

**TAFT CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY  
MINUTES  
AUGUST 5, 2014**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**6:00 P.M.**

The August 5, 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 Paul Linder at 6:08 PM . The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Dave Noerr, followed by an invocation given by Bob Jordan, Light House Four Square Church.

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

ABSENT: Council Member Randy Miller

**1. PUBLIC HEARING ON COSTS AND PLACEMENT OF LIENS ON ABATED PROPERTY**

The Public Hearing (PH) was opened at 6:10 PM to receive testimony from proponents and opponents. Being none, the PH was closed.

Moved by Noerr, seconded by Krier, to confirm Statement of Expense as submitted and approved resolutions entitled:

- A. RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT APPROVING AND CONFIRMING THE COSTS FOR THE ABATEMENT OF THE NUISANCE AT 318 CENTER ST., TAFT, CA, APN# 031-030-18 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$451.11 (*Resolution 3615-14*)
- B. RESOLUTION ..... 429 CENTER ST., TAFT, CA, APN #031-040-01 . . . \$2,328.26 (*Resolution 3616-14*)
- C. RESOLUTION ..... 620 LUCARD ST., TAFT, CA, APN #031-260-17 . . . \$1,547.86 (*Resolution 3617-14*)

AYES: Noerr, Krier, Waldrop, Linder

PASSED: 4/0

**2. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS 6:15 PM**

- Nick Ortiz from Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA), asked the Councils support in a new coalition in the community supporting oil and gas development in Kern County. He was joined by Tracy Leach, Kern Citizens for Energy coalition. Their mission is to support local oil and gas production conducted in an environmentally sound manner in order to reduce dependence on foreign oil, provide local jobs and increase revenues for Kern County schools, roads and public safety. Their goal is to educate the community and provide fact based arguments to opposition claim and to support the local oil and gas industry – and ensure that the industry will continue providing jobs and driving the economy in Kern County. They requested of the Council at a future meeting,

if they would agendas' a request from Kern Citizens Energy to join their coalition and continue to support their industry. They are going to be asking every city that is incorporated in Kern County to join this coalition. They are asking the City of Taft first, not only is the City of Taft home to the oil industry but, the cities support for the oil industry from OilDorado, Oil academy, the recent appreciation day, etc. They definitely appreciate as an industry the support Taft has shown them and their employees.

A handout was presented to the Council Members and entered into record.

Mayor Linder stated that the City of Taft has been pro-oil, they have been built on oil and they appreciate the oil industry. If there is anything they can do in the future including placing this item on a future agenda. All Council Members concurred.

- Kathy Orrin, Executive Director Taft Chamber of Commerce, announced:
  - Invited everyone to attend the ground breaking ceremony for Sandy Creek Estates, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM, Hillard & Rails to Trails in Taft.
  - Oktoberfest is the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in October. There will be a carnival on Rails to Trails.
  - Thanked everyone for their kind wishes and the sympathy they have extended to her family at the recent passing of her mother, Mary Garner.
- Jack Leonard, citizen of Taft stated he had some concerns:
  - Paving work on Church Street. He was disappointed on the work.
  - Sewer work on Asher Avenue; curb, gutters and sidewalks were only placed on one side of the street. Nice work but, could not understand why it was only on one side.
  - GM Building on North Street; it would be nice to be able to get tenants in the GM building with another car dealer. If someone could speak with the car dealers in Bakersfield and open a satellite office in Taft. Keep some of the sales tax in Taft, rather than it going to Bakersfield.

Mayor Linder stated that he would like to address a few of Mr. Leonard's concerns:

- Paving on Church Street; that was a stop gap, the city decided to spend a little bit of money now to make sure that street did not degrade any further. They do have grant funds coming to properly pave the street. It was a temporary patch until they are able to properly pave the roads.
  - The sewer work, curbs and gutters; most of it was paid for through a grant called Safe Routs to Schools. It only covered one side of the street because that's the most direct route to Conley School.
  - Car lot; they were all very sad seeing it close. They would love to see a business come back that would back fill that tax revenue. They will look around but it's up to the property owner.
- Kate Eucce and Robin McGarrah, Alzheimer's Disease Association of Kern County, Inc. spoke on behalf of the organization and the service they provide in Taft. They provide a respite service one day a week in Taft at First Baptist Church, 220 North Street, every Thursday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. They have support groups for caregivers, outreach and referral service to help the caregivers on their journey. They offer Adult Care for individuals. The daycare provides care

and companionship for those who need assistance and supervision during the day. The respite service provides a safe environment, social interaction, exercise, mental stimulation, group and individual activities, mood enhancement, etc.

The Heart Never Forgets Fundraising event: October 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Wes & Tracie Bradford home. Steve Harvey, keynote speaker will be sharing his story on how Alzheimer's has affected his family. Invited everyone to join and support the cause.

