

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



In this month's edition, I'd like to provide an update on some of the projects and other initiatives happening at City Hall currently.

Since the printing of last month's newsletter, a few changes were made to the budget that I wanted to make you aware of. Those changes include:

- Adopted tax rate of \$0.803893, one (1) cent lower than last year
- Two new positions were funded - a Code Enforcement Officer and Part-Time library Aide
- The part-time Kennel Technician position was converted to a full-time position

The budget was adopted on September 8, 2016. If you would like to view the budget in brief or get more information on it, visit our website - [www.taylor.tx.gov/budget](http://www.taylor.tx.gov/budget).

New businesses and expansions completed in town include:

- Williamson County Expo Center Expansion
- Taylor Station on 2nd. St.
- HT Fitness
- Summit Cabinet Groundbreaking
- The Hawt Spot
- Farm 2 Table Deli on 2nd St.

The City has also been the recipient of numerous grants for projects including:

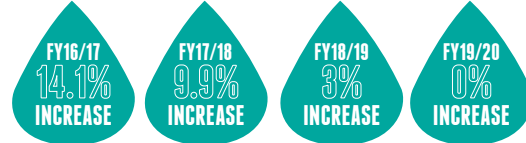
- \$125,000 for Robinson Park
- \$2.9 Million for Taylor Municipal Airport
- \$50,000 for Amy Young Barrier Removal Program
- \$49,500 for Hazard Mitigation

Additionally, a grant application for the Downtown Skate Park and Heritage Square improvements was submitted last month to Texas Parks & Wildlife.

I look forward to sharing more exciting news on development and growth in Taylor in the coming months.

-Isaac Turner

## WATER & SEWER RATE SET TO INCREASE



The 4-year rate plan shows the combined increase for both water and sewer rates for the fiscal year.

Water and Sewer rate increases go into effect October 1st and residents will begin seeing the increases in mid-October through the beginning on November. **The total increase for water is 11% and 18% for sewer equaling a combined increase of 14.1%.**

Customers in zones 2, 3, and 4 will see rate changes on their October bill. Zone 1's rate changes will be reflected on their November utility bills. Customers may see some prorated charges on their utility bill during this time.

Zone	Read Dates	Bill Date
Zone 1	Sept. 27 – Oct. 27	Nov. 5
Zone 2	Oct. 4 – Nov. 4	Nov. 12
Zone 3	Oct. 12 – Nov. 10	Nov. 19
Zone 4	Sept. 19 – Oct. 19	Nov. 26

The 4-year plan was approved by the City Council in 2015 in order to set rates that will cover the costs of providing water and sewer services to Taylor residents. This marked the first time in more than five years that the City had increased water and sewer rates.

If you have questions about your utility bill or rate structure, please contact Utility Billing at 512-352-2066.

## TAYLOR AIRPORT RECEIVES \$2.9 MILLION TXDOT GRANT

The Taylor Municipal Airport has been awarded a TXDOT airport improvement grant, acting on behalf of the Federal Aviation Administration, in the amount of \$2,918,200 to fund pavement and hangar improvements.

Project improvements provided by this grant will include rehabilitating runways, taxiways and adding 12 unit T-hangars which will help to narrow down the waiting list for hangar space.

The City of Taylor has established a long-range, 10-year financial plan for the airport in order to enhance its sustainability and efficiency for many years to come. These initial improvements are a part of the overall plan for more than \$8 million worth of capital improvements as outlined in the City's 5-year Community Investment Program (CIP).

The Taylor Municipal Airport is one of 294 public use airports in Texas and manages more than 1000 operations per month. In 2012, it was estimated that the airport's impact on the Taylor economy exceeded \$4 million annually.



## PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY - CONFIDENTIALITY FORMS AVAILABLE

Utility customers have the option to make their utility account information confidential under The Texas Utilities Code, Chapter 182, Rights of Utilities Customers. If you would like to do this, simply fill out the form in this month's newsletter and return it by mail or in person to Utility Billing, 400 Porter St. Taylor, Texas 76574.

