MINUTES
City of Taft City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
Taft City Hall
230 Green Avenue, Taft, TX 78390

1. Call to order was at 6:31 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: Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz stated that on October 12, 2026, from 10 am till 2 pm the mobile unit will be back to offer their free services to any citizens aged 10 to 64. They will be offering free flu shots, whether you have insurance or not. Please put that on your calendar, if you know anyone that needs these services please let them know that we will be at the Alvarado Center. Councilwoman Moreno stated that she just wanted to remind people of the mobile unit coming in October. Mayor Castillo stated that last month the council did vote to participate in the upcoming Breast Cancer walk that is coming up on October 24th. If anyone wants to participate in this walk, they are welcome to join the council. Also, we have a staff member that has gone above and beyond. It is his birthday, so with that said let's all sing happy birthday to our City Manager, Scott Albert.

5.1 Matthew Garza, with San Patricio County Election Administration, stated that General Elections will be on November 3, 2026. The last day to register is October 5, 2026. The last day to apply for ballot by mail will be October 23, 2026. Early voting will start on October 19 – 30, 2026. On election day, November 3, 2026, the citizens from Taft can vote at the Taft Public Library Community Center. The hours from election day will be from 7:00 am till 7:00 pm.. Mayor Castillo stated that she would like to know how the City of Taft can get on their agenda to be considered as one of the locations for next year's early voting, without having a high cost. The City of Taft wants to be a voting location like Aransas Pass, Mathis and Portland. The question was asked as to how the City of Taft can become a part of that. If the city's elections were in May, the city would not have to pay as much, as the expenses could be shared, however, since the city's elections are in November, then the city has to pay for the full cost. If it is in the city's budget to have early voting done in Taft, then it can be done.

5.2 Mayor Castillo stated that Proclamation for October the Breast Cancer Month. We want to participate in the activities to bring awareness on the issue of breast cancer to the community especially due to one member on Council battling it.

6. Citizens Communications:

6.1 Judge Pullin stated that she just wanted to share information that one day 4-H is going to be October 10, 2026. They would like to do a community service project for Taft. They could do painting if the paint is provided for them. The next project will be December 5, 2026, that will be the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Festival, from 12 noon till 9 pm. It is a night parade.

6.2 Melissa DeLeon stated that this is in reference to item 9.4. The Rustic Car Wash at 608 HWY 181 just opened a few weeks ago. They are requesting repaving of the public alley between car wash and old Ace Hardware store. The alley gets muddy after it rains and people that just washed their

cars don't like driving through the alley and get their car all dirty again. When it's not raining, then it's all the dust from the dry dirt in the alley. The benefits from repaving the alley would be an improvement on safety, reduce future maintenance costs, and enhance the appearance of the neighborhood.

6.3 Ray Reyes stated that he had a few questions on items no. 9.4, 9.5 and 9.13. On the repairs of the potholes, are they being repaired correctly, is the old material being removed, using the proper bonding material, or is material just being put down and compacted. On water leaks, is Public Works going back to the same location and repairing the same leaks. Also, the time of the leaks, are they reported during the day and they don't go out to repair them till after hours on overtime, doesn't know if that is true or not, but records should show the time. Concerning the electrical repairs at the Scout Hut, Old City Hall, and Kiva Hut, are you all aware that last year, they didn't have electricity and come to find out, it was wiring that wasn't connected.

6.4 Felipe Rodriguez stated that his wife and him had purchased a building, next to the Daisies n Denim. He wants to compliment the City Manager for working all those long hours, trying to get caught up. He knows because he is across the street. They want to revitalize a building downtown. They plan to call it "The Magnolia on Green". They want to make it a Bed and Breakfast (B&B). Maybe generating a little bit of revenue to the hotel tax for the city. It's a small building. He has submitted the permit to the city and it is being reviewed by Bureau Viertas.

7. Consent Agenda: The consent agenda will be considered for approval through a single motion and includes routine items that are typically non-controversial in nature:

7.1 Resolution No. 26-09-22-A – Donation of two used quickserv windows to San Patricio County for use by Precinct 1 Barn – Commissioner Ski

7.2 Resolution No. 26-09-22-B – Support for Expanding the Port of Corpus Christi Authority Commission from seven to nine members and authorizing San Patricio County to appoint three of the members.

