

**CITY OF TAFT
PLANNING COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

The September 30, 2008, Special Meeting of the Taft City Planning Commission, held in the Civic Center Council Chamber, 209 E. Kern Street, Taft, California, was called to order at 6:27:47 PM. Commissioner Walchock led the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a moment of silence.

PRESENT: Chairman Barry Jameson, Vice Chairman Curtis Walchock;
Planning Commissioners Craig Laurin, Shawn Sutherland and Robert Thompson;
Redevelopment Manager Paul Gorte, Planning Consultant Lawrence Tomasello,
Assistant Planner Eddie Quintero, City Attorney Kathy Gibson and Acting Secretary
Alina Megerdom.

PUBLIC HEARING 6:29:10 PM

**1. MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION NO. 08-02
(Continued from September 9, 2008)**

Mr. Tomasello stated that the Environmental Documentation began in 2005 and the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration was sent to the State Clearing House. For some reason it was never adopted. The Planning Department compiled all information available and incorporated them into this Mitigated Negative Declaration. Prior to the meeting a letter was received from Occidental Elk Hills regarding drilling concerns (See Attachment 1). This is a commercial development and everything that is proposed is permitted. The Mitigated Negative Declaration does not have to go to City Council.

Laura Geiger from McKinzie Property Management Company stated that she is the broker working on this project. This is a positive deal for the community which would result in a 65 room hotel, a restaurant and gas station.

Motion: Moved by Walchock, seconded by Sutherland, to adopt a resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF TAFT APPROVING MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION NO. 08-02 RELATED TO LIBERTY PLAZA PROJECT.
(Resolution No. 2008-14)

Chairman Jameson worried about the oil ditch on the property, and it was recommended that it be secured with a ten foot wall. A second concern was the two abandoned wells which can not be built within a ten foot radius.

AYES: Laurin, Sutherland, Thompson, Walchock, Jameson

CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none

WORKSHOP 6:38:46 PM

Re-Development Manager Gorte conducted a training workshop. See attachment 2.

He invited the Commissioners and the public to the ad hoc Vision Steering Committee Meeting at 3:30 PM, October 16, 2008, which will be held at the Chevron Valley Credit Union and the 5:00 PM, October 22, 2008, Public Workshop at The Historic Fort.

PLANNING DIRECTOR STATEMENTS 7:29:33 PM

On October 14, 2008 there will be a meeting regarding the buffer zone by the airport, the Airport Land Use Compatibility plan. Mr. Tomasello stated that one mistake that was made in the past was that they never abandoned the runway, they closed it. Also, Kern County has hired a consultant which is doing the Feasibility Study to see if they can extend the runway, change the direction, etc. If that does not work out, than the next step is to seek an alternate site.

There will also be a Special Meeting on October 28, 2008 to meet with Planning Commissioners to review the Re-Development Plan. The goal is to take it to the agency on November 17, 2008.

CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS 7:31:41 PM

There were none.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS 7:32:00 PM

Commissioners agreed that the study session was very informative and a great overview.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Laurin and unanimously approved, to adjourn the meeting at **7:34:03 PM.**

Alina Megerdom, Acting Secretary

Barry M. Jameson, Chairman