



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

1. Call to order was at 6:35 p.m.
2. The roll was called and all members were present
3. Pledge of allegiance and Texas pledge was done
4. Invocation was given by Pastor Steve
5. Proclamations, presentations and council and staff announcements: Councilman Molina stated to keep Rolando Rodriguez in their prayers.

5.1 The swearing of Officer Balderas was done by Judge Pullin. At this time, there were pictures taken of Officer Balderas with Chief Massey, Mayor and family members.

5.2 Introduction of Code Enforcement Officer Joseph Hernandez – Chief Massey stated that with the employment of Joseph Hernandez, this created the separation of animal control and code enforcement positions. He has been kept real busy.

5.3 Introduction of City Manager, Scott Albert – Mayor Castillo stated that the City Council had done their selection of the new City Manager, earlier in the month. City Manager Albert stated that he wanted to thank the Council for giving him the opportunity to work for the City of Taft.

6. Citizens' Communication:

Beverly Gilbreath stated that their website goes live on July 20, 2026. They have 18 members as of today. The events schedule is monthly Market Days 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. The next one is on August 8<sup>th</sup> from noon to 5:00 p.m. The September Festival has been postponed till next year. She would like to know who hosted the Halloween on Green event and how the Chamber can get on board with this event? The Christmas Festival and Parade are scheduled for December 5, 2026, from 10 am to 6 pm with night parade. The windows are still broken, the fascia needs to be replaced, and there is water damage on inside front wall, it looks like its coming from the roof.

7 Consent Agenda: None

8. Staff Monthly Reports and other discussion items:

8.1 Police Department Report - Chief Massey: Chief Massey stated that for the month of June there had been a total of 308 events, with a total of 47 citations violations and a total of 122 citations. Officer Balderas was officially sworn in about two weeks ago. The animal shelter is full at this time, and they can't take any more animals at this time. The old animal control unit is in the shop and there doesn't seem to be any major issues with it, so they are looking at getting it fixed so that animal control and code enforcer can have a vehicle.

8.2 Public Works Director Report – Dave Furzer stated that for the month of June, there were a total of 99 service orders, 12 sewer back ups, and 7 water leaks. Odessa Pumps delivered the new centrifugal split case for the water pump, once that is installed, they will have 2 out of 3 pumps operational. The question was asked about how many meters have been installed at this time. Mr. Furzer stated that at this time he only has two people free working on the meters and that about 100 meters have been installed. It was mentioned that the potholes are bad throughout the city. Mr. Furzer stated that they have the compactor and they are waiting for the material at this time. The question was asked about how many employees are in the wastewater department. Mr. Furzer stated that there is only one employee in that department. This will be looked at during next year's budget.

8.3 Library Report – Jessi Dixon. Mayor, Castillo stated that there had been a total of 195 total circulation of books. They had a total of 2,495 patrons. There was a total of 22 volunteer hours.

#### 9.1 Action Items:

9.1 Motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Councilman Molina to approve the Special Call Meeting minutes of June 18, 2026, Special Call Meeting minutes of June 22, 2026, and Regular Meeting minutes of June 23, 2026, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

9.2 Shawn Cass, President of EDC, stated that WALLS is a visually stunning docu series that follows some of the world's most celebrated muralists as they travel to different cities, turning blank walls into monumental works of public art. This is a 6-episode series that will include 6 different states that were chosen from the United States. Texas is one of the states that was chosen and the city that was chosen from Texas is Taft. This docu will be aired in late October or November. They will also be doing a painting community walk. After some discussion motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Councilwoman Moreno to allow the EDC to spent \$75,000.00 which includes the mural, film production and episode distribution in the 30 minutes PBS episode. Motion carried unanimously.

9.3 Mario Benitez Clayton Homes, he is representing Miguel and Claudia Ramirez, stated that they are requesting an 8 feet variance on the lot size, as the requirements state that the lot size must be 60 feet, not 52 feet. To place a 28-foot mobile home a variance is required. At this time, City Manager Albert stated that there are several steps that need to be taken when you are issuing a variance. After some discussion there was no action taken at this time.

