

**TAFT CITY COUNCIL/SUCCESSOR AGENCY
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 03, 2026**

The February 03, 2026 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 Dave Noerr at 6:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Chavira and invocation was given by Pastor Sean Piefer.

PRESENT: Mayor Dave Noerr and Mayor Pro Tem Josh Bryant
Council Members Carlos Chavira, Orchel Krier and Ron Waldrop
City Manager Craig Jones and City Attorney Jason Epperson
City Clerk Faith Melton

1. PROCLAMATION – SAFE SURRENDER BABY MONTH IN KERN COUNTY

2. CITIZEN REQUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was none.

3. COUNCIL STATEMENTS (NON-ACTION)

Council Member Krier emphasized how important the safe surrender baby program is and then explained how blessed Taft is to have the organizations and service clubs we do.

Council Member Waldrop thanked Les Clark for his 35 years of service and reminded all that code enforcement will be checking for weeds so make sure to take care of your weeds.

Council Member Chavira gave a few quotes about community service.

Mayor Pro Tem Bryant wished Les Clark a Happy Birthday, mentioned how the California Governor visited Shafter and how state policies affect small governments.

Mayor Noerr thanked Congressman Fong for coming to meet with him, Fred Holmes, and Chief McMinn to discuss matters facing the community and public safety.

4. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Taft Police Chief, Damon McMinn, gave the January statistics for the Police Department and thanked Vince Fong for the great meeting.

Chavira asked McMinn how to tell the City limits from the County limits. McMinn stated if anyone is wondering they can call the Police Department. City Manager Jones mentioned the City street signs are white and the County street signs are green.

5. CITY MANAGER STATEMENTS

There was none.

6. CITY ATTORNEY STATEMENTS

There was none.

7. FUTURE AGENDA REQUESTS

There was none.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS 8-12

Motion: Moved by Krier seconded by Bryant to approve consent calendar items 8-12

AYES: Krier, Bryant, Chavira, Waldrop, Noerr
PASSED: 5-0

8. MINUTES

January 20, 2026 Regular

Recommendation – Approve as submitted.

9. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Warrant # 012326	Check No. 201480-201495	\$ 125,307.13
Warrant # 020226	Check No. 201496	\$ 482,896.00

Recommendation – Approve payment of the bills.

10. UPDATED AGREEMENT WITH VINCENT GRIFFITH, DBA NATIVE PRODUCTIONS FOR VIDEO AND LIVESTREAMING SERVICES

Recommendation –

Motion to approve updated agreement with Vincent Griffith, DBA Native Productions and authorize Mayor to execute said agreement.

11. APPROVING A RESOLUTION FOR THE AUTHORIZATION BANK CARD SERVICES

Recommendation –

Motion to adopt resolution entitled **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT AUTHORIZING BANK CARD SERVICES** (*Resolution No. 4331-26*).

12. REPLACEMENT OF LEASE AGREEMENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT WITH CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY FOR A TELECOMMUNICATIONS SITE FOR THEIR MIDDLE-MILE BROADBAND NETWORK AND TERMINATION OF PAST AGREEMENT

Recommendation -

1. Motion to adopt a resolution entitled **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAFT AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A COMMUNICATIONS GROUND LEASE FOR PORTIONS OF APN'S 220-290-10 AND 220-042-05 TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING A FENCED FIBER HUT SHELTER** (*Resolution No. 4332-26*) to replace resolution No. 4321-25.
2. Motion to approve the proposed communications ground lease agreement with the California Department of Technology to replace the previously approved lease agreement passed on October 21st, 2025, and find that the project is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as set forth in section 15303 of the CEQA Guidelines (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures).

13. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES -HDL ECON SOLUTIONS

Motion: Moved by Krier seconded by Bryant to authorize the Mayor to execute the professional services agreement with HDL Econ Solutions for tasks one and two for amount not to exceed \$45,000 and find that the activity is not a project per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as set forth in Section 15060(c)(3) and Section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines.

AYES: Krier, Bryant, Chavira, Waldrop, Noerr

PASSED: 5-0

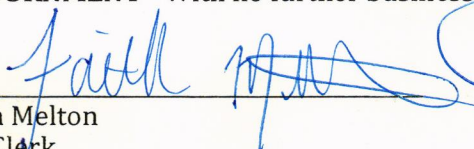
At 6:27 PM the regular meeting was recessed to closed session.

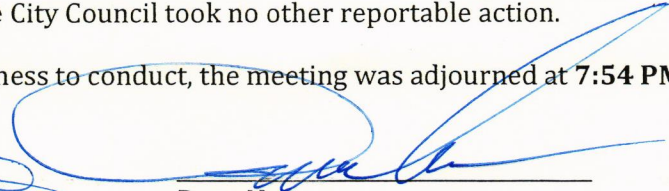
CLOSED SESSION

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Government Code Section 54956.9(b) – One (1) undisclosed case
- B. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR, CRAIG JONES- CITY MANAGER
Government Code Section 54956.8 – (1) undisclosed parcel
- C. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR, CRAIG JONES, CITY MANAGER
Government Code 54957.6 – All units

- The City Council discussed in closed session the two items agendized for closed session discussion and directions were given to staff and negotiators. The City Council took no other reportable action.

ADJOURNMENT - With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.


Faith Melton
City Clerk


Dave Noerr
Mayor