

**TAFT CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY
MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING

The February 18, 2014, 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 [6:01 PM](#). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Miller, followed by the invocation given by Jim Steel, Community Christian Fellowship.

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

1. PUBLIC HEARING - 2014 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM APPLICATION AND CITIZEN INPUT

The Public Hearing was opened at [6:05 PM](#) to receive testimony from proponents and opponents. Being none, the Public Hearing was closed.

Motion by Noerr, seconded by Miller to allow staff to move forward with preparations for the 2014 CDBG grant application process.

AYES: Krier, Miller, Noerr, Waldrop, Linder

2. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

3. COUNCIL STATEMENTS (NON ACTION)

Council Member Noerr

- Commented on Cruise Night and the great attendance shown by the community. Asked that all groups attending events in the downtown area respect the law and each other.

Council Member Miller

- Thanked everyone who participated in the fundraising event for the Jacob Fouse memorial.
- Reported on Bethany Fitzsimmons, sophomore at Taft Union High School who is a member of the varsity soccer team and has scored 70 goals this year.

Council Member Waldrop

- Thanked all those who participated in Cruise Night and commented on how well attended the event was.
- Thanked Council Member Noerr for his donation to the Taft Lyons Club.

Council Member Krier

- Reported on the Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner event, held at the Fox Theatre.
- Informed everyone of the upcoming swearing-in ceremony for the Taft Modified Community Correctional Facility grand re-opening to be held Friday, February 21 at 9:00 AM.
- Also enjoyed the great turn out at last week's Cruise Night.

Mayor Linder

- Shared the success of the Kiwanis flag fundraiser where 55 businesses participated in the President's Day event.
- Expressed his sincere gratitude to City Staff for their tireless work to get the facility up and running. Also thanked the contractor for getting work done on time.

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ed Whiting, Chief of Police

- Thanked the community and visitors for being respectful of each other at Cruise Night.
- Acknowledged the leadership of City Manager Jones.
- Informed the Council of the 1033 Program with the California Department of Emergency Management Agency which allows screening of federal property. The police department is interested in securing a mine resistant, armored personnel carrier (MRAP). Vehicles are in surplus in Texas and are brand new. The value of the vehicle is approximately \$600,000. The only cost to the City for the vehicle would be shipping cost at approximately \$5,000.

5. CITY MANAGER STATEMENTS

Mr. Jones reported on the MCCF re-opening ceremony to be held February 21st. Officers will be sworn in and tours will be available to those wishing to participate. Lunch will be available as well.

6. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS

There were none.

7. FUTURE AGENDA REQUESTS

- Council Member Miller requested that the evaluation of the City Manager be placed on the agenda. Mayor Linder concurred. Item will be placed on the March 18th agenda.
- Council Member Krier requested a proclamation for Safe Surrender Month. Mayor Linder explained that all information will need to be provided to staff by the organization in order to for the proclamation to be prepared. Doug Keeler of the Midway Driller suggested that the proclamation be presented during the month of May which is the anniversary month of Baby Noah's death which initiated Safe Surrender month. Mr. Keeler will locate the proper information and will provide it to City Staff, at which time the item will be placed on the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 8 - 15

Motion by Krier, seconded by Waldrop to approve consent calendar items 8 – 15.

AYES: Krier, Miller, Noerr, Waldrop, Linder

8. MINUTES

February 4, 2014 Regular

Recommendation – Approve as submitted.

9. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Warrant # 1-31-14 Check No. 76833-76834 \$ 202.50

Recommendation – Approve payment of the bills.

10. TREASURER’S REPORT

Recommendation – Motion to receive and file Treasurer’s Report dated February 10, 2014

11. RATIFY EMERGENCY PURCHASES MADE TO REOPEN THE MODIFIED COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Recommendation - Motion to ratify the purchases totaling \$178,912.29.

12. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RE-DESIGNATION OF THE KERN COUNTY/LANCASTER RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT ZONE

Recommendation - Adopt a resolution entitled **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT SUPPORTING RE-DESIGNATION OF THE KERN COUNTY/ LANCASTER RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT ZONE.**

13. STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLANNING GRANT AND INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Recommendation - Motion to approve and adopt a resolution entitled **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO THE STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PLANNING GRANT AND INCENTIVES PROGRAM UNDER THE SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND ACT OF 2006 (PROPOSITION 84) AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS.**

14. AUTHORIZE THE PLANNING DIRECTOR TO ATTEND THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION’S 2014 NATIONAL PLANNING CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, APRIL 26-30, 2014

Recommendation - Motion to approve travel for the Planning Director to attend the APA’s 2014 National Planning Conference in Atlanta Georgia on April 26, 2014, to April 30, 2014.

15. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (EDD) PAYOUTS

Recommendation – Motion to authorize the loan of \$1,968 from General Fund Reserves to the CCF for the payment of the 2013, 4th quarter EDD Benefits.

16. APPOINTMENT TO FILL CITY CLERK VACANCY

Mayor Linder stated that he would like to ask each candidate three questions and that members of the council focus their attention to the answers given. After which time, Council will be polled for their choice of candidate. Mayor Linder indicated that his purpose in this format is to make sure that each candidate receives the same questions in order to make a fair assessment. Mayor Linder asked each of the three candidates to be escorted from the Chamber so that the candidates

do not have the opportunity to hear the questions prior to their turn. All council members concurred.

Mayor Linder conducted interviews of Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Mayfield and Ms. Megerdom. Each candidate was asked to introduce themselves and share their past employment experience; asked what key responsibilities or tasks are required of a city clerk; and asked why they felt they should be appointed.

Mayor Linder polled each council member for their choice. The vote was as follows:

Ms. Megerdom:	Waldrop, Krier, Noerr
Ms. Mayfield:	Miller, Linder
Ms. Gonzalez:	None

- At this time Council Member Miller and Mayor Linder changed their votes in support of Ms. Megerdom.

Motion by Waldrop, seconded by Miller to appoint Ms. Alina Megerdom to the position of Taft City Clerk to complete the unscheduled vacancy, expiring December 4, 2016.

AYES: Krier, Miller, Noerr, Waldrop, Linder

Mayor Linder asked the Deputy City Clerk to administer the Oath of Office to the newly appointed City Clerk.

At 6:58 PM the meeting was recessed to Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION

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

- No reportable action.

B. CONFERENCE WITH PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR, CRAIG JONES, CITY MANAGER, Government Code 54956.8 – one (1) undisclosed location.

- No reportable action.

C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION Government Code Section 54956.9 (a) – City of Taft vs. CDCR.

- No reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to conduct the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.