

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 13th day of February, 2018, the City Council of Taft, Texas, convened in a regular session at 402 Park St, at the Kiva Hut, at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Pedro "Pete" Lopez	Mayor	
Leonard Vasquez	Mayor Pro-tem	Absent
Felipe Rodriguez, III		
Donnie Riojas		
Lolo Hernandez		

Others present: Denise Hitt, City Manager, and Jennifer Pineda, City Secretary.

#1. There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

#2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Hernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

#3. Plaque presentation to Rolando Rodriguez.

This item was moved to the March meeting.

#4. Plaque presentation to Commissioner Richard Ott.

This item was moved to the March meeting.

#5. Plaque presentation to Randy Rachel.

This item was moved to the March meeting.

#6. Project update on Gulf Coast Growth Ventures by John Mabry.

John Mabry did a PowerPoint presentation that explained the Exxon Mobile plant site and what the plant will produce. He also explained what phase the company is in.

#7. Public Hearing: Application for a variance request which, if approved, would allow the construction of a fence other than hurricane fence at 329 Fetick, Taft, Tx, with legal description LTS 23 & 24 BLK 18 TAFT.

Mayor opened the public hearing at 6:57 p.m.

Estevan Galindo explained to the council that he will be using hog panels to redo his fence in the front of his property. He was originally going to put a wooden fence but after speaking with the building inspector and the city manager he decided to change it to the hog panels. Mr. Galindo showed the council pictures of the material he is using and how the finished product would look like.

The mayor closed the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

#8. Discuss and take action on whether to approve a variance request which, if approved, would allow the construction of a fence other than hurricane fence at 329 Fetick, Taft, Tx, with legal description LTS 23 & 24 BLK 18 TAFT.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve the variance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#9. Consider and discuss update regarding the city's financial condition as it relates to bonded debt, past dues, recurring payments, revenues and expenditures.

Denise updated the council on the city's finance condition. The revenues for TQIC are \$46,905.00 and the revenues for the street fund are \$84,677.00. Dalia Sanchez's office has collected 71.27% of the taxes for the city and 47.4% of the taxes in the deannexed area. The outstanding balance to Republic is \$7,030.06

#10. Consider, discuss and take action to approve the September 11, 2017, Special Meeting minutes, September 17, 2017, Special Meeting minutes, September 26, 2017, Regular Meeting minutes, and October 10, 2017, Regular Meeting minutes.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve the September 11, 2017, Special Meeting minutes, September 17, 2017, Special Meeting minutes, September 26, 2017, Regular Meeting minutes, and October 10, 2017, Regular Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:
Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez
Nays: None
Absent: Vasquez
The motion carried.

#11. Consider, discuss and take action to appoint Felipe Rodriguez to the Taft Quality Improvement Corporation Board of Directors.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve to appoint Felipe Rodriguez to the Taft Quality Improvement Corporation Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

The following votes were polled:
Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez
Nays: None
Absent: Vasquez
The motion carried..

#12. Consider, discuss and take action to approve a contract with Taft Little League for the use of the Taft Little League Park.

Denise explained it is the same contract as last year that needs to be renewed.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve a contract with Taft Little League. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:
Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez
Nays: None
Absent: Vasquez
The motion carried.

#13. Consider, discuss and take action to approve updated job descriptions.

This item was tabled to March meeting.

#14. Consider, discuss and take action on approving the road rehabilitation of Bravo St, Porter St, Tuft and Compress.

Denise explained this is the TQIC list in the order they decided.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion take action on approving the road rehabilitation of Bravo

St, Porter St, Tutt and Compress. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#15. Consider, discuss and take action on exploring the possibility of a City owned RV Park. (Councilwoman Riojas).

This item was moved to a special meeting.

#16. Consider, discuss and take action to approve switching from cable to a fiber optics line with Cable One.

Denise explained that switching to fiber optics would make day to day operations easier.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve switching from cable to a fiber optics line with Cable One. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#17. Consider, discuss and take action to adopt Ordinance No. 983 to establish a revised rate schedule for solid waste collection, transportation, and disposal services in the City to reflect an increase in the consumer price index and landfill disposal increase to be effective January 1, 2018.

Denise explained that this has to be passed since it will be in effect on the February bill.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 983. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#18. Consider, discuss and take action to authorize the City Manager to provide notice of non-renewal to Republic Services for the Solid Waste Franchise Agreement.

Denise explained that since the council had decided to go out to bid the letter must be sent to Republic.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to authorize the City Manager to provide notice of non-renewal to Republic Services. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Vasquez

The motion carried.

#19. Consider, discuss and take action to authorize the City Manager to advertise for request for proposals for solid waste collection.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to authorize the City Manager to advertise for request for

proposals for solid waste collection. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:
Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez
Nays: None
Absent: Vasquez
The motion carried.

#20. Consider, discuss and take action to approve or deny Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Engineering Services for Hurricane Harvey Recovery Assessment and Restoration.

Everyone turned in their scores. Jennifer totaled the scores. The following were the total points awarded to each firm:

LNV – 366
TLC – 317
LIA – 308

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve the rfq for engineering services from LNV. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:
Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez
Nays: None
Absent: Vasquez
The motion carried.

#21. City manager's report on: Insurance; FEMA; Ribbon cutting.

FEMA: Tamiko from Fema informed council on Fema efforts.

Insurance: Denise explained we have preliminary numbers but those are going to change. There are repairs that are not on the list yet.

Ribbon cutting: Denise informed the council that March 2nd will be the ribbon cutting for the sidewalk project phase one.

#22. VISITORS

William Davis, owner of Absolute Service, Inc., stated that he looks forward in responding to the request for proposals and let the council know who some of this clients are in the area.

Mike Reeves, from Republic Services, wanted to bring things to the attention of the council. Republic serviced solid waste for 6 months without pay and also made a payment plan for the balance owed for non-service. He wants the council to weigh this information when making a selection.

#23. Adjournment.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Riojas to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:
Ayes: Rodriguez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez
Nays: None
Absent: Vasquez
The motion carried.

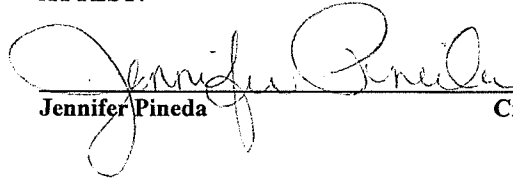
CITY OF TAFT



Pedro Lopez

Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda **City Secretary**

