MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

On the 14th day of May 2024, the City Council of Taft, Texas, convened for a regular meeting at 230 Green Avenue, Taft, Texas, Taft City Hall at 6:30 P.M.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

There being a quorum, Mayor Vasquez called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

2. CALL ROLL AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM IS PRESENT

Councilman Molina		☐ absent
Councilman Garza		☐ absent
Mayor Pro-tem Keeney	☑ present	☐ absent
Mayor Vasquez	✓ present	☐ absent

Others Present: Andrea Gomez, Kandi Hubert, others present listed on sign in sheet

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Garza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PRAYER

Rev. Steve Boettcher led the prayer.

5. PRESENTATION: GULF COAST GROWTH VENTURES

Paul Fritz presented information regarding Gulf Coast Growth Ventures. Mr. Fritz discussed the progress of the plant along with sponsoring the Taft High School girls for women in the industry conference. Mr. Fritz informed the public that health and safety are an important part of the industry as well.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. <u>CITY SECRETARY REPORT</u>

Approval of Minutes for 04/23/2024 Regular council meeting.

Councilman Keeney moved to approve the minutes for the 04/23/2024 Regular council meeting, the motion was seconded.

The following Votes were polle	ed:			
Councilman Molina	☑ for	□ against	□ abstain	☐ absent
Councilman Garza		□ against		
Mayor Pro-tem Keeney		□ against		
Mayor Vasquez		☐ against		
The motion carried.		5		

B. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Kandi Hubert stated the Public Works Director David Furzer was not available.

C. COURT REPORT

Ricardo Medina informed the council the report was printed and placed in council boxes for review. Councilman Keeney inquired if that report was the total for the month of April, Mr. Medina confirmed.

D. LIBRARY REPORT

Librarian Georgina Silvas reported to the Council that the extended hours of operation will begin sometime in June. Ms. Silvas also announced the book sale will take place in June.

E. <u>CITY MANAGER REPORT</u>

Kandi Hubert announced the training session for the 4A and 4B EDC committees will take place on Thursday May 16, 2024 at 6:30 p.m, and she invited the public to attend. Ms. Hubert also announced the Planning and Zoning meeting will be held the same day in the back room. Both meetings will take place simultaneously.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS.

- 1) Maria Garcia requested to speak regarding the Annexation. Ms. Garcia expressed she lives on Escobedo Road and is concerned of the rise in traffic that will take place if the annexation takes place.
- 2) Jason Keeney stated he is looking for the direction of Taft. Mr. Keeney stated that the Council has the choice to decide what direction Taft will go.
- 3) Rebecca McCarty stated her mother is Robbin McCarty. Rebecca McCarty stated her mother was kicked off of the TQIC board.
- 8. <u>DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING ADOLFO APARICIO'S REQUEST FOR ANNEXATION.</u>
- 9. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING ADOLFO APARICIO'S REQUEST FOR ANNEXATION
- 10. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION'S REQUEST TO PURCHASE APARICIO'S 2.21 TRACT OF LAND LOCATED OFF ABAZOLA FOR \$79,560 PLUS CLOSING COSTS.

Public Hearing Opened at 7:00 p.m.

David Smith board president for the Taft Economic Development Corporation presented these items numbered 8 through 10 combined. Mr. Smith stated that Mr. Adolfo Aparicio has requested volunteered annexation for his 2.21 acres of property with the City of Taft. Mr. Smith explained the sequence of events that are to take place if the Council approves the annexation and answered any questions that were brought to his attention. Mr. Smith also showed the Council and the public a video image of what is to take place if the annexation is approved.

Public Hearing Closed at 7:34 p.m.

Councilman Keeney moved to approved Adolfo Aparicio's request for annexation on the 2.21 land located off of Abazola, the motion was seconded.

tion was	seconded.		
ed:			
☑ for	□ against	□ abstain	□ absent
	J		
	ed: If for If for If for If for	✓ for ☐ against ☐ for ☐ against ☐ for ☐ against	

11. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO PURCHASE 200 WATER METERS (150 CURRENTLY NEEDED).

