

**CITY OF TAFT PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2015**

REGULAR MEETING

6:00 P.M.

The May 20, 2015, 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 Orrin at [6:02:28 PM](#) . The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Thompson. Invocation was given by Bob Jordan of Lighthouse Foursquare Church.

PRESENT: Chairman Orrin
 Vice Chairman Thompson
 Commissioner Jones
 Commissioner Leikam
 Commissioner Livingston

ABSENT: None

1. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob Jordan of 303 E. San Emidio Street and board member of the Taft Cemetery District invited everyone to attend the annual Memorial Day presentation on May 25, 2015 at 10AM in celebration of our veterans.

2. MINUTES

April 8, 2015 Special Meeting

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Jones to approve Minutes as submitted.

AYES: Jones, Leikam, Livingston, Thompson

ABSTAIN: Orrin

VOTE: 4-0 with 1 abstention

3. PUBLIC HEARING – ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 2015-06

Planning Director Staples presented the staff report and recommendation. Director Staples also presented additional items for Zoning Ordinance Amendment No. 2015-06 (copies were submitted to the Clerk for the permanent file).

Commissioner Leikam asked how the council will define where someone is permitted to smoke seeing that cigarettes are legal.

Attorney Epperson noted the definitions are stated in the ordinance and is directed towards public places designed specifically for smoking. He also noted the ordinance does not affect people's private residences.

Commissioner Orrin asked if the ordinance would affect smoking in public access places like

sidewalks, streets etc...

Director Staples noted state law mentions one cannot smoke within twenty feet of the entrance of a place of employment. A hookah lounge is a place of employment.

Commissioner Jones indicated that the ordinance addresses defining hookah lounges as commercial use and not permitting them in mixed uses or downtown zones.

Commissioner Leikam asked if hookah lounges would be allowed in industrial zones.

Director Staples replied they will be prohibited everywhere.

Commissioner Jones asked if a bar or restaurant has an out door smoking area can they use the area for a hookah lounge since the business is not registered as a hookah lounge?

Director Staples replied no, the hookah will be prohibited.

Commissioner Jones inquired as to whether the ordinance addressed the retail sales of hookah or hookah items.

Director Staples noted only the lounges were addressed in the ordinance.

Commissioner Leikam requested clarification, "We are defining the hookah and prohibiting the lounge in all zones?"

Director Staples replied correct.

The Public Hearing was opened at [6:13:23 PM](#) to receive testimony from proponents and opponents

Bob Jordan of 303 E. San Emidio Street asked if the ordinance only encompassed tobacco or other products as well. Director Staples noted that this particular ordinance only covered hookah lounges and hookah devices.

Public Hearing was closed [6:20:21 PM](#)

Motion: Moved by Livingston, seconded by Thompson to adopt **A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 2015-06, AN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTERS 1, 5, AND 6 OF TITLE 6 OF THE TAFT ZONING ORDINANCE RELATING TO HOOKAH LOUNGES.** (*Resolution No. 2015-08*)

AYES: Jones, Leikam, Livingston, Thompson, Orrin
ABSENT: None
VOTE: 5-0

4. PUBLIC HEARING – ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 2015-07

Planning Director Staples presented the staff report and recommendation.

Commissioner Livingston noted there are a lot existing GC zones near the schools.

Commissioner Jones stated no matter the zone if any new applications were received they would have to be screened to insure they are meeting ordinance regulations.

Commissioner Jones asked if the ordinance will apply to future businesses.

Director Staples replied correct, the definition states if your business is a tobacco shop or smoking lounge you will need to apply for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP).

Commissioner Jones inquired as to if an existing bar wanted to start selling products after the ordinance goes into effect; will they need to apply for a CUP?

Director Staples replied correct.

The Public Hearing was opened at [6:39:02 PM](#) to receive testimony from proponents and opponents

Bob Jordan of 303 E. San Emidio Street stated environmental health is the only agency that can issue tickets, is this something to consider.

Director Staples noted that our officers would be able to cite on tobacco violations.

Public Hearing was closed [6:41:50 PM](#)

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Orrin to adopt **A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 2015-07, AN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTERS 1, 5, 6, AND 12 OF TITLE 6 OF THE TAFT ZONING ORDINANCE RELATING TO PRIVATE SMOKING LOUNGES AND THE SALES OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS WITH EXCLUSION OF ITEM 19.** (*Resolution No. 2015-09*)

AYES: Jones, Leikam, Livingston, Thompson, Orrin
ABSENT: None
VOTE: 5-0

5. GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 2015-01 – HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE 2013-2023

Planning Director Staples presented the staff report.

Chairman Orrin inquired as to whether we are on track for the December deadline.

Director Staples stated we are on track heading in the direction the state wants us to go.

6. PLANNING DIRECTOR REPORT

Director Staples announced the annexation meeting was held two weeks ago, Chairman Orrin and Commissioner Thompson were in attendance. Director Staples stated he attained tax revenue and voting information from the county, this will aide in proceeding with annexation. Director Staples also noted he would be meeting with a LAFCO officer to further discuss annexation.

Director Staples shared the vacant building registration ordinance is progressing well, most of the property owners have contacted us and we now have contact information for the majority of the buildings we sent notices to.

7. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS

No statement

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Jones invited everyone to attend the annual Rails to Trails Car Show which will be held on May 30, 2015. Commissioner Jones inquired as to how code enforcement can address property owners leaving couches, dressers and trash in their front yard and covering graffiti on the side of their houses.

9. IDENTIFICATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Chairman Orrin was appointed as the representative to report to the City Council at their next meeting June 02, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct it was moved by Thompson seconded by Jones and approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at [7:06:08 PM](#)

Brenda Johns, Office Assistant

Ron Orrin, Chairman