

**TAFT CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY  
MINUTES  
MAY 7, 2019**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**6:00 P.M.**

The May 7, 2019, regular joint 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 [6:02:39 PM](#). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Noerr, followed by an invocation given by Pastor Scott Pearson.

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

**1. PROCLAMATIONS -**

- **CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES WEEK**
- **MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK**
- **NATIONAL NURSES WEEK**
- **BUILDING SAFETY MONTH**
- **TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK**

**2. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dr. Kathy Orrin, Executive Director of the Taft Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Council for all the support and shared about local events.

**3. COUNCIL STATEMENTS (NON ACTION)**

Council Member Eveland stated that he wanted citizens to know that law enforcement and the City understands their frustrations of the newer laws being implemented, however those are the parameters of the law that has to be enforced.

Council Member Bryant apologized for missing the last meeting and shared about a community cleanup that was held the prior weekend.

Mayor Pro Tem Krier shared some statistics regarding visitors of the West Kern Oil Museum and about all the positive comments he received about Taft while volunteering at a class reunion.

Mayor Noerr spoke on the difference between the prices of fuel in other states compared to California.

**4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Police Chief McMinn gave a statistic report for the police department for the month of April and also spoke about code enforcement activities.

**5. CITY MANAGER STATEMENTS**

City Manager Jones reported that there had been a meeting of the Traffic Committee last week and that the Caltrans representative shared that statistically the Highway 33/E. Kern Street intersection is doing well and has had very few collisions.

**6. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS**

There were none.

**7. FUTURE AGENDA REQUESTS**

Krier requested a proclamation recognizing the Babe Ruth Baseball Organization. Bryant concurred.

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**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM 8-18**

- Krier pulled Item 15
- Bryant abstained from Items 8 & 10
- Eveland abstained from Items 12 & 17
- Whiting abstained from Item 17

**Motion:** Moved by Noerr, seconded by Krier to approve consent calendar items 8-14 and 16-18.

**AYES:** Bryant, Krier, Eveland, Whiting, Noerr  
**PASSED:** 5-0

**8. MINUTES**  
April 16, 2019

**Recommendation** – Approve as submitted.

**9. PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Warrant# 041919	Check No. 90015-90126	\$ 338,843.33
Warrant# 041919	Check No. 90127-90128	\$ 1,402.31
Warrant# 042419	Check No. 90129	\$ 13,679.00
Warrant# 042419	Check No. 90130	\$ 13,679.79
Warrant# 042919	Check No. 90131	\$ 326,563.00

**Recommendation** – Approve payment of the bills.

**10. AWARD TWO SAFE AND SANE FIREWORK STANDS FOR 4TH OF JULY, 2019**

**Recommendation** – Motion to award two Safe and Sane Firework stands for July 4, 2019 to the Taft Union High School Hall of Fame Foundation and Westside Recreation and Park District.

**11. EQUIPMENT OPERATOR II POSITION- PUBLIC WORKS**

**Recommendation** – Motion to adopt a resolution entitled **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT ADDING THE CLASSIFICATION OF MAINTENANCE WORKER/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR II AND ESTABLISHING CORRESPONDING COMPENSATION RATE.** (Resolution No. 3955-19)

**12. POLICE OFFICER CADET POSITION**

**Recommendation** – Motion to adopt a resolution entitled **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT CREATING THE POSITION OF POLICE OFFICER CADET AND ESTABLISHING CORRESPONDING COMPENSATION RATE.** (Resolution No. 3956-19)

**13. BUILDING PERMIT TECHNICIAN/OFFICE ASSISTANT**

**Recommendation** – Motion to adopt a resolution entitled **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT CHANGING ONE OFFICE ASSISTANT II POSITION TO BUILDING PERMIT TECHNICIAN/OFFICE ASSISTANT AND ESTABLISH CORRESPONDING COMPENSATION RATE.** (Resolution No. 3957-19)

**14. ASSISTANT TO MUNICIPAL RECORDS ADMINISTRATOR/DEPUTY CITY CLERK POSITION**

**Recommendation** – Motion to adopt a resolution entitled **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT ADDING THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT TO THE MUNICIPAL RECORDS ADMINISTRATOR/DEPUTY CITY CLERK POSITION AND ESTABLISHING CORRESPONDING COMPENSATION RATE.** (Resolution No. 3958-19)

