

**TAFT CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 27, 2020**

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**Pursuant to the Governors Executive Order N-29-20**, the Taft City Council meeting was held closed to the public and livestreamed on the City's YouTube Channel. Public Comments were received per the policy stated in the posted agenda.

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**4:30 P.M.**

The April 27, 2020, special 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 Dave Noerr at [4:29:39 PM](#). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Bryant, followed by an invocation given by Council Member Whiting.

PRESENT: Mayor Dave Noerr  
Council Members Josh Bryant, Jeff Eveland and Ed Whiting  
City Manager Craig Jones and City Attorney Jason Epperson  
City Clerk Yvette Mayfield

ON PHONE: Mayor Pro Tem Orchel Krier

**CLOSED SESSION**

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
Government Code Section 54956.9(b) – one (1) potential case

➤ Cancelled, as there was no business to discuss.

**1. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were 21 public comments received regarding the possible expansion of the essential business list and the opening of local businesses. The comments were all read in to the record.

**2. DISCUSSION AND TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT ON STRATEGIC PLANNING TO EXPAND LOCAL ESSENTIAL BUSINESS LIST**

Council Member Eveland shared his thoughts and concerns for those that have been sheltering in place and the businesses that have had to close with no income to support their families. He stated he thought it would be irresponsible to not at least look in to this.

Council Member Whiting stated there is no difference between essential and non-essential businesses. He believes they can all follow necessary protocols and should be able to be open.

Council Member Bryant talked about being able to address this issue with a new norm, as the current situation is not viable. He shared that this would allow businesses to be open and personally responsible to exercise reason, prudence and caution.

Mayor Pro Tem Krier stated that he believes all businesses are essential. He also shared that in the beginning, maybe this was the right response, but now believes that the list should be expanded and businesses able to open.

Mayor Noerr spoke about and shared the current Kern County figures on COVID-19. The graph he shared showed almost a straight line across the timeline of cases with few deaths during that time. He stated that with the numbers currently being provided, why would we wait to get more businesses up and running but instead start with the steps outlined in the CDC booklet to start bringing businesses back with protocols and guidelines.

All Council Members concurred that they would sign on to the letter proposed to be sent to the Director of Kern County Public Health requesting their assistance with the expansion of the essential business list for Taft and preparation of guidelines and protocols.

Direction was also given to staff to prepare and bring back an agenda item regarding assistance to temporarily reduce sewer and refuse accounts for businesses affected by COVID-19.

**ADJOURNMENT** - With no further business to conduct the meeting was adjourned at [5:46:48 PM](#).

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Yvette Mayfield, MMC  
City Clerk

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Dave Noerr  
Mayor