A handout was presented to the Council Members and entered into record.

- David Couch, District 4 Supervisor stated that he was present for two reasons:
  - To support ADAKC, Alzheimer's Disease Association of Kern County, Inc. They do a great work in Bakersfield and throughout the County.
  - Last year, the Taft City Council approved a contribution of \$2,000 for spay and neuter services. Cities contribution was leveraged with an additional contribution of \$2,000 from the Kern County District Office Budget. In total, these funds provided fifty (50) \$80 vouchers and were made available for residents living in the 93268 zip code. To date, 36 of these vouchers have been redeemed, 14 vouchers have expired. In light of the good work the city has accomplished a \$50,000 grant with PetSmart to Spay and Neuter just dogs. County of Kern would like to supplement the remaining funds to spay and neuter cats in the 93268 zip code. If there is any overage, his office will pick that up and they would like to do a mobile clinic in Taft just for cats.

A letter was presented to the Council members and entered into record.

Mayor Linder stated that it was a great idea and this will help move to that direction. He wanted to know if it needs to be agendized to ratify it.

Attorney Jason stated it would be best to agendize it for the next meeting as he is unfamiliar with the program and he would like to take a look at it first. But, he does not anticipate any problems.

- Mike Long, business owner on Center Street stated that he sent a letter to the City Manager on Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup> asking if he can be a member on the Ad Hoc Annexation Committee. He does not reside in Taft but he is a business owner on Center Street. He would like to serve on the committee because he feels that he brings a unique perspective to why annexation is important.

### 3. COUNCIL STATEMENTS (NON ACTION)

Council Member Waldrop – There were none.

#### Mayor Pro Tem Krier

- Thanked Supervisor David Couch for all that he does for Taft.
- Kern Citizens for Energy: is a great organization and he supports it. Asked the public to be part of the Kern Citizens for Energy and support oil industry.

**Council Member Noerr:**

- Praised Supervisor Couch and his team. The people in the unincorporated parts of Taft have never had better access to government than they have under Supervisor Couch's stewardship. Supervisor Couch and his team have paid a great deal of attention to the people that they govern for. The people on the Westside have an opportunity to talk to Supervisor Couch, his feedback and actions speak for themselves. Supervisor Couch leads from the frontline and that is a very effective way to lead. All the hard work is appreciated.
- Apologized for missing the last Council Meeting. Thanked the Council for choosing him as the right guy for the job on the Ad Hoc Annexation Committee.

**Mayor Linder**

- Thanked the Alzheimer's Disease Association for their hard work. He has also been touched by the disease. He has an aunt that has been diagnosed and is now she is in a very good home in Bakersfield. His uncle at first was taking care of her and he can see how difficult it can be on the caretakers. It's a great program and he encourages citizens to take advantage of it if they have a loved one that has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

**4. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

Planning Commissioner Rene Hill reported on the July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Taft Planning Commission and the following was discussed:

- Zoning Ordinance Amendment 2014-06 – Consideration of a zoning ordinance amendment consisting of an amendment to Chapter 15 of Title 6 of the City of Taft Zoning Ordinance, regarding Sign standards. Resolution 2014-06 was approved for Council consideration. In an effort to better serve the community the Commissioners will be receiving quarterly reports on signs and vacant building ordinances to follow the progress.
- Site Plan Review 2014-09 – Proposal for a 6,000 square foot industrial building, on a 20.0 acre lot with two existing buildings totaling 16,400 square feet, within the Industrial (I) Zone District located at 800 Blackgold Court (APN 220-240-21). The proposal was discussed and approved Resolution 2014-08 approving Site Plan Review 2014-09.
- Site Plan Review 2014-10 – Proposal to set a 1,440 square foot office trailer for use as a temporary office location for the West Side Health Care District, on a 9,000 square foot portion of a 2.3 acre lot, within the Mixed Use (MU) Zone District located at 119 Adkisson Way (APN 032-060-05) was discussed and approved Resolution 2014-09 approving Site Plan Review 2014-10.
- Mark Staples, Planning and Community Development Director discussed Take 5! Energy Efficiency Success Stories – The City of Taft was recognized by Kern Energy Watch for its efforts with local commercial businesses in the "Take 5! For Energy Conservation", which included free energy audit reports and low cost energy efficiency, retrofits. Hill stated that not only has she taken advantage of the program and saved money on her electric bill also other business owners in Taft have, and are very happy with the work that was done and the money they have saved.
- Commissioners Orrin and Thompson will be on the Ad Hoc Committee for Annexation.
- The Planning Commission will have a Special Meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss Tentative

Parcel Map No. 12126 (2014-11) – Proposal of a tentative parcel map to subdivide a 2.55 acre lot into 3 lots within the General Commercial (GC) Zone District.