Ryan Smith stated he had presented the Council with documents explaining the quotes on the necessary meters. Mr. Smith informed the Council that these new meters will be more efficient for the residents and the staff as they will no longer have to manually read those new meters.

Councilman Garza motioned to approve the purchase of the 200 water meters for the City of Taft for the cost of \$73,000, the motion was seconded.

The following Votes were poll Councilman Molina Councilman Garza Mayor Pro-tem Keeney Mayor Vasquez The motion carried.	☑ for ☑ for	□ against □ against □ against □ against	□ abstain	☐ absent ☐ absent
12. DISCUSS, CONSIDER A RESIGNATION FROM THI				O ACCEPT ROBBIN MCCARTY'S
Councilman Keeney moved to was seconded.	accept N	Is. McCarty	's resignation	on from the 4A board of TQIC, the motion
The following Votes were pollocouncilman Molina Councilman Garza Mayor Pro-tem Keeney Mayor Vasquez The motion carried.	☑ for ☑ for ☑ for	☐ against☐	□ abstain □ abstain	☐ absent ☐ absent
	ND NE	CESSARY.	ACTION T	O APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE 4A
Councilman Garza asked Mr. I both individuals responded yes	Espinosa	and Searcy	if they woul	fanuel Espinosa and Glen Searcy. d like to be reinstated back to the board, Glen Searcy, the motion was seconded.
The following Votes were pollo Councilman Molina Councilman Garza Mayor Pro-tem Keeney Mayor Vasquez The motion carried.	☑ for ☑ for	□ against □ against		☐ absent ☐ absent
A second motion was made reg	garding i	tem number	13 and goes	s as follows.
Councilman Keeney moved to seconded.	table the	remaining i	nominations	for the 4A board TQIC, the motion was
The following Votes were pollo Councilman Molina Councilman Garza Mayor Pro-tem Keeney Mayor Vasquez The motion carried. The 2nd	☑ for ☑ for ☑ for ☑ for	□ against □ against □ against	□ abstain □ abstain □ abstain □ abstain	☐ absent ☐ absent

14. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO UPDATE THE SIGNATORIES AND NAMES ON THE TOIC BANK ACCOUNT.

After further discussion and explanation that there is not a complete board, the Council decided it was best to remove all signatories on the TQIC bank account until there is a complete board.

Councilman Keeney moved to remove all the signatories from TQIC until further consideration, the motion was seconded.

The following Votes were polle	ed:		
Councilman Molina		☐ against	□ abstain □ absent
Councilman Garza			□ abstain □ absent
Mayor Pro-tem Keeney			□ abstain □ absent
Mayor Vasquez	☑ for		□ abstain □ absent
The motion carried.		Ü	
			ACTION TO ALLOW THE CITY'S PUBLIC
) AID 4	B (EDC) IN	CLEANING THEIR PROPERTY LOCATED
ON TOLAND ROAD.			
David Smith stated that the ED	C has al	located fund	s to have the Toland Road property cleaned. The
			r. Smith stated he would like to contract with the City
			to pay the City for the use of the dump truck that is
			dump site such as concrete and tires.
Councilmon Garzo motioned to	allam, 41	a City Dubl	is assemble department to sid the AD EDC in the alcounts
of their property located on Tol			ic works department to aid the 4B EDC in the cleaning
of their property located on Tor	anu Koa	a, me mono	m was seconded.
The following Votes were polle	ed:		
Councilman Molina	☑ for	□ against	□ abstain □ absent
Councilman Garza		U	□ abstain □ absent
Mayor Pro-tem Keeney			□ abstain □ absent
Mayor Vasquez	☑ for	_	□ abstain □ absent
The motion carried.	_ 101	L against	L dobali L dobeli
16. DISCUSS, CONSIDER A	ND NE	CESSARY A	ACTION TO APPOINT MAXINE BOWEN TO
THE CHENIERE COMMUN			
Maxine Bowen stated that she v	vould lik	ke to be mor	e involved.
Councilman Keeney moved to	appoint l	Maxine Bow	ven to the Cheniere Community Advisory Committee,
the motion was seconded.			
The fellowing XI.	1		
The following Votes were polle	a:		
Councilman Molina			
Councilman Garza	☑ for		□ abstain □ absent
Mayor Pro-tem Keeney	☑ for		□ abstain □ absent
Mayor Vasquez	☑ for	⊔ against	□ abstain □ absent
The motion carried.	ATEN WYW" :	TT00 : TT	CONTON DE CARRESTO DE CARRON DE CARR
LEACHE CONTRA CT	ND NE	JESSARY A	ACTION REGARDING THE 2024 LITTLE
LEAGUE CONTRACT.			
Councilman Keeney inquired if	there w	as a current	signed contract with the Little League. Kandi Hubert

