

**CITY OF TAFT  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2013**

The May 1, 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 6:17:08 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Orrin, and invocation was given by Chairman Walchock.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Curtis Walchock, Vice Chairman Robert Thompson;  
Commissioners Ron Orrin, Shaun Sutherland;  
Planning and Community Development Director Mike Waiczis;  
Recording Secretary Alina Megerdom.

**ABSENT:** City Attorney Tom Ebersole, available via telephone.

**CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Consider approval of minutes for the April 3, 2013, Regular Planning Commission Meeting.  
**RECOMMENDATION** – Approve as submitted.

**Motion:** Moved by Orrin, seconded by Sutherland, to approve the minutes of April 3, 2013.

**AYES:** Orrin, Sutherland, Walchock  
**ABSTAIN:** Thompson

**PUBLIC HEARING 6:20:18 PM**

1. **General Plan Amendment GPA 2013-09** – Consider recommending approval of a General Plan Amendment to revise the Taft General Plan Land Use Element Map for approximately 10 acres of land generally located west of State Route 33 and south of Wood Street, from Low Density Residential to Industrial. City of Taft, applicant.

**Recommendation:** 1. Hold a public hearing; 2. Motion to recommend approval of General Plan Amendment GPA 2013-09 to the Taft City Council.

Waiczis read the Staff Report and stated that he did not attach a resolution to the report because a roll call action will serve as recommendation to the City Council. Walchock stated, to clarify, it will go to Council for final approval by resolution at the Council level. Waiczis stated that, yes that is correct.

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

Orrin asked what “Industrial” stood for and did it include light manufacturing. Waiczis stated that in the City of Taft Zoning Map, there is Industrial Designation but in the Zoning Ordinance it breaks it down further by specific use.

Thompson asked if there is a use for the property at this time. Waiczis stated that it might be oil production.

**Motion:** Moved by Sutherland, seconded by Thompson, to recommend approval of General Plan Amendment GPA 2013-09 to the Taft City Council.

**AYES:** Orrin, Sutherland, Thompson, Walchock

**PLANNING DIRECTOR REPORT 6:29:22 PM**

1. OTHER ITEMS (moved from item #2)
  - A. **Pizza Hut:** The City, business owner and County Building Officials have been working together to get all the proper permits pulled and are on their way to open sometime in middle of May.
  - B. **Hotel update:** The City is waiting for specific documents. Geary Coats is looking to have all the items turned in soon and hopefully get it on the next month's agenda.
  - C. **Taco Bell:** It may be coming to Rails to Trails in the future.
  - D. **Highway Sign Program:** The City is working with CalTrans and hopefully will start getting signs up within the next 6 months.
  - E. **Mine:** Waiczis will be attending a Mine Inspection class in May to be certified to do inspections of the mine.
  - F. **Joint Meeting:** Looking into finding a location, Church of Nazarah is one we are looking into.  
Commissioners agreed to talk about the Downtown: there is no color or a theme for the downtown area. They all agreed to have the joint meeting before the end of June, 2013.
  - G. **Vacant Seats on the Planning Commission:** There is a vacant seat at this time, there are also going to be three terms ending in June, 2013. If any of the Commissioners are interested to continue another term or if any citizen is interested, they will need to turn in an application to the City Clerk's office.
2. **TRAINING – To be announced at the meeting. 6:38:35 PM**  
**Downtown Revitalization & Why Change Comes Slow to Small Towns and What To Do About That.**  
Two handouts were distributed to the Commissioners, audience and a copy entered into record.
  1. Downtown Revitalization
  2. Why Change Comes Slow to Small Towns and What to Do About it?

Waiczis spoke on the two subjects and there was a dialog between the Commissioners and Waiczis on the matter.

**CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS**

There were none.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

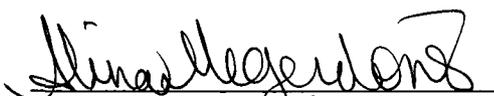
Walchock stated that his specific term ends June 30<sup>th</sup> and he has decided to step aside. He will not be reapplying for the position next term.

**Identification of Representative to the City Council.**

Commissioner Orrin stated he would attend the Council Meeting and report on Planning Commission meeting updates on Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** Moved by Orrin seconded by Thompson on and approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 7:32:29 PM.

  
Alina Megerdom, Recording Secretary

  
Curtis Walchock, Chairperson