

**TAFT CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2015**

REGULAR MEETING

6:00 P.M.

The February 3, 2015, 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 Randy Miller at [6:04:20 PM](#). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Josh Bryant, followed by an invocation given by Bob Jordan of the Four Square Light House Church.

PRESENT: Mayor Randy Miller
Council Members Orchel Krier, Josh Bryant and Renee Hill
City Manager Craig Jones and City Attorney Jason Epperson
City Clerk Yvette Mayfield

ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Dave Noerr absent

1. PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE REGARDING THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF SYNTHETIC COMPOUNDS/DERIVATIVES (BATH SALTS)

The Public Hearing was opened at [6:07:40 PM](#) to receive testimony from proponents and opponents.

Council Member Krier said he thought it was important to pass this as it will help protect children from being tempted by these gateway drugs.

Council Member Hill stated this has been a long time in coming.

Council Member Bryant shared that it's nice to see the city taking a stand.

Mayor Miller indicated that this ordinance addresses synthetic drugs such as Bath Salts and Spice and we don't want these products in our community. There is no purpose for these types of items other than to get high.

The Public Hearing was closed at [6:09:45 PM](#).

Motion: Moved by Krier, seconded by Hill to approve the City of Taft Ordinance, Title 3, Chapter 7, entitled **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT PROHIBITING THE PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND SALE OF SYNTHETIC COMPOUNDS/DERIVATIVES (BATH SALTS)**, for first reading by title only and reading of such be waived.

AYES: Krier, Bryant, Hill, Miller
PASSED: 4-0

2. PUBLIC HEARING ON COSTS AND PLACEMENT OF LIENS ON ABATED PROPERTY

The Public Hearing was opened at [6:14:19 PM](#) to receive testimony from proponents and opponents. Being none, the Public Hearing was closed.

Motion: Moved by Bryant, seconded by Hill to confirm Statement of Expense as submitted and approve 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 209 CENTER ST., TAFT, CA, APN# 031-010-07 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 640.11**
A. RESOLUTION708 2ND ST., TAFT, CA, APN #031-402-04 \$6,916.85
B. RESOLUTION ...716 NORTH ST., TAFT, CA, APN #031-230-16. . \$ 175.49

AYES: Krier, Bryant, Hill, Miller
PASSED: 4-0

3. APPOINT A MEMBER TO THE CITY OF TAFT PLANNING COMMISSION TO FILL AN UNSCHEDULED VACANCY

Motion: Moved by Hill, seconded by Krier to appoint Jerry Livingston to fill the unscheduled vacancy, expiring June 30, 2017, to the position of City of Taft Planning Commissioner.

AYES: Krier, Bryant, Hill, Miller
PASSED: 4-0

4. APPOINT A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE WEST SIDE RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT BOARD TO FILL AN UNSCHEDULED VACANCY

- Council tabled this item until next meeting due to the absence of one Council Member and Mayor Miller needing to abstain from this item due to a conflict.

Motion: Moved by Bryant, seconded by Krier to postpone item to next meeting.

AYES: Krier, Bryant, Hill, Miller
PASSED: 4-0

5. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Kathy Orrin invited everyone to attend the Chamber Installation Awards Thursday night and shared that the Taft Kiwanis Club would be celebrating their 90th birthday along with the 100th birthday of Kiwanis International and asked that the Council consider a Proclamation recognizing this achievement.

Tony Cordova, Plant Manager for Synagro, addressed the Council requesting a letter of support to be utilized in their meeting with the County to discuss an expansion project for their business that would make the company even greener and reduce their carbon footprint.

- Mayor Pro Tem Dave Noerr arrived at 6:59 PM.

6. COUNCIL STATEMENTS (NON ACTION)

Council Member Hill

- Expressed appreciation to Chief Whiting and Dr. Orrin for their attendance at the January 22nd meeting of the Downtown Business Association.

Council Member Bryant

- Stated that he was in support of Synagro and their plans to expand business and reduce carbon footprint.
- Encouraged everyone to attend baseball tournament being held this weekend.
- Reminded everyone about Cruise Night this Friday.
- Personally acknowledged Kiwanis for the impact they had on his life growing up in Taft and congratulated them for 90 years.

Mayor Pro Tem Noerr

- Thanked the City Manager and City Attorney for their hard work on and the Council for their support of the Ordinance banning the sale of bath salts within the city.

Mayor Miller

- Gave kudos to Synagro for being a great partner with City of Taft.
- Shared that on a negative note, the new section of Rails to Trails is being damaged by off road vehicles being driven across it leaving deep ruts. On a positive note, the new trees planted along the Hillard Street extension of the Trail look really good.

7. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Commissioner Jones reported that during last month's meeting she was appointed to serve as the Planning Commissions representative on the Traffic Committee and that the Commission is currently reviewing the Housing Element as a part of the update that will need to be completed by end of 2015.

8. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chief Whiting gave PowerPoint presentation – 2013 -2014 Patrol Statistics.

Planning Director Mark Staples introduced Brenda Johns the new Office Assistant for the Planning Department.

9. CITY MANAGER STATEMENTS

There were none.

10. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS

There were none.