9.4 John Witting stated that he wants to combine his four lots into one lot, so that he can build a home across all four lots. He also wants to have the zone changed from B-2 (Business District) to R-1 (1<sup>st</sup> Residence District). City Manager, Albert, stated that Mr. Witting needs to have his lots re-plated. with the San Patricio County to be able to combine all four lots into one. His suggestion is to first get the zone changed before he spends money re-plating the lots. After some discussion there was no action taken at this time.

9.5 Councilwoman Lopez stated that there have been numerous complaints that not everyone's garbage is being picked up, that it was being pickup the next day. Zach Simmons, with Frontier Waste Solutions, stated that they did have a truck that had gone down. A notification goes out to the city through an e-mail, sometimes the staff are already gone from the city hall if it's after 5 pm. By the time the citizens see the notification the next day, the truck is already picking up the garbage. There needs to be a better way of communicating with the city staff. It was suggested that perhaps if Frontier would email the Mayor or Mayor Pro-Tem when there is an issue with delays, that way the Mayor or Mayor Pro-Tem can reach out to the citizens letting them know that there is a delay on the garbage pickup. There is a lot of brush that needs to be picked up. They put containers at the collection station so that they could haul the brush to these containers. Mayor stated that their contract was up for renewal at the end of the year and that renewal notice should have been done by the beginning of July and that didn't happen, so therefore, the city is in for another three-year contract with Frontier.

9.6 Motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Councilman Molina to remove Interim City Manager, Wendy Pullin from all city bank accounts, investment accounts, depository accounts, financial instruments and on -line administrator and authorizing notice to all financial institutions and adding City Manager, Scott Albert, to all city bank accounts, investment accounts, depository accounts, financial instruments and on-line administrator and authorizing notice to all financial institutions. Motion carried unanimously.

9.7 Motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Councilwoman Moreno to remove the authorization of Interim City Manager, Wendy Pullin and Public Works Director, Jozua Garcia from the credit card. Motion carried unanimously.

9.8 Motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz to approve the set amounts on the credit card (P-Card) for City Manager, Scott Albert, in the amount of \$5,000.00 per

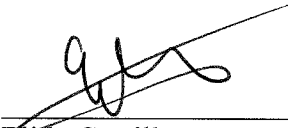
month and for Public Works Director, David (Dave) Furzer, in the amount of \$2,500.00 per month with the excess limit to be determined by the City Council. Motion carried unanimously.

9.9 Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz stated that it is not to amend but to add the random drug testing in any department. It is only done at pre-employment. We have Public Works that operates heavy equipment, commercial trucks, we have the police department and office staff. There is no random drug testing, and I feel that it is necessary to add it to the current policy. After some discussion motion was made by Councilman Molina and second Councilwoman Lopez to amend the Personnel Policy Manual – Chapter 34 Substance abuse and drug testing item E-1(a) regarding reapplying for employment from 12 months after the date of the test to 6 months. Motion carried unanimously.

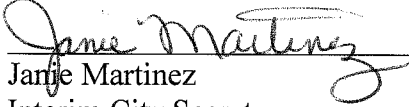
9.10 Mr. Daniel Gillespie, President and COO, of Allegiance Mobile Health stated that the City of Taft is provided with one ambulance 24/7. There will be times that the ambulance will leave Taft for mutual aid. There are monthly reports that will show the number of runs for each month. They will be providing the council with a monthly report starting in the month of August. The only change to the current agreement is to update the dates, as the current agreement expired last year. The current subsidy is \$175,000.00. There have been no increases since the original contract was signed in September of 2020. The requested subsidy increases are as follows: Starting 10/01/2026 – 09/30/2027 the annual cost will be \$247,000.00. They do provide CPR classes, at no cost to the city. After some discussion there was no action taken at this time.

10.0 Adjournment: Motion was made by Councilman Molina and second by Councilwoman Moreno that this meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment was at: 9:15 p.m.

  
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Elida Castillo  
Mayor  
City of Taft

ATTEST:

  
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Jamie Martinez  
Interim City Secretary  
City of Taft

Approved on: 7/22/2026