

The City Council of the City of Taylor met on March 26, 2015, at City Hall, 400 Porter St., Taylor, Texas. Mayor Jesse Ancira, Jr. declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following present:

Mayor Pro Tem Chris Gonzales
Council Member Scott Green
Council Member Don Hill
Council Member Brandt Rydell

Isaac Turner, City Manager
Ted Hejl, City Attorney
Susan Brock, City Clerk

INVOCATION

Mr. Danny Thomas led the group in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATION

1. RECOGNIZING CESAR CHAVEZ'S BIRTHDAY, MARCH 31.
Mayor Ancira presented a proclamation that was accepted by the local leaders of the Hispanic community including Mr. Jose Orta, and Mr. Alfredo Delgado and family members.
2. RECOGNITION OF CITY OF TAYLOR BEING DESIGNATED AS A TREE CITY USA.
Mr. Mike DeVito, Recreation Superintendent, accepted the plaque on behalf of the Tree Advisory Board and volunteers who have helped continue the work necessary to qualify for this recognition.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATION

Mayor Ancira asked those who wished to speak at this time to come forward. Mr. Lonnie Zycha, 3110 Crystal Circle, Mr. Chisum Pierce, 305 Washburn, and Ms. Betty Hile, 106 E. 2nd Street, all spoke in support of keeping the Amtrak station downtown and also expressed their support of a skate park in the downtown area. Ms. Hile also expressed concern for staff and volunteers at the Animal Shelter and asked Council to consider providing more assistance in this department.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. APPROVE MINUTES FOR MARCH 12, 2015.
4. CONCUR WITH PRELIMINARY FINANCIALS FOR FEBRUARY 2015.
Mayor Pro Tem Gonzales moved to approve the consent agenda as presented and Council Member Green seconded the motion. VOTE: Five voted AYE. Motion passed.

REGULAR AGENDA: REVIEW/DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION

5. DISCUSS A SKATE PARK.
Mr. Turner presented a summary of the actions taken to date regarding the development of a plan for a skate park as part of the council strategic plan as well as the Downtown Master Plan. Mayor Ancira stressed the fact that all members have expressed support for a skate park project and that this is the first time the council has had an opportunity to discuss the park as a public issue. However, Council Member Green and other council members voiced their concern for the choice of location under the Main Street overpass and the existing conflict with Union

Pacific and the proximity to their railroad tracks and properties. Mayor Ancira instructed the City Manager to meet with the representatives from both Union Pacific and Texas Department of Transportation to see if the project can move forward at that location.

Those who spoke in favor of the skate park at the proposed location included: Chase Hawk (Austin), Jonah Ford (Taylor), Zak Billarrial (Taylor), Timothy Tebeau (Taylor), Jessica Humphreys (Austin), Marisa Downey (Taylor), Jennifer Lovejoy (Taylor), Hidele Teinte (Taylor), Diana Ramirez (Austin), Joe Rich (Austin), Dillion Bounds (Taylor), Dedrick Williams (Taylor), Kelly Hilla (Taylor), Miguel Espitia (Taylor), Chris Osborn (Taylor), Judy Blundell (Taylor) and Ed Hile (Taylor). Ms. Blundell and Mr. Hile also spoke about the Amtrak station and their support for the Downtown Plan. Mr. Hile requested additional information from staff regarding both topics.

6. RECEIVE ANNUAL REPORT FROM MOODY MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD.

Ms. Susan Komandosky, Chair of the Moody Museum Board, was no longer present and Mr. Bob vanTil, Director, Development Services, asked for this item to be brought back at the next meeting.

7. CONSIDER RENAMING THE STREET LEADING TO THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY ARENA.

Mr. Bob vanTil, Director of Planning and Development, presented a request from Council Member Hill consider renaming the park street after Bill Pickett. He provided details on the process involved in renaming a street including a thirty-day public comment period and public hearing. Ms. Jennifer Harris, 610 W. 7th St., requested that the future road extension also be named after Mr. Pickett and was assured that it was the intention of the council to do so.

Council Member Hill moved to begin the process of introducing an ordinance to name the current street and future extension Bill Pickett Trail. Council Member Green seconded the motion. VOTE: Five voted AYE. Motion passed.

8. CONSIDER EXTENDING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR GRANTS MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE HOME AND AMY YOUNG BARRIER REMOVAL PROGRAMS.

Mr. vanTil presented a request to consider a six-month extension to the management contract with Langford Community Management Services for the HOMOE Program and the Amy Young Barrier Removal Program. The current contract expires March 31, 2015 and these projects are still underway.

Council Member Hill moved to approve the contract extension as presented and Council Member Rydell seconded the motion. VOTE: Five voted AYE. Motion passed.

