

**CITY OF TAFT
PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES
November 12, 2008**

The November 12, 2008, Regular 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 [6:31:34 PM](#). Commissioner Sutherland led the Pledge of Allegiance and Bill LeBarron of First Congregational Church gave the invocation.

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Curtis Walchock.

PUBLIC HEARINGS [6:33:08 PM](#)

1. NEGATIVE DECLARATION 08-04 FOR TAFT ENTERPRISE ZONE APPLICATION

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Laurin, to adopt a resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF TAFT RECOMMENDING TO THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL OF NEGATIVE DECLARATION NO. 08-04 RELATED TO THE TAFT ENTERPRISE ZONE APPLICATION.
(Resolution No. 2008-17)

Eddie Quintero explained the request and stated that because some parts of this project are in the County, the County of Kern and the City of Taft would be joining together to work on this project.

AYES: Laurin, Sutherland, Thompson, Jameson

CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 14, 2008, Regular Meeting

Motion: Moved by Sutherland, seconded by Thompson and approved unanimously, to approve the minutes.

MANAGEMENT REPORTS [6:37:49 PM](#)

1. RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF TAFT SELECTING THE ADDED TERRITORY BOUNDARIES FOR THE PROPOSED 2009 AMENDMENT TO THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE TAFT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT NO. 1, FORMULATING A PRELIMINARY PLAN AS THE BASIS FOR PREPARING SAID AMENDMENT, AND TRANSMITTING THE PRELIMINARY PLAN TO THE TAFT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Paul Gorte explained the project and stated that this project will consist of two phases. The City is proposing to enlarge the Redevelopment Area. The process will go on for months. City action and Taft Community Development Agency action is not anticipated until sometime at the end of next summer. For the record, there is a map of disclosure for the property interests of the Planning Commissioners. It shows that three of the Planning Commissioners are inside of the territory that is being expanded and two that are not inside the territory that is being added. They have discussed this with their attorney; the Planning Commissioners are not receiving any benefits that anyone else is not receiving. They are not having anything denied to them. They just happen to own property there; therefore, it's for the disclosure and openness for the process.

Gorte introduced Mr. Jon D. Huffman from Urban Futures Incorporated. Gorte asked if there is anything further he wanted to add to what Gorte had just said. Mr. Huffman included couple other objectives. One objective is they are looking to add 2,200 acres to the existing area. Second objective is they are reinstating some eminent domain authority for the existing project. The eminent domain authority for that project has expired. Third objective is to a look at the existing project and programs and to see if there is a need to expand to cover additional projects and programs. If the amendment is adopted, there will be a public hearing in the middle of June. If the amendment is adopted, the agency will have thirty years to implement the redevelopment of the added area. He also included other comments and entered documents, maps and brochures into the record. See Attachment #1 and #2.

Motion: Moved by Laurin, seconded by Thompson, to adopt the attached Resolution No. 2008-18 which approves a preliminary plan and designates the Added Territory boundaries for the proposed 2009 Amendment to the Redevelopment Plan for the Taft Community Development Project No. 1, and directs the transmittal of said Preliminary Plan to the Taft Community Development Agency for its consideration and action.

AYES: Laurin, Sutherland, Thompson, Jameson

PLANNING DIRECTOR STATEMENTS 6:55:33 PM

Mr. Gorte stated there is a Community Workshop on November 19, 2009, at 5:00 pm at The Fort in Taft.

Mr. Quintero stated that ever since the new regulations were adopted, there are certain things that are going to be changing in regards to how we proceed with some items such as site plans. There are some projects that are no longer going to be brought to the Planning Commission for approval. The projects are going to be approved by the Planning Department and by Project Assistant Team which is made up of the Planning Director, Public Works Director, Building Official, and who ever is appointed to that committee. Finally amending the influential safety zone for the Airport is completed. We should get something from the County in the next few weeks.

CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS 6:58:51 PM

Attorney Gibson wanted to point out that the way that the Fair Political Practices Commission looks at tonight's request is whether the effect it would have on our appointed officials is different than the effect it would have on everybody else's residence. Then, you can't have a conflict because you are not treated any differently than they are since it's a City Wide Project. You won't have to do anything other than look at this from the standpoint of what's in the best interest of the city and what your recommendation would be based on that.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS 7:01:27 PM

Commissioner Sutherland requested an updated list of all Projects within the City Limits.

Chairman Jameson questioned the wall that was put up by Hillard and Kern Street. Mr. Gorte said that the City allowed Mr. Charlie Beard to put up the 6 foot wall.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Moved by Thompson, seconded by Laurin and unanimously approved, to adjourn the meeting at [7:04:01 PM](#)

Alina Megerdom, Acting Secretary

Barry M. Jameson, Chairperson