

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 2021

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

The City is excited to get 2021 off and running. We have many projects and updates that the City is continuing to work on in the new year.

In December, Mayor Brandt Rydell, Councilmember Dwayne Ariola and Public Works Director Jim Gray celebrated the completion of street reconstruction on West Lake Drive. Completion of this street was the first of five streets being reconstructed in the city. We are looking forward to completing reconstruction on West Third Street, North Lynn Street, North Robinson Street and Edmond Street later this year. You can find updates on the Streets Project on our website at [bit.ly/taylorstreetsproject](http://bit.ly/taylorstreetsproject).

We are also looking forward to the completion of the Dickey-Givens Community Center. Construction began on the Community Center at the beginning of 2020 and we are now looking at completion soon. And construction on new restrooms at Robinson Park are set to begin in February.

Unfortunately, we are still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The City remains in the Red Phase of the Phased in Reopening Plan. I encourage everyone to continue to follow CDC recommended guidelines so that we can keep mitigating the spread of the virus. You can view the Phased In Reopening Plan as well as any updates on our website at [www.taylortx.gov](http://www.taylortx.gov). Please continue to stay safe!

**BRIAN LABORDE**  
City Manager

## NEXT PHASE OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO START SOON

The City of Taylor kicked off an update to our comprehensive plan last September. The comprehensive plan is the City's guiding policy document and includes policies and strategies for new development, housing, transportation, neighborhood improvements and more.

Two events were held in September. The first was a live webinar with Charles Marohn, Jr. of Strong Towns. The second was an online community meeting where the City's consultants presented information about the link between our land use pattern and the City's financial resiliency and facilitated feedback from the community on their hopes for the future of Taylor. Recordings of both meetings, an online

poll and other resources are available on the comprehensive plan web site at [taylor.konveio.com](http://taylor.konveio.com).

The next phase of public engagement for the plan will be starting soon when the community will have a chance to weigh in on different growth scenarios.

The date for that meeting will be posted on the City's web site once it is scheduled. All public meetings will be streamed live and recorded. So, if you can't attend the meeting, you will still be able to view the recording.

If you have any questions or would like further information about the comprehensive plan update, please contact Tom Yantis, Assistant City Manager, at [tom.yantis@taylortx.gov](mailto:tom.yantis@taylortx.gov).

## CITY EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED BY CHAMBER

Two City of Taylor employees were recognized by Ambassadors of the Greater Taylor Chamber of Commerce as Customer Service of the Month.

Taylor Police Chief Henry Fluck gathered with Taylor Chamber Ambassadors Dec. 4 to recognize Sergeant Mike Culp as October's Customer Service of the Month award winner. Culp was honored for demonstrating what Fluck called the Taylor Police Department's values of "Service and Compassion," when he helped a 94-year-old Taylor resident by giving her beloved 100-pound dog a proper burial on his own private property.

Roger Hinton with the City's Information Technology Department was honored with the April 2020 Customer Service of the Month Award at a presentation Dec. 17, that was delayed due to the pandemic. Hinton was selected for helping a local



ABOVE: Roger Hinton (holding certificate) accepts the April 2020 Customer Service of the Month Award on Dec. 17.

BELOW: Chief Henry Fluck accepts the October 2020 Customer Service of the Month Award on behalf of Sergeant Mike Culp on Dec. 4.

resident whose dog was running loose. According to the nomination information, Hinton chased the dog and returned it to her owner, soothing her anxiety and earning her trust and gratitude.



## DEADLINE TO FILE FOR A PLACE ON THE MAY 1 BALLOT

The City of Taylor will hold a general election on May 1, 2021, to elect a Council Member from District 2 and a Council Member from District 3.

The filing period for submitting an application for a place on the ballot for either of these seats is January 13 through February 12.

Residents may contact the City Clerk's office for a candidate packet, or visit the City's Elections page at [www.taylortx.gov](http://www.taylortx.gov).

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The City Council of the City of Taylor will be making appointments in February to various City Boards and Commissions. A list of Boards and applications are available on the City's website at [www.taylortx.gov/813/Boards-Commissions](http://www.taylortx.gov/813/Boards-Commissions).

All applications must be submitted to the City Clerk's office by February 19, 2021, in order to be considered.

Return applications to: City of Taylor, City Clerk's Office, 400 Porter St., Taylor TX. 76574, or by email at [dianna.barker@taylortx.gov](mailto:dianna.barker@taylortx.gov).

## CITY OF TAYLOR WASTEWATER AVERAGING

As a reminder, the City of Taylor conducts its annual sewer averaging from late November through March. The months that are used are typically the lowest consumption months of the year. These three months are averaged to get the sewer rates for the next 12 months.

Prior to the averaging period you are advised to repair any leaky faucets or running toilets and any other water leaks. This will avoid a high usage month during the averaging period and help to keep your sewer rate down.

WASTEWATER AVERAGING PERIOD PER ZONE			
<i>To find your zone, look at the payment coupon of your water bill next to the billing address.</i>			
	SERVICE DATES	BILLING DATES	NEW RATE APPEARS ON BILL DATE
ZONE 1	11/23/20 – 2/23/21	1/5/21, 2/5/21, 3/5/21	4/5/21
ZONE 2	12/4/20 – 3/4/21	1/12/21, 2/12/21, 3/12/21	4/12/21
ZONE 3	12/10/20 – 3/12/21	1/19/21, 2/19/21, 3/19/21	4/19/21

## TAYLOR PUBLIC LIBRARY CALENDAR

Join us for online storytime Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. on the Taylor Public Library facebook page! Stop by and pick up a grab-and-go storytime craft.

- Feb. 3 - Music
- Feb. 10 - Valentines
- Feb. 17 - Unicorns
- Feb. 24 - Princesses



## TEMPORARY SUSPENSIONS OF SERVICE DISCONNECTS ENDED IN JANUARY

When COVID-19 came to Taylor, the City recognized that this could make it hard for some of our utility customers to stay current on their utility bills so the Finance Department temporarily suspended utility service disconnects and the assessing of late fees.

The temporary suspension of service disconnects and the waiver of the late fees that the City of Taylor implemented as a response to COVID-19 ended with the January billing cycle. The City has reinstating the normal practice of charging late fees and disconnecting service for customers who have delinquent utility bills. If your utility bill is delinquent, please contact the Utility Billing department at 512-352-2066 to discuss your options.

## COVID-19 RESOURCES

### Vaccination Information:

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is in charge of coordinating the distribution of the vaccine in Texas.

On their website located at [www.dshs.texas.gov](http://www.dshs.texas.gov), you will find a link to a Vaccine Provider Locations Map, which shows all COVID-19 vaccine providers that have received a shipment of vaccine.

The website also includes information about:

- The timeline for vaccine distribution
- Who is eligible to receive the vaccine now
- How to get the vaccine if you are eligible
- Frequently Asked Questions

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

**6 p.m. Thursday: February 11, 25  
March 11, 25**

Council meetings are currently being held virtually until further notice. Watch meetings live online or taped recordings at [www.taylortx.gov](http://www.taylortx.gov).

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City offices will be closed on:  
**Monday, February 15  
(Presidents' Day)**