## CITY WELCOMES NEW PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, SENIOR PLANNER



**MATTHEW RECTOR, SR.**



**MICHAEL ELABARGER**

Matthew Rector, Sr. and Michael Elabarger joined the City of Taylor recently in their roles as the new Public Works Director and Senior Planner, respectively.

Mr. Rector, the Director of Public Works, has 10 years of experience in engineering and public works and most

recently worked for the City of Del Rio. He has an extensive background in project management and engineering for the Department of Defense and was lauded for his contributions as a civilian in Iraq.

He earned both his Master of Science in Engineering Management and Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri - Rolla.

Michael Elabarger, our Senior Planner, has more than 16 years experience and most recently worked for the City of Georgetown. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the City and is skilled in the development of long-range plans and economic development revitalization programs. He is also a member of the American Planning Association.

Mr. Elabarger earned both his Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees in Geo-Environmental Studies from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania.

## PARKS & RECREATION UPDATE

The Taylor Parks & Recreation Department was recently notified of their Parks Master Plan approval from Texas Parks & Wildlife. This will enable the City to leverage additional points when submitting grants to increase the overall score for submitted projects.



The City of Taylor and Taylor Parks & Recreation Department recently submitted a grant application to TP&W requesting nearly \$1 million worth of projects for the Downtown Skate Park and Heritage Square Improvements. The typical grant cycle is 4-6 months and the City should have word on whether the grant was approved or denied by February 2017.

Two projects currently underway for the Parks Dept. include the Main Street Trails Project and Robinson Park. Robinson Park improvements include \$250,000 for a splash pad, ball field upgrades, native landscaping and new seating along the creek area with completion by Summer 2017.

## VOTING INFORMATION FOR GENERAL ELECTION ON NOV. 8TH

Early voting for the Joint General and Special Election begins October 24 through November 4 at City Hall, 400 Porter Street. Dates and times for early voting are as follows:

**Mon. Oct. 24 - Fri. Nov. 4 | 7 AM - 7 PM & Sun. Oct 30 | 12 PM - 6 PM**

Election day is November 8, 2016 and City Hall, the Taylor Public Library and the Main Street Events Center will once again be polling locations. The last day to register to vote for this election is Oct. 11. Visit [www.votetexas.gov](http://www.votetexas.gov) for information on voter registration. You can also contact Williamson County Elections at 512-943-1630 or visit [www.wilco.org](http://www.wilco.org) for information on local voting.

## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER

#### 6 MOODY MUSEUM VETERAN'S PROGRAM

The Moody Museum will be honoring local veterans from 2-4 p.m. with guest speaker Charles Nowlin, a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War.

Shadowboxes will be on display and veterans or family members are encouraged to submit one. For more information visit [www.moodymuseum.com](http://www.moodymuseum.com).

#### 8 ELECTION DAY

The Joint General and Special Election will be held today. Voting locations are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at City Hall, Taylor Public Library and Main St. Events Center.

#### 12 DR. DICKEY PARADE

Join the Blackshear/O.L. Price Ex-Students Assn. to celebrate the life of famed Taylor native Dr. James Lee Dickey. This year's event will be at the new Dickey Museum, 500 Burkett St.

#### 12 EXPO CENTER GRAND OPENING

Join the Williamson Co. Expo Center staff for a grand opening from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the newly renovated location.

#### 17 THIRD THURSDAY SHOPPING

Shop Downtown Taylor for local Taylor Made treasures for the holidays at any one of the participating merchants. Extended hours may vary.

### HOLIDAY CLOSURES

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

**November 11 - Veterans' Day**

*(Normal Garbage pickup schedule)*

**November 24 - Thanksgiving Day**

**November 25 - Friday after Thanksgiving**

*(Garbage pickup delayed 1 day)*

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

**Thursday - November 10**

All meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held at City Hall. View online at [www.taylor.tx.gov](http://www.taylor.tx.gov) or through the City of Taylor mobile app.