**5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Mark Staples presented a power point presentation on Sandy Creek. The power point gave a timeline on when it started and where they are now. The original Track Map was submitted in January of 2004.

Council Member Noerr stated that he is happy that this project is finally coming to fruition, it was a hard fought battle, and Mr. Colston could have walked away from it anytime. It's going to be a very nice thing for the City and wanted to thank all the hard work and cooperation. All Council Members concurred with Noerr.

**6. CITY MANAGER STATEMENTS 7:09:38 PM**

Craig Jones stated that he wanted to add some comments on the concerns that Mr. Leonard had:

Church Street: The City spend \$20,000 for the paving on Church Street. The complete job that the City is hoping to complete within a year will be around \$200,000. It will be a complete job, total grind and replace, replacing some of the concrete areas by the intersection.

Car Lot on North Street: He has been speaking to some of the major car dealers in Bakersfield; it seems that the issue for that location is the design requirements for the new dealerships. If another major car dealer was to come to Taft, they would be located somewhere on the highway and probably resemble a start of an auto mall. The good news is, there is interest in that car lot a business that does generate tax, part of their business is already in Taft. They are in private negotiations; the Planning Dept. is working with them and answering their questions.

New Business: David James and Company, they are a new tenant at Blackgold Court. They will be a wonderful tax generating business for Taft.

New Projects: Rails to Trails IV, from 2<sup>nd</sup> to Highway 33, is moving forward. They are working on some of the hydrology studies for the bridge that will go over Sandy Creek. They are working through those issues.

Rails to Trails extension from Hillard Street, from the trail to A Street Park, the bid is out on that. Construction on that will start around the same time as the houses are being built.

Safe Route to Schools: It was bided out; the lowest bidder did not meet the requirements from Caltrans for disadvantage business Enterprise points. So they have to go to the next, and they are now qualifying.

Waste Water Treatment Plant: They are beginning the Waste Water Treatment Plant design.

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

**8. FUTURE AGENDA REQUESTS –**

Council Member Waldrop requested to add Kern Citizens for Energy to the next meeting Agenda. All Council Members concurred.

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**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 9 - 12**

**Motion:** Moved by Waldrop, seconded by Krier, to approve consent calendar items 9-12.

**AYES:** Krier, Noerr, Waldrop, Linder

**PASSED:** 4/0

**9. MINUTES**

July 15, 2014 Regular

➤ Council Member Noerr abstained due to being absent at the meeting.

**Recommendation** – Approve as submitted.

**10. PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Warrant#	7-18-2014	Check No. 77823-77892	\$310,368.53
Warrant#	7-18-2014A	Check No. 77893-77944	\$144,661.53
Warrant#	7-18-2014	Check No. 77945	\$ 1,500.00

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

**11. COMMUNITY SHOWCASE VIDEO PROGRAM – CGI COMMUNICATIONS**

**Recommendation** - Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement between CGI Communications and the City of Taft, and to approve and sign the introduction letter.

**12. INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SHOPPING CENTERS (ICSC) WESTERN DIVISION CONFERENCE & DEAL MAKING EXPO**

**Recommendation** - Motion to approve attendance, booth rental, and associated costs at the 2014 ICSC Western Division Conference & Expo in San Diego, California.

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**13. ANNEXATION AD HOC COMMITTEE 7:16 PM**

**Recommendation** - The City Council to welcome a representative from Occidental Oil and Gas Corporation to serve on the Annexation Ad Hoc Committee and extend the interest list filing time of potential city members.

Mayor Linder asked if there was a deadline set on the receiving of letter. Jones stated that there was none.

Mayor Linder stated that Mr. Long has submitted a letter of interest. He is not a citizen of Taft. At this time Linder encouraged the citizens to turn in letter of interest to the City Clerk, Ms. Megerdom. If they did move towards an area of annexation, they would welcome people that live within that area to be part of the committee.

Jones recommended to the Council to accept OXY and an additional oil company if they ask to join.

Council members all concurred to add OXY to the committee and stated they need two more citizens from Taft and leave one vacant seat for another oil company.

Jones stated that it will be a public meeting therefore if anyone wanted to come and listen, they are more than welcome to.

The regular meeting was recessed to closed session at 7:25 PM.

**CLOSED SESSION**

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

➤ No reportable action.

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNCIL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
Government Code 54956.9 (a) – 2 cases. Casey Ray vs. City of Taft Police Department and Charles Alldredge vs. City of Taft.

➤ No reportable action.

**ADJOURNMENT-** With no further business to conduct, Mayor Linder adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

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Alina Megerdom, City Clerk

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Paul Linder, Mayor