

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

JANUARY 2021

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



Mayor Brandt Rydell (right) along with City Manager Brian LaBorde turn over the keys to Petra Moreno during the HOME Program turnover on December 10, 2020.

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday.

Before we said goodbye to 2020, I was proud to take part along with Mayor Brandt Rydell and Mayor Pro Tem Gerald Anderson in the turning over of four homes as part of our HOME Program. I would like to say congratulations to Dominga Flores Ramirez, Willie Bell Crayton, Nadine Pack and Petra Moreno.

You can find more information about the HOME Program and how to apply at www.taylortx.gov/897/Administration

The City takes part in the HOME Program every year and is eligible to apply for HOME funds through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. Residents that qualify and participate in the programs receive a rehabilitated or re-constructed single-family home.

Participating in the HOME program was a great way to end 2020 on a high note -- hopefully a sign of better times to come in 2021. We wish you all a happy, prosperous, and safe new year!

BRIAN LABORDE
City Manager

CITY OF TAYLOR WELCOMES NEW HR DIRECTOR

Following a national search for a new Director of Human Resources and Civil Service, City Manager Brian LaBorde is pleased to announce that the City of Taylor has selected LaShon Gros for the position. Ms. Gros (pronounced GRO) most recently served as a Human Resources Generalist for the City of Killeen. She will begin her new duties with the City of Taylor on January 4, 2021, taking over the position from Kim Peterson, who recently announced her retirement. Ms. Peterson started working for the City of Taylor in 2015, after serving for 10 years as a human resources professional for numerous municipalities and government agencies in Texas and California.

Ms. Gros holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland University College, and also holds Master's degrees in Human Resources Management from the Keller Graduate School of Management and Organizational Leadership from Columbia Southern University. She earned her certification from the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) in 2019. Prior to working for the City of Killeen, Ms. Gros served as a Human Resources Manager Internship for TransTech Fabrication, LLC and held numerous positions,



LaShon Gros has been selected for the position of Director of Human Resources and Civil Service.

including Human Resources Manager, for the U.S. Army. She is affiliated with the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM) and the Texas Municipal Human Resources Association (TMHRA).

Ms. Gros will be responsible for administering all human resource management functions including the recruitment and processing of all new employees; compensation, benefits and employee relations; and ensuring that the City's programs, records and procedures comply with all federal and state laws governing such personnel practices. In addition, Ms. Gros will be responsible for making recommendations to City Council and management concerning all human resource related matters. Ms. Gros will serve as the City Civil Service Director; and Secretary to the Civil Service Commission and will perform work incidental to the civil service system as required by the Commission and Chapter 143 of the Texas Local Government Code.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The City Council of the City of Taylor will be making appointments in February to various City Boards and Commissions. A list of Boards and applications are available on the City's website at www.taylortx.gov/813/Boards-Commissions.

All applications must be submitted to the City Clerk's office by February 19, 2021, in order to be considered.

Return applications to: City of Taylor, City Clerk's Office, 400 Porter St., Taylor TX. 76574, or by email at dianna.barker@taylortx.gov.

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400 PORTER STREET | TAYLOR, TX | 76574 | 512.352.3675 |



TEMPORARY SUSPENSIONS OF SERVICE DISCONNECTS ENDING IN JANUARY

When COVID-19 came to Taylor, the City recognized that this could make it hard for some of our utility customers to stay current on their utility bills so the Finance Department temporarily suspended utility service disconnects and the assessing of late fees.

The temporary suspension of service disconnects and the waiver of the late fees that the City of Taylor implemented as a response to COVID-19 is ending soon. Beginning with the January billing cycle, the City will be reinstating the normal practice of charging late fees and disconnecting service for customers who have delinquent utility bills. If your utility bill is delinquent, please contact the Utility Billing department at 512-352-2066 to discuss your options.

CITY OF TAYLOR WASTEWATER AVERAGING

As a reminder, the City of Taylor conducts its annual sewer averaging from late November through March. The months that are used are typically the lowest consumption months of the year. These three months are averaged to get the sewer rates for the next 12 months.

Prior to the averaging period you are advised to repair any leaky faucets or running toilets and any other water leaks. This will avoid a high usage month during the averaging period and help to keep your sewer rate down.

WASTEWATER AVERAGING PERIOD PER ZONE			
<i>To find your zone, look at the payment coupon of your water bill next to the billing address.</i>			
	SERVICE DATES	BILLING DATES	NEW RATE APPEARS ON BILL DATE
ZONE 1	11/23/20 – 2/23/21	1/5/21, 2/5/21, 3/5/21	4/5/21
ZONE 2	12/4/20 – 3/4/21	1/12/21, 2/12/21, 3/12/21	4/12/21
ZONE 3	12/10/20 – 3/12/21	1/19/21, 2/19/21, 3/19/21	4/19/21
ZONE 4	12/17/20 – 3/18/21	1/26/21, 2/26/21, 3/26/21	4/26/21

TAYLOR PUBLIC LIBRARY CALENDAR

Join us for Online Storytime:

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
www.facebook.com/taylorlibrary

- Jan. 6:** Bundle Up
- Jan. 13:** Martin Luther King
- Jan. 20:** Penguins
- Jan. 27:** Polar Bears

Call the Library for more information: 512-352-3434



RESIDENTS MAY NEED TO REGISTER CARPORT

Do you have a carport that was built between April 2001 and June 2020? If so, you may need to register it with the City of Taylor to ensure it can remain in place. If your carport was constructed during the timeframe above and did not receive a City permit, you need to contact the City of Taylor Development Services Department to register your carport and receive a safety inspection.

The City is offering a waiver of the permit and inspection fee for those residents who register their carports and receive a safety inspection prior to June 1, 2021. Residents who do not meet the June 1, 2021 deadline may be required to remove their carport or seek a special permit and pay permitting and inspection fees.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the City's Development Services Department at 512-365-3863.



CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

**6 p.m. Thursday: January 14, 28;
 February 11, 25**

Council meetings are currently being held virtually until further notice. Watch meetings live online or taped recordings at www.taylortx.gov.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

City offices will be closed on:
Monday, January 18
(Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
Monday, February 15
(Presidents' Day)