

**TAFT CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
APRIL 7, 2009**

**REGULAR MEETING**

The April 7, 2009, regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Taft, held in the Council Chambers, 209 East Kern Street, Taft, California, was opened by Mayor Noerr at [7:01:39 PM](#) . City Attorney Kathy Gibson led the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation was given by Jack Turner, of Peace Lutheran.

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 Erica Garcia, Office Assistant II.

**1. SPECIAL ITEM – PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION [7:03:27 PM](#)**

Council Member Thompson presented a proclamation declaring May 7, 2009, as National Day of Prayer to Kay Sullivan and Larry Smith. Mr. Smith announced there would be a prayer ceremony at The Fort on the May 7, 2009, at 7:00 pm.

**2. SPECIAL ITEM – PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION [7:07:01 PM](#)**

Council Member Noble presented a proclamation declaring April 19-26, 2009, as Responsible Pet Ownership Week to Diane Van Trees and members of the Westside Human Society. Ms. Van Trees provided a presentation of the Westside Human Society organization's goals and objectives (Exhibit 1). She announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Paws in the Park on April 25, 2009, at 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at Veteran's Memorial Park.

**3. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS [7:24:04 PM](#)**

There were no comments, and Mayor Noerr recessed the meeting at [7:24:06 PM](#) to conduct the TCDA meeting.

Mayor Noerr reconvened the Regular City Council Meeting at [7:32:49 PM](#) .

**4. REPORT FROM CITY TREASURER [7:32:57 PM](#)**

City Treasurer Bill LeBarron provided the City Council with an update on the current financial condition. LeBarron reported on the City's sales tax and state sales tax. State sales taxes are down from last year and commented the City needs to conserve.

**5. COUNCIL STATEMENTS (NON ACTION) [7:34:07 PM](#)**

Council Member Linder reported there was a nice turnout at the Oilworker Monument Dedication, and encouraged the community to continue to participate and purchase a piece of the monument. Linder stressed on the importance of this memorial for the families and workers who have made a life around this industry.

Council Member Miller stated the material for the monument would either be bronze or steel; the cost being a difference of \$200,000 depending on finish. Miller turned floor over to Sherri Layton Co-Chairman of the Taft Chamber of Commerce.

Sherri Layton 1) announced the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Taft Chamber of Commerce Car Show will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2009, on the Rails-to-Trails, with approximately 200 vehicles participating; indicated she contacted Tehachapi, Wasco, and Pine Mountain Club car clubs as well as one on the Central Coast and sent out 416 fliers announcing the event. Sherri advertised with Bakersfield.com and KGET Community Calendar; and reported there were many sponsors and donations from local businesses. There will be a scavenger hunt and poker run along with many other activities and vendor booths and downtown businesses are participating so people will "Shop Taft". Some of the proceeds will benefit the Chamber of Commerce. 2) requested the Council to help with the clean-up efforts at 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Main Street.

Council Member Miller 1) encouraged the community to “Shop Taft” during the car show; 2) announced the Annual Golf Tournament on the May 9, 2009; 3) indicated the Taft Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Show may not be held due to lack of funding. Miller encouraged the community to support this function; 4) urged the community to get after the weeds as spring is here and they will soon start to dry up.

Council Member Thompson 1) thanked Chevron for donating \$100,000 to the Oilworker Monument; 2) reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on March 30, 2009; 3) commented that the League of California Cities came out in support of all Bond Measures; 4) announced he will be going to Selma on Thursday to attend the League of Cities general membership meeting and will be discussing why they want to support the business plan that is not in the best interest of the state and will be reporting back to the Council on the outcome; 5) announced the meeting at Kern COG and the stimulus money the City received in the amount of \$353,000 to use on local projects; 6) announced that he would be attending a meeting in Fresno on April 8, 2009, for the Highway 119 widening project and will give an update at the next meeting; 7) announced the CHP meeting on April 30, 2009, for the unveiling of the Traffic Safety Corridor which will be on May 14, 2009, at 10:30am at the Shell station on Highway 119 and Hwy 43; and 8) announced he became Vice Chair of Kern COG and will be attending the California Transportation Committee Meeting on April 22, 2009.

