

MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

On the 14th day of November, 2017, 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
Rolando Rodriguez	Absent
Donnie Riojas	
Lolo Hernandez	

Others present: Denise Hitt, City Manager, and Mary Alice Sandoval, Finance Director.

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

#2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#3. Consider and take action to approve Ordinance No. 981, an ordinance of the City of Taft, Texas to canvass the returns and declare the results of the General Election held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 for the purpose of electing one Mayor at Large, one Alderman for Ward One and one Alderman for Ward Two for a term of two years.

Mayor Lopez read Ordinance No. 981 out loud to canvass the votes on the election.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 981. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Rodriguez

The motion carried.

#4. Consider and take action to approve Ordinance No. 982 an ordinance of the City of Taft, Texas to canvass the returns and declare the results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 for the reauthorization of the local sales and use tax in City of Taft at the rate of one-fourth of one percent sales and use tax to continue providing revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets.

Mayor Lopez read Ordinance No. 982 out loud to canvass the votes.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 982. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Rodriguez

The motion carried.

#5. Swearing In and Oath of Office of newly elected officials.

Judge Carmel Herrera swore in Mayor Pedro Lopez, Alderman Felipe Rodriguez III, and Alderwoman Donnie Sue Riojas.

#6. VISITORS.

Guadalupe Martinez, of 424 Second St., handed the Mayor a written complaint to read out loud regarding car repairs at 518 Field Ave.

Lolo Hernandez, of 732 McIntyre, asked the council and audience to volunteer to prepare Thanksgiving baskets on Friday, November 17th.

#7. Consider, discuss and take action to approve the May 9, 2017, Regular Meeting minutes, May 23, 2017, Regular Meeting minutes, June 13, 2017, Regular Meeting minutes, June 23, 2017, Special Meeting minutes, July 11, 2017, Regular Meeting minutes, August 8, 2017, Regular Meeting minutes, August 18, 2017, Special Meeting minutes, August 22, 2017, Regular Meeting minutes, August 29, 2017, Special Emergency Meeting minutes, and August 30, 2017, Special Emergency Meeting minutes.

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: F. Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#8. Public Hearing: Application for a setback variance request which, if approved, would allow the placement of a carport on the driveway at 448 Abazola St, Taft, Tx, with legal description LT 12 BLK 6 TAFT – 2ND HIDALGO 0.115 ACRES.

Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Denise addressed Mayor and council that Mr. Hinojosa is requesting a variance to replace his carport at the previous location.

Mr. Hinojosa stated that he wants to build his car port as it was and up to city codes.

Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:26 p.m.

#9. Discuss and take action on whether to approve a setback variance request which, if approved, would allow the placement of a carport on the driveway at 448 Abazola St, Taft, Tx, with legal description LT 12 BLK 6 TAFT – 2ND HIDALGO 0.115 ACRES.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve a zero setback variance to allow the placement of a carport on the driveway at 448 Abazola St, Taft, Tx, with legal description LT 12 BLK 6 TAFT – 2ND HIDALGO 0.115 ACRES. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: F. Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#10. Consider, discuss and take action upon casting City of Taft's votes for persons to serve on the San Patricio Appraisal District Board of Directors.

Each council member voted on their sheet and then all votes were totaled.

John Curlee – 7 votes

Dr. Anne Matula – 3 votes

Dalia Sanchez – 10 votes

Billie Jo Tennill – 0 votes

Jan M. Whiteley – 5 votes

Bill T. Wilson – 1 vote

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to accept the ballot as voted by the council. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: F. Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez
Nays: None
The motion carried.

#11. Consider, discuss and take action to approve the name changing of agent of record from Heavin & Associates to Heavin, Otto & Leavitt Insurance Services, Inc.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve the name changing of agent of record from Heavin & Associates to Heavin, Otto & Leavitt Insurance Services, Inc. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: F. Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez
Nays: None
The motion carried.

#12. Consider, discuss and take action to approve the City of Taft to pay a portion of the employee's contribution to their health insurance.

