

**TAFT CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
MAY 5, 2009**

STUDY SESSION

The City Council Study Session was opened at [6:03:03 PM](#) by Mayor Pro Tem Randy Miller.

George Bonnin, Account Manager for The HdL Companies, provided a demonstration of HdL's Code Enforcement Software. The software would enable the Code Enforcement Officer a means of tracking code violations and as a tool to proceed with the necessary steps needed to ensure compliance with State and local laws and required paperwork.

The Study Session was closed at [6:48:04 PM](#).

REGULAR MEETING

The May 5 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 Pro Tem Randy Miller at [7:03:54 PM](#). Council Member Linder led the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation was given by Bill LeBarron, First Congregational Church.

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Randy Miller.
Council Members Paul Linder, Craig Noble and Cliff Thompson.
Craig Jones, Acting Public Works Director, Kathy Gibson, City Attorney;
Louise Hudgens, City Clerk.

ABSENT: Mayor Dave Noerr.

1. LOTTERY DRAWING FOR SAFE AND SANE FIREWORK STANDS 4TH OF JULY

Council Members drew the following names for Fireworks Stands:

- Westside Children's Camp Association (Camp Condor)
- Taft Lions Club
- Taft Sportsmen Club
- Calvary Temple church
- Alternate - The United Pentecostal International Church of Taft – Youth

2. SPECIAL ITEM – PROCLAMATION

Mayor Pro Tem Miller presented a proclamation declaring May 16-17, 2009, as Relay for Life Days in Taft to a group of volunteers involved with Relay for Life.

3. PUBLIC HEARING – AND APPROVAL TO SUBMIT AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) FTA NON-URBAN SECTION 5311 CAPITAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION

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

Motion: Moved by Linder, seconded by Noble, 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. (*Resolution No.3131-09*)

AYES: Linder, Noble, Thompson, Miller

4. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kathy Johnson, Case Manager at Taft Resource Center, explained that a large lot had been secured in Ford City to be used as a Taft Community Garden. She stated that the group is looking for gardening advice and start-up costs. Members of the community would be able to raise their own vegetables in raised bed that were being built by ROP students. A ribbon cutting ceremony was to be held the following day at 10:30 a.m.

Gary Joyce, a local developer, shared his vision of a 5th Street Plaza (exhibit A). 5th Street Plaza would be formed by closing 5th Street from Center St. to Main Street. The Plaza would have a grandstand, water features, green areas and a walking path connecting Center Street to Rails to Trails.

5. COUNCIL STATEMENTS (NON ACTION)

Council Member Thompson:

- Reported that the Finance Committee had met to begin work on the budget the previous Thursday
- A press conference announcing the Highway 119 Safety Corridor to be held on Thursday, May 14, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

Council Member Linder:

- CalTrans would place highway markers, for a fee, to remember those who had lost their lives in highway accidents
- Kern County Airport Director, Jack Gotcher visited Rotary and he had reported that Meadows Field was responsible for bringing in \$400 million to the county each year. Linder stated that an Airport Committee is working hard to maintain the usage at Taft Airport and that Hall Ambulance had used the airport for 130 medical flights last year.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller:

- Houchin Blood Bank had been at the Chamber of Commerce that day
- Jeff Lemmuchi would be the keynote speaker at the Kiwanis Prayer Breakfast on Thursday at 7:00 a.m.
- National Day of Prayer event scheduled for Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the Fort, with several inspirational speakers scheduled
- Chamber of Commerce golf tournament to be held on Saturday at Buena Vista Golf Course. He thanked Chief of Police McMinn for all his work as Chairman of the event
- Bakersfield Channel 23 is running a Salute to Taft all week. Several local businesses are advertising
- Chamber of Chamber office is accepting Oilworker Monument donations and a decision has to be made by August 1 whether the monument is to be constructed of steel or bronze
- Classic car and truck show scheduled for June 13 on the Rails to Trails
- Highway 33 from Blackwells Corner to Highway 166 in Maricopa would be designated "Petroleum Highway". CalTrans is to place two (2) signs, one (1) at either end, and a committee is working on placing an additional four (4) signs in between.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Acting Public Works Director Jones stated that the Safety Awards would be presented at another meeting.

City Clerk Hudgens announced that Voter information guides for the Hearing and Vision impaired could be obtained in her office, and well as information to help when television converts to digital in June.

