

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 12th day of January, 2016, 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
Denise Hitt Mayor Pro-tem
Rolando Rodriguez
Donnie Riojas
Leonard Vasquez

Others present: Roxann Cotroneo, City Attorney, Ray De Los Santos, City Management Team, Mary Alice Sandoval, Finance Director, and Jennifer Pineda, City Secretary.

#1. There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

#2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#3. Visitors

Donnie Riojas, 634 Fetick – wanted to forward Pastor Cliff's thanks for making Gregory and McIntyre a 4 way stop.

#4. Consider, discuss and take action on approving the August 24, 2014 Special Meeting minutes, September 2, 2014 Special Meeting minutes, and September 9, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes.

Councilwoman Hitt made a motion to approve the August 24, 2014 Special Meeting minutes, September 2, 2014 Special Meeting minutes, and September 9, 2014 Regular Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

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

#5. Consideration and approval of offer to purchase tax sale property.

Councilwoman Hitt made a motion to approve an offer to purchase tax sale property in the amount of \$1,000. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

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

#6. Consider, discuss and take action to register the City, City of Taft Economic Development Corporation and the Taft Quality Improvement Corporation with the Texas Comptroller as mandated by new state law regarding their statutory eminent domain authority. (Roxann Pais Cotroneo, City Attorney)

Roxann explained eminent domain and why it needs to be done by February 1, 2016.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to register the City, City of Taft Economic Development Corporation and the Taft Quality Improvement Corporation with the Texas Comptroller as mandated by new state law regarding their statutory eminent domain authority. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hitt.

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

#7. Hear, consider and act upon road rehabilitation measures, timelines and schedules as it relates to the roadway rehabilitation of Avenue C. (Mayor Pro Tem Hitt)

Councilwoman Hitt made a motion to get bids from various contractors. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Riojas, Mayor, Vasquez, Hitt

Nays: None

The motion carried

#8. Discuss, consider and act to appoint a supervisor for code enforcement. (Mayor Pro Tem Hitt)

Councilwoman Hitt made a motion to table this item. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Riojas, Mayor, Vasquez, Hitt

Nays: None

The motion carried

#9. Consider, discuss and take action on language reflecting the ability of any and/or all said members of any and all respective committees or organizations to be able to attend other meetings without being in conflict or contempt of constituting a possible quorum respectively. (Councilman Rodriguez)

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to table this item. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hitt.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Riojas, Mayor, Vasquez, Hitt

Nays: None

The motion carried

#10. Consider and discuss update briefing from David Smith, Taft EDC President, on any or recent actions taken or to be taken by the Taft EDC as of June 2015 to present. (Councilman Rodriguez)

David Smith, president of Taft EDC, stated that there are 7 board members and they have a continuing contract with SMMP and Roxann Cotroneo. He also stated that the EDC has \$200,000 in cash and near cash.

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

Mary Alice updated the council on the current city's financial condition.

#12. EXECUTIVE SESSION – In accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 551.001, et seq., the City Council will recess into Executive Session (closed meeting) to discuss:

- a) **Meet in executive session pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Public Information Act to meet with its attorney on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the City Council under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Public Information Act, regarding a possible City of Taft Emergency Services Department reduction in force and possible, if any, employee severance packages.**
- b) **Meet in executive session pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Public Information Act on personnel matters involving the appointment and/or employment of an external City Auditor or external professional auditing services to conduct the audit and to prepare the annual financial statement.**

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to enter into executive session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

The council entered into executive session.

#13. Reconvene into regular session.

The council reconvened into regular session.

#14. Consider, discuss and take action, if any, to declare the City of Taft Emergency Services Department as having financial and staffing exigencies and order a reduction in force for said department effective on a certain date..

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to declare the City of Taft Emergency Services Department as having financial and staffing exigencies and order a reduction in force for said department to provide a 2 week notice as required by the personnel policy. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hitt.

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

#15. Consider, discuss and take action, if any, to approve certain terms regarding a City of Taft Emergency Services Department employee severance package.

Councilwoman Hitt made a motion to approve certain terms regarding a City of Taft Emergency Services Department employee severance package of 2 weeks with an additional two weeks. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

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

#16. Consider, discuss and take action, if any, to enter into a contract with South Texas Air Med for emergency medical services for a certain period of time due to financial and staffing exigencies.

Councilwoman Hitt made a motion to enter into a contract with South Texas AirMed for emergency medical services for a period of 8 months. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rodriguez.

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

#17. Consider, discuss and take action to appoint and/or employ an external City Auditor or external professional auditing services to conduct the audit and to prepare the annual financial statement.

Councilman Rodriguez made a motion to appoint Raul Hernandez and Company to conduct the audit and to prepare the annual financial statement for FY 2014 and FY 2015. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hitt.

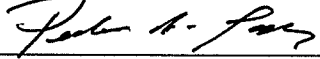
The following votes were polled:
Ayes: Rodriguez, Riojas, Mayor, Vasquez, Hitt
Nays: None
The motion carried

#18. Adjournment.

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

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

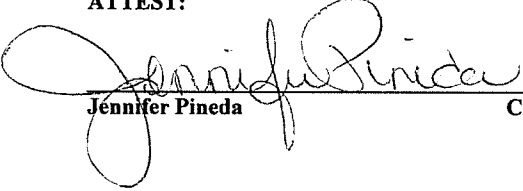
CITY OF TAFT



Pedro Lopez Mayor



ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda City Secretary