

**TAFT CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

REGULAR MEETING

6:00 P.M.

The February 17, 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 [6:05:26 PM](#). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Hill, followed by an invocation given by Bob Jordan of the Four Square Light House Church.

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

1. PUBLIC HEARING – ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 2014-13: EMERGENCY SHELTERS, TRANSITIONAL AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

The Public Hearing was opened at [6:08:52 PM](#) to receive testimony from proponents and opponents.

Motion: Moved by Hill, seconded by Krier to continue the public hearing until the next regularly scheduled meeting on March 3, 2015 at 6 PM to allow staff sufficient time to address comments and questions from the Department of Housing and Community Development.

AYES: Noerr, Krier, Bryant, Hill, Miller
PASSED: 5-0

2. REPORT AND PUBLIC HEARING TO EDUCATE AND INFORM CITIZENS OF THE TYPES OF ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE FOR THE CITY'S 2015 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM APPLICATION AND TAKE CITIZEN INPUT

The Public Hearing was opened at [6:11:28 PM](#) to receive testimony from proponents and opponents. Being none, the Public Hearing was closed.

3. PUBLIC HEARING – ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 2014-14: SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM DESIGN, EXPEDITED PERMIT PROCESSING, AND FEES

The Public Hearing was opened at [6:43:07 PM](#) to receive testimony from proponents and opponents. Being none, the Public Hearing was closed.

Motion: Moved by Bryant, seconded by Hill to approve and amend the City of Taft Municipal Code entitled **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT AMENDING CHAPTER 11 OF TITLE VI OF THE CITY OF TAFT ZONING ORDINANCE RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM DESIGN, EXPEDITED PERMIT PROCESSING, AND FEES for first reading by title only and reading of such be waived.**

AYES: Noerr, Krier, Bryant, Hill, Miller
PASSED: 5-0

4. PROCLAMATION – FEBRUARY SAFE SURRENDER MONTH

Council Member Krier presented a Proclamation to representatives from the Department of Human Services and the Kern County Fire Department.

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

- Council Member Miller recused himself from this item due to a conflict as he is related to one of the applicants. He left the Council Chambers for the duration of the item being heard.

Each applicant was invited forward to tell something about themselves and share why they thought they were the best candidate for the position. Candidates Marlene Mudge and Bob Jordan were unable to address the council and submitted letters in their absence.

Council Members were polled as to which candidate they would like to nominate for the position:

Council Member Noerr:	Roy Heimiller
Council Member Krier:	Roy Heimiller
Council Member Bryant:	Roy Heimiller
Council Member Hill:	Don Black

Motion: Moved by Krier, seconded by Hill to appoint Roy Heimiller to fill the unscheduled vacancy, expiring December 31, 2015, on the West Side Recreation and Park District Board.

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

6. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gloria Nichols of 215 E. Woodrow Street addressed the council regarding streetlights on Kern Street and the recent accident involving a pedestrian crossing at 2nd and Kern Streets.

Mike Long of 508 Center Street representing the Downtown Business Association spoke on the recent rise in crime and vandalism in the downtown area and reminded council of the Public Safety Committee that was reestablished to help address these kinds of issues. He requested that a meeting of that committee be scheduled soon.

Dr. Kathy Orrin of the Taft Chamber of Commerce stated that the Installation Dinner went very well and had over 150 guests. She reminded everyone about upcoming Chamber Sit-n-Sips. Putting on her citizen hat, she shared that she also is a property owner in downtown area, has had theft and vandalism to her property is feeling victimized like many others.

Lodema Hatch of 209 E. Warren Street wanted to let council know how pleased she was and thanked those involved with accomplishing the removal of barriers at Ash and 10th Streets making it much safer at that intersection.

Ray Hatch of 209 E. Warren shared that the Community Garden wouldn't be what it is today without the support of Synagro and was glad to see that the City had an agenda item to approve a letter of support for Synagro's planned plant expansion.

7. COUNCIL STATEMENTS (NON ACTION)

Council Member Hill

- Mentioned that she is also concerned about traffic situation on Kern Street and that she is currently the Council Representative on the Traffic Committee and would love to see the issue addressed.
- Many stores downtown, including hers, are frequented by questionable people that are looking to sell items that are possibly stolen asked that citizens be diligent and not buy from these people.

Council Member Bryant

- Reminded everyone to be aware of their surroundings, pay attention, keep safe and keep accidents down.
- Enjoyed the Chamber Installation Dinner, congratulated Kathy and Shannon on the success.
- Encouraged people to get out and get involved it will enrich their lives.

