

**TAFT CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
February 17, 2009**

STUDY SESSION

The City Council Study Session was opened by Mayor Noerr at [6:03:06 PM](#) with all members present except Council Member Linder.

Amando Garza with Carollo Engineering provided a presentation (See Exhibit A), which summarized the Municipal Plan for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Expansion. Council Members discussed with Mr. Garza the cost of the two phase project.

[6:05:51 PM](#) Council Member Linder arrived

Mayor Noerr closed the Study Session at [6:58:05 PM](#) .

REGULAR MEETING

The February 17, 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 [7:12:26 PM](#). Council Member Thompson led the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation was given by Kay Sullivan, Building Stones.

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;
Louise Hudgens, City Clerk; and Erica Garcia, Office Assistant II.

1. PUBLIC HEARING – OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM (NSP) FUNDING – 1ST REQUIRED PUBLIC HEARING [7:14:31 PM](#)

The PH was opened to receive testimony from proponents and opponents. Being none, the PH was closed.

City Manager Gorson explained NSP funding to address abandoned and foreclosed homes: 1) State announced the City of Taft is eligible to receive up to \$149,286 in NSP funds; 2) Establish land bank for foreclosed properties; 3) Different financing for persons earning up to 120 % of the areas median income; 4) Purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed homes, demolish blighted structures and redevelop such sites; and 5) Joint powers agreement will be required for Delano, Wasco and Taft to access funding.

2. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS [7:16:11 PM](#)

Karen DeWitt with Alpha House, extended thanks from the board to the City of Taft for their contribution. She provided financial statements to show how the funds are appropriated. DeWitt announced there will be a Chili Dinner Thursday, February 19, 2009, from 5pm to 7pm.

Bill LeBarron announced the passing of Howard Shafer. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2pm on Thursday, February 19, 2009.

3. COUNCIL STATEMENTS (NON ACTION) [7:19:14 PM](#)

Council Member Miller announced 1) the Taft District Chamber of Commerce Dinner Thursday, February 19, 2009 at OT Cookhouse. Guest speaker will be Gaylen Young from Channel 17, and entertainment will be provided by pianist Tommy White; 2) the Chamber of Commerce is hosting a carnival March 5-8, 2009, at the K-MART Shopping Center, Butler Amusement is providing the equipment; and 3) Saturday, February 21, 2009, is Taft Night at the Bakersfield Jam game. Discount tickets are available at the West Side Recreation and Park District and \$5 comes back to our community.

Council Member Thompson reported on the Finance Committee meeting 1) Concerned about how much funds city has in capital reserves, \$3 to \$3.5 million is what we would like to keep; 2) Auditors would like to see 25% of our annual budget in a capital reserves account; 3) Next meeting going to do a mid-year update to come up with a number to bring to council for ratification not to go under threshold; 4) Mid-year spending was discussed and possible ways to save money; 5) Budget in another police officer for next year; 6) \$293,661.43 is total cost of requests for this agenda; and 7) Thompson presented a video presentation on Otay Ranch in San Diego California.

Council Member Nobel reported on his meeting with Supervisor Watson regarding Enterprise Zone and the County is in favor of a Sewer project for South Taft; and 3) Spoke with some landowners to bring in affordable and senior housing units.

Mayor Noerr suggested weed clean up and stated his opinion on the High speed rail bond.

4. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT - NONE

5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS [7:44:11 PM](#)

Acting Public Works Director Craig Jones updated Council on Street Department projects. (See Exhibit B)

Acting Redevelopment Director Paul Gorte updated Council on 1) the Charrette held on date, 85 attended meeting; 2) Charrette meeting on February 25, the consultant will help guide in the General Plan decision making; and 3) Second half of the meeting will be a summary of results from the first Charrette.

6. CITY MANAGER STATEMENTS [7:49:25 PM](#)

City Manager Bob Gorson reported 1) cost cutting strategies learned at the City Manager conference; 2) there are 9 cities filing chapter 9; 3) staff is considering a 9/80 or 4-day work week with every other Friday off. Carbon credits will be received for being closed one day a week.

Council Member Miller reported that while he worked for Kern County, a 9/80 schedule was good for employee moral.

7. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS [7:52:57 PM](#)

City Attorney stated that Council members who recuse themselves from voting must leave the room.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 8-15 [7:53:47 PM](#)

Item No. 9, 10 was removed from the Consent Calendar at the request of Council Member Miller; Item No. 12 was removed from the Consent Calendar at the request of Council Member Noble; and Item No. 8 was removed from the Consent Calendar at the request of Council Member Linder

Motion: Moved by Miller, seconded by Noble, to approve consent calendar items 11,13,14,15.

AYES: Linder, Miller, Thompson, Noble, Noerr

11. AWARD BID FOR PURCHASE OF ONE POLICE VEHICLE

Recommendation – Motion to award bid for the purchase of one (1) Police Vehicle to Mullahey Ford.

**13. COST OVERAGES FOR IN-PAVEMENT LIGHTING PROJECT
10TH STREET AND RAILS TO TRAILS**

Recommendation – Motion to appropriate additional funds from Capital Reserves in the amount of \$4,459 for the 10th Street and Rails to Trails in-pavement lighting project.

