

**CITY OF TAFT  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 20, 2014**

The August 20, 2014, regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Taft, held in the City of Taft Council Chamber, 209 E. Kern Street, Taft, CA 93268, was opened by Chairman Ron Orrin at 6:02 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Bob Leikam, and invocation was given by Jack Turner, Peace Lutheran Church.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Ron Orrin and Vice Chairman Robert Thompson;  
Commissioners Shannon Jones, Renée Hill and Bob Leikam.  
Planning and Community Development Director Mark Staples;  
City Attorney Jason Epperson, City Clerk Alina Megerdom.

**I. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Consider approval of minutes for the July 16, 2014, Regular Planning Commission Meeting.

➤ Minutes will be distributed at the meeting.

Recommendation: Approve as submitted.

➤ Commissioners Jones and Leikam abstained due to being absent at the meeting.

**Motion:** Motion by Thompson, second by Hill to approve the minutes for the July 16, 2014, Regular Planning Commission Meeting.

**AYES:** Hill, Thompson, Orrin  
**PASSED:** 3/0

**III. PUBLIC HEARING**

City of Taft Municipal Service Review Update – Consideration of an update to the City of Taft and West Side Recreation and Park District Municipal Service Reviews (MSR) for the Kern County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo). 6:06 PM

**Recommendation:** Review and tentatively approve the City of Taft and West Side Recreation and Park District Sections 2.1 through 2.4, and 2.8 through 2.11; and continue item until the regular Planning Commission meeting in September.

Mark Staples read the Staff Report on City of Taft Municipal Service Review Update.

Jones stated there are a few typos that needed to be corrected and gave the sections and items.

Leikam asked if Camp Condor is owned by Taft. Orrin stated that it is owned by the County. Staples stated that he will look into that further.

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:06 PM to receive testimony from proponents and opponents. Being none, the Public Hearing was closed.

**Motion:** Moved by Hill, seconded by Leikam to Review and tentatively approve the City of Taft and West Side Recreation and Park District Sections 2.1 through 2.4, and 2.8 through 2.11; and continue item until the regular Planning Commission meeting in September.

AYES: Jones, Hill, Leikam, Thompson, Orrin

PASSED: 5/0

#### IV. PLANNING COMMISSION REVIEW

1. Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Response Letter – 621 Center Street for a Type 47 (Beer, Wine, and Distilled Spirits) License 6:20 PM

**Recommendation:** Review and Approve the Response Letters regarding 621 Center Street

Staples read the Staff Report on Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Response Letter.

Thompson asked how much weight does the letter hold. Staples stated that they can accept or reject, but he does not believe that's how they operate. If jurisdictions ask for conditions or limits on a license, they usually agree with it. He also does not believe the comments from the public and Commission is anything above and beyond other restaurants that are operating on Center Street.

Hill asked if they need to apply for Conditional Use Permit. They have been closed for more than thirty days. Staples stated that the restaurant use does not and the liquor license is still active, it's a transfer from the prior ownership. The data on the licenses is public record on ABC's website. He did check to see if it's a standalone license or a transfer from the LaVilla Restaurant; it was linked to the prior license. There was no change of location and it is not a new Type 47 application.

Jones stated that on Type 47 license it states that minor are allowed on the premises. But, she was told there has been number of occasions that minors were not allowed to enter the premises and it was a 21 and over only.

Orrin asked what can be done if their Conditional Uses are not adhered to. If they violate their Conditional Use Permit (CUP) how can it be addressed. Staples stated that the license for this location dates back to 1971 or earlier with the White Elephant Restaurant. The CUP runs with the land, he would have to double check with the CUP section to review the provisions to revoke the CUP.

Orrin asked Chief Whiting if this is something the police handle, what is the Commissioner's responsibility. Chief Whiting stated that as a Police Department they are investigatory for criminal offences where ABC is both investigatory and regulatory. They can do fines and

suspension where Police does not have the authority. Concerning the restaurant, if it's violating the permitted license that the City Council requires them to have, there is a process in place within the City Ordinance allowing to revoke the permit. They have to be given a notice, they have to attend City Council and at the meeting the business permit can be revoked. For ABC violations, they would simply notify ABC, they would come in and do an inspection.

Orrin asked if the letter should be addressed to Richard Torres Ornelous who is the new designee on the application. Staples stated that he will send a copy of the letter to Richard Torres Ornelous and the property owner

**Motion:** Moved by Thompson, seconded by Jones to send a response letter regarding 621 Center Street with the addendums as mentioned.

AYES: Jones, Hill, Leikam, Thompson, Orrin  
PASSED: 5/0

**V. PLANNING DIRECTOR REPORT**

1. Project Status Updates – Best Western Plus Hotel, Sandy Creek Estates, and Taco Bell

Staples gave a brief project update reports on Best Western Plus Hotel, Sandy Creek Estates and Taco Bell.

**VI. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS** - There were none.

**VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Orrin stated Robert Williams passing has brought to light at lot of activity that goes on in Taft with the film industry. He suggested that the downtown people get together and do a monument or anything to memorialize that they have been here. It would be clever, fun and point of interest.

**Identification of Representative to the City Council.**

Commissioner Hill stated she would attend the Council Meeting and report on Planning Commission meeting updates on Tuesday, September 2, 2014.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** Moved by Leikam, seconded by Thompson and approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 PM.

  
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Alina Megerdom, City Clerk

  
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Ron Orrin, Chair