7. CITY MANAGER STATEMENTS

Acting Public Works Director Jones read a letter from Bright House Networks dated April 24, 2009, re video programming services.

8. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS – None.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 9-13

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Noble, to approve Consent Calendar Items 9-13.

AYES: Linder, Noble, Thompson, Miller

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 21, 2009 Regular Meeting

Recommendation - Approve as submitted.\n(Item to be distributed at the meeting.)

10. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Cash Disbursements Warrant #65929 - #66013 - \$296,367.74
Cash Disbursements Warrant #66014 - #66016 - \$1,679.03

Recommendation – Consent of approved expenditures.

11. ADOPTING THE POLICY CELLULAR TELEPHONE USE

Recommendation – Motion to adopt Personnel Policy and Procedure entitled CELLULAR TELEPHONE USE.

12. TRANSMIT UNMET NEEDS

Recommendation – Motion to adopt a resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT MAKING FINDINGS REGARDING UNMET TRANSIT NEEDS IN THE CITY OF TAFT. (Resolution No. 3132-09)

13. NOTICE OF COMPLETION – VETERAN’S MEMORIAL PARK RENOVATIONS

Recommendation – Motion to approve the Notice of Completion for the Veteran’s Memorial Park Renovation Project and direct City Clerk to record same.

14. TAFT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TOT REPORT , 1ST QUARTER 2009

Council Member Thompson thanked Mayor Pro Tem Miller for the update. As the item was informational only, Mr. Miller did not step down from the dais.

15. POSITION RECLASSIFICATIONS

- This item (15) was requested to be removed from the Agenda by a previous telephone call from Mayor Noerr.

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Noble, to table this item until all Council Members are present. There were no objections by Linder and Miller.

16. HIRE A TEMPORARY GIS INTERN TO ASSIST IN PLANNING

- This item (16) was requested to be removed from the Agenda by a previous telephone call from Mayor Noerr.

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Noble, to table this item until all Council Members are present. There were no objections by Linder and Miller.

17. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER TRAVEL EXPENSES – 2009 LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Noble, to authorize expenses for registration, lodging, meals, transportation, and other incidental expenses for the Council Members who wish to attend the 2009 League of California Cities Annual Conference in San Jose.

Council discussed the value of attending League conferences. Council Member Linder stated that his wife would be accompanying him at his own expense.

AYES: Linder, Noble, Thompson, Miller

18. ORDINANCE RE PERTAINING TO REGULATION OF MOBILE HOMES, RECREATIONAL AND SIMILAR VEHICLES

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Linder, to introduce ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT AMENDING CHAPTER 11 OF TITLE VI OF CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF TAFT, AS CONTAINED HEREIN by title only and reading be waived.

AYES: Linder, Noble, Thompson, Miller

19. CONSIDERATION OF CONTINUATION OF GRANT WRITING SERVICES BY CALIFORNIA CONSULTING LLC AT \$3,000 PER MONTH PLUS MINOR EXPENSES: YEARLY TOTAL \$36,000

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Linder, to authorize signature of new contract with California Consulting LLC. Staff to evaluate performance every six months and update Council.

Council Member Thompson explained that California Consulting had been hired the previous year to help the Grant Administrator secure grants. Both Council Members Linder and Noble stated that the fee was a small price to pay considering the grants received.

AYES: Linder, Noble, Thompson, Miller

20. OILWORKER MONUMENT IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION LAND VALUE APPRAISAL AND PLAQUE DISCUSSION

Council Member Linder stated that it was his intent to confer with citizens to find out what it is that they want, that Council holds their trust. Council, representing the citizens, donated the land where the monument is to be placed and wants the citizens to be recognized for their generous donation. Linder requested that Council consider \$2,500 for purchase of a plaque.

Council Member Thompson inquired if the plaque should convey some history of Taft. Council Members decided to confer with the OWMC and bring back to Council.

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-Union Pacific Railroad property-various parcels.

- Closed Session was requested to be removed from the Agenda by a previous telephone call from Mayor Noerr.

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Noble, to table this item until all Council Members are present. There were no objections by Linder and Miller.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Linder and approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at [8:08:00 PM](#).

Louise Hudgens, CMC
City Clerk

Dave Noerr, Mayor