

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION NEWSLETTER



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## City Manager Message

It's hard to believe we are already coming to the end of the year! 2022 has been a great year for the City of Taylor, with lots of growth and progress on some of our ongoing projects.

The City continued to make improvements to our roadways this past year with our annual Level-up Program. We also introduced a reclamation program that further improves our streets and roadways for our residents and visitors. In the 2021-22 fiscal year we were able to complete level-up maintenance on 2.38 miles. And we're just getting started! In 2023, our Street and Maintenance crews anticipate increasing the maintenance of our streets to approximately 5.18 miles. In addition, the FY 2022-23 budget has restructured our Transportation User Fee (TUF) and Municipal Drainage Utility System (MDUS) to focus on providing even more resources for street and drainage maintenance.

This year, we also saw improvements and additions to our Parks System. In October, our Parks and Recreation Department held a ribbon cutting ceremony for improvements to Doak Park. These improvements included a new shaded commercial playground, swing sets, open play fields, accessible parking, and accessible sidewalks to the park. Funding

for the project was provided in part through a Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant, Taylor Parks Foundation funds and Valero Quality of Life grant. This coming year will see the completion of ongoing improvements to Taylor Regional Park, which will include new irrigated soccer field, renovations to existing fields, two batting cages, hiking trail, education signage, native landscaping and a fishing pier. Construction was also completed on the Percussion Park in Murphy Park, which will be useable by all ages and musical abilities. This is an interactive and inclusive playscape that integrates commercial quality musical instruments. It will be wonderful to hear the sounds of this new playground throughout Murphy Park and we look forward to holding a ribbon cutting to celebrate the new amenity.

The City has also received numerous accolades and recognitions this year. In February, Taylor City Council was honored to be named the 2022 Texas City Management Association's Council of the Year. The award was given for Council's support of the council-manager form of government through professional management, ethical practices, and effective decision-making to ensure the highest standards for the community. In addition, our Human Resources and Civil Service Department received the 2022 TMHRA Strategic Human Resources Department of the Year. They were recognized for their efforts made to enhance and further the mission, vision and values of the organization and its culture while aligning strategic HR practices and programs.

I continue to be amazed and proud of all of the hard work our City staff does throughout the year. We continue to have a group of dedicated employees that care about the Taylor community and its residents. The progress we have made this year has truly been a team effort and I look forward to what's in store for the City of Taylor in 2023.

I hope that all of our residents have a wonderful Christmas holiday!

Sincerely,

**Brian LaBorde**  
*City Manager*

## The City Hosts A Very Merry Holiday Celebration Dec. 3

The City of Taylor invites the Taylor community to participate in a Very Merry Holiday Celebration on Saturday, December 3. The celebration will begin with a City-sponsored parade on Main Street at 7 PM, followed by a tree-lighting ceremony at Heritage Square, where community members can enjoy live music, carols, and arts and crafts for children.



The City's **Very Merry Holiday Parade** will begin at 7 PM on Main St. from 12th to 3rd St. and will end west on 3rd St. to Vance. The parade will include vehicles from the City of Taylor Fire and Police Departments, as well as floats and automobiles and other entries from community members.

The parade will be followed by a **Very Merry Holiday Celebration** at Heritage Square, with festivities including the lighting of the Christmas Tree, carols, live music, and arts and crafts for children. The celebration is free and open to all Taylor residents and business owners.

