

A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



Budget season is upon us once again and City Staff has been working diligently since closing out the last budget to align priorities and develop a working budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-2017.

The budget will be presented to Council in July and it is anticipated that it will be adopted in September.

Priorities for this year's budget include:

- No tax rate increase
- Identifying additional funding for the street & sidewalk maintenance program (\$30-\$50,000) for the next 3 years
- Developing a 5-year City-wide Capital Improvements Program
- Employment compensation
- Maintain the highest possible credit rating by following rating agencies and financial advisor directives

- Present a balanced budget with revenues and available unreserved fund balances equal to or above current expenditures

As with all activities conducted at City Hall, we are committed to maintaining an open and transparent process throughout the budget cycle.

Under the direction of the City Council, staff will continue to focus efforts on solidifying our community's fiscal foundation while providing quality services to our residents.

The overarching goal is to focus on growing Taylor as a whole to increase revenues and provide a larger tax base for the community.

COUNCIL MOVES FORWARD TO ADDRESS STREET ISSUE

The Taylor City Council made a decision in February to address the City's street repair and maintenance challenges by approving a Transportation User Fee ordinance that will go into effect beginning June 1, 2016 for residents and businesses located inside the city limits.

The TUF is structured in separate flat rates for commercial and residential units within the City limits. The assessed fee for residential units will be \$8 a month and for commercial units will be based on a six tier structure ranging from \$25 to \$133 based on size and trip generation factors.

"The condition of Taylor's streets has been declining for decades with more than 50 percent of streets here rated in 'poor' condition – the most expensive condition to repair," said City Manager Isaac Turner. "The estimated cost to fix all streets in Taylor is between \$30 and \$60 million and we just do not have the budget or revenue stream to address a problem this large."

The TUF establishes a dedicated revenue source in which the money raised can only be used for street repair, reconstruction and maintenance as well as sidewalk maintenance. The projected revenue that will be generated from the TUF is estimated to be more than \$700,000 annually.

"Street and road conditions have been a number one priority for the Council and has been expressed as a major concern by Taylor citizens for many years now," said Mayor Jesse Ancira, Jr. "Taking care of our streets is mandatory and for far too long, we haven't been able to do that. The Transportation User Fee addresses the issue head on and helps us invest in the future of Taylor and begin fixing this problem that has eclipsed us for so long."

Residential Rates

A residential rate in the TUF will be assessed on utility bills at \$8 per residential unit for those residing within the City limits of Taylor.

Commercial Rates

Commercial rates for businesses will vary based on monthly trip generation rates, land use and square footage, which is derived from the Transportation Engineers Trip Generation Manual, 9th Edition and with data from the Williamson County Appraisal District to establish categories for commercial parcels. Businesses in those categories fall into one of six tiers with the following rate structure:

**Tier 1 - \$25 | Tier 2 - \$33 | Tier 3 - \$50 | Tier 4 - \$67 |
Tier 5 - \$84 | Tier 6 - \$133**

Review period

The City of Taylor City Council will periodically review the approved ordinance and TUF every three years.

Project Prioritization

Due to the amount of roads in need of maintenance, repair and reconstruction in Taylor, more than 59 miles, road/project prioritization will take time to establish and is not currently available. City staff will be working diligently to produce a street reconstruction and maintenance project list that will be included in the Capital Improvements Project program and reviewed annually as a part of the budget development process.

The City is committed to seeking additional funding options to offset costs for street and sidewalk repair, rehabilitation and maintenance and will continue to visit options, to include grants, general fund resources, sales tax reallocation and review of in-house public works contracts to address these needs.

The TUF will go into effect on June 1, 2016.



NEW APPROACHES IN CODE ENFORCEMENT

The City of Taylor has implemented a new method for warning potential violators of suspected code enforcement violations through a door hanger reporting system. In conjunction with the Taylor Police and Fire Departments, city officials will be aiding in code enforcement by distributing door hangers to residences of suspected violations. The door hangers will serve as a notice of a possible infraction and a City code enforcement officer will be following up on the report.

As a reminder, instances of tall grass, overgrown weeds and underbrush, build up of debris in yards and unsanitary conditions are considered nuisances and are grounds for citation. Additionally, junked vehicles, or portions thereof, on public or private property are also considered grounds for citation and will be handled through the TPD.

NOTICE



The City is committed to taking a proactive approach to address code enforcement issues and violations by educating the public on potential infractions and violations. As a reminder, citizens can report issues of concern to the City through the Taylor, Texas mobile application or online at taylortx.gov through the "Report a Concern" or "Fix it Form" tabs located in the app and online. For questions or to report a concern, contact the City at 512-352-3675 or 512-365-3863.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

May

2 SPANISH FAMILY STORYTIME

Join the Taylor Public Library for Spanish family storytime beginning at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Library at 512-352-3434.

7 BLACKLAND PRAIRIE DAYS

Join in the fun of paying homage to Taylor's history at the Blackland Prairie Days Festival which begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 9 p.m. The event will feature vendors, crafts, artisan faire, a "Best of Taylor" BBQ cook-off and street dance from 5 - 9 p.m.

28 POOL SEASON BEGINS

The City of Taylor's pools will open on May 28 for the season. Locations include Robinson Park and Murphy Park. Admission will be \$2 for children ages 4-12 and \$3 for adults/children ages 12+. Seniors (60+) will be \$2. Contact mike.devito@taylortx.gov for more information.

FINAL TWO LIGHTNING PREDICTION SYSTEMS INSTALLED

Two additional lightning prediction systems were installed and activated in February at Doak Street ball fields and Robinson Park, bringing the total number of detection systems in Taylor to 10.

The other locations include: Taylor High School, Murphy Park, Naomi Pasemann Elementary School, Taylor Middle School, T. H. Johnson Elementary, Bull Branch, Main St. Intermediate and the Taylor Regional Park and Sports Complex Fields.

The lightning prediction system is designed to issue warnings of potential lightning using a series of strategically located horns and strobes at the designated locations of installation. The system can predict a lightning strike and issue a warning within a defined geographical region approximately eight to 20 minutes before a lightning strike occurs.

Acquiring the Thor Guard lightning prediction systems was initiated by the Taylor Independent School District. The City of Taylor has partnered with TISD to operate the systems that are located in our parks while TISD operates systems at the school district locations.

BLACKLAND PRAIRIE DAYS PAYS TRIBUTE TO TAYLOR HISTORY



This year's Blackland Prairie Days, set to take place in historic Downtown Taylor on May 7 from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m., is going to be bigger and better than ever! The festival, dedicated to Taylor heritage, will feature a "Best of Taylor" BBQ Cook-off, local artisan faire to peruse throughout the day, activations throughout downtown dedicated to our history and a street dance from 5-9 p.m. featuring headliners County Line Band playing all your favorite hits!

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City offices will be closed on the following day(s):

May 30, 2016 - Memorial Day
Normal garbage schedule

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Thursdays - May 12 & 26

All meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held at City Hall.

FEATURED EVENT

TAYLOR FARMER'S MARKET



The Downtown Taylor Farmer's Market will run from May - Oct. every Monday & Friday from 3-6 p.m. at the corner of 5th & Main Street.