

Community Connection

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Council Commits to Street Improvements

The first steps have been taken to kick start needed improvements to city streets. A complete assessment of all 105 miles of city streets was completed last year that categorized the streets into Poor, Fair, Good and Excellent conditions. A part of this assessment included the possible repair of utilities such as water, wastewater, electric, natural gas and phone lines and the expense required in addition to improving the streets. The entire expense would near approximately \$70 million and counting. The Council and management began to look for ways to start on this enormous undertaking.

It was determined that if the Fair streets could not be repaired, they would fall into the Poor category and would cost over \$47 million to repair over the longer term. The answer was to get started as soon as possible, with the resources available, and with no increase in taxes.

The Council voted to apply \$2.4 million in surplus funds from prior Certificates of Obligation (COs) and voted to issue an additional \$3 million in new COs to cover the expense of starting Phase One of the 2013 Pavement Maintenance project. This will improve streets in the downtown area and streets identified as Fair condition, moving them to the Good condition category with no increase in current tax levels.

Scott Green Sworn In As New Council Member

The City Council welcomes Scott Green as its newest member representing District 4, replacing Chris Osborn.

A runoff election on June 8 between incumbent Don Hill and candidate Tom Mowdy will decide the Councilmember for District 1.

The Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem will be elected when the runoff election results are canvassed.



City Manager's Message

Over the past few years, our Council has had to deal with many difficult issues.

The biggest and most costly is the condition of Taylor streets and how to begin to take the hard steps to initiate a pavement management program. Taylor streets have been deteriorating for more than fifty years.

Our Councilmembers have said, "The buck stops here. We must act." There is a long way to go to address maintenance and poor streets that have to be totally rebuilt. But, they have taken that first step.

Now it is up to our community to take that next step. We need your support.

- Jim D. Dunaway

Community Connection is a monthly publication of the City of Taylor

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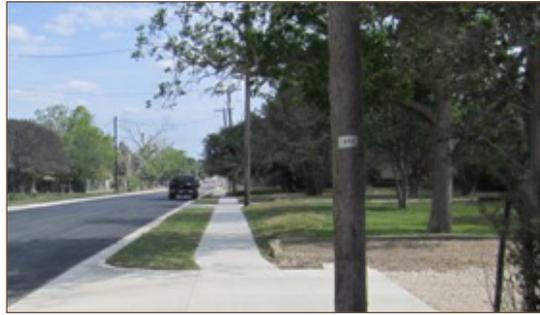


Sloan Street Completion

After a long wait, residents on Sloan Street can now enjoy their new street and sidewalk. This major street rehab complements the completion of West Second Street.

Four side streets on the south side of West Second Street also received a makeover: Talbot, Vance, Victoria and Sloan.

Sloan Street looking south



City leverages grant funds of \$1.8 million CDBG Projects

The City was awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of \$300,000 in October 2012 and \$200,000 in May of 2013. The City pledged to match these grants with \$100,000.

The funds are being used to rehab the Jones/Burkett Streets corridor running north and south from East Lake Drive to Fourth Street. This project also includes water and wastewater improvements.

TXDOT TEP Grant

The City was awarded a Transportation Enhancement Project (TEP) grant in the amount of \$1,156,826 to fund a bicycle and pedestrian path along Highway 95 providing a north/south non-motorized connection within the city from the south Taylor area to Carlos G. Parker Blvd. N. It will provide safe transportation access for persons with disabilities, pedestrians and bicyclists. The City match for this project is \$289,200.

Texas Parks & Wildlife Grant

The City was approved for a grant of \$158,250 from Texas Parks & Wildlife to make improvements to the trail along Bull Branch Creek. This project will run along Bull Branch linking the north and south trails with an eight foot concrete trail that runs under an overpass on East Fourth St. This will connect Robinson Park to Murphy Park and beyond. The City match for this project is \$52,750.

Wilco Financial Stability Coalition Tax-Aide

Tax Aide volunteers logged in 790 hours at two Taylor locations, City Hall and the Taylor Public Library, as they served 638 citizens with free filing of tax returns, an increase of 22 percent. This resulted in refunds and credits of \$702,865 for Taylor residents who used the volunteer filing assistance.

The Williamson County Financial Stability Coalition includes the following organizations: United Way of Williamson County, AARP Tax-Aide, Williamson Burnet County Opportunities, Internal Revenue Service, Literacy Council of Williamson County and Foundation Communities.

Save the Dates

Movies in the Park

(Movie selection to be announced)

June 14

July 12

August 9

On the Football Field at Taylor Regional Park



Celebrate Fourth of July Festival and Fireworks at Murphy Park

Kid Fish is coming!

Watch for the date!

Did You Know?

The Capital Area Food Bank Truck "Wheels of Sharing" is in Taylor Third Friday of each month at Our Lady Guadalupe Church. Available for anyone who needs food. Distributed from 10 – 11:30 a.m.

(Volunteers are needed.)

Reminders

All City of Taylor offices and Taylor Public Library will be closed July 4 for Independence Day Holiday. *(Garbage service will not be affected.)*

Everyone with a Texas 512 area code must dial area code + telephone number for all local calls beginning June 1.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

June 13 & 27

July 11 & 25

6 p.m. at City Hall