MINUTES
City of Taft City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
Taft City Hall
230 Green Avenue, Taft, TX 78390

1. Call to order was at 6:41 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 Councilwoman Lopez
5. Proclamations, presentations and council and staff announcements: Councilwoman Lopez stated that this is in reference to the Transfer Station being open versus not being open. Some city employees got the memo and others did not. They were doing a clean up on a property, that is the reason that the transfer station was open. There were people going there and dumping and there was no staff whatsoever. We just need to be better. If the city has a holiday weekend and the transfer station is going to be closed for the holiday weekend, then that needs to be posted with plenty of time before the holiday. When she asked who had left the gate open, the blame was passed around. The employees need to be honest and just admit whoever left it open. All departments need to communicate with each other. City staff should handle this 100% and council should just take a step back and let the city staff take care of it, that is the reason that we have city staff. Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz stated that Public Works has been working very hard, these past few weekends and during the week. That goes to show how bad our infrastructure really is. These leaks are not something that happens overnight. She wanted to thank the Taft Police department, Sheriff's department, and the Justice of the Peace office for getting some of these people off the streets, that are doing the break ins around town. The mobile unit will be back tomorrow at the Senior Center, hoping to have a good turn out. Councilwoman Moreno stated that she wanted to agree with Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz that Public Works department is working very hard. She hopes that a lot of people will show up for the mobile unit tomorrow. She would like to know where are they with the signs. There are a lot of signs that are not visible. Councilman Molina did not have anything to say at this time. Mayor Castillo stated that we are still in hurricane season, just make sure that trees are cut. Also, if you haven't read the City Manager's reports that are posted on the website, she highly recommends that you all read them. He does a really good job in putting information out there, where we are with our audits, our finances, and grants.
6. Citizens Communications:
    1. Ray Reyes – He just wanted to thank the council for their services, the Esperanza de Tejas seems like a very good program. TQIC is starting to get back on board, that is one of their projects to try to bring hands-on skills for the youth. There is a third party working with public works fixing leaks. The signs need to show which roads allow semi trucks to be on. The semi trucks that are causing the leaks is that the pipes don't have enough sand. At the collection station he noticed that there were railroad blocks and these blocks are coded with chemicals, if it rains, these chemicals can get into our drains and cause contamination in our system. That would be a Haz mat issue. Also, have a standard safety meeting before the weekend to get together and determine who is on call and everything else that will be taking place during the weekend. There are several mobile homes inside the city limits.

7. Consent Agenda:

7.1 After some discussion motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Councilman Molina to approve the Special Call Meeting minutes held on August 4, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes held on August 11, 2026, Regular Meeting held on August 25, 2026, and Budget Workshop minutes held on August 29, 2026, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

7.2 Mayor stated that this item wouldn't be considered on the consent agenda, as the resolution has not been prepared at this time.

8. Staff Reports and other Discussion Items:

8.1 City Manager – Scott Albert was not present at this meeting. Mayor Castillo stated that on September 22, 2026, meeting there will be a public hearing to pass the budget.

8.2. Police Department – Chief Massey – Chief Massey stated that through August 27, 2026, the Taft Police Department recorded 598 events. Officers issued 185 citations involving 59 citation violations. Activity was heaviest mid-week (Wednesday 115 events; Monday 105; Tuesday 101), with continued emphasis on proactive security checks, school-zone presence, follow-up investigations, animal-related calls, and welfare contacts. They are getting 6 body armor donated to them. They are worth over $2,000.00. The animal control office gave her two weeks' notice. She is going to Aransas Pass; it is closer to her home. They are already advertising for that position. The code enforcer is going around town, checking and making a list on the trees that might be hanging on roofs and power lines.

8.3 Public Works Department Report – David Furzer – He was not present. Mayor Castillo read his report. Two men were reading meters, two men were installing meters and boxes, they were installing a new pump at the water plant for TCEQ requirements. Two men were cutting and weed eating grass. They were filling potholes in roads Fetick, Toland, Victoria, Industrial, Gregory, McIntyre, and College streets. They were lifting manholes in low spots. He is working on getting prices for road repairs. He is working on getting quotes on streetlights repair on Davis Road. They have been fixing numerous water leaks all around town. They have been flushing dead-end fire hydrants.

8.4 Library Report – Jessi Dixon – She was not present. Mayor Castillo stated they had a total of 108 circulations. They had a total of 351 patrons visiting the library. They had a total of 41 hours of volunteer hours. They have a total of $877.50 income.