**16. STREET CLOSURES FOR THE 2019 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CAR SHOW**

**Recommendation** – Motion to adopt a resolution entitled **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT AUTHORIZING THE STREET CLOSURES FOR THE 2019 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CAR SHOW.** (Resolution No. 3959-19)

**17. DISABILITY RETIREMENT – POLICE OFFICER**

**Recommendation** – Motion to adopt a resolution entitled **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT MAKING THE DETERMINATION THAT MARK MILLER IS DISABLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT LAW.** (Resolution No. 3960-19)

**18. AGREEMENT WITH EPPERSON LAW GROUP**

**Recommendation** – Motion to approve an agreement with Epperson Law Group for City Attorney Services and authorize the Mayor to execute agreement.

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**15. FUNDING TO THE TAFT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE QUARTER OF OCTOBER 2018 TO DECEMBER 2018**

**Motion:** Moved by Bryant, seconded by Eveland to approve the 25% allocation of the Transient Occupancy Tax to the Taft Chamber of Commerce for the quarter of October 2018 through December 2018.

**AYES:** Bryant, Krier, Eveland, Whiting, Noerr  
**PASSED:** 5-0

Krier stated that he pulled the item to acknowledge the Chamber for all that they do and for being the heart and soul of the community.

Bryant mentioned that the Best Western Hotel has made a significant increase to the TOT that the City receives and the amount that is passed on to support the Chamber.

**19. OILDORADO ROOM RENTAL FEES FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

Krier stated that he requested this item because it's in the best interest of the City to make sure that funds are being collected to cover the costs to the City for energy, wear and tear on the building and such and to not completely waive fees as this can also cause other venues to feel a hit.

Eveland said he agreed that there should be a policy set that the City can follow for non-profit requests.

Noerr suggested staff bring back a policy that sets discounts for non-profits operating exclusively within the 93268 area providing proof of non-profit status, tax ID number and benefitting Taft residents. The policy should state that the non-profit must pay the full refundable deposit but may receive a 35% discount off the listed rate one time per year, per entity.

The Council unanimously agreed that the policy should waive all requirements of Oildorado, Inc. for their use of the room, as they are a partner in the facility having donated so much toward the event room.

All members concurred.

**20. ANNUAL AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FY 2017-2018**

Motion: Moved by Bryant, seconded by Krier to receive and file the Annual Audited Comprehensive Financial Reports for the year ended June 30, 2018.

AYES: Bryant, Krier, Eveland, Whiting, Noerr

PASSED: 5-0

At [7:11:25 PM](#) the regular meeting was recessed to closed session.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR, CRAIG JONES- CITY MANAGER  
Government Code Section 54956.8 – APN 032-110-70 & 71 and 032-110-66 & 67**

- Councilmember Bryant moved and Councilmember Eveland seconded to enter into and authorize the Mayor to execute a settlement agreement with Sunset Rails LLC and Geary Coats to terminate the Disposition and Development Agreement effective immediately in exchange for payment to Geary Coats in the amount of \$89,644.00, as the amount owed under the Tri-Party Agreement for the purchase of real property, and also in exchange for granting Geary Coats an option to purchase a one acre piece of real property known as APN 032-110-66-00-7 and 032-110-67-00-0 at the rate of zero dollars and eighty cents per square foot. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of all five Councilmembers.

**B. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR, CRAIG JONES, CITY MANAGER  
Government Code 54957.6 – All units**

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

**D. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
Government Code Section 54956.9 (a) – Taft Union High School vs. City of Taft**

- Councilmember Eveland moved and Councilmember Whiting seconded to authorize the Mayor and/or the City Manager to enter into a legal services agreement with outside counsel to represent the City of Taft in arbitration with the RMA regarding a coverage issue, and to execute a waiver of conflict of interest with said outside counsel in the event one is needed. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of all five Councilmembers.
- The City Council discussed all items agendized for closed session discussion and direction as given to staff and negotiators.

**ADJOURNMENT** - With no further business to conduct the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 PM.

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Yvette Mayfield, CMC  
City Clerk

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Dave Noerr  
Mayor