

5TH ST



# COMMUNITY CONNECTION



SEPTEMBER 2025

VOL. 21 | ISSUE 9

# YOUR CITY COUNCIL





## MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

I wanted to take a moment and provide an update on the City's permitting process. We've listened to you and are determined to improve and streamline the process for both residents and businesses.

At a City Council meeting last month, we shared the findings of an outside consultant who reviewed our permitting process. The analysis, which included input from the community, developers, builders, and staff, identified areas for improvement such as staffing shortages, rework, and customer service.

Even before the study was complete, City staff began making changes. We've upgraded software, opened a new walk-up counter at City Hall, and added workstations where residents can fill out permits and get immediate help. We also launched weekly permit workshops on Thursdays and set a new goal of responding to questions within 24 hours instead of 10 days.

Additional improvements are on the way, including more automated processes, clearer instructions for applicants, and streamlined procedures to accelerate both residential and commercial permits.

These changes are just the beginning, and your feedback has been key in guiding them. I invite you to stay involved and share your experiences with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Laborde".

# CITY NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



## New Downtown & Tourism Director

We're pleased to welcome Sean Johnson as the City of Taylor's new Downtown and Tourism Director. Most recently, he served as Director of Tourism for Visit Cleveland, Mississippi. He has also held executive roles across Mississippi, including Executive Director of the Chickasaw Development Foundation in Houston and Chief Marketing Officer for New Albany. His first day was August 25.

[More About Sean Johnson](#)

## Active Transportation and ADA Transition Plan Town Hall

Join us Thursday, Sept. 4, from 4–7 p.m. at the Dickey-Givens Community Center to learn about the City's new plan to make streets, sidewalks, and trails safer, more connected, and accessible. The plan will create a citywide network for walking, biking, and rolling, remove ADA barriers, and focus improvements where they're needed most.

[More About The Town Hall](#)



## Public Hearing On Budget And Tax Rate

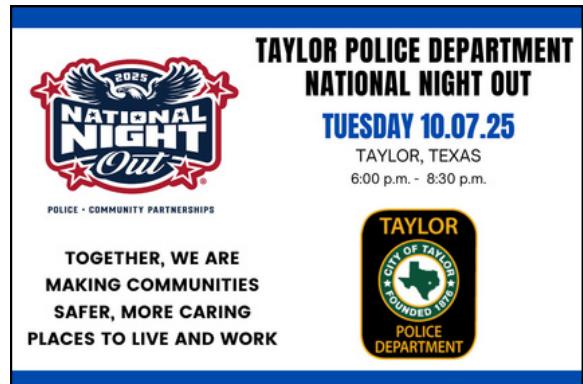
The Taylor City Council will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to consider the Proposed Budget and Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2026. The proposed budget includes funding for a new police officer, dispatcher, six firefighters (pending grant approval), a street maintenance worker, curb and gutter replacements, firefighter equipment, Council meeting streaming, building code updates, and more.

[See The Proposed Budget & Tax Rate Here](#)

## National Night Out

The Taylor Police Department National Night Out is Tuesday, Oct. 7, from 6 to 8:30 PM. National Night Out is a community event that builds neighborhood spirit, strengthens police partnerships, and promotes crime prevention. The City of Taylor has been nationally recognized for its strong community participation in National Night Out with support from residents, police, and fire.

[More About National Night Out](#)



# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

## Coffee With a Cop | August 14



## Back 2 School Bash | August 15



# CITY MEETINGS



## **9** Planning and Zoning Commission

6:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST.

## **10** Special Called City Council Meeting

6:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

## **16** Moody Museum Advisory Board

5:30 PM | DAN MOODY MUSEUM | 114 W 9TH ST

## **17** Main Street Advisory Board

5:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

## **17** Parks and Recreation Board

6:00 PM | DICKEY GIVENS COMMUNITY CENTER | 1015 BLVD. MLK JR.

## **24** Public Arts Advisory Board

5:30 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST.

