

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

REGULAR MEETING

The March 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 [6:04:22 PM](#). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Krier, followed by invocation given by Robert Jordan, Bakersfield Homeless Mission.

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 David Prentice;
City Clerk Louise Hudgens.

**1. PUBLIC HEARING – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
CLOSEOUT FINAL GRANTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT 08-STBG-5084 [6:06:28 PM](#)**

The duly noticed PH was opened to receive testimony from proponents and opponents. Being none, the PH was closed.

Motion: Moved by Krier, seconded by Miller, to receive the COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM CLOSEOUT FINAL GRANTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT 08-STBG-5084 and submit the report to CDBG.

AYES: Krier, Miller, Noerr, Waldrop, Linder

2. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Couch, Fourth District Supervisor:

- Stated that he was unable to attend the Kern Council of Governments annual award dinner, and wanted to personally congratulate Councilmember Miller for receiving the Darrell Hildebrand award for Distinguished Leadership.
- Stated that he wanted to thank Councilmember Noerr for his help at the Board of Supervisors meeting and speaking in support of county efforts to clean up parts of the community.

Jim Moore, Moore & Associates:

- Stated that he was working with the City of Taft on previous public transit activity. On this agenda is a recommendation to conduct a marketing study as an outgrowth of a CalTrans funded study.

3. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Linder read a Certificate of Recognition that was presented to Miller at the KernCOG dinner. Miller received the Darrel Hildebrand Award for Distinguished Leadership by a Public Official. Miller had dedicated many years of service to various civic organizations and he stated that he was humbled by the award and that it meant the world to him.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ben Mangum, City Treasurer, gave a report of the city's finances as of January, 2013.

5. COUNCIL STATEMENTS (NON ACTION)

Councilmember Noerr:

- Stated that he understood that the Senate had dropped the Federal proposal on assault rifles.
- Reported that he had attended the Kern County Supervisors Board meeting earlier in the day to attend a public hearing regarding abatement of a building at Victory Square. He stated that Victory Square had been an eye sore for a number of years and that several people were working on solutions. Supervisor Couch and his staff were working hard on cleaning up the Westside. Three (3) buildings at Victory Square were approved but one (1) had to have a public hearing as it was occupied. The building had subsided 3 ½ feet on one end, and was no better than what might be found in a third world country. Just because people are poor, they shouldn't have to live in those types of conditions. The Supervisors were concerned about the occupants and what would be the best for them. It is incumbent on the landlord to find suitable housing for them.
- Everyone now had strong access to County government and that the Supervisor is accessible. The City would partner with the county to make the Westside a better place to live.

Councilmember Miller:

- Thanked Noerr & Krier for working with County staff to get some action on the Westside and their presence here is appreciated.
- Admonished residents to take care of their weeds. The City does not have crews like they have had in the past to go after the weeds.

Councilmember Waldrop:

- Voiced his appreciation to Couch and his staff as they had done a lot for the Westside the first few months in office. He stated that the lack of County action on the Westside went back as many as 12-14 years, especially where Victory Square was concerned.

Councilmember Krier:

- Indicated that there were sewer leaks, water leaks and gas leaks at the Victory Square property and that something had to be done before someone gets hurt, and voiced kudos to Couch and his staff for their active endeavors to abate the situation.
- Reported on the St. Patrick's Day dinner at the Fort and how important it is to support local clubs and their fund raisers.

Mayor Linder:

- Reported that he had attended a luncheon put on by the Police Officer recognizing individuals for 'Shop with a Cop'. He accepted a plaque recognizing city employees for their participation during their annual Employee Appreciation Dinner in December.
- Stated that he had been asked "why does Council care" about cleaning-up the county areas. For one thing, there are seven (7) entrances into Taft and most of them are in the county. What surrounds Taft makes an impression, especially to first time visitors.

6. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Ron Orrin, Planning Commissioner:

- Reported that the Commission had discussed non-compliance issues on Center Street and that the business which had been lived in was currently being vacated.
- Indicated that they had a long discussion regarding maintenance and appearance and code enforcement.
- Commission is requesting a joint meeting with Council in the near future and one topic would be how to put some bite into fees. Current fees not generating enough revenue for the City like they should.

- Commission had to cancel a special called meeting as the developer didn't have the plans ready.

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Teresa Binkley, Finance Director:

- Reported that the on-line auction for the surplus equipment was going well. www.publicsurplus.com

8. CITY MANAGER STATEMENTS [6:37:52 PM](#)

Craig Jones, City Manager:

- Stated that Supervisor Couch's office was putting together a community clean-up event and there would be a meeting on March 27 to pick some target areas.
- Black Gold Industrial Court and Bright House have requested an easement and a cost sharing plan to get internet service out to the area. Noerr asked the attorney if he had a conflict as his was one of the properties that would be in the cost-sharing plan. Prentice stated that since his benefit was the same as everybody else in the area there was no conflict.
- Reported that there had been a sewer line break near 2nd and Highway 119 and had flowed into Sandy Creek. 400' of 15" clay pipe was replaced with 400' of new PVC and that the base was beefed up with soil compaction. The Creek was cleaned up to the satisfaction of all the state regulators and proper permits have been issued.
- Arbor Day will be held in April and there will be a tree planting at the Community Garden.

9. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS [6:49:09 PM](#)

David Prentice, City Attorney:

- Stated that he was working with staff on an administrative fine ordinance and administrative procedure for appeals. The idea is to move from a lien procedure to placing an assessment on the property so that the city can re-coop their expenses every year rather than wait for the property to sale.
- Reported that he had received word earlier in the day that his son was now cancer free.

10. FUTURE AGENDA REQUESTS [6:53:13 PM](#)

Mayor Linder stated that he would like Council's concurrence to ask staff to do an analysis to gather information such as "what would it cost to put the Charter city issue on the ballot?", "What would cost savings be to the city if it does pass?" and "What would the city's costs be in staff time to get it to the ballot?", etc. Before Council can proceed they need guidelines to follow. Linder also suggested a poll on the city's web-site to ask the public's opinion and allow the public to ask questions. Jones indicated that there would be the need for town hall meetings and other public input to get it to a ballot. Miller concurred to Linder's request. Jones stated that it may take several Council meetings before all the information is compiled.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 11 – 19 [6:55:51 PM](#)

Motion: Moved by Noerr, seconded by Miller, to approve consent calendar items 11-12 and 14-19.

AYES: Krier, Miller, Noerr, Waldrop, Linder

11. MINUTES

March 5, 2013 Regular

Recommendation – Approve as submitted.

➤ *Distributed at meeting*

12. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Cash Disbursements Warrant #031513 Check No.75029 \$ 10,327.72

Cash Disbursements Warrant #031513 Check No.75030-75115 \$219,009.88

Recommendation – Approve payment of bills.

➤ Item 13 removed from consent calendar at request of Miller

14. CHANGE ORDER – WALLACE GROUP WORK ON WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT USDA LOAN PROJECT

Recommendation – Motion to approve change order to Wallace Group contract in the amount of \$35,000.

15. RFP FOR TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX AUDIT

Recommendation – Motion to authorize staff to mail and make public an RFP for Transient Occupancy Tax Audit Services.

16. APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF THE CALHOME PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

Recommendation – Motion to adopt resolution named A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR FUNDING UNDER THE CALHOME PROGRAM; THE EXECUTION OF A STANDARD AGREEMENT IF SELECTED FOR SUCH FUNDING AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO; AND ANY RELATED DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CALHOME PROGRAM. (*Resolution No.3521-13*)

17. AWARD COMMUNITY MOBILITY OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT PROJECT TO MOORE & ASSOCIATES

Recommendation – Motion to award the Community Mobility Outreach and Involvement Project to Moore & Associates, not to exceed \$43,700.

18. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS RECEIVED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE CMAQ INSTALLATION OF TEN BUS SHELTERS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS (REBID), FEDERAL PROJECT# - CML-5193(032)

Recommendation – Motion to award a contract to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement contingent upon the bid meeting State and Federal requirements for DBE Good Faith Efforts.

19. INTERNET CONNECTION AT THE TAFT ANIMAL SHELTER

Recommendation – Motion to authorize the Finance Director to complete the agreement with Bright House.

13. CONTRACT FOR A FULL TIME PAID SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AT THE TAFT COLLEGE

- Removed from consent calendar at the request of Miller

Dena Malloney, President of Taft College, stated that she felt that a stronger program was possible at Taft College with the present of a Police Officer on campus. Police Chief Ed Whiting thanked Brock McMurray and Ms. Malloney for working with him on the agreement. Malloney stated that a lot of students come from outside of Taft and with the officer present they could see that they were protected and student safety comes first. The Officer would be the liaison to cover crimes as well as help in the event of a disaster and foremost, student safety. It is also important to note that there would be three (3) full-time police officers within a four (4) school setting. Any or all of the officers could be pulled from the school(s) in the event of a major incident in the community. April 1 will be first day. Council concurred that they always like to partner with the schools and help in whatever way they can.

Motion: Moved by Miller, seconded by Waldrop, to approve and sign the contract between the City of Taft and the Taft Community College District for a School Resource Officer.

AYES: Krier, Miller, Noerr, Waldrop, Linder

Mayor Linder recessed the meeting to closed session at [7:05:15 PM](#).

CLOSED SESSION

- A. At this time the City Council will hold a closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (a) for consultation with its attorney(s) regarding potential litigation – 1 case.
ACTION TAKEN: Direction given.
- B. At this time the City Council will hold a closed session pursuant to Government Code 54956.95.(b) regarding Settlement Authority for Robin Adkins.
ACTION TAKEN: Moved by Miller, seconded by Noerr and approved 5-0, to approve settlement for Robin Adkins.
- C. At this time the City Council will hold a closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 to give direction to its labor negotiator concerning labor negotiations: All units
ACTION TAKEN: Direction given.
- D. At this time the City Council will hold a closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 for consultation with its attorney(s) regarding existing litigation: Los Angeles County Superior Court Case BC489804, City of Taft vs. CDCR.
ACTION TAKEN: No reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT – There was no further business to conduct and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.