

**CITY OF TAFT PLANNING COMMISSION  
MEETING  
AUGUST 19, 2015**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**6:00 P.M.**

The August 19, 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 [6:10:28 PM](#). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Orrin and invocation was led by Bob Jordan of the Foursquare Lighthouse Church.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Ron Orrin and Vice Chair Shannon Jones;  
Jerry Livingston; Planning and Community Development Director Mark Staples;  
City Attorney Jason Epperson and Recording Secretary Brenda Johns.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Robert Leikam and Commissioner Robert Thompson

**1. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

**2. MINUTES**

July 22, 2015 Regular Meeting

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

**AYES:** Orrin, Jones, Livingston

**ABSTAINED:** None

**ABSENT:** Leikam, Thompson

**PASSED:** 3-0

**3. PUBLIC HEARING – VARIANCE NO. 2015-08**

Planning Director Staples presented the staff report and recommendation. Staples also presented additional items for Variance No. 2015-08 (copies were submitted to the Clerk for the permanent file).

Orrin stated he was in favor of the project and feels it will be an improvement. Orrin also inquired as to whether the Fire Department will require sprinklers in all of the units.

Staples noted only the conversion unit would need sprinklers.

Orrin confirmed the applicant would be providing 6 onsite parking spaces and asked if there would be any repair or improving of the City side walk.

Staples informed Orrin that sidewalk repair would be up to Public Works.

Orrin asked if only a Variance was needed, he noted he typically was not in favor of Variances but felt this would be to everyone's advantage.

Staples agreed and noted although this unit would not count as an affordable unit per the Housing Committee it would count as a new unit in town.

Orrin asked if the unit would be convertible back to a commercial unit.

Staples stated it would not, because the area is zoned as R-2 and does not allow commercial uses.

**Motion:** Moved by Livingston, seconded by Jones to approve recommendation as submitted.

AYES: Orrin, Jones, Livingston  
ABSTAINED: None  
ABSENT: Leikam, Thompson  
PASSED: 3-0

The Public Hearing was opened [6:24:53 PM](#) to receive testimony from proponents and opponents. Seeing none, the public hearing was closed.

**4. GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 2015-01 – HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE 2015-2023**

Planning Director Staples presented the staff report and recommendation.

Orrin stated he appreciated Director Staples keeping the Commission informed and is glad to see that the deadline for the Housing Element will be met. Orrin inquired as to whether Staples had received feedback from Sacramento.

Staples stated only the initial response; he wants to have a more thorough document to send Sacramento for their review. He is looking to have a more completed document between September and October; a final document in November and adoption of the document by Council in December.

**5. PLANNING COMMISSION AMENDED RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Motion: Moved by Livingston, seconded by Jones to approve recommendation as submitted.

AYES: Orrin, Jones, Livingston  
ABSTAINED: None  
ABSENT: Leikam, Thompson  
PASSED: 3-0

**6. CONSIDERATION OF HOLDING A SPECIAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING**

Planning Director Staples recommends holding a Special Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, September 2, 2015, and cancelling the Regular Planning Commission meeting Wednesday, September 16, 2015.

Motion: Moved by Jones, seconded by Livingston to approve recommendation as submitted.

AYES: Orrin, Jones, Livingston  
ABSTAINED: None  
ABSENT: Leikam, Thompson  
PASSED: 3-0

**7. PLANNING DIRECTOR REPORT**

Staples attend the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Community Meeting held by Kern County in regards to the oil and gas activities amendment. He states there was a good and positive turnout for the oil industry. Staples will be reviewing the process changes that are being made and will have a response letter for County so Council may review.

**8. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS**

No statement.

**9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Vice Chair Jones announced the following:

- Oildorado will be held October 9<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>; there will be events every day.
- Registration forms for the parade, vendors and car show can be picked up at the Chamber.
- There will be a work day at the Oildorado store the next two Saturdays from 7AM to noon.
- The Oildorado store will open October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chairman Orrin would like to see the pallet fence removed eventually on 3<sup>rd</sup> street.

**10. IDENTIFICATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

Commissioner Livingston was selected to be the representative to the City Council on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to conduct it was moved by Jones, seconded by Livingston and approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at [6:48:49 PM](#)

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Brenda Johns, Recording Secretary

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Ron Orrin, Chairman