

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

On the 25th day of June 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Pro-tem Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

Others Present: Ryan Smith, Andrea Gomez, others present listed on sign in sheet

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Garza led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Vasquez led the Texas Pledge.

4. PRAYER

Councilman Garza led the prayer.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

6. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE CITY OF TAFT POOL.

Ryan Smith informed the Council there are no current updates other than waiting for a reasonable quote to replace the pumps needed for the pool.

No action was taken.

7. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING AN UPDATE FROM THE GRANT CONSULTANTS.

Grantworks	Downtown Revitalization
Traylor and Associates	MIT-MOD Grant

Ryan Smith informed the Council that the representative from Grantworks was not available for the meeting, and an email with an update was provided for review.

Justin Meyer with Traylor and Associates appeared before the Council. Mr. Meyer discussed the updates and continued steps needed to be taken regarding the MIT-MOD grant. Mr. Meyer also informed the Council of possible funding opportunities that may arise.

No action was taken.

8. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO CREATE A COMMITTEE FOR THE DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECT.

Ryan Smith suggested in creating a committee to help decide the funding priorities. Mr. Smith also suggested having an odd number of members who would consist of residents, council members and the EDC.

Councilman Garza motioned to table item number eight, the motion was seconded.

The following Votes were polled:

Councilman Molina for against abstain absent
Councilman Garza for against abstain absent
Mayor Pro-tem Keeney for against abstain absent
Mayor Vasquez for against abstain absent

The motion carried. The item was tabled.

9. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO GET POWER TO THE SIREN AT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Ryan Smith informed the Council that there is a siren already at the Fire Department, the only items needed are the purchase of the wires.

No action was taken.

10. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO CREATE ORDINANCE #240625-01 REGARDING THE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL BINS.

Ryan Smith presented an Ordinance regarding the solid waste disposal bins. This Ordinance would include the placement of the bins (placing out at 7am on trash day and brought back in by 7am the following day).

Councilman Garza motioned to approve Ordinance #240625-01 regarding the solid waste disposal bins, the motion was seconded.

The following Votes were polled:

Councilman Molina for against abstain absent
Councilman Garza for against abstain absent
Mayor Pro-tem Keeney for against abstain absent
Mayor Vasquez for against abstain absent

The motion carried.

11. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO REPLACE THE SWING AT THE PARK ON GREEN AVE.

Councilman Molina inquired if there were any types of funds that could be used to purchase swings for the children. Councilman Keeney suggested placing sidewalks and lighting around the City Park also.

No action was taken.

12. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO INSTALL LIGHTS AT THE WATER TOWER.

Councilman Molina stated he would like to see the water tower lit up with some color to stand out. Mr. Molina suggested placing green lighting.

No action was taken.

13. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING A CLEAN UP.

Councilman Molina stated he would like to possibly have an overall clean up for the community.

Councilman Molina motioned to table item number 13 regarding the cleanup until details are established, the motion was seconded.

The following Votes were polled:

Councilman Molina for against abstain absent
Councilman Garza for against abstain absent
Mayor Pro-tem Keeney for against abstain absent
Mayor Vasquez for against abstain absent

The motion carried. The item was tabled.

14. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING AN UPDATE ON THE FEDERAL COURT ORDER FROM THE 1989 LAWSUIT FINDINGS.

Ryan Smith informed the Council this failed to be sent for an Attorney General opinion. Mr. Smith plans to meet with the new City Attorney Mr. Gwosdz to decide what direction he would like to move in regarding this matter.

No action was taken.

15. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO FILL THE VACANT SEAT FOR WARD ONE.

Councilman Molina motioned to table item number 15 to fill the vacant seat for ward one, the motion was seconded.

The following Votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Pro-tem Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried. The item was tabled.

16. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO SET A DATE FOR A BUDGET WORKSHOP.

Mayor Vasquez suggested that Ryan Smith look over the calendar to establish a date where all members would be available.

No action was taken.

17. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION ON CREATING A CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE TO REVIEW PROJECTS, PRIORITIZE, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL AND STAFF FOR EACH BUDGET YEAR.

Ryan Smith stated this is to help alleviate the fine details of what items to be prioritized. This input would include suggestions from the citizens who would be a part of this committee.

Councilman Molina motioned to create a capital projects committee to review projects, prioritize and make recommendations to council and staff for each budget year, the motion was seconded.

The following Votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Pro-tem Keeney	<input type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried.

18. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION ON PURCHASING A NEW TIME KEEPING SYSTEM.

Ryan Smith provided the Council with a quote of three (3) new time clocks. One (1) for city hall, one (1) for public works, and one (1) for the police department. These new clocks would require a badge for each employee to carry which would assist in clocking in and out.

Councilman Garza moved to purchase the swipe clock time keeping system with a one time charge of \$3550.00, the motion was seconded.

The following Votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Pro-tem Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

Mayor Vasquez for against abstain absent

The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

19. CLOSED SESSION: City Council will meet in Closed session pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, in accordance with the authority contained in:

- Section 551.071 (Advice of Counsel) and Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters): to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee:

- INTERIM CITY MANAGER POSITION

Councilman Garza motioned to move into Executive Session, the motion was seconded.

The following Votes were polled:

Councilman Molina for against abstain absent

Councilman Garza for against abstain absent

Mayor Pro-tem Keeney for against abstain absent

Mayor Vasquez for against abstain absent

The motion carried.

The Council moved into Executive Session at 7:24 pm.

20. Open Session: The City Council will reconvene in Open Session at which time action on the matter(s) discussed in Closed Session may be considered.

- Section 551.071 (Advice of Counsel) and Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters): to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee:

- INTERIM CITY MANAGER POSITION

Councilman Garza motioned to move into Open Session, the motion was seconded

The Council Reconvened Session at 7:42 pm.

Matters of Executive Session:

The Council announced:

- INTERIM CITY MANAGER POSITION:

Councilman Keeney moved to name Ryan Smith as Interim City Manager, the motion was seconded.

The following Votes were polled:

Councilman Molina for against abstain absent

Councilman Garza for against abstain absent

Mayor Pro-tem Keeney for against abstain absent

Mayor Vasquez for against abstain absent

The motion carried.

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

Councilman Molina stated there was a vehicle driving at least 50/60 miles down Retama Ave. that is not a place for race cars.

Councilman Garza stated interim means temporary.

22. ITEMS TO CONSIDER FOR PLACEMENT ON FUTURE AGENDAS

Councilman Molina – Policy for comp. time & Policy for on call time.

Councilman Garza – City Manager Interview with Shawna Burkhart & a Code Enforcement Report/Update.

Councilman Keeney – Update on the recyclable container and pad.

Mayor Vasquez – School zone or speed sign on root street.

23. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST AND/OR UPCOMING EVENTS

Ryan Smith announced the Movie in the Park happening on the dates of July 6th, July 13th, July 20th and August 3rd. The movie begins at 7:30 pm any events can take place prior.

Councilman Molina – suggested placing flags out downtown for the 4th of July.

24. ADJOURN – TIME 7:52 P.M.

Councilman Garza motioned to Adjourn, the motion was seconded.

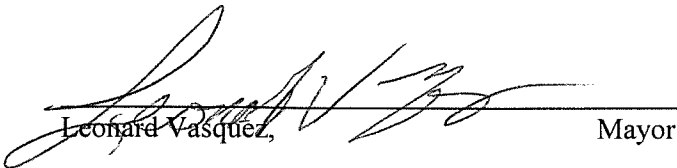
The following Votes were polled:

Councilman Molina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Councilman Garza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Pro-tem Keeney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Mayor Vasquez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for	<input type="checkbox"/> against	<input type="checkbox"/> abstain	<input type="checkbox"/> absent

The motion carried.

Passed and Approved this 16th day of July, 2024.

CITY OF TAFT


Leonard Vasquez, Mayor

ATTEST:


Andrea Gomez, City Secretary