

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



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**City of Taylor
City Council**

Rod Hortenstine
Mayor
At Large

Ella Pumphrey Jez
Mayor Pro Tem
District 4

Donald R. Hill
District 1

Christopher Gonzales, Sr.
District 2

John McDonald
District 3

**WHO TO CALL AT
CITY HALL?**

General Information
352-3675

Municipal Court
352-5977

Street Department
352-5818

Water Bills
352-2066

Library
352-3434

Council to Adopt Tax Rate and Budget for 2009-2010

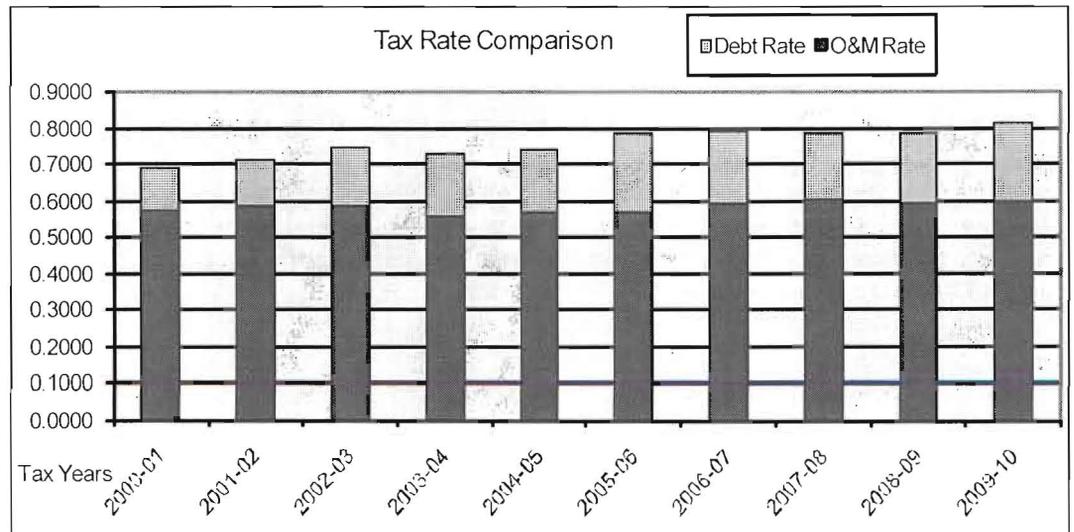
The City Council will adopt the tax rate for 2009-2010 at a special meeting on September 3 at 6 p.m. at the Taylor City Hall. Up for consideration is setting a tax rate that will provide for maintaining City services with a decreased tax base of about \$29 million. The proposed general fund budget for 2009-2010 is \$11.1 million compared to \$10.4 million this year.

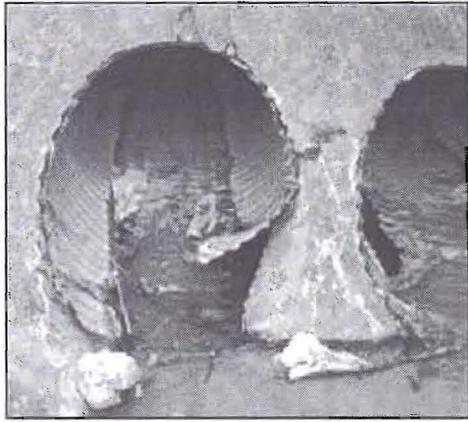
City revenues are primarily based on the collection of ad valorem and sales tax. Each of these revenue streams are down considerably this year. Additional revenues from fees and interest income also are lower, putting a strain on the proposed budget for 2009-2010.

On the expense side of the ledger, the city operations and maintenance (O&M) rate continues to hover at 60.2 cents. O&M has remained relatively flat for the past ten years, which is quite extraordinary with a population growth of approximately 24 percent and increased need for services. The debt rate for capital improvements are projected at 21.2 cents. Capital improvements include major water and wastewater infrastructure projects and the Taylor Regional Park and Sports Complex.

To maintain the status quo on the current tax rate of 79 cents per \$100 evaluation, a budget shortfall of \$429,000 would have to be made up in increased water and other fees; or the tax rate could be increased. The Council will make that decision on September 3.

The following chart depicts the tax rate comparison for the past ten years and indicates the amount spent each year on debt service and operations and maintenance.





Rusted storm drain typical in many areas.

Municipal Drainage Utility System Under Consideration

The city's aging infrastructure is taking a toll on the city's ability to maintain safe streets, bridges and drainage. As an example, last year, the City had to make emergency repairs on a bridge located in the 1900 block of West Lake Drive. The steel culverts located within the bridge were severely rusted and had begun to fail causing partial collapse of the street. The unplanned repairs cost approximately \$201,577.

Currently there are 45 drainage issues that have been identified in the city. Some need immediate attention and others require analysis. All require engineering, design and planning along with a strategy on how to fund improvements as they become critical. The proposed cost is approximately \$10 million over the next five years.

The City Council is holding two public meetings to present the drainage issues and the funding options they may consider and to gain input from the community. The first public meeting is at 6:30 p.m. on August 27 at the Taylor Public Library followed by a second public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on September 8 at City Hall. All residents are encouraged to attend and participate.

Billing Changes Notice

The City of Taylor Utility Billing Office has enclosed an insert with this bill to advise of billing changes beginning in October 2009. Instead of mailing bills once a month, the City will begin billing in four different cycles.

Please read the enclosed letter to determine which billing cycle pertains to your account and how the transition may impact your payment.

Special instructions are provided for customers paying their bills by bank draft and paying on-line.

Please call the Utility Billing office at 352-2066 for additional information about the new billing cycle transition and how it may affect you.

Street Renaming Initiative

The City Council appointed a five-citizen Street and Facilities Naming Committee who are tasked with presenting recommendations for street name changes.

The committee has met and recommended the following changes:

CR 373	to	Lorax Lane
Center Street	to	Givens Lane
Larry Street	to	OLG Cemetery Road

A 30-day comment period is open until September 13, 2009 for public input to be followed by Council action to officially change the names.

For questions or comments, please contact John Elsdon, 365-3863, or come by City Hall, 400 Porter.



Patriot's Day Parade & Program
Main Street Parade & Program
Heritage Square Park
7 p.m., Friday, September 11



City Calendar of Events for September

September 1	Zoning Board of Adjustments @ 6 pm
September 3	City Council meeting to set tax rate @ 6 pm
September 8	MDUS Public meeting, City Hall @ 6:30 pm
September 8	Planning & Zoning Commission @ 6 pm
September 10	City Council meeting @ 6 pm
September 15	Library Board meeting @ 6 pm
September 15	Parks & Recreation board @ 6 pm
September 16	Main Street Advisory Board meeting @ 12 noon
September 21	Moody Museum Board @ 5:30 pm
September 22	City Council meeting @ 6 pm
September 24	Airport Advisory Board @ 6:30 pm

Agendas are posted at City Hall and at www.ci.taylor.tx.us.

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Published monthly by the City of Taylor and delivered with the utility bill each month. For more information about any story in this issue contact Jean Johnson, Main Street/Communications Manager, at 352-5448 or Susan Brock, City Clerk, at 352-3676.

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