

**TAFT CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY
MINUTES
APRIL 2, 2013**

REGULAR MEETING

The April 2, 2013, regular joint meeting of the Taft City Council/Taft Successor Agency, held in the Council Chamber at Taft City Hall, 209 East Kern Street, Taft, CA 93268, was opened by Mayor Linder at **6:09:10 PM**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Noerr , followed by invocation given by Scott Pearson, First Baptist Church.

PRESENT: Mayor Paul Linder; Mayor Pro Tem Orchel Krier.
Council Members Randy Miller, Dave Noerr and Ron Waldrop.
City Manager Craig Jones; City Attorney for Dennis Cota;
City Clerk Louise Hudgens.

1. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Linder presented a Certificate of Recognition to National Health Care Services in honor of their 35 years of providing health care services to rural areas, and a Certificate of Appreciation to David Couch, 4th District Supervisor, for his leadership for helping to make Taft and surrounding areas a better place to live. The recipients were not present and the certificates were mailed.

2. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS 6:14:45 PM

Lodema Hatch, Representing Taft Community Gardens:

- Arbor Day at the Community Garden this year with hopes to plant a Persimmon Tree. Planning Commission to consider at their April 3 meeting.
- Saturday, April 27 from 9-12 having Spring Planting Day. There will be vendors available. A few planting boxes available to rent.

Kathy Orrin, Executive Director Taft Chamber of Commerce:

- Mailed 1st installment for July 3 Fireworks show.
- Cruz night 1st Friday night of every month on Center Street. Starts at 6:00 pm and everyone is welcome.
- Saturday, April 13, Soroptimist Garden Tour. Maps can be picked up at Old's School.
- Saturday, April 20, Rotary Health Fair from 8-12 at the Buena Vista School.
- Saturday, April 27, Taft Clean-up day.
- Saturday, April 27, Hall of Fame Banquet in the evening. Tickets available at Chamber.
- Thursday, April 25, State of the City luncheon at OT Cookhouse sponsored by Kiwanis.
- Radio station at Chamber, WQLV-1610 am on dial, up and running.
- Recreation & Parks District Community Theater is sponsoring a play called "Altar Egos". Local talent.
- Car show will be held in June although some rumors that it had been cancelled.

Terry McNally, Superior Court Services: 6:24:19 PM

- Explained that the California Court system had suffered from significant budget reductions and that it was necessary to take a hard look at what could be cut. Unfortunately, it had been decided to close the Taft and Lake Isabella Courts. The Taft Court hours will be reduced to one (1) day a week for civil and some traffic cases. All other cases, such as criminal and CHP traffic cites, were all being transferred to Lamont starting in September. McNally stressed that the decision had been a painful one but that everything that could be done had been. Other regional courts are being closed as well. Stated that he had met with City Manager Jones and Police Chief Whiting during the previous week, and they had requested four priorities– 1) to manage impact of transfer of workload to Lamont, 2) minimize impact on the Taft Police Department transport of officers to

Lamont, 3) address transportation issues for local residents, and 4) minimize administrative burden for the officers so that they can do more of their work from their office here to eliminate the need to travel to Lamont on a regular basis. Finally, to address the service issues related to the downsizing and reduction of hours. Indicated that he had talked to a number of individuals and they have agreed to cooperate with the Courts and the City of Taft to minimize the impacts. Have opportunity to leverage technology to address some of the service reductions.

3. COUNCIL STATEMENTS (NON ACTION) [6:27:54 PM](#)

Council Member Noerr:

- Remarked that he could not pick up a newspaper without reading about the negative effects of AB109 inmate reduction to the law abiding citizens. Criminals are getting more brazen and only rotated through jails as there are not enough room to house them.
- Stated that everyone needs to be more aware of their neighbors and watch out for each other.
- Indicated that tazer guns might be ideal for women and emphasized the everyone needs to be aware of their surroundings and not be an easy target.

Council Member Miller:

- Remarked that the Court closure was just another hit on Taft by people in far away places making decisions that impact Taft.

Council Member Krier:

- Indicated that he could see another tax increase coming. Need to write to legislators and ask them why they keep creating problems but keep raising taxes.
- Rotary Club having a health care clinic in Taft on April 20 from 8-12. Buena Vista High School. There will be several doctors and several test available, most consultations are at no costs. There will be several vendors there as well. Dr. Tank is heading the healthcare.

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS [6:41:43 PM](#)

Ed Whiting, Police Chief:

Stated that the court closure would cause a hardship to the Police Department but that they would adapt. The Kern County Sheriff Deputies would transport prisoners from the Taft Jail to Lamont for their arraignments. The Community Service Officers could transport paperwork when needed. However, it would take officers off the street for longer periods of time and or increase overtime as officers would have to travel to Lamont to testify. A hardship would be created for anyone having to travel from Taft to Lamont for court appearances and failure to appear cases would increase. Staff from the Lamont Court will be sent to Taft for the one day a week that the Taft court is open.

McNally explained that the court employees working in Taft would have bumping rights although most of them would probably choose not to because of the cost of commuting.

Judge Craig Phillips stated that as a judge, he was unable to comment officially; however, we would be working out of the Lamont Court and had already moved because of a family issue. He talked about what it would mean to both Taft citizens and the court employees with the court closing.

Councilmember Krier asked if closed circuit television could be used to eliminate the need for the police officers to appear in Lamont. McNally stated that it could be considered although he explained that it was actually up to the defendant as the law says that they have a right to face their accusers. However, he indicated he would work with Chief Whiting to utilize new technology as it is available. Also, if Council

and concerned citizens feel that Taft is greatly impacted by the court closure then they should let their legislators know.