Council Member Krier

- Shared that consumerism is down and reminded people to support local businesses.
- Chamber did a wonderful job on Installation Dinner and thanked all those involved.
- Stated pedestrians need to be aware and also take responsibility to help keep accidents down.
- Although crime is up he still feels like Taft is one of the safest cities around.
- Traffic Committee is open to public and encourages citizens to attend.

Mayor Pro Tem Noerr

- Shared that people who want to steal will stop at nothing reminded everyone to not be victims.
- Also attended the Chamber Installation Dinner and had a wonderful time.
- Commented on the long wait at the DMV since the passage of the bill allowing drivers licenses to illegals.

Mayor Miller

- Also concerned about traffic on Kern Street and pedestrians, shared that pedestrians need to be aware and use crosswalks.
- Attended League of California Meeting in Reedley where the presentation was on Proposition 47.
- For every thief there is a buyer, don't be a buyer.
- Shared that there are several trucks around town selling wood, keys etc. that do not have business license and don't pay sales tax – don't buy from them.
- North Lincoln fence barrier to motorcycle riders these are private properties and should not be utilized for riding.

8. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

There were none.

9. CITY MANAGER STATEMENTS

City Manager Jones shared that he attended an Oildorado Executive Board meeting recently and it looks like it is going to be an exciting celebration. He thanked everyone involved in Oildorado for all their hard work that goes into planning for the event.

10. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS

There were none.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 11 - 15

- Items 13 and 15 removed by Miller

Motion: Moved by Noerr, seconded by Hill to approve consent calendar Items 11, 12 and 14.

AYES: Noerr, Noerr, Krier, Bryant, Hill, Miller

PASSED: 5-0

11. MINUTES

February 3, 2015 Regular

Recommendation – Approve as submitted.

12. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Warrant# 013015 Check No. 79141-79232 \$731,617.03

Recommendation – Approve payment of the bills.

14. APPROVAL OF EXPENSE TO DEMOLISH UNSAFE STRUCTURES AT 105 NORTH STREET AND 607 LUCARD STREET

Recommendation - Motion to approve payment of \$14,300 to NSM Recycling Inc. for the demolition of substandard residential structures at 105 North Street and 607 Lucard Street.

13. SECOND READING - ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND SALE OF SYNTHETIC COMPOUNDS/DERIVATIVES (BATH SALTS)

Motion: Moved by Noerr, seconded by Bryant to approve **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT ADDING A CHAPTER TO THE TAFT MUNICIPAL CODE PROHIBITING THE PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND SALE OF SYNTHETIC COMPOUNDS/DERIVATIVES (BATH SALTS) (Ordinance 808-15)**

AYES: Noerr, Noerr, Krier, Bryant, Hill, Miller

PASSED: 5-0

Noerr shared that he whole-heartedly supports this ordinance and believes the substances to be poison capable of killing. He does not want to see this poison available to the citizens of Taft.

Krier stated that not allowing the sale of these products would only affect four businesses and didn't believe that this would in any way harm these businesses and these products are harmful to our citizens.

Miller said that this ordinance will go into effect 30 days from the date of passing. There is no need for this stuff to be sold in our community and since there are no laws governing the sale of these substances any child can buy it.

15. SYNAGRO LETTER OF SUPPORT

Motion: Moved by Krier, seconded by Hill to approve a letter of support for Synagro South Kern Compost Manufacturing facility and authorize Mayor to sign letter.

AYES: Noerr, Noerr, Krier, Bryant, Hill, Miller

PASSED: 5-0

Krier said he recently visited the Synagro facility and now understands what they are proposing to do at the facility and believes they have a first class facility, give back to our community and deserve the city's support.

Noerr was unable to attend the visit to the Synagro facility and took the opportunity to have Tony Cordova and Laurie Loder from Synagro give a quick talk on the project they are seeking support for which answered the questions he did have. He stated that he now was also behind providing this letter of support.

CLOSED SESSION

At [8:07:40 PM](#) the meeting was recessed to Closed Session.

A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS
Government Code Section 54956.8 – 410 Supply Row

The City Council discussed in closed session the item which was agendaized for closed session discussion and direction was given to City staff and negotiators.

ADJOURNMENT - With no further business to conduct the meeting was adjourned at 8:39__ PM.

Yvette Mayfield
City Clerk

Randy Miller
Mayor