14. AWARD AUDIT CONTRACT FOR THE FISCAL YEARS 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013

Recommendation – Motion to award audit contract per Finance Committee recommendation and authorize Mayor and City Clerk to execute the agreement.

15. REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION STUDY

Recommendation – Motion to allow staff to submit RFQ to conduct classification and compensation study.

**8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES [7:56:12 PM](#)
February 3, 2009 Regular Meeting
February 3, 2009 Special Meeting**

Recommendation - Approve as submitted.

Motion: Moved by Miller, seconded by Thompson, to approve the minutes

AYES: Linder, Miller, Noble, Thompson,
ABSTAIN: Noerr (absent from February 3, 2009 meetings)

**9. PAYMENT OF BILLS [7:56:44 PM](#)
Cash Disbursements Warrant #65322 - #65417 - \$301,644.66
Recommendation – Consent of approved expenditures.**

Motion: Moved by Noble, seconded by Thompson, to make payment of the bills

AYES: Linder, Noble, Thompson, Noerr
ABSTAIN: Miller (Abstain on Warrant # 65397, yes on remainder of bills)

10. FUNDING TO THE TAFT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE QUARTER OF OCTOBER 2008 TO DECEMBER 2008 [7:59:03 PM](#)

➤ Council Member Miller recused himself from this item.

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Linder, to approve the 25% allocation of the Transient Occupancy Tax to the Taft Chamber of Commerce for the quarter of October 2008 through December 2008.

AYES: Linder, Noble, Thompson, Noerr
ABSTAIN: Miller (Miller employed by Chamber of Commerce)

➤ Council Member Miller returned to the dais

12. REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT FOR IN-PAVEMENT LIGHTING AT 10TH STREET AND SAN EMIDIO STREET [7:59:55 PM](#)

Motion: Moved by Linder, seconded by Miller, to appropriate \$2,283 out of Capital Reserves for replacement parts to repair in-pavement lighting at 10th and San Emidio Streets.

Council Member Noble inquired if these lights could be replaced with the same as those used at Rails to Trails. Jones replied they were by different manufactures, but could be replaced by the same system at a later date. The Traffic committee discussed installing stop signs or stop lights; however, the stop sign or stop lights would create a hazard for the Fire Department.

AYES: Linder, Miller, Noble, Thompson, Noerr

16. EQUIPMENT PURCHASE – HALF-TON CREW CAB PICK-UP TRUCK [8:08:14 PM](#)

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Noble, to approve purchase of equipment and appropriate \$6,643.18 out of capital reserves for the difference in the budgeted amount for the purchase of a Half-ton Crew Cab Pick-up Truck.

AYES: Linder, Miller, Noble, Thompson, Noerr

17. PURCHASE OF LARGE FORMAT SCANNER FOR ARCHIVING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT [8:11:25 PM](#)

Motion: Moved by Linder, seconded by Miller, to appropriate \$9,582.21 from Capital Reserves for the purchase of a large format scanner for archiving and project Management purposes from Rapid Prototyping.

Council Member Linder agreed equipment is worth the money and he inquired if the equipment could be used to generate revenue for the City. Council Member Nobel stated we have spent enough money already on previous projects and realized it is a good deal to have in house equipment.

AYES: Linder, Miller, Noble, Noerr
NOES: Thompson

18. PERMISSION TO FUND ATTENDANCE FOR THE CALGIS 2009 URISA CONFERENCE ON APRIL 6-9, 2009 [8:19:20 PM](#)

- Removed from agenda at the request of staff

19. PURCHASE OF OMNIPAGE, OMNI FORM AND SMARTDRAW SOFTWARE [8:19:44 PM](#)

Motion: Moved by Miller, seconded by Linder, to appropriate \$2,815.31 plus freight from Capital Reserves for the purchase of Omni Page, Omni Form and Smart Draw software from PC MallGov.

GIS Manager Bud Rice explained we could OCR files much better and it would save staff time by not having to retype documents not already in our system.

AYES: Linder, Miller, Noble, Noerr
NOES: Thompson

20. FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR KERN-TAFT COUNTY AIRPORT [8:26:39 PM](#)

Motion: Moved by Nobel, seconded by Miller, to appropriate the 6% matching funds of the \$126,516.00 study in the amount of \$6,326.00 from Capital Reserves to permit the study to proceed.

Council Member Noble stated that the County has a grant to provide the study; however, they just don't have the funding so the grant will go away.

Planning Consultant Laurence Tomasello reported that the airport does not meet the requirements for Federal funding and Cal-Trans will only fund \$10,000. The Airport needs a lot of work, and if we don't match we will lose valuable information need for relocating the Airport.

AYES: Linder, Miller, Noble, Noerr
NOES: Thompson

Mayor Noerr recessed the meeting to Closed Session at [8:38:33 PM](#) . Council Member Thompson left at [8:55 PM](#). The meeting reconvened at [9:00 PM](#).

CLOSED SESSION

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 negotiation for real property - 601 E Street.

ACTION TAKEN: None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Moved by Council Member, seconded by Council Member, and approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at [9:00 PM](#).

Erica Garcia, Office Assistant II

Randy Miller, Mayor Pro-Tem