Several of the employees were in the audience and Mayor Linder asked that they stand so that television viewers could see the people that were most closely affected by the court closure. Linder stated that if the people of Taft don't do something, then they would not only lose the Taft Court, but they would lose the DMV, Healthcare Services, and all the other state and County funded services at the expense of the employees and the people that depend on those services.

Lonn Boyer, Human Resource Director/Assistant City Manager:

- Demonstrated new web page.

Ron Orrin, Planning Commissioner:

- At their meeting on April 3, the Planning Commission will consider Pizza Hut paint color and a site plan
- Reported that Commissioner Fleetwood had resigned.
- Family Dollar will have a soft opening on April 4. Official opening is April 13.
- Requested a joint meeting with Council.

5. CITY MANAGER STATEMENTS [7:27:55 PM](#)

Craig Jones, City Manager:

- Introduced Brent Moon, Kern County Fire Dept. Battalion Chief. Moon stated that he always tries to be available to Council and Staff and reported that there are some changes in the works. Plans to have additional staffing on the west side by summer and hope they can offer standby at no cost to the Chamber for the Fireworks show.
- Announced that the City of Taft and Kern County Supervisors Office, Chamber of Commerce, Westside Waste Management, and Kern County Waste Management, are sponsoring a Greater Taft Clean-up Day, April 27, starting at 8 a.m. Volunteers to meet at Veterans Park. Focus will be on Wood Street from Highway 33 to 10th Street and Harrison St. Volunteers will be fed at noon at Veterans Park. Westside Waste Management will be donating bins, gloves and bags and Kern County Supervisors are donating some funds. There are plans on having a clean-up day every quarter. Stated that if anybody on those streets have any bulky items they want to get rid of can place them along the edge of the road to be picked up.
- Kern County Raceway Park is set to open on April 20.
- Construction has started on 10th Street with a new stop sign at 10th and San Emidio Streets. He advised to "go slow in the cone zone".
- Thanked Judge Phillips and Terry McNally for attending the meeting and expressed condolences to the employees that were affected.

6. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS - none.

7. FUTURE AGENDA REQUESTS [7:38:11 PM](#)

Linder requested a joint Planning Commission. Waldrop concurred. Maybe a special meeting. Krier requested a strong letter to the Governor and Legislators opposing closure of the Taft Court. Miller concurred. Linder suggested that there be a link on the City's website to the legislators for public input.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 8 – 14 7:39:33 PM

Motion: Moved by Miller, seconded by Krier, to approve consent calendar items 8-14.

AYES: Krier, Miller, Noerr, Waldrop, Linder

8. MINUTES

March 19, 2013 Regular

Recommendation – Approve as submitted.

9. PAYMENT OF BILLS

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Cash Disbursements | Warrant #032113 | Check No.75116 | \$ 2,345.00 |
| Cash Disbursements | Warrant #032913 | Check No.75117-75189 | \$214,389.35 |

Recommendation – Approve payment of bills.

10. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT INITIATING PROCEEDING FOR LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 2013-1

Recommendation – Motion to adopt resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT, CALIFORNIA, INITIATING PROCEEDINGS FOR PROPOSED CITY OF TAFT LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 2013-1 PURSUANT TO THE LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING ACT OF 1972. (*Resolution No.3521-13*)

11. AGREEMENT WITH NBS FOR ASSESSMENT INCREASE FOR LANDSCAPE AND LIGHTING DISTRICT AND FORMATION OF LANDSCAPE AND LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 2013-1

Recommendation – Motion to authorize **THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE REVISED AGREEMENT WITH NBS FOR PROPOSITION 218 ASSESSMENT SERVICES FOR LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE DISTRICT**

12. CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) CONSULTING SERVICES

Recommendation – Motion to approve contract amendment with Mr. Juan Gonzales for GIS Services through June 30, 2013.

13. CONSIDER TERMINATING THE AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE LIMITED SURFACE MINING INSPECTIONS AND PERMIT SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF TAFT AND COUNTY OF KERN.

Recommendation – Motion to authorize the City Manager to serve a Notice of Termination upon the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, the Director of Engineering and Survey Services Department and the Director of Planning of the County of Kern.

14. CONSIDER EXECUTING AN EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH BRIGHT HOUSE NETWORKS, LLC, TO ALLOW INSTALLATION OF A BROADBAND CABLE TELEVISION AND DIGITAL SERVICES DELIVERY SYSTEM ACROSS CITY PROPERTY.

Recommendation – Motion to authorize the City Manager to sign an Easement Agreement with BRIGHT HOUSE NETWORKS, LLC.

15. “CLEAN-UP TAFT” DAY 7:41:43 PM

Motion: Moved by Miller, seconded by Waldrop, to approve an expenditure of \$300 for materials needed to assist with the “Clean-Up Taft” community event.

Miller indicated that although the streets chosen for the first clean-up is not within the city limits, it helps the community by creating cleaner entrances.

AYES: Krier, Miller, Noerr, Waldrop, Linder

16. SAFETY COMMITTEE START-UP 7:43:31 PM

Miller nominated Don Maxwell and Bill Wickwire. Noerr nominated Darren Walrath and Krier nominated Ray Hatch.

Noerr, Waldrop, Krier, and Linder each selected Walrath and Hatch.
Miller selected Wickwire and Hatch.

Wickwire will be asked to be an alternate.

Council was recessed to closed session at 7:49:28 PM

CLOSED SESSION

A. At this time the City Council will hold a closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 for the Council to give instructions to its negotiator, Craig Jones, regarding negotiation for real property – undisclosed location.

ACTION TAKEN: Gave direction to staff.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Louise Hudgens, CMC
City Clerk

Paul Linder, Mayor