Councilman Keeney moved to table item number 17 to a later date, the motion was seconded.

The following Votes were polled:

stated there was not one at this time.

Councilman Molina Councilman Garza	☑ for □ ag	ainst □ abstain ainst □ abstain	☐ absent
Mayor Pro-tem Keeney Mayor Vasquez		ainst □ abstain ainst □ abstain	
The motion carried. The item		amst 🗀 aostam	Li absent
18. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AN REGARDING ON CALL TIM			TO AMEND PERSONNEL POLICY
	time. Counci	lman Garza inqu	sonnel Policy for review showing the ired if this updated policy would be proval today.
Councilman Garza motioned to motion was seconded.	approve the po	ersonnel policy re	egarding on call time/compensation, the
The following Votes were polle Councilman Molina Councilman Garza Mayor Pro-tem Keeney Mayor Vasquez The motion carried.	✓ for □ ag ✓ for □ ag ✓ for □ ag	ainst □ abstain ainst □ abstain ainst □ abstain ainst □ abstain	☐ absent ☐ absent
			O REAPPOINT RUDY MIRABAL, NNING AND ZONING BOARD FOR A
Councilman Keeney moved to r and Zoning board for a 2 year te			Nino and Jose Hernandez to the Planning
The following Votes were polle Councilman Molina Councilman Garza Mayor Pro-tem Keeney Mayor Vasquez The motion carried.	 ✓ for □ ag ✓ for □ ag ✓ for □ ag 	ainst □ abstain ainst □ abstain ainst □ abstain ainst □ abstain	☐ absent ☐ absent
20. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AN QUOTES / REPAIRS.	ND NECESSA	ARY ACTION F	REGARDING SWIMMING POOL
Ryan Smith informed the Counciside, this item is to discuss the id			that was given was a little on the higher bids.
Councilman Keeney moved to a swimming pool, the motion was	llow the City seconded.	Manager to conti	nue to gather quotes for the repairs of the
The following Votes were polled Councilman Molina Councilman Garza Mayor Pro-tem Keeney Mayor Vasquez The motion carried.	☑ for ☐ ag	ainst □ abstain ainst □ abstain ainst □ abstain ainst □ abstain	☐ absent ☐ absent ☐ absent
21. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AN	JD NECESSA	RY ACTION F	PECARDING PAINT COLORS FOR

THE OUTBUILDINGS AT THE POOL (RECEPTION AND EQUIPMENT STORAGE).

