

**TAFT CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 2013**

REGULAR MEETING

The February 19, 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 [6:04:36 PM](#). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Miller , followed by invocation given by Rodney Wycoff, West Hills Nazarene Church.

PRESENT: Mayor Paul Linder; Mayor Pro Tem Orchel Krier.
Council Members Randy Miller and Ron Waldrop.
City Manager Craig Jones; City Attorney for David Prentice;
City Clerk Louise Hudgens.

ABSENT: Council Member Dave Noerr.

1. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kathy Orrin, Executive Director Chamber of Commerce:

- Thanked everyone for their support and attendance at the Chamber's Installation dinner. There were around 170 attendees and David Couch was the speaker.
- Members of the Greater Taft Economic Development Authority had a tour of Taft, concentrating on the entrances into the city, although distracted by other areas in serious need of attention. Orrin stated that she was writing a report that underscores the areas concerned about and indicated that there is definitely a need to keep pressure on those that can get things done. She said that they witnessed children having to walk into the street to just work around rubble. Orrin stated that the Chamber of Commerce is concerned about things other than attracting businesses..

2. COUNCIL STATEMENTS (NON ACTION)

Council Member Krier:

- Announced that the annual museum dinner was Saturday night and that on the 28th of the month there was a meeting about health care in Taft. The Westside Hospital District is looking for input from citizens.
- Stated that there had been a power outage in Taft recently and that it could have been much longer if crews had already been moved from Taft.
- Supervisor Couch speaking at Sit-n-Sip the following day and would possibly visiting Rotary at noon.

Council Member Miller:

- Commended Supervisor Couch and staff for their very aggressive start on the Westside. He stated that several houses had already been condemned and some were being torn down.
- PG&E is planning to close their Taft yard and move equipment. Stated he had talked to an employee and it was only one (1) person in a supervisory position wanting to make the move. If there were to be a major disaster or roadways closed, the response time would be extended indefinitely. Miller requested that a letter be sent as soon as possible to voice opposition.
- Reminded everyone to take care of their weeds before warm weather sets in. The city does not have crews right now to take care of weed as they have in the past and everyone needs to do their part.

Council Member Waldrop:

- Voiced appreciation to Supervisor Couch for his work so far for the Westside.

Mayor Linder:

- Reported that Kiwanis has placed about 45 flags around town for President's Day, the first of four (4) times for the year. He commended the businesses that were taking part in the project and stated that any business, or residence, could also have Kiwanis put the flags out for those days and that it was \$50 per year.
- Reported that there had been two major fires in the County area recently, probably caused by outdated wiring or heaters. County and Taft Code Enforcement needs to focus on these and similar properties.
- Stated that a letter needed to be sent to PG&E as soon as possible regarding plans to close the Taft Crew yard. Once the crew yard goes, then they would probably remove the office also.

3. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Ron Orrin, Planning Commissioner:

- Reported that he had been seated as a Planning Commissioner at the February 6, meeting.
- Planning Commission will hold meetings whether there are agenda items or not, and the time used for training by Planning Director Weiczis.
- Stated that a Popeye's representative talked to them about their color scheme.
- Requested that the Planning Director talk to the City Attorney about people living in a business on Center Street and that the Planning Commission wants to abide with the General Plan.
- Planning Commissioners will be joining Council when they have ethics training next month.

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Debra Elliott, Enterprise Zone Manager:

- Reported that 2013 had been off to a good start. There were 5 new businesses and 10 employees vouchered in the program.
- Reported that she was putting together a seminar "Bring your CPA to breakfast", in an effort to get the businesses to bring their CPAs to learn about the program.
- Stated that she was working with the Career Services Center and that there would be a job fair at the Veterans Building and would be staffing a booth.
- Working on a 2-5 year plan with the state and that there were some proposed regulations coming soon from the state.

5. CITY MANAGER STATEMENTS

City Manager Craig Jones:

- Reported on the trip to the Los Angeles Board of Supervisor board meeting and stated that Supervisor Antonovich had removed the Taft CCF item from the agenda to ask their staff for more accurate information on the Mira Loma Project.
- Reported that he had met with HdL who does the sales tax projections and that they reported that sales tax was 6.4% higher than for the same quarter last year. The Outlook for the 4th quarter is that the trend will move slightly upward. There are new businesses opening, Equipment Rental and Melos on Kern Street.
- Alpha House will hold Chile Dinner from 5-7 PM, Thursday, February 21 at 631 North St.

6. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS – None.

7. FUTURE AGENDA REQUESTS [6:28:56 PM](#)

Miller indicated that Council Member Noerr would be requesting a resolution on 2nd Amendment. Krier requested that staff check to make sure city is getting fair share of the Transient Occupancy Tax. Council concurred. Linder indicated that an audit should be conducted and that there be an agenda item for the costs of the audit. Jones stated that staff could conduct an audit but it would probably be better for a third party do the audit.

Krier requested an agenda item for Charter City. Miller concurred.

Linder voiced concerns about land use and what are penalties for improper use. Requested that staff research what is City's position and how to make it less attractive to violate land uses. Either enhance existing policy or ordinance or write new one. Property owners need to know that there are consequences for going in and creating a residence within an existing business building, no building permits or inspections, and they are responsible for expenses to rectify the issue.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 8 - 19 [6:35:07 PM](#)

Motion: Moved by Waldrop, seconded by Miller , to approve consent calendar items 8-13 and 15-17.

