

**TAFT CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY
MINUTES
DECEMBER 17, 2013**

REGULAR MEETING

The December 17, 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 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Waldrop, followed by the invocation given by Howard Tello of the Taft Seventh Day Adventist Church.

PRESENT: Mayor Paul Linder; Mayor Pro Tem Orchel Krier.
Council Members Randy Miller and Ron Waldrop.
City Manager Craig Jones; City Attorney Tom Ebersole;
Deputy City Clerk Debra Elliott.

ABSENT: Council Member Dave Noerr

**1. PRESENTATION – DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY
HADLEY PITTMAN**

Professor David Lane of Taft College introduced his student, Miss Hadley Pittman who presented a report on economic development and the issues she found in Taft while working on a class project.

2. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Kathy Orrin, Executive Director of the Taft Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of the recent post card contest; thanked Council for participating in the Christmas Parade; announced February 6th as the date for the 2014 Chamber Installation Dinner.

3. TREASURERS REPORT

Ben Mangum, City Treasurer gave a report on the month ending October 31, 2013.

4. COUNCIL STATEMENTS (NON ACTION)

Council Member Waldrop stated his concern regarding speeding on Highway 33 through town and asked everyone to slow down and be aware of the speed limit.

Mayor Pro Tem Krier shared some memories of his high school football days and also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Council Member Miller reported that the City is moving forward with opening the CCF; wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Linder remarked on his experience in the Christmas Parade and thanked everyone involved for the successful event; wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

5. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Chairman Ron Orrin reported on the December 4th meeting of the Taft Planning Commission. CUP #2013-22 was discussed and approved; announced 2014 meeting schedule has been changed to the 3rd Wednesday of each month; special commission meeting to be held on September 18th regarding the Black Gold Industrial Park.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Louise Hudgens, City Clerk thanked the Council and the community for all of the support she has received throughout her career with the City. She will be retiring at the end of 2013.

7. CITY MANAGER STATEMENTS

Mr. Jones reported that Staff at City Hall will be very busy throughout the holiday season; recruitment for approximately 70 positions is ongoing; anyone interested can apply on the City's website.

8. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS

Mr. Ebersol wished the entire Council and the public a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

9. FUTURE AGENDA REQUESTS – There were none.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 10 - 12

Moved by Krier, seconded by Miller, to approve consent calendar items 10-12.

AYES: Krier, Miller, Waldrop, Linder

10. MINUTES

December 3, 2013 Regular Meeting
December 5, 2013 Special Meeting
Recommendation – Approve as submitted.

11. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Warrant No. 12-06-13	Check No. 76457-76515	\$ 501,936.35
Warrant No. 12-06-13	Check No. 76516-76518	\$ 10,056.08

Recommendation – Approve payment of the bills.

12. AUTHORIZE MAYOR TO SIGN A LAND LEASE AGREEMENT WITH WESTSIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CO. LLC

Recommendation – Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a land lease agreement with Westside Economic Development LLC

13. DETERMINE METHOD TO FILL CITY CLERK POSITION

Mayor Linder voiced his concern regarding filling this unscheduled vacancy. Due to the cost of a special election, he strongly urged Council to solicit applications or letters of interest from qualified citizens interested in filling the position in place of a special election and make an appointment from those applicants.

Krier, Miller and Waldrop all concurred.

Staff was directed to solicit qualified applicants through local newspapers and the City website to fill the vacancy.

- Mayor Linder announced that the January 7, 2014, Council Meeting has been cancelled. A special meeting may be called if necessary. The next regularly scheduled meeting is January 21, 2013.
- Mayor Linder recessed the meeting to closed session at 7:05 PM.

CLOSED SESSION

A. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR, CRAIG JONES, CITY MANAGER,
Government Code 54957.6 – All units.

- No reportable action.

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION Government Code
Section 54956.9 – for consultation with its attorney(s) regarding existing litigation.
City of Taft vs. CDCR

- No reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:52 PM.

Debra L. Elliott, Deputy City Clerk

Paul Linder, Mayor