Mr. Heavin addressed the cost increase the employees would encounter in covering their families.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve Item #12. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: F. Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez
Nays: None
The motion carried.

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

Mary Alice updated the Mayor and council on the city's financial condition. The revenues for the TQIC account is \$29,652.78 and for the street fund it is \$47,878.11. The current debt to Republic is \$14,042.57.

#14. Consider, discuss, and take action to make Wednesday as the official day for sanitation pickup for all residential utility accounts permanently.

Denise advised the council that this was approved on a six months trial basis.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve to make Wednesday as the official day for sanitation pickup for all residential utility accounts. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: F. Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez
Nays: None
The motion carried.

#15. Discuss installing restrooms at the Taft Memorial Park.

Denise addressed the council on this item. Mayor and council would like a plan and breakdown on costs to include all parks.

#16. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve a project to add sidewalks on the east side of Green Avenue.

Denise addressed the council on a possible sidewalk project for consideration.

Councilman Hernandez made a motion to approve a project to add sidewalks on the east side of Green Avenue from College to Park. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: F. Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#17. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve the use of funds from the Taft Economic Development Corporation for a sidewalk project on the east side of Green Avenue.

Denise explained to the Mayor and council that the Taft EDC will contribute \$15,000. The total cost of the project would be \$37,000.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve the use of funds from the Taft Economic Development Corporation for a sidewalk project on the east side of Green Avenue in the amount of \$15,000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: F. Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#18. City manager's report: FEMA Update; Insurance coverage for hurricane damage; sidewalk project update.

Denise reported that the sidewalk project would be from Park to Hwy 181.

Denise did not have much information on the insurance coverage for hurricane damage. She is waiting on the adjusters report. The adjusters have been in town looking at all the damage to city buildings and taking pictures.

Denise stated that schedule A is almost complete for FEMA review. Schedule A is for the debris removal that the city did the days following the storm. She stated that she has been working with a FEMA representative and it is a very slow process.

#19. Consider, discuss, and take action on a retention incentive for city employees.

Denise addressed Mayor and council on this item and stated that employees haven't been given a raise in 3 years. She explained that in this budget there are extra funds left over from money allocated in the salaries line item.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve a retention incentive for city employees. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: F. Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#20. Adjournment.

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: F. Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

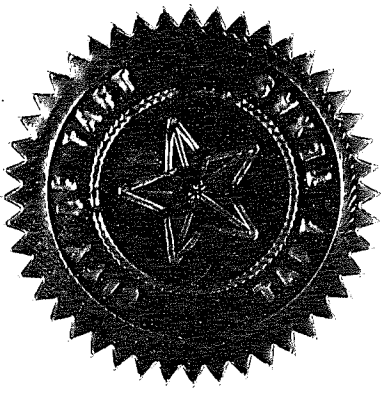
The motion carried.

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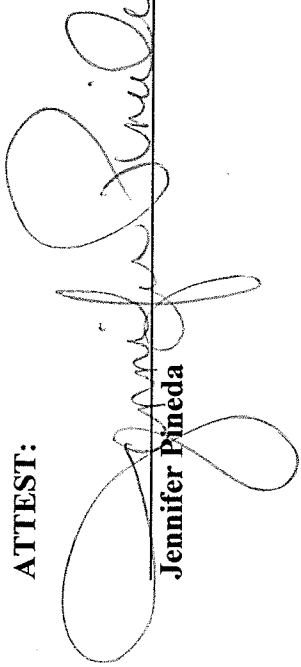


Pedro Lopez

Mayor



ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda

City Secretary

MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

On the 5th day of December, 2017, the City Council of Taft, Texas, convened in a special session at 402 Park St, at the Kiva Hut, at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present:

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

Others present: Denise Hitt, City Manager, Mary Alice Sandoval, Finance Director, and Jennifer Pineda, City Secretary.

#1. There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

#2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#3. Visitors.

Erika Hernandez, of 424 Industrial, stated that she has an issue with a police officer and wants to put in a complaint.

