

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

REGULAR MEETING

6:00 P.M.

The April 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 [6:00:42 PM](#) The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Robert Leikam, followed by an invocation given by Rodney Wikoff of the West Hills Church of the Nazarene.

PRESENT: Chairman Ron Orrin and Vice Chair Shannon Jones
Commissioners, Bob Leikam, Jerry Livingston and Robert Thompson
Planning and Community Development Director Mark Staples
Recording Secretary Brenda Johns

1. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

2. MINUTES

March 16, 2016 Regular
April 6, 2016 Special

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

AYES: Orrin, Jones, Leikam, Livingston, Thompson
PASSED: 5-0

3. 2016 ARBOR DAY/EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS

Planning Director Staples presented his staff report and recommendation.

Motion: Moved by Thompson seconded by Leikam to recognize National Arbor Day and Earth Day on Thursday, April 21, 2016.

AYES: Orrin, Jones, Leikam, Livingston, Thompson
PASSED: 5-0

4. CITY OF TAFT MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW UPDATE (NON-ACTION)

Planning Director Staples presented his staff report and presentation.

Jones asked why there were no registered voters listed for the City of Taft in Table 2.P page 2-26 of the Municipal Service Review 2.0 the City of Taft.

Staples stated with an annexation process only the registered voters and property owners within the area of being annexed are the two decision bodies. The City's vote will be with

City Council passing the resolution deciding to move forward with an application for annexation with Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

Orrin asked how votes are tallied for annexation and if it is by simple majority.

Staples replied by majority, he gave an example, if Ford City was pursued for annexation, referring to the number of voters and property owners in that area there would probably not be 100% security of approval in that area.

Livingston asked if the West Kern Oil Museum requested to be annexed into the City, would the City then have to annex the rest of that disadvantage community, or could they just annex the West Kern Oil Museum property.

Staples replied just the West Kern Oil Museum because they are the party submitting the application, but if the City submitted the application for annexation then the rest of that disadvantage community would need to be annexed as well.

Orrin asked if Staples was coordinating with the 4th District Supervisors Office.

Staples stated not directly, he noted receiving a response letter from Kern County regarding their Housing Element. In the letter Kern County noted they did not identify South Taft, Taft Heights or Ford City as Disadvantage Unincorporated Communities (DUCs) in their Housing Element because the communities were outside but adjacent to the City of Taft and their focus currently was on the Legacy Communities like Rosemond, Buttonwillow and Mojave which are not near the sphere of any other cities.

Livingston stated Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) should not allow DUCs to be left out simply because they are in the sphere of other communities.

Orrin asked when the Municipal Service Review due.

Staples noted the update is well overdue the last update was in 2004 and should be updated every five years and is currently working with the LAFCO director.

5. PLANNING DIRECTOR REPORT

Staples reported:

- He attended the National Planning Conference in Phoenix, he learned of a Supreme Court case Reed vs. Town of Gilbert regarding commercial signage. He stated the case could affect the City's sign code but will have more details at a later date.
- The City has reached a settlement with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
- Read a thank you letter from Shari Rightmer, Owner of Up-Cycle Aquaponics.
- Shared the results of the city logo design were in and the majority preferred the logo with the oil derrick and the rockers.
- He was given direction by the City Council to hold a City Wide Logo Competition.

- The 150th birthday of Kern County on April 16th was a great family event.

6. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS

No statement.

7. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Jones thanked the City Council for donating funds to the annual firework show; she stated the next fund the fireworks days will be held May 6th.

8. IDENTIFICATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Commissioner Orrin was selected to be the representative to the City Council on May 3, 2016 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct it was moved by Jones seconded by Thompson and approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at [7:02:03 PM](#).

Brenda Johns, Recording Secretary

Ron Orrin, Chairman