that EDC is looking at all the city parks to see what they can do to make them better. This item was for discussion only.

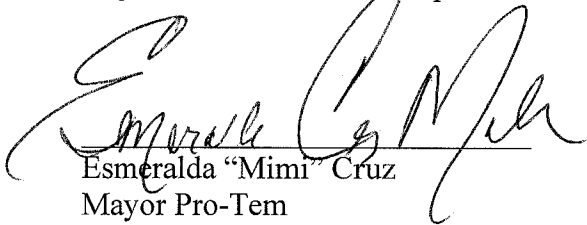
9.14 Councilman Molina stated that he was going to put a hold on this item until he spoke with Chairman, Rivera, with Planning and Zoning, concerning this item.

9.15 Councilman Molina stated that he was going to put a hold on this item until further notice.

10.0 Adjournment:

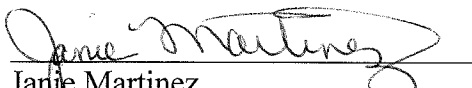
10.1 Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz and second by Councilman Molina that this meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment was at: 8:30 p.m.



Esmeralda "Mimi" Cruz
Mayor Pro-Tem
City of Taft

ATTEST:



Janie Martinez
Interim City Secretary
City of Taft

Approved on: 6-23-2026