The council jumped to item #9.

#9. 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 is an annual ritual.

Mike Reeves, with Republic, explained that this is an annual increase that is a pass through and the rates are going up 5.04%. If the council is willing to consider an early extension then Republic will waive the increase.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to table item #9. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

The council went back to item #8.

#8. Consider, discuss and take action to approve Resolution No 604 a resolution of the City of Taft suspending the December 21, 2017 effective date of CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas South Texas Division requested rate change to permit the city time to study the request and to establish reasonable rates.

Tom Champagne explained that if the resolution is approved it would suspend the rate change for 90 days.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve Resolution No 604. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

The council went back to item #4.

#4. Consider, discuss and take action upon appointing a member of the City Council to serve as the City's Mayor Pro Tem for a term of one year pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 22.037.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to nominate Leonard Vasquez. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

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

Mary Alice updated the council on the city's finance condition. The revenues for TQIC are \$35,767.37 and the revenues for the street fund are \$46,896.94. Dalia Sanchez's office has collected 16.38% of the taxes for the city and 11.71% of the taxes in the deannexed area. The current debt to Republic is \$10,538.50

#6. Consider, discuss and take action to approve Resolution No. 602 a resolution of the City of Taft, Texas casting votes for the San Patricio County Appraisal District Board of Directors.

Denise explained that the appraisal district gave us the wrong figure on the amount of votes the city had. The city was supposed to have a total of 31 votes.

The council voted and the totals were as follows:

John Curlee – 8 votes

Dr. Anne Matula – 6 votes

Dalia Sanchez – 17 votes

Billie Jo Tennill – 0 votes

Jan M. Whiteley – 0 votes

Bill T. Wilson – 0 vote

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve Resolution No. 602. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#7. Consider, discuss and take action to approve Resolution No. 603 a resolution of the city council of the City of Taft, Texas, expressing support for the application of Taft Affordable Housing Partnership, Inc. to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for four-percent housing tax credits and tax exempt bond financing for the rehabilitation of Cottonview Terrace, an aggregate of 74 apartment units on four sites located in Taft, Texas.

Councilwoman Riojas explained the resolution to the council.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve Resolution No. 603. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Hernandez

Nays: None

Abstain: Riojas

The motion carried.

#10. Consider, discuss and act upon adjusting water rates to reflect and incorporate rate increases from the San Patricio Municipal Water District.

Denise explained that the rate from San Patricio Municipal Water District would be taking effect on January 1, 2018.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to move on the increase from the San Patricio Municipal Water District. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#11. Consider, discuss and act to approve an interlocal agreement with San Patricio County Environmental Health Department regarding regulating food establishments.

Denise explained that this is just an annual renewal.

Councilman Vasquez made a motion to approve an interlocal agreement with San Patricio County Environmental Health Department regarding regulating food establishments. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#12. Consider, discuss, and take action to approve Resolution No. 605 a resolution of the city council of the City of Taft, Texas authorizing a project of the Taft Economic Development Corporation; and, providing and effective date. (First Reading).

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve Resolution 605. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#13. Consider, discuss and take action upon the City of Taft 2018 Holiday Schedule.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve the 2018 Holiday Schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#14. Consider, discuss and take action on hosting a Fourth of July Fireworks Extravaganza.

Denise stated that Councilman Vasquez approached her and the Pride of Taft about having fireworks on July 1st. She stated that he already has bands scheduled.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to move on the city hosting a Fourth of July Fireworks Extravaganza with the requirement of researching all the liabilities and legal advice. The motion

was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#15. Consider, discuss and take action to allow use of fireworks within the city limits by the Fireworks Extravaganza committee.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to allow the use of fireworks within the city limits by the Fireworks Extravaganza committee at the Taft Little League on July 1, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#16. Status update on 518 Field Ave.

Jennifer gave an update to the council on this item. She showed them pictures of before and after with the progress that has been made.

#17. Consider, discuss and take action to approve the City of Taft to pay the difference in cost of the employee's contribution to their employee/spouse or employee/child health insurance.

