

A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



Mr. Turner discussing the Taylor Growth Summit with Larry Madsen, WilCo Pct. 4 Commissioner

Budget season is getting into full swing as we approach the summer months. City Staff has been working to develop key priorities and initiatives for the upcoming Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-2018 budget.

Initial priorities were presented to Council in February and as Council and Staff work through the process, a working budget will be presented in July. It is anticipated that it will be adopted in September.

The following guidelines provided the framework for this year's budget:

- No tax rate increase
- Fund balance meeting or exceeding Council's policy goals.
- Continue to increase the amount in the General Fund reserves.
- Seeking out grant funding for projects which support Council goals; avoid commitments beyond funding availability.

Budget workshops are planned for the months of June, July and August and will be conducted at City Council meetings. The community is invited to attend and be a part of this discussion as we maintain our commitment to being open and transparent throughout the budget process.

-Isaac Turner

GROWTH SUMMIT BRINGS TOGETHER COMMUNITY, CITY IDEAS

In March, the City held a Growth Summit with the intended goal of bringing together community members to share ideas on how Taylor's future growth should take place and what it should look like. The event, attended by more than 140 people, included a panel of distinguished representatives who helped to guide the discussion and speak on best practices for cities who have gone through significant growth.



One of the main goals of the summit was to solicit feedback from the community on different topics which included Residential Design Standards, Commercial Design Standards, Parks and Recreation, Transportation and Connectivity, Corridors, and lastly, Special Districts. All participants were facilitated through breakout sessions to deliver their thoughts and ideas about each of the topics, which were then voted upon and ranked in order of priority. The full listing of results will be available in the coming months.

The preliminary results were as follows:

RESIDENTIAL DESIGN STANDARDS:

- Mixture of Lot Sizes
- Attracting and incentivizing master-planned subdivisions
- Using special districts to create master-planned subdivisions

COMMERCIAL DESIGN STANDARDS:

- Landscape/buffer yards between dissimilar uses
- Streamline codes and processing
- Create and adopt codes specific to Taylor

PARKS AND RECREATION

- More green in the City – more trees and shade provided
- Public/Private partnerships – either to improve parks or build parks/recreation
- Water features other than pools

TRANSPORTATION AND CONNECTIVITY

- Improve signage – crosswalks and speed limits
- Create Connectivity Plan
- Focus on pedestrian safety in downtown and other areas with increased pedestrian activity (pedestrian islands, lighting)

CORRIDORS

- Define the corridors – FM973 and Chandler Road as well as US79/2nd Street
- Trees, sidewalks, and other beautification measures including maintenance/code enforcement
- Create design standards along corridors (building design and landscaping)

SPECIAL DISTRICT

- Entertainment District
- Public Art in Public Spaces
- Define existing areas and promote improvements/redevelopment

The next steps in the process will involve City staff developing a list of amendments and or additions to ordinances that will need to be completed over the next 18 months to two years using the information received. During that timeframe, City staff will be conducting additional meetings with the public to solicit input as they work to build a comprehensive plan for how Taylor will look and feel going forward.

CITY RECEIVES \$10,000 GRANT FROM UNION PACIFIC

The City of Taylor Parks and Recreation department was awarded a \$10,000 grant from Union Pacific Foundation Board in Feb. for the development of a skatepark in Downtown Taylor.

"We are proud to support the City of Taylor Parks and Recreation and extend our best wishes for continued success," said Union Pacific president Scott Moore in a letter announcing the award. "Union Pacific has a long-standing commitment to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve and where our employees live and work."

Taylor City Council moved to include the skatepark in a Downtown location in 2016. With the help of a citizen donation for land and through the work of the Taylor Parks and Recreation department, Taylor Parks board, Project LOOP and numerous community partners, a location was outlined on Porter St. and a subsequent matching grant application submitted to Texas Parks and Wildlife in October. At the time of publishing, the City was awaiting approval for the matching grant and, if approved, it would fund \$500,000 for a skatepark and improvements to Heritage Square, bringing the combined project total to just over \$1 million.

This grant money will be added to the funding of the project which could include the TPW grant, if approved, the money already raised by Project LOOP, land donation valuation and the City's match.

BLACKLAND PRAIRIE DAYS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

The streets of Downtown Taylor will once again be lined with arts, crafts, vendors, kids activities, great food and more for Blackland Prairie Days! Stop by the festival from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and enjoy live music, lots of family friendly activities and a whole bunch of Taylor heritage. Questions about the event? Contact Deby Lannen at deby.lannen@taylortx.gov.

MAY
6
2017



COUNCIL TAKES PART IN STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

The Taylor City Council recently participated in a strategic planning session to outline their priorities and goals for the City's future. This session focused on reevaluating the council's three pillars and 12 focus areas and while taking a broad look at making additions and or modifications. Additionally, the workshop focused on developing a cohesive vision and mission statement by applying themes and concepts the Council believed should be included.

Overall, many new ideas were brought to the table during the session with the ultimate goal of making Taylor a better place for everyone.

TAYLOR EARNS 5TH CONSECUTIVE TREE CITY USA DISTINCTION

The City of Taylor was notified in February of their distinction as Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation for the 5th year in a row.

"This distinction is representative of the dedication of our community who value our natural resources and understand the important role trees play in our health and quality of life," said Mike DeVito, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Cities achieve this status by meeting the four core standards of sound urban forestry management: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day.



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY

6 COUNCIL ELECTION

The City of Taylor will hold an election for Council Member at Large. Voting will take place at 400 Porter St. Early voting is April 24-May 2.

6 BLACKLAND PRAIRIE DAYS

Join the City of Taylor as we celebrate our rich cultural heritage in the streets of Downtown Taylor. The festival will take place from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and will feature arts & crafts vendors, live music, kids activities & more!

18 THIRD THURSDAY

Taylor's Downtown merchants invite you to join them for fun, festivities and shopping in the downtown district. Shops open late.

27 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.

29 MEMORIAL DAY SALUTE PROGRAM

Join the City of Taylor for our annual Memorial Day program as we pay tribute to the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. The event will be held at Liberty Gardens in Murphy Park beginning at 10 a.m.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

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

Monday, May 29 - Memorial Day
(normal garbage schedule)

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Thursdays - May 11 & 25

All meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held at City Hall. View online at www.taylortx.gov or through the City of Taylor mobile app.