

**TAFT CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY
MINUTES
MARCH 4, 2014**

REGULAR MEETING

The March 4, 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 [6:08:03 PM](#). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Krier, followed by invocation given by Bob Jordan, Light House Church.

PRESENT: Mayor Paul Linder; Mayor Pro Tem Orchel Krier.
Council Member Ron Waldrop.
City Manager Craig Jones; City Attorney Jason Epperson
City Clerk Alina Megerdom.

ABSENT: Council Members Randy Miller, Dave Noerr
Per Mayor Linder both Council Members Miller and Noerr absence has been excused.

1. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

2. COUNCIL STATEMENTS (NON ACTION)

Council Member Waldrop

- Would like to see everyone at Cruise Night on Friday, March 7, 2014.

Council Member Krier

- He attended a Bingo night at the Moose Lodge. It started at 7:00 PM, was there for 2 ½ hours and won prizes. Would like to invite the community to attend and enjoy themselves while supporting a good cause.
- Looking forward to Cruise Night on Friday.
- There is always something good to do in Taft. He suggests everyone to look in their local newspaper and partake in the activities in Taft.

Mayor Linder

- Marty Jones was the Public Works Director for the City of Taft; he lost the battle with cancer last week. He was a former employee of City of Taft and served the City well. If the City would be so kind to send a letter and flowers from City of Taft to his service.
- Thanked the City staff, Police Department and all the new recruits at Modified Community Correctional Facility (MCCF). They have received about fifty inmates; they should be getting more each week and have the facility full by the end of the month. Praised everyone for their hard work.
- Welcomed the newly appointed City Clerk, Alina Megerdom.

3. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT – [6:13:54 PM](#)

Commissioner Hill reported on Planning Commission meeting that met on February 19th.

- Center Street One-Way Improvements on 400 to 500 blocks. Among the participating business owners, the feeling was unanimous that making these two blocks one way would create a negative impact on all the Center Street businesses and special events. The Planning Commission unanimously agreed to amend the Resolution to remove one way from the Center Street improvements.
- Tabled the City of Taft Municipal Service Review Update until the full report is ready.
- Staples briefed the Commission on Energy Action Watch Meeting that he attended in January and a CEQA Workshop held by the Central California Chapter of the Association of Environmental Professionals on February 6, 2014. In addition he discussed case studies in Small Town Economic Development.
- Special Planning Commission Meeting on March 5, 2014 at 6:00 PM. An open forum discussion for a Needs Assessment for Center Street. She invited the Council and the public to attend.

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS – There were none

5. CITY MANAGER STATEMENTS [6:15:48 PM](#)

- The City started a Spay and Neuter program from a grant they received from PetSmart. The program is going very well. There are two avenues one could take. One is taking the dog to local Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Ross and second is through Unity Thrift. The target number for 2014 is 300, he believes they are over 77 animals and have only started the program for a month and a half.

Mayor Linder asked if the vouchers are only for dogs or for cats too. Jones replied that it's for dogs only within the 93268 zip code. Supervisor David Couch is looking into another program for cats in Taft.

- MCCF is open; they are receiving inmates each week and are hoping to be full within five weeks.

6. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS [6:18:50 PM](#)

Mayor Linder introduced the new City Attorney, Jason Epperson and welcomed him to Taft.

Attorney Epperson thanked the Council, introduced himself and stated that he will be filling in for Tom Ebersole. Tom wanted to offer his apologies and also thank everyone for all the excellent time he had in Taft. He has become a Deputy Council in the County of Merced and unfortunately he can no longer have the pleasure of being here in Taft. Attorney Epperson is looking forward to the opportunity and is happy to be here in Taft.

7. FUTURE AGENDA REQUESTS - [6:19:54 PM](#)

Council Member Krier inquired about Charter City. Direction was given to staff to gather more information and bring it back to Council.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 8 – 14 6:20:22 PM

Motion by Waldrop, seconded by Krier to approve consent calendar items 8-14.

AYES: Krier, Waldrop, Linder

8. MINUTES

February 18, 2014 Regular

Recommendation – Approve as submitted.

9. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Warrant #	2-14-14	Check No.76835-76920	\$552,201.13
Warrant #	2-14-14	Check No. 76921	\$ 100.00
Warrant #	2-20-14	Check No. 76922	\$ 410.72

Recommendation – Approve payment of the bills.

10. LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF) – OTHER FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS DUE DILIGENCE REVIEW

Recommendation–Informational only.

11. LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF) – LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING FUND DUE DILIGENCE REVIEW

Recommendation -Informational only.

12. SUPPORTING ADOPTION OF PROCESS BY KERN COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION TO EVALUATE LOCAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Recommendation - Motion to adopt a resolution entitled **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT SUPPORTING ADOPTION OF PROCESS BY KERN COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION TO EVALUATE LOCAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

13. RATIFY EXPENDITURES AND ALLOCATE FUNDS FROM SEWER RESERVES FOR EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH MARCH 2013 SEWER SPILL AND SUBSEQUENT NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Recommendation - Motion to ratify expenditures and allocate \$30,000 from sewer reserves for expenses associated with March 2013 sewer spill and subsequent Notice of Violation.

14. RATIFY EXPENDITURES AND ALLOCATE FUNDS FROM SEWER RESERVES FOR SMART COVERS AND METER

Recommendation–Motion to ratify expenditures and allocate \$27,988 from sewer reserves for expenses associated with March 2013 sewer spill and subsequent Notice of Violation.

The Regular meeting was recessed to closed session at [6:23:00 PM](#).

CLOSED SESSION

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

No Action taken.

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Government Code Section 54956.9(b) – one (1) undisclosed case

No Action taken.

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

No Action taken.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to conduct, Mayor Linder adjourned the meeting at [7:33:00 PM](#).

Alina Megerdom, City Clerk

Paul Linder, Mayor