Denise explained that the motion was not made correctly.

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to approve the City of Taft to pay the difference in cost of the employee's contribution to their employee/spouse or employee/child health insurance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hernandez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#18. Consider, discuss and take action on possible agreement with trustees holding the Charter for the Boys Scouts and Cub Scouts for the use of the Scout Hut located on Park Street in Taft, Texas.

After some discussion Councilman Vasquez made a motion to table this item. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Riojas.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

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

Councilwoman Riojas made a motion to review the rfqs presented to us at the January meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vasquez.

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

#20. Executive Session: Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.074 (entitled "Personnel Matters") City Council will convene in closed session to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal and/or to hear a complaint or charge of John D. Cornish.

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

The council entered into executive session at 8:52 p.m.

#21. Reconvene into Regular Session for deliberation, consideration and any required action, including any necessary resolutions, on any item(s) discussed in Executive Session.

The council reconvened into regular session at 9:30 p.m.

There was no action on this item.

#22. Adjournment.

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Rodriguez, Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT

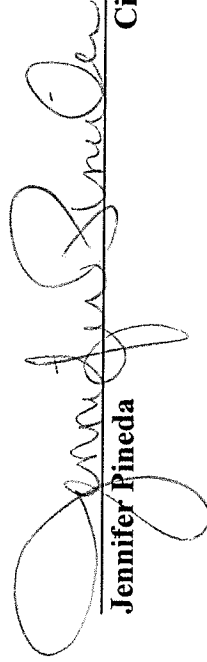


Pedro Lopez

Mayor



ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda

City Secretary

MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

On the 15th day of December, 2017, the City Council of Taft, Texas, convened in a special session at 402 Park St, at the Kiva Hut, at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Pedro "Pete" Lopez	Mayor
Leonard Vasquez	Mayor Pro-tem
Felipe Rodriguez, III	Absent
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 6:03 p.m.

#2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Riojas led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

#3. Executive session: Pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, the City of Taft will consult in closed session with its attorney to receive legal advice regarding pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with this chapter, to include the following matters:

a. Process pursuant to the adopted ordinances of the City of Taft for filling the vacancy of Chief of the Taft Police Department.

Pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, the City of Taft will meet in closed session to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

a. The vacant position of Chief of the Taft Police Department

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Rodriguez

The motion carried.

The council entered into executive session at 6:06 p.m.

#4. Reconvene into Regular Session for deliberation, consideration and any required action, including any necessary resolutions, on any item(s) discussed in Executive Session.

The council reconvened into regular session.

There was no action taken on this item.

#5. Adjournment.

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

The following votes were polled:

Ayes: Vasquez, Mayor, Riojas, Hernandez

Nays: None

Absent: Rodriguez

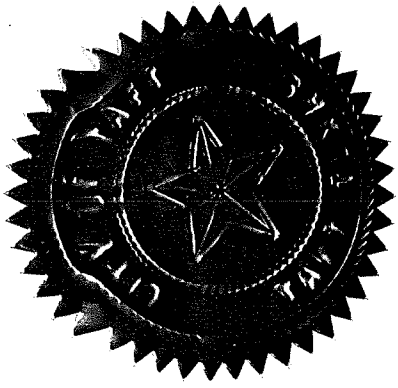
The motion carried.

CITY OF TAFT

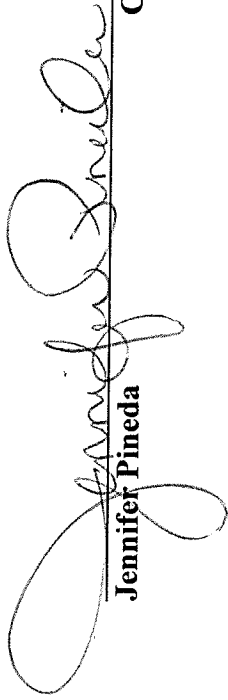


Pedro Lopez

Mayor



ATTEST:



Jennifer Pineda

City Secretary