## **25** City Council Meeting

6:00 PM | CITY HALL | 400 PORTER ST

SEPTEMBER



# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## **Active Transportation & ADA Transition Plan Town Hall**

4:00 PM | DICKEY-GIVENS COMMUNITY CENTER



## **Patriot Day 9/11 Memorial March**

7:00 PM | FROM 7<sup>TH</sup> & VANCE ST. TO HERITAGE SQUARE PARK



## **Taylor Second Saturdays**

ALL DAY | DOWNTOWN



## **Historic Downtown Walking Tour**

10:00 AM | CURBSIDE COFFEE | 114 W 2ND ST



## **Music on Main - Magnolia Kids/Secret Siren**

7:00 PM | HERITAGE SQUARE PARK



## **Kid Fish**

8:00 AM | 904 DELLINGER DR



# PARKS EVENTS

# SEPTEMBER

## **Zumba**

MONDAYS | 6:00 PM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK

## **Senior Fit**

TUESDAYS | 10:30 AM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK

## **Pilates**

TUESDAYS | 6:00 PM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK

## **Track Time**

TUESDAYS | 6:30 PM | MEMORIAL FIELD TRACK

## **Walk 2 Run**

TUESDAYS | 6:30 PM | MEMORIAL FIELD TRACK

## **Yoga**

WEDNESDAYS | 6:30 PM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK

## **Butts 'N' Guts**

THURSDAYS | 6:00 PM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK

## **Senior Fit**

FRIDAYS | 10:30 AM | MEMORIAL FIELDHOUSE | MURPHY PARK

# LIBRARY EVENTS



- 6** **LEGO Play**  
10:00 AM
- 6** **Puzzle Swap**  
12:30 PM
- 8** **Grief Support**  
6:30 PM
- 9** **Homeschool Hangout**  
1:00 PM
- 13** **Movie Day**  
10:00 AM
- 20** **Make And Take Craft**  
10:00 AM
- 22** **Grief Support**  
6:30 PM
- 23** **Salsa Party**  
6:00 PM
- 27** **Sensory Hour**  
10:00 AM

## WEEKLY

- M** **Chair Yoga**  
MONDAYS | 9:30 AM
- M** **Bilingual Storytime**  
MONDAYS | 11:00 AM | STARTS SEPT. 15
- T** **Hooks and Needles**  
TUESDAYS | 9:00 AM
- W** **Storytime**  
WEDNESDAYS | 10:30 AM
- W** **Senior Social**  
WEDNESDAYS | 2:00 PM
- TH** **Chair Yoga**  
THURSDAYS | 9:30 AM
- TH** **Chair Massage**  
THURSDAYS | 10:30 AM
- F** **Senior Social**  
FRIDAYS | 2:00 PM | STARTS SEPT. 12

# COUNCIL CONNECTION

## COUNCIL MEETING RECAP VIDEOS

The Council Connection video series provides a recap of what happened at each Council meeting. They are released within a week following each meeting.



### August 14 Meeting

THE COUNCIL RECEIVED AN AUDIT OF THE PERMITTING PROCESS THAT IDENTIFIED ISSUES AND RECOMMENDED CHANGES, RECEIVED THE CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET, AND CONSIDERED THE PROPOSED TAX RATE TO FUND THE PROPOSED BUDGET



### August 28 Meeting

COUNCIL APPROVED THE EDC'S PROPOSED BUDGET, AWARDED A CONTRACT FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE, VOTED TO REMOVE THE ENTIRE CYCLE TRACK ON MALLARD LANE, DIRECTED STAFF TO DEVELOP A VACANT BUILDING REGISTRATION PROGRAM, AND APPROVED A SESQUICENTENNIAL LOGO.



**View all past meetings at [TaylorTX.gov/Videos](http://TaylorTX.gov/Videos)**

# STAY CONNECTED!

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## Meeting/Event Reminders

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# SOCIAL MEDIA



The City of Taylor can be found on these social platforms.



Left to Right: Greg Redden (District 1), Shelli Cobb (District 2),  
Mayor Dwayne Ariola (At-Large), Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Cmerek  
(District 3), Heather Long (District 4)