8.5 Allegiance EMS – Stephanie Newsom – Stephanie Newsom was not present. Mayor Castillo stated that there was a total of 80 calls for the month of August 2026. Inside the city there was a total of 63 calls and outside in the County there was a total of 17 calls. There was a total of 7 mutual aids.

9.1 Mayor Castillo stated that this is an item that had been discussed in March and then during the summer. She asked Chief Massey that she wanted to know if there was any follow up from the County. Chief Massey stated that he had heard from the county and he is looking into prices. Speed humps are a big liability. He has been pricing around. They need to do a traffic study. If the city does not do a traffic study, the city would be liable if a vehicle gets damage. Mayor Castillo wants Chief Massey to come back to the next council meeting with some prices on the speed humps.

9.2 Brianna Davis, with Esperanza de Tejas, founder and chief executive officer, stated that they are a nonprofit organization. Their mission is to provide communities with essential items and to provide essential resources. They go throughout the San Patricio County to provide food and health resources. They would like to host a Health Fair in Taft. They would like to partner with the City of Taft sometime in October. They would be providing food bags, diapers, and health screening,

essential items and also bring over United Way Coastal Bend. They are hoping to be able to partnership with Taft. They already have their mobile station center in Sinton, where they come over every other month. It is hard for some citizens to make it to Sinton, which is why they are hoping to be able to get into partnership with Taft. They have stations in Odem and Sinton, and they did not want to forget about Taft. The question was asked if it would be on weekends or during the week. Brianna stated that it would be up to the city, it's usually done after work or after school to make sure that it is convenient to the working families. However, it is totally up to the city. Motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Councilman Molina for the City of Taft to partner with Esperanza de Tejas. Motion carried unanimously.

9.3 Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz stated that this location is a concern because it was a church for many years, and now it is an apartment complex. She would like to know the zoning for it, is there a certificate of occupancy, any inspections, have they gone to Planning & Zoning or come before the council for anything. There is just concern. It has gone from a church to apartments in a residential area. No one is addressing the issue. It has been brought up in the past with no action taken. The City Manager needs to look into it. It is zoned residential. We need to see if the meter has been changed from residential to business. Need to find out how long this has been going on. Chief Massey stated that he was having the code enforcer look into this. Before the code enforcer came on board, he had looked into it and they were getting their permits. It was mentioned about the historical marker that is not there. They need to find out who removed it.

9.4 Mayor Castillo stated that in Corpus Christi on October 24, 2026, there is a walk and this would give the City of Taft an opportunity to participate in this. Also, so that we can have more cancer awareness since the month of October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. This is to support all our survivors. The City Manager can have a form out there to see if any citizens want to participate in this walk and for the council to show more support. It sounds like a great idea. This would be a great way to show support and come together as a community. The City Attorney is putting together a proclamation for the month of October. After some discussion motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Councilman Molina for the City of Taft's participation on the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" in Corpus Christi, Texas on October 24, 2026.

9.5 Mayor Castillo stated that she was not aware that this seat was vacant. She had gotten a letter dated July 27, 2026, from Donnie Sue Riojas stating: "I am writing to inform you that Commissioner Arnulfo Banda's term expired in June 2026. Commissioner Banda has expressed his willingness to continue serving on the Board for an additional two-year term. If approved, please sign below and return this letter via email or regular mail. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me." It was suggested that it should have been put out there to see if anyone else was interested in becoming a board member of the Housing Authority. It was suggested that it needs to be posted publicly and see if there is anyone else interested. It was mentioned that they don't know how many members they have or when their terms expire. After some discussion motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez to postpone the appointment of Mr. Arnulfo Banda to continue serving in this position as board member and that we respond to Ms. Riojas letting her know that this position should be publicly put out making others aware that it is an open position and giving others the opportunity to serve on this board. Motion failed due to lack of a second. After

some discussion motion was made by Mayor Castillo and second by Councilwoman Moreno that this item be tabled at this time. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Executive Session

10.1 Mayor stated that the council would not be going into executive session at this time. The City Attorney had requested that this executive session item be moved to September 22, 2026, meeting.

12. Adjournment –

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

Adjourned at 7:53 pm

_____

Mayor, Elida Castillo

ATTEST:

Janie Martinez

_____

Interim City Secretary, Janie Martinez

Approved on: 10/27/2026