## November Sales, Use Tax Increases More Than \$660,000 Over Last Year

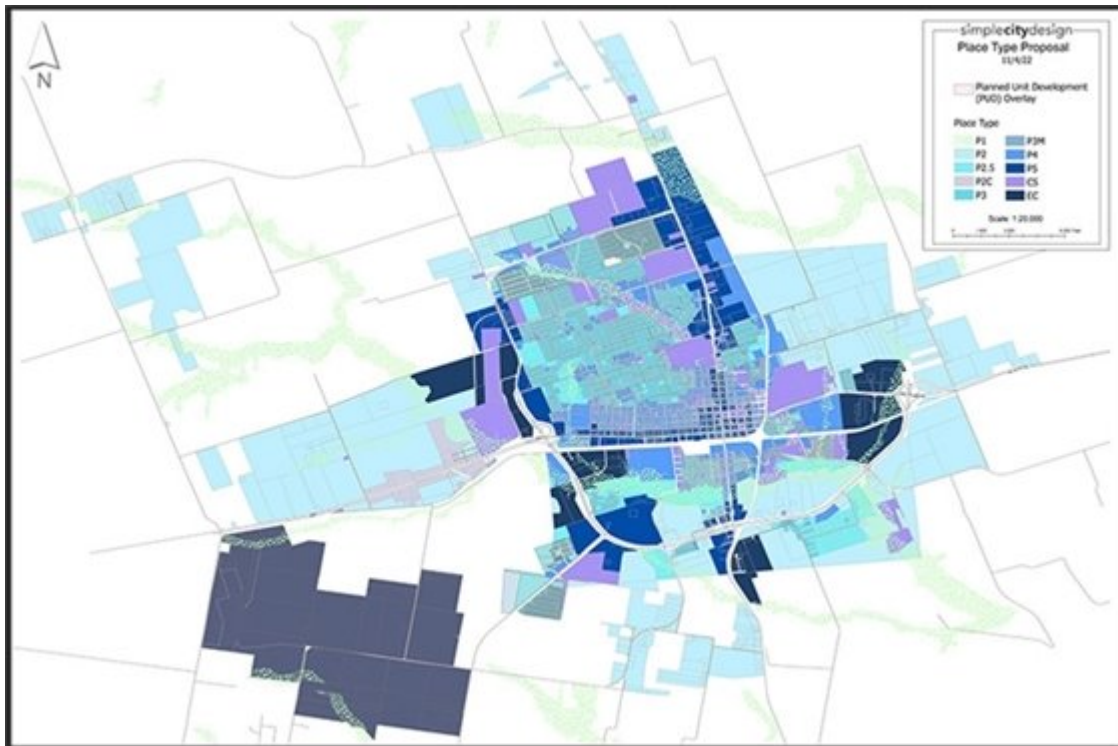


The City of Taylor has released the actual and cumulative sales tax numbers for the month of November and posted them to the City's website. The sales and use tax revenue reported for the City in November 2022 was \$1,242,415, an increase of more than \$660,000. The cumulative sales and use tax revenue thus far in 2022 is \$8,055,460, over \$2.5 million more than the same time in 2021. Beginning in November 2022 the City will release a report on the

third Tuesday of every month detailing the cumulative and actual numbers from the last four months of the year and compare them to the three prior years.

Increased sales tax revenue is a positive for Taylor residents for several reasons. A majority of the revenue in the City's General Fund is made up of ad valorem, or property tax that is charged to residents, and sales and use tax that is charged to anyone who purchases goods and services in the City. When sales and use tax revenues are up, it can help lower the property tax rate. Between the increased construction use taxes from the Samsung Semiconductor construction project, and an influx of visitors and businesses in our City, the City has seen an upward trend in sales and use tax numbers that we expect will continue in the coming years.

The next report will be released on Tuesday, December 20. For more information and to view the report, visit Finance section of the City's website at [Sales Tax Report | Taylor, TX - Official Website \(taylor.tx.gov\)](https://www.taylor.tx.gov/finance).



## Draft Zoning Ordinance: Review Online Now

See how the proposed update to the City's zoning and development standards will impact your property. Find your property on the draft place types zoning map and review development standards.

[taylor.konveio.com/share-your-input](https://taylor.konveio.com/share-your-input)

## REVIEW PAST MEETINGS

## November 2

An open house was held at Taylor Public Library where property owners met with staff and consultants to discuss the proposed place type zoning. See all meeting materials presented: [taylor.konveio.com/share-your-input](https://taylor.konveio.com/share-your-input)

View all past meeting recordings and presentation material:

[taylor.konveio.com/info#paragraphs-item-188](https://taylor.konveio.com/info#paragraphs-item-188)

## NEXT STEPS: WINTER 2022-23

Final updates will be made to the draft development code before consideration by Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council.

## City Accepting LEAD Taylor 2023 Applications



The City of Taylor is looking for citizens who want to learn more about their city for the 2023 LEAD Taylor Program.

The program is a community-focused, collaborative program that provides participants an in-depth look at

government operations, community planning and awareness, as well the opportunity to learn about Taylor ISD, economic development, civic organizations and much more.

Classes are every third Thursday of the month from noon-5 PM starting in January until July.

For more information, visit [www.taylortx.gov/838/LEAD-Taylor](http://www.taylortx.gov/838/LEAD-Taylor).

Apply online here: <https://forms.gle/vftBSETrSKhPupA37>

Questions? Contact the Communications Office at [pio@taylortx.gov](mailto:pio@taylortx.gov).



*Construction recently began at the Taylor Animal Shelter.*

## City Begins Improvements to Downtown, Animal Shelter

The City of Taylor recently began construction on several improvements to the City's downtown district and also started long-awaited improvements to the Animal Shelter.

### DOWNTOWN

Improvements to the City's downtown area, which are expected to be completed before Spring of 2023, will include striping for additional parking spaces, updated landscaping, wayfinding signage, and the installation of permanent streetscaping on the Northwest corner of 2nd Street and Main Street. While construction will be ongoing throughout the holidays, it should only cause minimal disruption to residents' daily commute through town.

The final plans for the downtown improvements were presented to City Council in a public meeting in May of this year and put out for bid over the summer. Funding was approved by City Council in a public meeting on September 22. The improvements will be paid out of the City's Capital Improvement Project (CIP) fund.

