

**TAFT CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
APRIL 21, 2009**

**REGULAR MEETING**

The April 21, 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 [6:58:36 PM](#). Mayor Noerr led the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation was given by Jesus Fernandez, Community Christian Fellowship.

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.

**1. SPECIAL ITEM - CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION**

Council Member Miller presented a Certificate of Recognition, in honor of Naomi Crabtree's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, to her daughter Ina Lee Parker.

**2. SPECIAL ITEM – PROCLAMATION**

Council Member Linder presented a Proclamation declaring the month of April 2009 as "Public Health Month" in the City of Taft. Receiving the Proclamation was Jane Yadon, Kern County Supervising Public Health Nurse for the West Side.

**3. APPEAL HEARING – CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 09-02, TO PERMIT THE SALE OF ALCOHOL (Only Beer and Wine) at FRED'S CIGARETTE STORE, 1006 6<sup>th</sup> STREET, TAFT, CA [7:07:39 PM](#)**

The duly noticed Appeal Hearing was opened to receive testimony from proponents and opponents.

Feras Haydaer, owner Fred's Cigarette Store, said that his business and family are in Taft to stay and needs the beer and wine sales to stay in business.

There was no further testimony and the Appeal Hearing was closed.

Council Member Linder said that his only objection was the location as school children pass the location going and coming from school. Council Member Noble stated that he also thought that there would be an over saturation of beer and wine sales in the area. Council Member Thompson and Mayor Noerr agreed with Linder and Noble. Council Member Miller stated that he had no objections.

Motion: Moved by Linder, seconded by Miller, to approve a resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT APPROVING CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 09-02, SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL.  
(*Resolution No. 3128-09*)

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

#### **4. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sherry Coulter, representing Westside Believers Fellowship, invited Council Members and the public to attend a prayer service at the church at 6:00 p.m., Sunday, April 26, 2009. Karen De Witt, Alpha House, presented the March financial statement and invited Council and the public to their annual Barbeque and auction to be held at the West Side Recreation and Parks District, Saturday, April 25, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

Lodema Hatch, representing the Taft Chamber of Commerce, updated Council about the Chamber Car Show to be held in June, and explained how the programs "passport to local businesses" would work to encourage attendees to visit local businesses and gather points for prizes.

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

Council Member Miller 1) remarked that at the previous Council meeting he had reported that there probably wouldn't be a fireworks show this year. However, local businessman Bob Hampton had donated the difference of what was needed and that the fireworks show would be held on July 4, 2009. The Chamber is still accepting donations and any leftover funds would be saved for next year's show; 2) thanked Aera Energy, Chevron USA, Elk Hills Power, United Security Bank, McKittrick Waste Management and the City of Taft for their contributions; 3) announced several upcoming events: Saturday-Paws-in-the Park by the Westside Humane Society, Saturday-Taft High School Hall of Fame dinner to recognize individuals, and a wine tasting event for the Transition to Independent Living Program at the Fort; and 4) thanked the Public Health Nurse for her positive comments about Taft.

Council Member Noble stated that he had talked with Bob Colston and the Oilworker Monument Committee is within \$73,000 of having necessary funds to build the Oilworker monument in steel, with bronze being the goal and costing about \$200,000 more.

Council Member Thompson 1) stated that he is going to be giving the opening remarks at the California Transportation Commission (CTC) Town Hall meeting the following day in Bakersfield. He said that one of the topic is discuss what the CTC can do to help Kern COG and the Thomas Road Program to help Kern County roads; 2) announced that Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) has a new interim manager, Rebecca Moore, and is looking forward to improved communications with the agency; and 3) reported that on April 30 there will be a meeting re Highway 119 Traffic Safety Committee meeting in Buttonwillow to make plans for the dedication of Highway 119 as a traffic safety corridor.

Council Member Linder 1) reminded residents that weeds need to be cut; 2) reported that the Kiwanis Club had a program put on by the Police Department and that Taft has the most well equipped Police Department in Kern County and gave kudos to the Department for having the equipment to protect the community. Every Police car carries about \$125,000 to \$150,000 worth of equipment that didn't cost the city anything due to ingenuity on the Police Department staff; 3) noticed that the Caprice Motel had been updated and voiced his appreciation to the businesses that are sprucing up; and 4) indicated that planning had begun for the 2010 Oildorado event. The committee wants to make this event very special as this would be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Taft.

Mayor Noerr announced that he would be out of town over the week-end. Noerr voiced his appreciation to Bob Hampton and all the companies who had contributed to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Show. He indicated that Taft is one of the last communities to provide a fireworks event to celebrate our freedoms without a charge to the public.

**6. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT [7:33:17 PM](#)**

Barry Jameson, Planning Commission Chairman, reported that Arbor Day would be held the following Friday at Veteran's Memorial Park to plant trees. A first grade class from Parkview School would be attending and that pizza would be served following the event.

