

**CITY OF TAFT PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016**

REGULAR MEETING

6:00 P.M.

The January 20, 2016 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 [6:02:11 PM](#). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Orrin. Invocation was given by Bob Jordan of the Lighthouse Foursquare Church.

PRESENT: Chairman Ron Orrin,
Commissioners, Bob Leikam, Jerry Livingston and Robert Thompson
Planning and Community Development Director Mark Staples
City Attorney Jason Epperson and Recording Secretary Brenda Johns

ABSENT: Vice Chair Shannon Jones

1. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

2. MINUTES

December 16, 2015 Regular Meeting.

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

AYES: Orrin, Livingston, Thompson
ABSENT: Jones
ABSTAINED: Leikam
PASSED: 3-0-1

3. ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – GARAGE SALES

Director Staples presented the staff report and recommendation; he also provided additional handouts (a copy was submitted to the Clerk for the permanent file).

Livingston asked if there were fines for violations of the code.

Staples clarified there were fines for specific subjects but no general fine in the zoning code.

Leikam inquired as to whether the zoning code covered South Taft or Ford City.

Staples noted both areas were covered by Kern County's zoning code.

Leikam asked how a person would differentiate a continuous garage sale from a permitted home business; he also asked if a home business could be set up as a garage sale and where someone would report violations.

Staples stated reports should be made to Code Enforcement during the week and Taft Police Department on the weekends, but calls to Taft Police Department should be made to their regular phone

line 661-763-3101 and not 911. Staples also suggested possibly reducing the frequency of yard sales permitted per year.

Orrin stated a home business is for office type work from home with limited sales and limited retail traffic, adding he is not opposed to the frequency of garage sales but is opposed to the lack of regulation.

Livingston concurred with Orrin and stated he did not have a problem with the frequency of garage sales, but he would like to further review the County's ordinance and their definitions. He suggested having an online application process for yard sales.

Counsel stated enforcement would always be a challenge but noted if violations are reported, code enforcement can then keep track of repeat violations and issue notices.

Staples confirmed with Commission the requested items for review: specifying the goods, resale items, no consignments and yard sale signs. Staples stated he would work with the Finance Director to identify the types of businesses which are defined in the code.

4. ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – FENCES AND WALLS

Director Staples presented his staff report and recommendation.

Orrin asked if a fence height of 40 to 48 inches interfered with the line of sight when driving.

Staples noted the City does not have a line of sight provision, he referred to Kern Counties zoning code and stated generally anything under 4 feet would be safe. He suggested referencing other cities for their line of sight standards and incorporating it into the zoning ordinance for fences.

Orrin commented in the past the Commission was looking to define fencing materials so that it would include new and consistent materials. He also would like for it to include substantial in workmanship.

Staples stated he would review terms in the code and look into refining them in regards to the definition of fencing materials. Staples suggested a consultant to help set general design guidelines for residential and commercial.

Livingston expressed his dislike for design guidelines, but agrees it is a good idea to look at materials definition.

5. PLANNING DIRECTOR REPORT

Director Staples shared

- Housing Element 2015-2023 was formally approved by Housing and Community Development on January 6th, 2016.
- Will look at how other cities have permitted organized pop-up businesses with limited occupancy.
- Will attend the Annual Planning Association conference in Phoenix.
- Reminded everyone of the Chamber Installation to be held February 11th.

6. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS

No statement.

7. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Orrin wished everyone a Happy New Year and looks forward to positive changes in 2016.

Livingston announced Coffee with a Cop will begin every 2nd Thursday of the month starting in February, venues will rotate.

8. IDENTIFICATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Vice Chair Jones was selected to be the representative to the City Council on February 2, 2016 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct it was moved by Livingston, seconded by Leikam and approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at [7:07:05 PM](#)

Brenda Johns, Recording Secretary

Ron Orrin, Chairman