

**TAFT CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
JANUARY 6, 2009**

CLOSED SESSION

The Closed Session of the Taft City Council began at [6:29:12 PM](#) with all members present. Mayor Noerr adjourned the Closed Session at [7:16:02 PM](#)

1. At this time the City Council will hold a closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 Performance Evaluation. Position to be evaluated: City Manager.
No action taken.
- Item 2, Council Member Noble left the room due to a conflict of interest, and the closed session proceeded without him.
2. At this time the City Council will hold a closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 for the Council to give instructions to its negotiator, Robert Gorson, regarding real property negotiations on rentable UPRR parcels.
No action taken.

STUDY SESSION

- The Brown Act Update scheduled for presentation at a 6:00 P.M. Study Session by City Attorney Kathy Gibson was postponed to another meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

The January 6, 2009, regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Taft, held in the Council Chamber, 209 East Kern Street, Taft, California, was opened by Mayor Noerr at [7:17:07 PM](#). Council Member Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation was given by Jerry Buzzell, Youth for Christ.

PRESENT: Mayor Dave Noerr; Mayor Pro Tem Randy Miller.
Council Members Paul Linder, Craig Noble and Cliff Thompson.
Robert T. Gorson, Jr., City Manager; Kathy Gibson, City Attorney; and
Louise Hudgens, City Clerk.

1. **CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS** - There were none.
2. **REPORT FROM CITY TREASURER**

City Treasurer Bill LeBarron provided the City Council with an updated financial condition report for the period ended November 2008.

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

Council Member Miller reminisced about 2008 and stated that he believed 2009 promised a bright future.

Council Member Linder stated that Houchin Blood Bank had visited Taft that day and encouraged everyone to give blood.

Council Member Thompson announced that escrow had closed on the Rail Road Property and that the City of Taft now officially owned the property. He stated that a Charrette would be held in February to develop ideas on how to proceed with development of the property.

Mayor Noerr stated that there were a number of challenges ahead in the new year, that there were some real unknowns, such as with the state budget. Noerr encouraged patience and indicated that input was needed at all levels to help alleviate the problems.

All Council Members wished the citizens a safe and Happy New Year.

4. CITY MANAGER STATEMENTS

City Manager Gorson reported 1) that a Request for Qualifications had been sent to several developers interested in developing the Rail Road Property; 2) a Charrette would be held on February 9, 2009, at the Fort for citizen input; 3) the contract with SBDC for small business development had terminated; and 4) that he had met with Al Patel re: the Best Western Motel to be built and that grading would start within a month or so.

5. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS [7:24:56 PM](#)

City Attorney Gibson apologized for having to postpone the Brown Act update.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 6-8 [7:25:29 PM](#)

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Linder, to approve Consent Calendar Items 6-8.

AYES: Miller, Thompson, Noerr

ABSTAIN: Linder, Noble (Both were absent from the December 17, 2008 meeting)

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 16, 2008 Regular Meeting

December 17, 2008 Regular Adjourned Joint Meeting

December 22, 2008 Special Meeting

Recommendation - Approve as submitted.

7. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Cash Disbursements Warrant #65003 - #65100 - \$865,893.34

Cash Disbursements Warrant #65101 - #65105 - \$16,338.22

Recommendation – Consent of approved expenditures.

8. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT APPROVING PROMISSORY NOTE #18 BETWEEN THE CITY OF TAFT AND THE TAFT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Recommendation – Motion to adopt resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT APPROVING PROMISSORY NOTE #18 BETWEEN THE CITY OF TAFT AND THE TAFT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.

(Resolution No. 3111-09)

9. APPOINTMENT TO THE SPECIAL CITY SELECTION COMMITTEE [7:27:48 PM](#)

Council Member Noble nominated Council Member Thompson, and Thompson nominated Noble. Both accepted.

Motion: Moved by Linder, seconded by Miller and approved unanimously, to approve resolution titled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT APPOINTING REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SPECIAL CITY SELECTION COMMITTEE OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD. (*Resolution No. 3112-09*)

10. CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES (PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS) [7:31:16 PM](#)

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Miller, to approve contract for professional consulting services.

AYES: Linder, Miller, Noble, Thompson, Noerr

11. TREE PLANTING / LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE ISSUES [7:33:12 PM](#)

City Manager Gorson stated that he would like to have an AdHoc committee to monitor the need for trees in the community, and said that there was a \$4,500 grant from the PG&E Climate Smart Program. Gorson indicated that his goal was 250 trees in the first year and perhaps 200 trees a year there after.

Council Member Thompson voiced concerns with maintenance, to make sure that the trees were watered, fed proper nutrients, and to make sure that the plants or trees were maturing as they should. Gorson advised that the drip irrigation had been installed along Highway 119 to water the trumpet vines planted by Thompson six (6) years earlier.

Council Member Miller stated that the City was not receiving any landscape district monies except in one area, and that we should look into creating districts to cover maintenance especially since water was becoming more expensive. Miller noticed that several streets had trees that probably should be replaced, as well as the sidewalks that were damaged by the tree roots.

Council Member Linder stated that he would like to see fewer trees planted, as he would rather see ten large, healthy trees planted rather than 50 small trees that may or may not survive. Linder suggested looking at watering systems rather than using sprinklers, as trees need deep watering.

Council Member Noble stated that he had met with Dana Karcher with the Tree Foundation a few years earlier and they had discussed the need to tend to trees on Center Street.

Mayor Noerr stated that he had to remove trees at his residence, replace them with trees approved by the City, and replaced the sidewalks damaged by the original trees. Noerr encouraged planting trees that were drought tolerant.

12. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH UTILITY COST MANAGEMENT LLC FOR FRANCHISE FEE AUDIT [7:43:32 PM](#)

Motion: Moved by Linder, seconded by Miller, to approve resolution titled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH UTILITY COST MANAGEMENT LLC TO PERFORM FRANCHISE FEE AUDIT. (*Resolution No. 3113-09*)

AYES: Linder, Miller, Noble, Thompson, Noerr

13. REVISED AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES
[7:47:59 PM](#)

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Noble, to approve Revised Agreement for Professional Consulting Services with Andrew E. Richter, P.E.

Council Member Thompson stated that he would like to see contracts come to Council only after negotiations had been worked out.

AYES: Linder, Miller, Noble, Thompson, Noerr

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Noerr adjourned the meeting at [7:52:42 PM](#), with no further city business to conduct.

Louise Hudgens, CMC
City Clerk

Dave Noerr, Mayor