**7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS [7:34:01 PM](#)**

Craig Jones, Acting Public Works Director, reported on the Taft Area Transit Development Plan meeting that was held on April 18, 2009. Council Member Thompson inquired if projects had been submitted for the Federal stimulus money and Jones replied that all the paperwork is ready to be turned in before the deadline.

**8. CITY MANAGER STATEMENTS [7:37:48 PM](#)**

City Manager Gorson shared a letter received from Kern County Supervisor Ray Watson re Taft Area Airport Study. Gorson reported on the CALED workshop that he had attended and stated that he had the opportunity to participate in a session about attracting international students to California colleges. Gorson indicated that he had been approached by an individual who said that he could bring Egyptian students and other international students to Taft College if there is adequate and affordable housing for them.

**9. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS [7:40:15 PM](#)**

City Attorney Gibson 1) thanked Council Members for their feed-back re the bid bond issue and that she had prepared an amended staff report and resolution to consider; 2) apologized to Council for her absence at the Planning Commission meeting but had been assured by Community Development Manager Paul Gorte that her presence wouldn't be required; and 3) announced that she was going to visit her son in Charlston, South Carolina from May 6 – 11.

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**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 10-16 [7:43:17 PM](#)**

Motion: Moved by Linder, seconded by Miller, to approve consent calendar items 10-16.

AYES: Linder, Miller, Noble, Thompson, Noerr

**10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
**April 7, 2009 Regular Meeting**  
Recommendation - Approve as submitted.

**11. PAYMENT OF BILLS**  
Cash Disbursements Warrant #65815 - #65928 - \$412,955.99  
Recommendation – Consent of approved expenditures.

**12. TEMPORARY CITY STREET CLOSURE**  
Recommendation - Motion to approve resolution entitled A RESOLUITON OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT AUTHORIZING THE TEMPORARY STREET CLOSURE OF CENTER STREET BETWEEN THE WEST CURB LINE OF 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET AT

CENTER STREET AND THE EAST CURB LINE OF 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET AT CENTER STREET  
ON MAY 8, 2009, BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 3:00 P.M. AND 8:00 P.M.  
(Resolution No. 3129-09)

**13. APPROVAL TO SUBMIT PRELIMINARY USDA COMMUNITY FACILITY GRANT APPLICATION**

Recommendation – Approve submission of preliminary application.

**14. APPROVAL TO SUBMIT STATE LEGISLATED SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL APPLICATIONS (SR2S)**

Recommendation – Approval to submit grant application and appropriate \$59,191.50 from Capital Reserves.

**15. AGREEMENTS WITH THE CITY OF MARICOPA AND THE CITY OF TAFT FOR DISPATCH, JAIL, AND ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES SUPPLIED BY TAFT P.D.**

Recommendation – Motion to approve Agreements between the Taft Police Department and the Maricopa Police Department for Dispatch, Jail and Animal Control services.

**16. AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH EVERCOM SYSTEMS FOR INMATE TELEPHONE SERVICES**

Recommendation – Motion to approve the amendment to the agreement with Evercom Systems (Securus) for Inmate Telephone Services at the Taft Correctional Facility and authorize the City Manager to sign the Agreement.

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**17. COMPLETION BOND REQUIREMENT FOR THE OILWORKERS MONUMENT**  
**[7:44:40 PM](#)**

City Manager Gorson stated that he strongly endorsed the amended resolution which eliminated the Completion Bond requirement that had been passed at the previous meeting. Mayor Noerr read the amended portions of the Resolution for benefit of the audience.

Council Member Noble stated that he opposed the completion bond and that it would have cost Oilworker Monument Committee (OWMC) about \$35,000, which would be a serious set-back in trying to raise the funds for a full bronze monument. Council all agreed that the \$35,000 would be better utilized in the actual completion of the monument.

City Attorney Gibson stated that her concern had been that the sculpture would be completed but perhaps not the other improvements; however, a city policy stated that a bond was not mandatory, that it was at Council's discretion. Gibson stated that she would prepare a contract to formalize the expectations of the Council as well as those of the OWMC.

Motion: Moved by Noble, seconded Thompson, to approve a resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT APPROVING SITE LOCATION AND SITE PLAN FOR THE OIL WORKER MONUMENT GENERALLY LOCATED AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SUPPLY ROW AND 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET.  
(Resolution No. 3130-09)

Bob Colston thanked Council for passing the new resolution. Colston stated that the committee has until August 1 before they have to give the artist the OWMC decision whether the monument would be constructed in steel or bronze.

Mayor Noerr recessed the meeting to Closed Session at [7:58:36 PM](#). The meeting reconvened at [8:45 PM](#) with Noerr and Thompson 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-undisclosed parcels.

ACTION TAKEN: Direction given to negotiator.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business to conduct and Mayor Noerr adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.

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Louise Hudgens, CMC  
City Clerk

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Dave Noerr, Mayor