

**TAFT CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY
SEPTEMBER 16, 2014
MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING

6:00 P.M.

The September 16, 2014, regular joint meeting of the Taft City Council/Taft Successor Agency, held in the Council Chamber at Taft City Hall, 209 East Kern Street, Taft, CA 93268, was opened by Mayor Paul Linder at [6:03 PM](#). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Miller, followed by an invocation given by Reverend Rodney Wikoff, West Hills Church of the Nazarene.

PRESENT: Mayor Paul Linder and Mayor Pro Tem Orchel Krier.
Council Members Randy Miller, Dave Noerr and Ron Waldrop.
City Manager Craig Jones; City Attorney Jason Epperson;
City Clerk Alina Megerdom.

1. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ryan Coulter – Handed a letter to the City Council in regards to street closure on Center Street between 5th and 6th Street on November 8th. He would like to do a Community Appreciation Concert. Linder stated Mr. Coulter should get together with City Staff as soon as possible to see what steps he will need to take to be able to successfully go forward with the plans for the concert.

Kathy Orrin, Executive Director of Taft Chamber of Commerce, announced:

- High School Board Meeting on Monday, September 15th, Approval for the Candidates Forum, The Chamber is sponsoring a Candidates Forum on Tuesday September 23rd at 6:30 PM at the Taft High School. The candidates are running for City School Board and also for the High School Board.
- October 16th to 19th, Carnival in town. The Chamber has tickets at a big discount. There will be two evenings of vendors. If anyone wants to rent a booth, they can contact the Chamber.
- November 1st, Chamber Golf Tournament. Orrin thanked all the sponsors at the event.
- Trout Derby, November 13th. When you purchase your ticket, you will receive your wristband at the same time.
- December 1st, Christmas Parade on Center Street.
- Thanked the City for contacting the Chamber and asking the merchants their feedback on what would work and what would be best on dates and times for resurfacing the Center Street. She really appreciates the City asking what dates would work for the merchants. They have sent a letters to Caltrans and the City suggesting other times when it would work best for the merchants.

2. COUNCIL STATEMENTS (NON ACTION)

Council Member Waldrop: There were none.

Council Member Krier: Suggested a challenge to Council Members for the best garden at the Community Garden.

Council Member Noerr: Stated that there have been things happening in the City that are in the news, typically from people who are not fortunate enough to live in the City of Taft. He chose sometime ago to move his family into Taft, he has raised his children in Taft, he moved his business out of the County and into the City and it was the best move he ever made. Spite of the fact that Taft is not perfect; it's the most perfect place that he chose to raise his family and have his business. Taft is a great place to live, a great place to raise your family. He would not change it no matter what story he reads or sees in the news. Things happen, but the people of the city will come through this and continue to be the best place to live.

Council Member Miller: He stated that he had the honor and the privilege to be involved with the Kern County Honor Flight Program, which is a program of getting World War II and Korea War Veterans back to Washington DC to see their monument. It's an all volunteer program, they do fundraising, and veterans that are chosen to go do not need to pay a dime. Everything is provided for them; flight, meals, hotel, etc. He has been chosen and honored to escort Howard Minton to Washington DC to see the Monument. They are leaving on September 30th to Washington DC. Monday morning they will visit the monuments and return that night. It is a great privilege for him to be able to go with Howard and asked if anyone would come to the airport and give him a good sendoff and be there around 10:00 PM on Monday to welcome him home.

Mayor Linder:

- Blood Mobile was in town today at the Taft Chamber. Hope everyone had the opportunity to give the gift of life by donating blood. There seems to be a constant shortage of blood in the Kern County.
- Council Member Krier and Linder attended the League of Cities Conference at Los Angeles. A lot of Cities there, but a lot of larger cities do not attend. A lot of networking and great information there. He brought back a bag of goodies; he handed out pens to the Council Members and items for the staff. He also had an item for Mrs. Orrin, Taft Chamber. It's a program called America in Bloom.
- It's real easy to find negativity in everything. The issues going on with Taft High School is sad. Through this process we have forgotten about the victims. It's a sad note when we get upset about a football game, when there are students who may have been subjected to deviant or criminal behavior. He would like to ask to keep the students in mind; Taft High School is a great school. He wanted to ask the community to allow Taft High to get through this thing, make their decisions and Keep in mind the kids that were involved in hazing are going to live with it the rest of their lives. He asked to keep the students in mind and they kids are our future.

3. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT – There were none.

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS - [6:27:00 PM](#)

- Mark Staples, Director of Planning and Developmental Services stated that he just returned from his State Conference for Planning. It was a fun event, not only because it was at the Disneyland Hotel but, it was a very effective conference. There were a lot of medium to small cities that were there trying to learn and share their knowledge and efforts in different towns that they work in. He thanked the Council and the City Manager for allowing him to attend the meeting and continue his education and networking opportunities at these conferences.

5. CITY MANAGER STATEMENTS [6:28:23 PM](#)

- Caltrans procedures for the projects are very complicated, they dictate to the city when they give approval to move ahead. A lot of times they do not have control on when a project moves forward to construction. They have 90 days to move forward from the time it is approved. The issue with downtown is that the approval came at a bad time. The letter the city has asked merchants to write is to ask Caltrans a little leniency on their construction schedule.

Miller asked why Caltrans is involved with Center Street construction. Jones stated that Caltrans is involved with Center Street because it is a Regional Surface Transportation project. It is money that City of Taft is granted various amounts each year and the city gets to choose what project they would like to do, depending on the amount granted.

- Safe Route to School project: They have issued a notice to proceed for Safe Route to School project. It will probably start sometime in the beginning of October and will be in the

vicinity of all the schools. It will include concrete work, pavement lighting, etc. They were aiming to start in the summer, but it's unfortunate they have to do it during school.

6. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS – There were none.

7. FUTURE AGENDA REQUESTS

Linder asked city staff to provide the Council with the complete list of all money that is owed to the City which would include loans against properties and local taxes. He would like to see that presented to the Council for review so they can identify any non-payers in the city. Miller concurred with Linder.

➤ Krier requested item #10 to be pulled from the Consent Calendar.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 8 - 14

Motion: Moved by Noerr, seconded by Miller, to approve consent calendar items 8, 9, 11-14.

AYES: Krier, Miller, Noerr, Waldrop, Linder

PASSED: 5/0

8. MINUTES

September 2, 2014 Regular

Recommendation – Approve as submitted.

9. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Warrant#	8-29-2014	Check No. 78137-78230	\$ 585,071.19
Warrant#	8-29-2014A	Check No. 78231-78235	\$ 14,912.26
Warrant#	9-12-2014	Check No. 78236-78317	\$ 270,893.81

Recommendation - Approve payment of the bills.

11. ADDENDUM TO AGREEMENT WITH CODE 3

Recommendation - Motion to authorize the City Manager to execute the Addendum "A" with Code3 for IT Support services.

12. OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION ON RAILS TO TRAILS SPONSORED BY TAFT CHAMBER

Recommendation - Motion to adopt a resolution entitled **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT AUTHORIZING STREET CLOSURES FOR OKTOBERFEST 2014 ON RAILS TO TRAILS.**

13. NOTICE OF COMPLETION (TAFT FEDERAL PRISON WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT DISINFECTION SYSTEM)

Recommendation - Motion to approve and file the Notice of Completion for Taft Federal Prison Wastewater Treatment Plant Disinfection System.

14. HILLARD ST. PEDESTRIAN/BIKE PATH PROJECT – RPSTPLE – 5193 (033) AWARD OF PROJECT.

Recommendation - Motion to accept the lowest responsible base bid, award the project and to execute a construction agreement with R.C. Becker and Son, Inc. for the Hillard St. Pedestrian/Bike Path Project – RPSTPLE – 5193 (033)

10. FUNDING TO THE TAFT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE QUARTER OF APRIL 2014 TO JUNE 2014.

Recommendation - Motion to approve the 25% allocation of the transient occupancy tax to the Taft Chamber of Commerce for the quarter of April 2014 through June 2014.

Motion: Moved by Krier, seconded by Waldrop, to approve the 25% allocation of the transient occupancy tax to the Taft Chamber of Commerce for the quarter of April 2014 through June 2014.

Krier thanked the Taft Chamber of Commerce for a great job they are doing with the community.

AYES: Krier, Miller, Noerr, Waldrop, Linder
PASSED: 5/0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Moved by Noerr, seconded by Krier and approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at [6:38 PM](#).

Alina Megerdom, City Clerk

Paul Linder, Mayor