7.3 Engagement letter with Armstrong, Vaughans & Associates for the Fiscal year ending September 30, 2025

7.4 Resolution No. 26-09-22-C – Establishing Regular Meeting Day

Motion was made by Councilman Molina and second by Councilwoman Lopez to approve items 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Staff Reports and other Discussion Items:

8.1 City Manager stated that he would forward his report later through an email.

8.2. Hector Castaneda, with Ardurra, stated that the GLO sewer line project was almost 50% complete. The water line project, they just had a pre-construction meeting, the week before. The lighting project, they have reached out to AEP. They are looking into the location of each light. In the ground at this time the size of the pipe is 10", they will be replacing it with a 12". The completion date for the lighting project is around February 2027.

9. Action Items:

9.1 City Manager stated that the governing body will conduct a public hearing and consider Ordinance No. 2026-1403 adopting the City of Taft's budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The proposed budget is balanced at $5,672,744.00. The proposed property tax rate supporting the budget is $0.867344 per $100 of taxable value, which is the no-new-revenue tax rate. After some discussion motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Councilman Molina to approve Ordinance No. 2026-1403 approving the fiscal year 2026-2027 budget beginning October 1, 2026 and ending September 30, 2027; and providing budgetary appropriations for the various operations of the Town;

authorizing the mayor to make adjustments as necessary; establishing an effective date; and taking a record vote. Motion carried unanimously.

9.2 No action was taken on this item, it was combined with item 9.3

9.3 City Manager stated that the governing body will conduct a public hearing and consider adopting an ordinance establishing the City of Taft's property tax rate for the 2026 tax year. The proposed tax rate is $0.867344 per $100 of taxable assessed valuation, which is the City's no-new-revenue tax rate. The no-new-revenue tax rate is generally calculated to produce the same amount of property tax revenue from properties taxed in both the 2025 and 2026 tax years. After some discussion motion was made by Councilman Molina and second by Councilwoman Moreno to approve Ordinance No. 2026-1404 adopting the no-new-revenue tax rate of $0.867344 per $100 of taxable assessed valuation as the City of Taft's property tax rate for the 2026 tax year. Motion carried unanimously.

9.4 City Manager stated that he had spoken with San Patricio County Precinct 1 Commissioner William "Ski" Zagorski, Sr. regarding the possibility of Precinct 1 assisting the city with pothole repairs. Commissioner Zagorski requested that the governing body approve a list of priority streets and forward it to him for presentation to the San Patricio County Commissioners Court. The members of the governing body were recently asked to identify streets requiring immediate attention. He received responses from two members. Based on those response a list of the streets is attached to Resolution No. 26-09-22-D. After some discussion motion was made by Councilman Molina and second by Councilwoman Lopez to approve Resolution No. 26-09-22-D, establishing a priority list of city streets and alleys for which the city is requesting assistance from San Patricio County Precinct 1 with pothole repairs and other surface improvements. Motion carried unanimously.

9.5 Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz stated that she had spoken to Mr. Hernandez, he manages the food pantry. He stated that they are having issues at the Scout Hut, with not being able to use some breakers and plugs at the same time. They need refrigeration because of the milk and the food products. They are asking for help to get those repairs done. City Manager stated that all these buildings need to be repaired and brought up to compliance. It was suggested that perhaps it was best to remove all those buildings and build one big building. The question was asked about whether the council knows if the city owns all of these buildings. After some discussion there was no action taken.

9.6 City Manager stated that on August 12, 2026, Jessi Dixon, Taft Librarian, contacted him regarding the replacement of the casing for the library's electronic sign, which was damaged during the November 1, 2025, hailstorm. Jessi Dixon, Taft librarian, stated that a quote to repair or replace the sign was obtained in early 2026 but was not acted upon. Stewart Signs' records indicate that a quote for $1,022.00 was issued on February 19, 2026, and remained valid through March 21, 2026. Insurance proceeds had been designated for the sign, the quote expired before the work was authorized. Stewart Signs subsequently issued an updated quote of $1,832.00. If the city did not pay the full amount, the Library Board or the Ritchie Foundation might be willing to cover the increase. City Manager contacted the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool (TMLIRP) to determine whether insurance would cover the additional cost. Mr. Myers, with TMLIRP, contacted the city manager to inform him that the additional amount was eligible for coverage and that they would attempt to issue the supplemental check that same day. After some discussion motion was made by Councilman Molina and second by Councilwoman Lopez to authorize the expenditure of $1,832.00 in TMLIRP insurance proceeds to repair or replace the Taft Library's electronic sign, which was damaged during the November 1, 2025, hailstorm. Motion carried unanimously.