AYES: Krier, Miller, Waldrop, Linder

8. MINUTES
February 5, 2013

Recommendation – Approve as submitted.

9. PAYMENT OF BILLS
Cash Disbursements Warrant #020113 Check No. 74808-74871 \$ 272,585.41

Recommendation – Approve payment of bills.

10. RATIFICATION OF CONTRACT FOR WEBSITE DESIGN, HOSTING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Recommendation – Motion to approve ratification of agreement with Municipal CMS to provide website design, hosting, and maintenance services.

11. RATIFICATION OF CONTRACT FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) SUPPORT SERVICES

Recommendation – Motion to approve ratification of agreement with Code 3, a dba of High Desert Wireless Broadband Communications to provide for city-wide Information Technology (IT) Support Services.

12. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (EDD) PAYOUTS

Recommendation – Motion to authorize the loan of \$15,409 from General Fund Reserves to the CCF for the payment of the 2012 4th quarter EDD benefits.

13. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CALIFORNIA ENTERPRISE ZONES

Recommendation – Motion to approve a resolution entitled A **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT SUPPORTING CALIFORNIA ENTERPRISE ZONES.** (*Resolution No.3514-13*)

14. ITEM 14 REMOVED AT REQUEST OF MILLER

15. AGREEMENT WITH MCFARLIN & ANDERSON LLP FOR BOND COUNCIL

Recommendation – Motion to authorize:

- 1) The Mayor to execute the agreement with McFarlin & Anderson LLP for bond council services; and
- 2) Authorize \$27,500 from Waste Water Treatment Plant Capital Reserves.

16. PROPOSAL FROM NBS TO EXTEND CONTRACT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR PROP 218 SEWER AND REFUSE RATE INCREASES

Recommendation – Motion to approve an agreement with NBS in an amount of \$24,900 to conduct sewer and refuse rate Proposition 218 legal process.

17. PROPOSITION 218 - INCREASE OF RATES FOR REFUSE AND SEWER SERVICE FEES AND CHARGES [6:39:07 PM](#)

- **Removed from consent calendar at request of CM Krier**

Recommendation – Motion to approve a resolution entitled A **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT, CALLING A PROPOSITION 218 NOTICE PROCEEDING AND SETTING THE TIME AND PLACE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE RATES, FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE REFUSE AND SEWER SERVICE(S) FEES.** (*Resolution No. 3515-13*)

18. ITEM 18 REMOVED AT REQUEST OF KRIER

19. ITEM 19 REMOVED AT REQUEST OF KRIER

14. AGREEMENT WITH HP SEARS ACCOUNT RECOVERY SPECIALISTS FOR COLLECTION SERVICES FOR TAFT POLICE DEPARTMENT [6:39:07 PM](#)

- **Removed from consent calendar at request of CM Miller**

Motion: Moved by Krier, seconded by Waldrop, to approve agreement with HP Sears.

Miller inquired why did the city have two (2) collection agencies and that he had not seen a 30 day “out” clause in the contract. Prentice pointed out where the “out” was in the contract. Police Chief Whiting explained that the PD had used HP Sears for as long as he remembered for DUI, parking tickets and bad check for CCW cost recovery, and that they had always provided great service. Staff had been able to negotiate a 30/70 split, same as the agency that Finance uses.

AYES: Krier, Miller, Waldrop, Linder

20. AGREEMENT WITH NBS FOR ASSESSMENT INCREASE FOR LANDSCAPE AND LIGHTING DISTRICT AND FORMATION OF LANDSCAPE AND LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 2. [6:44:26 PM](#)

- **Removed from consent calendar at request of Krier**

Motion: Moved by Krier, seconded by Waldrop, to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement with NBS for Proposition 218 Assessment Services for Landscape Maintenance District(s).

Krier inquired how much was being collected from the first assessment and the response was \$89 per year for about 100 parcels. Jones explained that the new district would take in Pilgrim Street and on Amber Street for a total of about 25 parcels. Krier wanted to know if the cost of the study justified the number of parcels. Prentice explained that the Prop 218 process is complicated and because a new district is being created, a benefit analysis has to be completed. It is a one-time thing and once it is done, the City won't have to have this cost again. The down side of not doing it correctly is that someone could challenge it and then the whole thing goes down.

Krier wanted to know if this would include the new housing on Hillard and Jones explained that we can't do one until there are parcels. Jones explained that there could be a new lighting/landscape district or they could be done all in one. The consultant will have to evaluate that and will give staff direction the best way to go.

Linder inquired about the wording "Landscape Lighting District" or Landscape Maintenance District". Prentice pointed out that it does make a difference and that they needed to be careful with the wording in order not to be protested.

AYES: Krier, Miller, Waldrop, Linder

21. MOVIE "WOLF OF WALL STREET" FILMING AT TAFT CORRECTIONAL FACILITY [6:52:22 PM](#)

- **Removed from consent calendar at request of Krier**

Police Chief Whiting explained that there would be some exterior filming at the CCF and that the main character, Leonardo DiCaprio, may or may not be present for the scenes. Most of the scenes involving the primary actors have already been shot. Filming will be on Thursday, February 28. The PD is prepared to assist however they can.

CLOSED SESSION

- Mayor Linder announced that there would not be a closed session as previously agendized.

ADJOURNMENT – Moved by Krier, seconded by Waldrop and approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at [6:55:59 PM](#)