

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

On the 2nd day of July 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 and the Pledge to the Texas Flag.

4. PRAYER

Rev. Steve Boetcher led the prayer.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- 1) Rey Reyes appeared before the Council to speak about the City Parks and the sidewalks.
- 2) Laura McKinney appeared before the Council to speak about the wifi issue at the City of Taft Library.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Code Enforcer Jerry Martin provided the Council with a packet of information to help explain the presented report. Mr. Martin informed the Council that five (5) liens have been placed on properties, three (3) liens pending.

7. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH THE GWOSDZ LAW FIRM.

Attorney Thomas Gwosdz introduced himself to the Council and explained his background. Mr. Gwosdz is currently the City Attorney in Aransas Pass, Taft and interim for Goliad. The only change to the amended contract was to include Municipal Prosecution services.

Councilman Garza motioned to approve the amended engagement letter with the Gwosdz law firm, 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.

8. ADMINISTER THE OATH OF OFFICE FOR THOMAS GWOSDZ ATTORNEY AT LAW.

Mr. Gwosdz’s oath of office was previously administered and a copy was provided to the City Secretary.
No Action taken.

9. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO AMEND THE PERSONNEL POLICY REGARDING ON CALL TIME.

Ryan Smith informed the Council that the only change on the policy was to add the word “day”. Per weekend “day” there usually is only one (1) water/sewer operator and one (1) equipment operator. This policy is specifically for the public works department.

Councilman Keeney motioned to amend the personnel policy for public works, 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.

10. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING THE CITY OF TAFT COMP. TIME POLICY.

Ryan Smith informed the Council that the City currently does not have a comp. time policy. Councilman Molina reminded the council that this item had been previously tabled in February, yet an employee was paid at the end of February for the requested comp. time. Mayor Vasquez suggested to table the item so that the city attorney Mr. Gwosdz may review the audio from executive session regarding the employee and the comp. time discussion.

Councilman Garza motioned to table item #10, 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.

11. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE TML INTERGOVERNMENTAL RISK POOL.

Ryan Smith informed the Council a list of names was provided to choose from for the board, the list was handed to the Council for review.

Councilman Garza motioned to table item #11, 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.

12. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING THE CITY OF TAFT SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY.

Ryan Smith informed the Council of the social media policy in place. Councilman Garza stated he does not think it becoming of a city employee to be commenting or answering City business from personal facebook pages.

No action was taken.

13. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO HIRE A THIRD PARTY AGENCY TO VET AND COORDINATE CITY MANAGER INTERVIEWS.

Councilman Garza stated that there are neutral third party agencies available to assist in the process of hiring to avoid any conflict of interest. Councilman Molina stated the applications should be sent to the City Secretary instead of the interim City Manager to avoid any extra costs.

No action was taken.

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

Councilman Molina would like this item posted on social media to try to bring more community involvement.

Councilman Keeney motioned to table item #14, the motion was seconded.

The following Votes were polled:

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|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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.

15. UPDATE REGARDING THE CONTAINER AND PAD FOR THE RECYCLING STATION.

Ryan Smith informed the Council of the updates regarding the Recycling station.

No action was taken.

16. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING APPOINTMENTS TO THE CAPITAL IMPORVEMENTS COMMITTEE.

Ryan Smith reminded the Council that this matter was discussed last meeting. Mr. Smith suggested to create a committee with citizens involvement.

Councilman Garza motioned to table item #16, the motion was seconded.

The following Votes were polled:

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|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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.

17. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING SCHOOL ZONE SIGNS ON ROOTS AVE AND MEYER STREET.

Mayor Vasquez informed the Council that this was brought to his attention by residents. Sgt. Easley informed the Council that Taft ISD are the ones who set the school zones. Mayor Vasquez requested that Sgt. Easley get in contact with the ISD to coordinate the signs being placed.

No action was taken.

18. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO APPOINT MAXINE BOWEN AS AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE BETWEEN THE CITY OF TAFT AND THE SAN PATRICIO COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Maxine Bowen addressed the Council by giving some of her background information and experience.

Councilman Keeney moved to appoint Maxine Bowen as an authorized representative between the City of Taft and the San Patricio County Emergency Management, the motion was seconded.

The following Votes were polled:

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|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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.

19. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO CREATE A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A POLICY REQUIRING MULTIPLE QUOTES AND APPROVAL FOR VENDORS SELECTION WHEN THERE IS A CONNECTION TO A CITY EMPLOYEE.

Ryan Smith informed the Council this policy would help protect the City due to possible conflicts of interest. Attorney Thomas Gwosz also informed the Council of an added definition for clarification.

Councilman Keeney moved to adopt the policy requiring multiple quotes and approval for vendor selection when there is a connection to a city employee as per the changes made by the City Attorney, the motion was seconded.

The following Votes were polled:

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|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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.

20. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND NECESSARY ACTION TO CLOSE THE DRIVE THRU AT CITY HALL JULY 11TH (THURSDAY) AND JULY 12TH (FRIDAY) TO ALLOW PUBLIC WORKS TO PLACE SEWAGE/WASTE WATER PIPING.

Ryan Smith informed the Council of the issues with the sewer line at City Hall. In order to reach the pipes digging is necessary which would cause the drive thru to be closed.

Councilman Garza motioned to close the drive thru at City Hall for the dates of July 11th and 12th 2024 to allow public works to replace the pipes, the motion was seconded.

The following Votes were polled:

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|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

21. 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 551.074* (Personnel Matters) 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
 - CITY MANAGER INTERVIEW – Shawna Burkhart
- Texas Government Code § 551.071, consultation with attorney on matter involving pending or contemplated litigation or other 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 the Texas Open Meetings Act.
 - THOMAS A. GWOSDZ, City Attorney

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

The following Votes were polled:

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|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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 Council moved into Executive Session at 7:36 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 551.074* (Personnel Matters) 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
 - CITY MANAGER INTERVIEW – Shawna Burkhart
- Texas Government Code § 551.071, consultation with attorney on matter involving pending or contemplated litigation or other 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 the Texas Open Meetings Act.
 - THOMAS A. GWOSDZ, City Attorney

Councilman Garza motioned to move into Open Session, 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 Council Reconvened Session at 8:12 pm.

Matters of Executive Session:

The Council announced:

- *Section 551.074* (Personnel Matters) 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

- CITY MANAGER INTERVIEW – Shawna Burkhart

No action taken.

- Texas Government Code § 551.071, consultation with attorney on matter involving pending or contemplated litigation or other 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 the Texas Open Meetings Act.

- THOMAS A. GWOSDZ, City Attorney

No action taken.

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

Councilman Molina stated he was eager to see the flags placed, he is available to help.

Councilman Keeney asked Ryan to make sure wifi was available at the public library.

Councilman Keeney also addressed the new format of the water bills, Ryan informed him they have already been printed and will now be on a paper bill format.

22. ITEMS TO CONSIDER FOR PLACEMENT ON FUTURE AGENDAS

Councilman Molina – Would like to see the 911 addressing agent filled.

23. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST AND/OR UPCOMING EVENTS

Ryan Smith announced the Movie in the Park for the upcoming 3 weeks.

Rev. Steve Boetcher reminded the public of the Blessing box.

Councilman Keeney announced that Thursday is the 4th of July.

Maxine Bowen announced she would like to be apart of any upcoming National Night Out events.

24. ADJOURN – TIME 8:19 P.M.

Councilman Garza motioned to Adjourn, the motion was seconded.

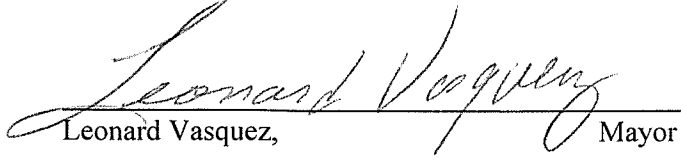
The following Votes were polled:

| | | | | |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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 |

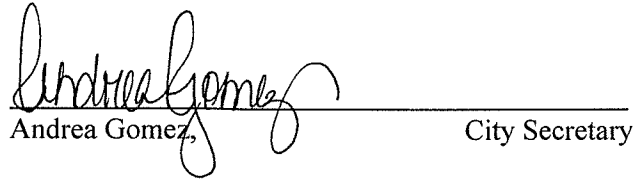
The motion carried.

Passed and Approved this 10th day of August, 20 24.

CITY OF TAFT


Leonard Vasquez, Mayor

ATTEST:


Andrea Gomez, City Secretary