Ryan Smith informed the Council there is currently graffiti on the walls of the city's pool. To maintain the appearance and integrity it will be necessary to repaint the structure.

storage area), the motion was se	econded	•		
The following Votes were polle Councilman Molina Councilman Garza Mayor Pro-tem Keeney Mayor Vasquez The motion carried.	☑ for ☑ for ☑ for	☐ against☐ against☐ against☐ against☐ against☐	□ abstain □ abstain	☐ absent ☐ absent
22. DISCUSS, CONSIDER A POOLS AND PARKS.	ND NE	CESSARY A	ACTION R	EGARDING THE NAMING OF THE
Kandi Hubert stated what the C	ity woul	ld like to do	is try to sell	the name of the pool to try to offset the
Councilman Keeney moved to a offset the cost of the pool and in				gotiations with surrounding businesses to the motion was seconded.
The following Votes were polle Councilman Molina Councilman Garza Mayor Pro-tem Keeney Mayor Vasquez The motion carried.	☑ for ☑ for ☑ for	☐ against☐	□ abstain □ abstain	☐ absent ☐ absent
(ESTABLISHING A REVISI	ED SCH E #1103-	EDULE FO	R WATE	O AMEND ORDINANCE 1096 R AND WASTEWATER SERVICES) HE WATER AND WASTE WATER
	p offset	the water an	d waste wat	water and waste water rates had been given ter charges. The City has been charging ill stay the same.
Councilman Keeney moved to a was seconded.	amend C	Ordinance #1	096 by app	roving Ordinance # 1103-2024, the motion
The following Votes were polle Councilman Molina Councilman Garza Mayor Pro-tem Keeney Mayor Vasquez The motion carried.	☑ for ☑ for ☑ for	□ against □ against □ against □ against □ against	□ abstain □ abstain	☐ absent ☐ absent
				EGARDING AN APPLICATION FOR DNVENIENCE AND NECESSITY).

Councilman Garza motioned to approve the painting of the out buildings of the pool (reception and

Ryan Smith stated that the public utility commission issues a CCN granting a utility geographic monopoly for providing utility service. At this time the city has not applied for this designation and it would be prudent to do so as it will protect the city.

Councilman Keeney moved to approve the application for a CCN for water services for the City, the motion was seconded.

The following Votes were polled:

Councilman Molina Councilman Garza Mayor Pro-tem Keeney Mayor Vasquez The motion carried.	☐ for ☐ against ☐ abstain ☐ absent ☐ abstain ☐ absent
	AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING THE GEAR GRANT IENT SPONSORED BY THE TEXAS FOREST SERVICE.
Ryan Smith informed the Cou	ncil the Gear Grant from the Texas Forrest Service will help will cost chasing new hear for the Taft Volunteer Fire Dept. The city's total cost will
Councilman Garza motioned to Department, the motion was se	o approve item number 25 regarding the Gear Grant for the Fire econded.
The following Votes were poll Councilman Molina Councilman Garza Mayor Pro-tem Keeney Mayor Vasquez The motion carried.	☑ for ☐ against ☐ abstain ☐ absent ☑ for ☐ against ☐ abstain ☐ absent
26. DISCUSS, CONSIDER A	AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING THE POLICY FOR
acknowledgment states that an terminating their services. Rya	olicy for city issued devices will be added to the Personnel Policy. This may issued electronic devices or keys are to be returned to the City prior to an Smith included that due to the public information act this also ensures and in are intact so that any information may be properly removed from the
Councilman Garza motioned to	o approve item number 26, the motion was seconded.
The following Votes were poll Councilman Molina Councilman Garza Mayor Pro-tem Keeney Mayor Vasquez The motion carried.	led: ☑ for ☐ against ☐ abstain ☐ absent
	AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING ADDING A
Ryan Smith stated a confidenti	ial clause of personnel policy is to establish a policy that there are certain in information. This is to make sure the employees understand that thin City Hall.
Councilman Keeney moved to Taft, the motion was seconded	adopt the new confidentiality agreement for employees with the City of
The following Votes were poll Councilman Molina Councilman Garza Mayor Pro-tem Keeney Mayor Vasquez	led: ☑ for ☐ against ☐ abstain ☐ absent

The motion carried.

28. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO SET A BUDGET WORKSHOP.

Kandi Hubert asked the Council as a whole what day would be best to hold a Budget workshop. The Council decided 6:30 on 5/21/2024.

