

**TAFT CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY  
MINUTES  
MARCH 18, 2014**

**REGULAR MEETING**

The March 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 [6:03:51 PM](#) . The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Noerr, followed by invocation given by Bob Jordan, Light House Four Square Church.

PRESENT: Mayor Paul Linder; Mayor Pro Tem Orchel Krier.  
Council Members Randy Miller, Dave Noerr  
City Manager Craig Jones; City Attorney Jason Epperson  
City Clerk Alina Megerdom.

ABSENT: Council Member Ron Waldrop

**1. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

**2. COUNCIL STATEMENTS (NON ACTION) [6:05:59 PM](#)**

Council Member Miller

- Commented on Center Street Needs Assessment and the feedback he has received from business owners and citizens of Taft.
- Expressed his concern on business owners smoking in front of their business. If they need to smoke, they should smoke in the back or away from the pedestrians walking by.

Council Member Krier

- Informed everyone that he attended an event at the Moose Lodge. It was a fundraiser for local art program, which had a successful turnout.
- Informed about an event he attended for Saint Patrick's Day at the Church of the Nazarene.
- Concurred with Council Member Miller on Center Street issues. A lot of buildings on Center Street need to be updated. He enjoys going to Downtown Center Street, but most shops are closed after 5:30 PM. He would like more input from the public and business owners on Center Street.

Council Member Noerr

- Apologized to Council for not being able to make the Council Meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Expressed his concerns with SB1017, a bill that would impose a ten percent oil extraction tax on the oil industry in the State of California. Recently the Kern County Board of Supervisors voted 5/0 in opposition to SB1017. Supervisor David Couch will be going to Sacramento in April to speak against the latest proposal. Noerr requested a Special Meeting to be held in the next few weeks to put an item on the agenda in support of Supervisor Couch with a resolution opposing SB1017 and be considered by the Council.

Mayor Linder

- Concurred with Council Member Noerr to adopt a resolution or a letter of intent to support Supervisor Couch action in Sacramento. He also expressed the importance of the citizens letting their legislators know their feelings on this matter whether good or bad.
- Sent his condolences to Council Member Waldrop and his family for the loss of his brother. All Council members sent their condolences.
- Informed the public that Council meetings will now be televised Monday to Saturday at 6:00 AM, 12:00 PM and 6:00 PM on Bright House Networks Channel 11.

**3. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Chief Whiting

- Informed the Council that the Kern County Speedway at Highway 43 and Interstate 5 will continue in the tradition of law enforcement racing. They have invited the City of Taft to participate against City of Shafter and 5 other agencies. A local business has come to their assistance and donated the cost for the entry fee. The Police Department gratefully acknowledges the donation of \$4,500 to assist them in the racing with the other agencies. Chief Whiting does have the schedule for 2014; the first event is on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**4. CITY MANAGER STATEMENTS 6:27:36 PM**

- Mr. Jones stated that a year ago some members of the Greater Taft Economic Development Authority (GTEDA), couple of members from Supervisor Couch's office, Chamber of Commerce and a few Citizens took a tour of some of the areas in Taft City Limit, South Taft, Ford City trying to look for blight that could be easily corrected. Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, they will be having another tour. Mr. Jones is pleased to announce more than 90% of the issues that were addressed in the tour last year have been taken care of. He was also proud to see a lot of items written down in the City limits have been taken care of. They will be making another list tomorrow and look forward on working on the new list.
- Mr. Jones also reported that he had a meeting with Friends of Jawbone Canyon and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to discuss the Temblor Range. A year prior City of Taft did meet with BLM to discuss how BLM will manage the Temblor Range and the off-road use of that area. If people misuse the area, BLM can close it. Friends of Jawbone Canyon are trying to find a way to start a group called The Friends of Temblor Range to help keep the place open for the public to use. The city staff will be working with Friends of Jawbone Canyon and BLM to do some mapping and outreach for the project.

**5. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS** – There were none.

**6. FUTURE AGENDA REQUESTS** – There were none

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**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 7 - 14**

Council Member Miller asked to pull item number 7 from the consent calendar.

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

AYES: Krier, Miller, Noerr, Linder

7. **MINUTES**  
March 4, 2014 Regular

**Recommendation** – Approve as submitted.

8. **PAYMENT OF BILLS**  
Warrant # 2-28-14 Check No. 76923-76993 \$ 347,591.42

**Recommendation** – Approve payment of the bills.

9. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

**Recommendation** – Motion to receive and file Treasurer’s Report dated February 27, 2014.

10. **FUNDING TO THE TAFT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE QUARTER OF OCTOBER 2013 TO DECEMBER 2013**

**Recommendation** - Motion to approve the 25% allocation of the Transient Occupancy Tax to the Taft Chamber of Commerce for the Quarter of October 2013 through December 2013.

11. **TAFT AREA TRANSIT UNMET NEEDS HEARING**

**Recommendation** - Motion to adopt a resolution entitled **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT MAKING FINDINGS RELATIVE TO UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS IN THE CITY OF Taft.**  
*(Resolution No. 3583-14)*

12. **AUTHORIZE ADDITIONAL HANDICAP PARKING ON SAN EMIDIO STREET FOR TAFT UNION HIGH SCHOOL**

**Recommendation** - Motion to authorized Taft Union High School to install two additional ADA compliant handicap parking spaces on the 700 block of San Emidio Street.

13. **PURCHASE OF AMMUNITION FOR THE MCCF AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Recommendation** - Informational only.

14. **OUTFIT MCCF JAIL TRANSPORT VAN**

**Recommendation** - Motion to approve installation and payment to Hi-Standard Automotive LLC for the purchase and installation of the security partitions in the Taft MCCF jail van.

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Miller asked before the closed session if Mr. Jones would state the number of inmates at MCCF. Jones stated that there are 252 at this time.

The Regular meeting was recessed to closed session at 6:40 PM.

**CLOSED SESSION**

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

➤ No reportable action.

B. PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957 PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS. Position to be evaluated: City Manager.

➤ No reportable action.

C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION Government Code Section 54956.9 – Sierra Club v. City of Taft and Taft City Council.

➤ No reportable action.

**ADJOURNMENT** - With no further business to conduct, Mayor Linder adjourned the meeting at [8:33 PM](#).

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**Alina Megerdom, City Clerk**

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**Paul Linder, Mayor**