Council Member Miller announced the Census Update is near and we all need to participate as it makes a difference when apply for funding from grants; and 2) commented on Channel 23 News being the only news cast besides Don Gillespie of Cable Channel 11, reporting on our Oilworker Monument, and that Channel 23 News will be coming to Taft the week of May 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009, to do a week of advertising “A Salute to Taft”.

Mayor Dave Noerr 1) commented on the efforts Council Member Cliff Thompson has made on the Highway 119 project and commended him for a job well done; 2) announced Channel 23 News Salutes to Taft and that they will be here to promote Taft on April 13, 2009, at 7:30 am, kicking off at Jo’s Restaurant, and at that time they will announce how Channel 23 News will be here for the week of May 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009, and that Channel 23 News will be broadcasting all day on Friday May 8, 2009 starting at 5:00 am until 6:30 pm; and business owners will have the opportunity to advertise at a special rate of \$540 which includes 23 excerpts throughout the week, 1 hour of production at their business and 2 hours of post production for their commercial which Channel 23 News will help write and create your message.

## **6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS 7:56:50 PM**

Craig Jones, Acting Public Works Director, provided an update of the Public Works Department (Exhibit 2).

Teresa Statler, Finance Director 1) provided an update on 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Preliminary Budget Report; 2) announced there would be a Finance Committee Meeting about 2 – 2 ½ weeks after March’s numbers are in; 3) thanked Mayor Dave Noerr for his contribution to the American Cancer Society; thus far, there are an estimated 25 teams, and she noted all donations are coded from the City of Taft and should be used for the City of Taft and announced there would be a Captain’s Meeting for any interested parties on April 14, 2009, at 6:00 pm at The Fort.

Lucille Holt, Grant Administrator 1) reported that the EDA Grant was approved by the State and now is going to Seattle, the main EDA for the West Coast Division. The Grant amount is for \$3,000,000 and it will be used for the new Industrial Park; 2) announced the JARC Grant, in the amount of \$516,000, is now a 5311 Grant, Federal Stimulus Funding; the City does not have to match funds for this Grant; this grant will be used for 3 new busses and 9 vans; the City can now retire its old fleet that the Air Quality Control Board frowns upon; 3) announced the USDA Grant for the cameras on Rails-to-Trails and the City’s matching funds will be provided by the Taft Police Department;

4) reported the Enterprise Zone Application was submitted and confirmed receipt with Mr. Luera; and 5) announced she will be gone the third week of April to a Park and Recreation Meeting to discuss Habitat Conservation as well as funding for Parks. Holt commented that this will benefit us when we start developing our parks application.

**8:14:45 PM**

Ken McMinn, Police Chief announced the Taft Rotary donated \$3,000 to the Police Department to obtain helmets for the Skate Park and \$1,000 of those funds will be provided to Sandy Koenig of the Westside Resource Center for bicycle helmets. Mrs. Koenig will be giving these helmets away at the Peddlers Fair on April 18, 2009. Kern County Sheriff and Taft Police Departments will be partnering up and registering the children who receive helmets. Police Chief McMinn urged families whose children need helmets to attend. At a later date the balance of the helmets will be given away at an event at the Skate Park; and those children who did not receive a helmet will be given a card to be redeemed for one at the Police Department.

**7. CITY MANAGER STATEMENTS 8:05:54 PM**

Bob Gorson, City Manager, 1) reported on the meeting of April 6, 2009, with Nicole Parra, the Director of Regional Development Initiatives for the San Joaquin Valley Partnership and Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, to discuss some of the projects we are working on. City Manager Gorson commented that Chief McMinn felt how it was a waste of the State's money to have the CCF's under utilized, and how the State is spending between \$5,000 - \$10,000 to send prisoners to other states. Parra is familiar with this situation and City Manager Gorson feels we have an advocate with her; 2) announced he attended the CRA meeting recently and learned of three new laws. Since we are in the process of amending our redevelopment area, it is necessary we comply with these new laws. At the conference Graphic Solutions, the company that produced Taft's Energized for the Future brochure, distributed marketing postcards to the 400 attendees announcing the upcoming CALED Conference on April 15 - 17, 2009. Taft's brochure was depicted on the front of the postcard. 3) reported he spoke with Willy Duncan of Taft College and the City's Master Developer where they discussed Taft College's participation in the Union Pacific Railroad Project. The Council and public will be kept informed; and 4) showed the Kern Council of Governments 2008 Regional Awards Reception Ceremony in which Council Member Thompson received an award for his work on safety issues related to Highway 119.