Total Highway Maintenance will manage the parking element of the improvement project, which will involve the restriping of on-street parking in Taylor's downtown district, which will add 300+ delineated on-street parking spaces downtown. The restriping will also include 15 additional parking spaces at City Hall.

Utz Environmental Services will be handling the landscape improvements for downtown landscape islands. The new and improved landscaping will include plantings and drip irrigation within the islands only; the City will be responsible for ensuring that each landscape island has a fully functioning irrigation source and controller.

The wayfinding signage for the downtown improvements project will be managed by Fazzone Construction. It will include downtown directional signage, decorative banners for existing streetlights, a new City Hall sign, and signage for the Heritage Park Stage and Farmer's Market Pavilion.

The improvement of the pedestrian and intersection streetscape at the northwest corner of 2nd and Main will be constructed by Lone Star Site Work. A temporary streetscape was put into place in 2020 as a pilot project; the new improvements will bring the project into permanence, with new curb, sidewalk, and brick pavers, bollards for pedestrian safety, and pedestrian signal poles. The streetscaping was designed in consultation with the Texas Historical Commission as well as the Texas Department of Transportation.

### **ANIMAL SHELTER**

In addition to downtown improvements, the City has also begun making improvements to the Animal Shelter. Improvements for the Shelter improvements will be paid for out of 2022 Bond funds.

Construction is anticipated to be completed in June 2023 and is being contracted through Fazzone Construction Company. The project consists of site work, new paving, various utilities, fencing, signage and a kennel expansion.

## **Upcoming Winter Averaging for Wastewater Rates**

For residential customers with a City of Taylor utility bill, the City bases monthly wastewater charges on the average water consumption for November, December, January, and February. The three lowest consumptions are then averaged and used to calculate your wastewater charge for the entire year. An account must be active the entire four months to establish an average. All new accounts will be charged the new customer average until the account has established its own winter average.

Prior to the averaging period, residents are advised to repair leaky faucets, running toilets and any other water leaks. This will avoid a high usage month during the averaging period and help keep your sewer rate down. Averages cannot be adjusted for lawn watering or pool filling.

For commercial wastewater customers, charges are based on actual monthly water consumption.

	<u>Wastewater Averaging</u>		<u>Date New Rate</u>
	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Appears on Bill</u>
<b>Zone 1</b>	10/17/2022	2/17/2023	4/5/2023
<b>Zone 2</b>	10/24/2022	2/24/2023	4/12/2023
<b>Zone 3</b>	11/1/2022	3/1/2023	4/19/2023
<b>Zone 4</b>	11/9/2022	3/9/2023	4/26/2023



## A Message From Your Taylor Fire Department

Merry Christmas! Your Taylor Fire Department wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and want to remind you that a safety holiday is an enjoyable one, here are a few tips to consider.

### While decorating:

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.

### Holiday Entertaining:

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.

More information may be found [by clicking here.](#)

### Traveling:

- Prepare your car for winter and keep an emergency kit with you.
- Get a good night's sleep before departing and avoid drowsy driving.
- Leave early, planning for heavy traffic.

More information may be found [by clicking here.](#)

## Upcoming Events Calendar

To stay up to date on city events, be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter, and check the Community Calendar on the [City's website.](#)

### December

- **December 3 | 7 PM | A Very Merry Holiday Celebration** - The City of Taylor invites the Taylor community to participate in a Very Merry Holiday Celebration on Saturday, December 3. The celebration will begin with a

City-sponsored parade on Main Street at 7 PM, followed by a tree-lighting ceremony at Heritage Square, where community members can enjoy live music, carols, and arts and crafts for children.

## Library Calendar

The [Taylor Public Library](#) is located at 801 Vance St. in Taylor.

### CURRENT OPERATING HOURS:

Monday/Wednesday 9 AM - 6 PM  
Tuesday/Thursday 9 AM - 8 PM  
Friday 12 noon - 6 PM  
Saturday 11 AM - 4 PM



### DECEMBER CLOSURES:

- Dec. 23-26 in observance of Christmas.

### December Calendar:

- **Wednesday, Dec. 7** | 10:30 AM: *Preschool Story Time* - Theme is "Family". Best for preschool age children.
- **Saturday, Dec. 10** | 2 PM: *Children's Christmas Party* - Best for children in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and below. Games, crafts, and refreshments while supplies last.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 14** | 10:30 AM: *Preschool Story Time* - Theme is "Christmas"
- **Wednesday, Dec. 21** - NO STORY TIME
- **Wednesday, Dec. 28** - NO STORY TIME

## City Council Meetings

Council meetings are held at 6 PM the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at City Hall, 400 Porter Street.(unless otherwise noted)

Council will meet:

- December 8
- January 12, 26


Live streaming of Council meetings and taped recordings are available [on our website](#).

## Holiday Closures

City offices will be closed on the following dates:

- Friday & Monday, Dec. 23 & 26 (Christmas)
- Monday, Jan. 2 (New Year's Day Observed)

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