

History of the Taft City Council

There have been 96 different people who have served on the Taft City Council/Board of Trustees since the first board was formed on November 7, 1910. Eight (8) of these have served two different times: Glenn Black, John Duffy, Archie Kidd, Phil Kirkpatrick, Ted Peahl, John Perryman, James Wilson and Ron Waldrop

The longest time served was 21 years by William O. Erickson (1951 – 1972). William Finley served 20 years (1926 – 1946). 16 people served more than two terms. The shortest time of service was 34 days by John Gates in 1922. 11 served less than a year and 40 served less than one four-year term. The most volatile period was the 1920's when 21 different people went on the Council. There have been 32 appointments to seats on the Council.

One member died in office (James Wilson in 1951). Four (4) have been recalled (Harry Hopkins and Fred O'Brien in 1918; Henry McClain in 1922; and Cliff Thompson in 2001). A recall effort against C. L. Keith in 1924 failed. There have been 26 resignations and two times seats were declared vacant because of attendance (C. L. Keith in 1926 and Donald Braun in 1989). In 1951, the Council was down to three (3) members for a period of two months when James Wilson died and Ben Strickler resigned.

There have been three (3) women, Tessi Garratt (1945 – 1954), Frances Greene (1974 – 1978) and Gale Shuck (1987 – 1992). There have been three (3) parent-child combinations: Leon and Ted Peahl, George McNeal and Gale Shuck, and A.B. and Jack Smith.

The office of Mayor was originally called Chairman (1910 – 1922), then President (1923 – 1926) and then Mayor starting in 1927. Four (4) people have served as Mayor more than once (Glenn Black 1952 – 1960 and 1976 – 1978; Wayne Deats 1984 – 1988 and 1988 – 1990; Paul Ackerman 1994 – 1996 and 2001 – 2002; and Paul Linder 2006 – 2008 and 2012 – Present).