**8. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS 8:11:04 PM**

Kathy Gibson, City Attorney, 1) offered to provide wine for the Chamber Car Show or Golf Tournament; 2) reported Ed Gordon took the lead with Paul Gorte in preparing the Exclusive Negotiating Agreement for the Union Pacific Railroad Project; 3) reported the Pitchess Motion at a recent Court Hearing was dismissed and commended the Taft City Police Department for their hard work and professionalism.

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**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 9-15 8:25:56 PM**

Motion: Moved by Noble, seconded by Miller, to approve Consent Calendar Items 9-15.

AYES: Linder, Miller, Noble, Thompson, Noerr

**9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
March 17, 2009 Regular Meeting**

Recommendation - Approve as submitted.

**10. PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Cash Disbursements Warrant #65537 - #65623 - \$742,483.88  
Cash Disbursements Warrant #65719 - #65811 - \$555,804.03

Recommendation – Consent of approved expenditures.

**11. USED OIL RECYCLING BLOCK GRANT**

Recommendation – Authorization of the City Manager to sign the letter of participation.

**12. CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS OF \$7,000 TO ACCOMMODATE FOR ANY NECESSARY REPAIRS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-09**

Recommendation – Motion to concur with the Finance Committee recommendation to approve the creation of a new account and to appropriate funds of \$7,000 from Capital Reserves.

**13. PURCHASE OFFER TO THE CITY OF BAKERSFIELD FOR A 1996 VAC-CON SEWER CLEANING VACUUM TRUCK**

Recommendation – Motion to appropriate \$25,000 from the Sewer Capital Reserves for the purchase of one VAC-CON sewer truck and related equipment.

**14. REVENUE PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL WASTE WATER PLANT EXPANSION/STATE REVOLVING FUND INFORMATION TASK ORDER #3 TO BE PREPARED BY CAROLLO ENGINEERS**

Recommendation – Motion to approve the Agreement for Professional Services with Carollo Engineering and to complete Task Order No. 3 of Project No. 7996a.00, Waste Water Expansion Project, and appropriate \$25,000 from the Waste Water Treatment Plant Capital Reserves.

**15. APPROVAL TO SUBMIT THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) FTA NON-URBAN SECTION 5311 CAPITAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION**

Recommendation – Motion to adopt a resolution titled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) PROGRAM, AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA), NON-URBAN SECTION 5311, AND IDENTIFYING THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY FOR GRANT ADMINISTRATION.

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**16. TAFT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST FOR DONATIONS TO HELP COVER COST OF 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY CELEBRATION [8:28:08 PM](#)**

Miller recused himself from this item.

Motion: Moved by Noble, seconded by Thompson, to help cover cost of 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration contingent upon the Chamber being able to obtain the funds up to \$2500.00 which is the donation from previous years.

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

**17. TAFT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST FOR SUPPORT RE WI-FI INTERNET SIGNAL [8:42:02 PM](#)**  
(Item tabled from March 17, 2009 regular meeting).

Miller recused himself from this item.

Motion: Moved by Linder, seconded by Noble, to approve the Chamber request to fund the installation of a Wi-Fi Internet Signal at 400 Kern Street in an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00 and to appropriate funds from Capital Reserves upon receipt of cost detail and reimbursement request.

Council Member Linder, discussed the Chamber of Commerce is the best location for this hotspot.

Council Member Noble expressed his concerns regarding the monthly service fees and if the Chamber has the means to continue service.

Mike Long, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Taft Chamber of Commerce, announced that the Chamber already had the service; they just need the funds for the installation of the equipment.

Council Member Thompson expressed concerned about the City budget and the Wi-Fi is not in the best interest of the City. In his opinion, the City would be better off donating the \$1,500 to the Museum.

Mayor Noerr indicated that he understands the City's budget is a big concern, but the kiosk at the Chamber and the Wi-Fi would be beneficial to the City.

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

Council Member Miller returned to the regular meeting. Mayor Noerr recessed the meeting to Closed Session at [8:50:02 PM](#). The meeting reconvened at [9:05 PM](#) with all members present.

**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-former hospital site.

ACTION TAKEN: NONE

**ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business to conduct and Mayor Noerr closed the meeting at [9:05 PM](#)