

**CITY OF TAFT
PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2013**

The January 16, 2013, regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Taft, held in the City of Taft Council Chamber, 209 E. Kern Street, Taft, CA 93268, was opened by Chairman Walchock at 6:14:36 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Fleetwood, and invocation was given by Chairman Walchock.

PRESENT: Chairman Curtis Walchock, Vice Chairman Robert Thompson;
Commissioners James Fleetwood.
Planning and Community Development Director Mike Waiczis;
Recording Secretary Alina Megerdom.

ABSENT: Commissioner Shaun Sutherland
City Attorney David Prentice, available via telephone.

SEATING OF NEWLY APPOINTED PLANNING COMMISSIONER 6:18:57 PM

Deputy City Clerk Alina Megerdom administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Ron Orrin and Mr. Orrin was seated as member of the City of Taft Planning Commission.

CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consider approval of minutes for the December 5, 2012, Regular Planning Commission Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION – Approve as submitted.

Consider approval of minutes for the December 19, 2012, Special Planning Commission Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION – Approve as submitted.

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Fleetwood, to approve the minutes of December 5, 2012 and December 19, 2012.

AYES: Fleetwood, Thompson Walchock
Abstain: Orrin

INFORMATIONAL / DISCUSSION ITEMS 6:25:26 PM

1. Presentation - Debra Elliot, Taft Enterprise Zone Manager/ Taft Economic Development–
“Taft Enterprise Zone, What Is It and How Does it Work?”

Ms. Elliot distributed copies of the power point presentation. A copy of the document was entered into record.

After the power point presentation the Commissioners had the opportunity to ask questions and receive feedback.

- Thompson asked if the City has the Tarp Area Revolving Program (TARP) at this time. Ms. Elliot stated, that was not in her department and did not have any information on it. Waiczis stated that he will look into it and will bring more information on the TARP Program at the next Planning Commission meeting.
- Orrin asked if there was more detail information available in regards to the Enterprise Zone. Ms. Elliot stated that she does have a more detailed handout and she would provide a copy to anyone who might be interested.
- Walchock asked if the City approves the applicants. Ms. Elliot stated that there is an application that the applicant completes and if they meet the criteria, they are approved by the City.
- Waiczis asked if there was a web site available on City of Taft Enterprise Zone. Ms. Elliot stated the web Site address as www.cityoftaft.org.

Dr. Kathy Orrin, Executive Director of Taft Chamber of Commerce gave a report on the newly formed Greater Taft Economic Development Committee. She also stated that the first meeting will be held one January 21, 2013 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

2. Proposed Joint Council / Commission Meeting. 6:54:06 PM

Waiczis stated that he did get a chance to do some research on the proposed Joint Council / Commission Meeting and what he found was other public agencies have had joint meetings in the past and it was called a work study. What he suggested was to give the Commissioners some time to come-up with 3 topics they would like to talk about jointly and he would work on putting together a joint meeting and add the items of choice to the Agenda.

Walchock asked the Commissioners to take a few weeks and pick the top 3 items they would like to discuss with City Council. Walchock also stated that the Planning Commissioners and City Council are aiming towards the same target and same goals.

Mr. Orrin asked when they are proposing the meeting to occur. Waiczis stated that his goal is to hold the meeting sometime in March, 2013.

Walchock asked if they could bring it back at the February meeting and they will pick 2-4 topics to choose from.

Ms. Megerdom will put a package together for the new Planning Commissioner. Waiczis will set up a meeting with Mr. Orrin for an orientation.

PLANNING DIRECTOR REPORT 7:12:29 PM

1. Information/ Discussion – Status of Popeye’s Chicken and Pizza Hut Reviews.

Popeye’s has received an application for Site Plan Review and the City is waiting for the application to be returned to the Planning Department. They are hoping to bring the Site Plan to the next Planning Commission meeting.

2. Information/ Discussion – Illegal banners.

The illegal banner / flags that he sees though out the City are not for an advertisement for new business. They are for existing businesses. Waiczis will be working on writing a new ordinance in regards to banners and flags.

3. Information/ Discussion – Status of Hillside Estates project and Sunset Rail development activity.

Hillside Estates Project: The Council continued the project until next Wednesday, January 23, 2013 due to issues brought forth by Fish and Game, Caltrans, Occidental of Elk Hills.

The City did receive a Well Serve letter from Kern County Water District for their project.

After it is approved by the City Council, they will be developing the Final Maps.

Sunset Rail Development:

There is an interested party for the Hotel Development. There have been multiple meetings with Geary Coats and the interested party. There was a Planning Assistant Team meeting with the interested party. There will be more information presented at the Planning Commission as things move forward.

4. Other Planning activities in the City

- City of Taft has contracted with a new Web Site Company and within the next 45-60 days there will be a brand new web site for the City of Taft.
 - Waiczis will send a form for the Planning Commissioner to complete for the web site.
- Thompson asked for an updated list of all the projects. Mike will prepare one for the commissioners and bring it to the next meeting.
- Fleetwood stated that he has seen some work being done by Hilliard. Waiczis stated that they are getting the site cleaned for the development.

CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS

There were none.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

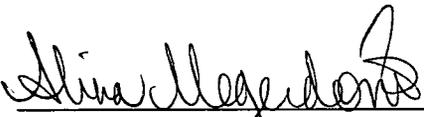
- Orrin stated that he anticipates a good working relationship with the City and the Commissioners. His condolences for both families involved in the January 10, 2013 School shooting.
- All the Commissioners welcomed Orrin to the Planning Commission and look forward to working together on a full board Commission. They all also send their thought and prayers to all the victims of the school shooting.
- Walchock stated that he is interested in more training for the Commissioners, especially AB1234. Waiczis stated that with the way the budget is at this time, they do need to take it to the Council. Walchock also stated that they would like to alternate on attending the League of Cities Conference.

Identification of Representative to the City Council.

All Commissioners and Waiczis agreed that there was no need for a Commissioner to attend the next Council Meeting. Waiczis would report on their behalf.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Fleetwood and approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42:32 PM.


Alina Megerdom, Recording Secretary


Curtis Walchock, Chairperson