9.7 City Manager stated that cyber security attacks are increasing, and municipalities, particularly smaller communities with limited information-technology staff and financial resources are frequent targets. The city has not previously carried cyber liability and data breach coverage through TMLIRP. The city's overall TMLIRP contribution for fiscal year 2026-2027 decreased by $1,257.00. City Manager recommends that the City Council approve the attached interlocal agreement and authorize an additional annual contribution of $1,500.00 for this coverage. Although insurance cannot prevent a cyber attack, it can provide critical financial protection and access to specialized resources for incident response, forensic investigation, legal review, required notifications, data recovery, and other covered expenses. After some discussion motion was made by Councilwoman Lopez and second by Councilman Molina to execute the Interlocal Agreement with the Texas Municipal League Intergovernmental Risk Pool for Cyber Liability and Data Breach Coverage effective October 1, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

9.8 Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz stated that she had reached out to Chief Massey on National Night Out, which was moved to October 20, 2026, from 6 to 8 pm. Chief Massey stated that they wanted to have it at the city park, have hot dogs, popcorn, drinks and things like that. He will be reaching out to the surrounding agencies to see if Taft gets invited to their National Night Out and hopefully, they will come to Taft's National Night Out. After some discussion motion was made by Councilwoman Moreno and second by Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz to approve National Night Out on October 20, 2026, from 6:00 pm till 8:00 pm, with the following streets to be closed, if needed, Hoover, McIntyre, Green and Park Streets. Motion carried unanimously.

9.9 Mayor Pro-Tem Cruz stated that on this item the city did get a citation from TCEQ, due to the fence being damaged or being down. She is more interested in putting a fence between the existing trailer park and the collection station. City Manager will reach out to TCEQ concerning the citation. It was mentioned to make sure that the city employees are not driving across that property in city vehicles. After some discussion there was no action taken.

9.10 Chief Massey stated that the rumble stripes cost between $1,500. - $2,500 per approach. They typically will drop the speed from 1 – 3 mph. The speed bumps cost between $5,000. - $7,500 per location. They typically will drop the speed from 15 – 20 mph. The speed bumps would be better if you want to slow someone down. The school zone traffic study would cost between $12,000. - $19,000. After some discussion there was no action taken.

9.11 Stephanie Newsom, with Allegiance, stated that a few weeks ago the CEO of Allegiance Mobile Health EMS gave a presentation on the new EMS contact that will take effect on October 1, 2026, and copies were given to all councilmembers at that time. City Manager stated that he had questions concerning the new contract. There are a few questions that need to be addressed. He would like to have a Special Call Meeting on September 29, 2026, at 6:00 pm to decide on the EMS contract and also to discuss the audit for 2024. After some discussion no action was taken at this time.

9.12 Councilman Molina stated that he had seen that the website had been updated with the minutes to be in compliance with the Texas Open Meeting Act.

9.13 Councilman Molina stated that as mentioned by Mayor Castillo they had looked at the top five priorities for the city's fiscal year 2026-2027. The number one was water/wastewater. We need to have a long-term plan of action on mitigating water loss. There also needs to be an infrastructure map put in place. After some discussion there was no action taken on this item.

The City Council convenes into Executive Session at: 9:00 pm

The City Council reconvenes from Executive Session at: 10:32 pm

10. Executive Session

10.1 Lamas V City of Taft,
No action was taken at this time
10.2
(1) Legal Council re Director Public Works
No action was taken at this time
(2) Special Counsel

Mayor Castillo made the motion and second by Councilwoman Lopez to retain Victoria Thomas, who is partners with Nichols/ Jackson, as our special council, starting on the effective date that the City Manager signed the agreement with. Motion called unanimously.

12. Adjournment –
12.1 Motion was made by Councilman Molina and second by Councilwoman Lopez that this meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourned at 10:34 pm

_____
Mayor, Elida Castillo

ATTEST:

Janie Martinez
_____
Interim City Secretary, Janie Martinez

Approved on: 10/27/2026