Councilman Keeney moved to set a budget workshop for Tuesday 5/21/24 at 6:30 p.m., the motion was seconded

seconded.
The following Votes were polled: Councilman Molina
29. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING AN UPDATE ON THE ATTORNEY GENERALS REPORT.
Kandi Hubert stated there have been no updates at this time from the City Attorney or the Police Chief regarding an update on the attorney general opinion. Councilman Molina reminded Council that the city's inquiries have been ongoing for 7 months.
Councilman Keeney moved to table item number 29 until a later date, the motion was seconded.
The following Votes were polled: Councilman Molina
EXECUTIVE SESSION:
30. CLOSED SESSION: City Council will meet in Closed session pursuant to the provisions of Chapte 551 of the Texas Government Code, in accordance with the authority contained in:
Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters) and Section 551.071 (Advice of Counsel) and Section 1.05 (Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct):
 To deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment of duties discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear a complaint or charge against officer or employee
 INTERNAL EMPLOYEE INVESTIGATION (551.074 (a)) POLICE CHIEF – JOHN LANDRETH (551.074 (a)) MAYOR – LEONARD VASQUEZ (551.071 (a)) PENDING LITIGATION
Mayor Vasquez announced that he and Chief John Landreth have requested their items be held in open session.
Councilman Keeney motioned to move into closed session, the motion was seconded.
The following Votes were polled: Councilman Molina

Councilman Garza Mayor Pro-tem Keeney Mayor Vasquez The motion carried. The Council moved into Exc	☑ for □ ☑ for □	against against	□ abstain □ abstain □ abstain □ abstain	□ absent
	City Council v	will recon	vene in Ope	en Session at which time action on the
				on 551,071 (Advice of Counsel) and fessional Conduct):
disci		issal of a	public offic	ment, evaluation, reassignment of duties, cer or employee or to hear a complaint or
	o (551.074 (551.074 ((a)) POLICI (a)) MAYO	OYEE INVESTIGATION EE CHIEF – JOHN LANDRETH OR – LEONARD VASQUEZ ING LITIGATION
The Council Reconvened Se	ssion at 9:21	pm.		
	YEE INVES NG LITIGAT R – LEONA E CHIEF – JO	ΓΙΟΝ: No RD VASO DHN LAI	Action Tal QUEZ: No A NDRETH (6	ken Action Taken Open Session): No Action Taken
Councilman Molina suggested due to his position being place				ecord. The roll call to include John Landret roll was called:
Councilman Molina Councilman Garza Mayor Pro-tem Keen Mayor Vasquez Chief John Landreth	ey 🗸	present present present present present present present present	□ abs □ abs □ abs □ abs	sent sent sent
Councilman Molina motioned	to table this	item due	Chief Land	dreth's absence, the motion was seconded.
The following Votes were por Councilman Molina Councilman Garza Mayor Pro-tem Keeney Mayor Vasquez The motion carried. The ite	☑ for ☐ ☐ for ☐ ☑ for ☐ ☑ for ☐	l against l against l against	□ abstain □ abstain □ abstain □ abstain	□ absent □ absent

32. COUNCIL AND STAFF COMMENTS: COMMENTS MAYBE MADE BY STAFF OR COUNCIL BUT NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

Kandi Hubert reminded the Council and public of Thursdays EDC training at 6:30 p.m.

33. ITEMS TO CONSIDER FOR PLACEMENT ON FUTURE AGENDAS

Councilman Keeney – Would like to look into the school zone sign on Davis Road. The sign on the North end is un-operational and would like to get it fixed.

34. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST AND/OR UPCOMING EVENTS

Councilman Keeney announced an invitation to the upcoming Budget Workshop and invited the public to show up for everything.

Councilman Garza agreed with Councilman Keeney to show up for future workshops and meetings.

20. ADJOURN – TIME 9:35 P.M.

A Tritage Core.

Andrea Gomez,

City Secretary