11. FUTURE AGENDA REQUESTS

Mayor Miller requested a Proclamation recognizing the Kiwanis Club's 90th birthday and Council Member Bryant concurred. Dr. Orrin was tasked with getting the needed information to City Clerk for this item.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 12 - 22

- Items 14 and 22 were removed by Bryant.
- Noerr abstained from Item Number 12 as he was absent from the January 20, 2015 meeting.

Motion: Moved by Bryant, seconded by Hill to approve consent calendar Items 12, 13 and 15 through 21.

AYES: Noerr, Krier, Bryant, Hill, Miller

PASSED: 5-0

12. MINUTES

January 20, 2015 Regular

Recommendation – Approve as submitted.

13. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Warrant# 12-19-2014	Check No.78960	\$ 8,893.79
Warrant# 01-16-2015	Check No.79039-79136	\$888,983.94
Warrant# 01-21-2015	Check No.79137-79139	\$ 22,780.30
Warrant# 01-21-2015	Check No.79140	\$ 2,401.11

Recommendation – Approve payment of the bills.

15. REVISION TO MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH TAFT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION (TCI)

Recommendation -

Motion to approve the revised Mutual Assistance Agreement between the Taft Correctional Institution and the City of Taft Police Department and the Taft Modified Community Correctional Facility.

16. EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF AN SERVER ROOM AIR CONDITIONING UNIT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Recommendation –

Information only.

17. PRAXAIR REQUESTING REFUND ON BUSINESS LICENSE FEES FROM JANURAY 2014

Recommendation-

Motion to approve a refund in the amount of \$9,078.57.

18. EMPLOYEE FACIAL HAIR FOR OILDORADO CELEBRATION

Recommendation-

Motion to approve modification of departmental personal appearance policies to allow all employees to grow facial hair (moustache, beard, or goatee) from January 1 – October 31 of each year that Oildorado is celebrated.

19. A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CITY'S OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE CERTAIN CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT

Recommendation-

Motion to adopt resolution entitled: **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT DECLARING ITS OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE CERTAIN CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE (I) CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HEADWORKS STRUCTURE PLUS A NEW SCREENING SYSTEM FOR THE DUMP STATION; (II) IMPLEMENTING A NEW BIOLAC AERATION SYSTEM, INCLUDING NEW DIFFUSER CHAINS AND**

BLOWERS; PONDS 2 AND 3, REFURBISHED AND RETURNED TO SERVICE; (III) UPGRADE ELECTRICAL FOR THE PROJECT, AND (IV) REPLACE EXISTING STANDBY GENERATOR WITH A NEW 375KW GENERATOR FROM PROCEEDS DERIVED FROM AN INSTALLMENT PURCHASE AGREEMENT OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS INCURRED BY THE CITY

20. AB1234 ETHICS TRAINING CLASS

Recommendation-

1. Motion to approve \$800 to be allocated from Capital Reserves for the cost of City Attorney David Prentice of Cota Cole to provide AB 1234 Ethics Training Class.
2. Motion to approve additional funds not to exceed \$200 to provide meal prior to meeting for attendees of AB 1234 Ethics Training Class.

21. UPDATE SOLIDS REMOVAL AT THE TAFT MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Recommendation-

Motion to ratify additional expenditures for solids removal at Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant and allocate additional \$6,429 from Wastewater Treatment Plant Capital Reserves.

14. PROPOSAL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FROM HDL

Motion: Moved by Bryant, seconded by Hill to approve the proposal from HdL in the amount of \$9,975.00 for a three month period and authorize the Mayor to execute the proposal.

AYES: Noerr, Krier, Bryant, Hill, Miller

PASSED: 5-0

Bryant stated he felt it is important that as a council they support these kinds of options to help the City with the ability to grow.

Noerr indicated he supported this item and felt the cost to be reasonable.

Krier also specified his support for the item.

Miller shared his support for the item and added that rooftops are also a big part of supporting retail and economic development.

22. WESTSIDE LITTLE LEAGUE PARADE & OPENING CEREMONY 2015

- Council Member Bryant recused himself from this item as he has a conflict since he currently serves as the President of the Westside Little League. He left the Council Chambers for the duration of the item being heard.

Motion: Moved by Hill, seconded by Noerr to adopt a resolution entitled **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT AUTHORIZING STREET CLOSURES FOR WESTSIDE LITTLE LEAGUE PARADE & OPENING CEREMONY MARCH 21, 2015** and motion to waive fees in the interest of public benefit.

AYES: Noerr, Krier, Hill, Miller
PASSED: 4-0

Noerr shared that the public benefit of these types of programs should not be questioned and he supported the Little League and other such programs and encouraged everyone to do same.

Krier also stated his support for the Little League.

Miller equally supported this item and the Little League and hopes the community will do the same.

At [7:32:38 PM](#) with all Council Members present the meeting was recessed to Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
Government Code Section 54956.9 (a) – Taft Union High School vs. City of Taft.
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
Government Code Section 54956.9 (a) – City of Taft vs. CDCR.
- C. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS
Government Code Section 54956.9 (c) – 708 2nd Street

➤ Council considered the agenda items and gave direction to staff and legal counsel.

ADJOURNMENT - With no further business to conduct the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Yvette Mayfield
City Clerk

Randy Miller
Mayor