

2019

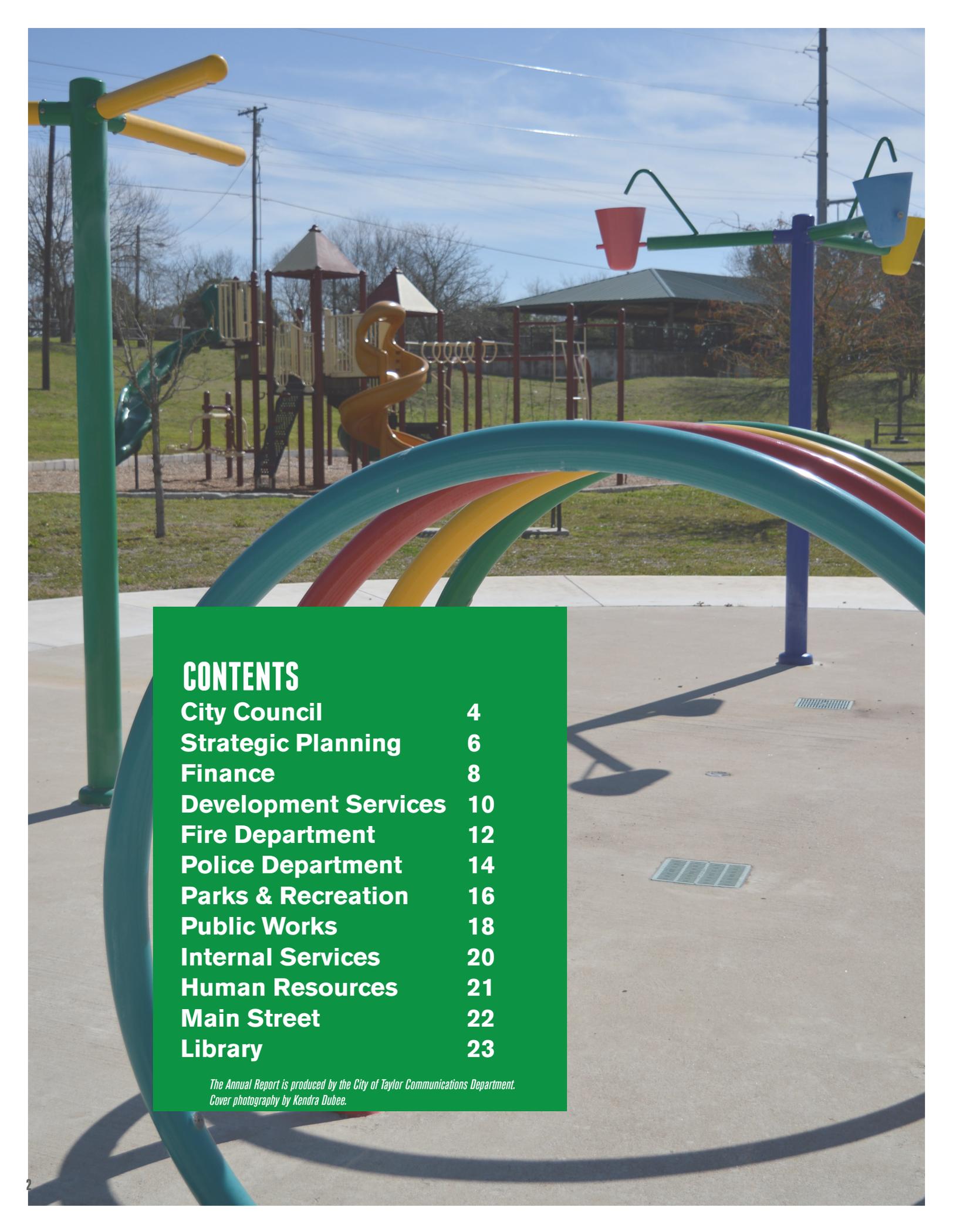
CITY OF TAYLOR
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

WELCOME TO

*Taylor
Texas*



VISIT HISTORIC DOWNTOWN



CONTENTS

City Council	4
Strategic Planning	6
Finance	8
Development Services	10
Fire Department	12
Police Department	14
Parks & Recreation	16
Public Works	18
Internal Services	20
Human Resources	21
Main Street	22
Library	23

*The Annual Report is produced by the City of Taylor Communications Department.
Cover photography by Kendra Dubee.*



TAYLOR MADE FOR YOU

A PICTURE-PERFECT SMALL TEXAS TOWN

Taylor, Texas is a picture-perfect small town. Our stunning sunsets, fields of cotton, charming streetscapes, and vibrant downtown make us a top choice for filmmakers in Texas and beyond. But we're more than just a pretty face.

Visitors come to Taylor from all over the country to sample our world class barbecue, to enjoy our beautiful parks, and shop at our fantastic downtown merchants. More than 20 companies have expanded or relocated to Taylor because of our small-business-friendly attitude. And more than 19,000 residents are proud to call Taylor home.



The morning light shines on contestants during the annual KidFish at Bull Branch Park.

When you visit us, you're not just visiting another small Texas town. You're visiting Taylor Made Texas.

The 2019 Annual Report will give you a sense of what Taylor is all about. It includes highlights from the year from

our various departments, as well as information about our elected officials, our mission, our values, and all of the things that make Taylor, Texas a fantastic place to live, work, and play.

Enjoy!

A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

More than 19,000 residents are proud to call the City of Taylor home.

CITY COUNCIL

COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING INTEGRITY

Taylor is a Home Rule City, which means that Council can enact legislation, adopt budgets, and determine policies, subject only to limitations imposed by the Texas State Constitution and the Taylor City Charter. The City Council is also guided by an Ethics Policy and a Council Relations Policy to ensure a commitment to preserving the integrity of local government.



BRANDT RYDELL
Mayor
Councilmember, District 3



GERALD ANDERSON
Councilmember, District 1



MITCHELL DRUMMOND
Councilmember, District 2



ROBERT GARCIA
Councilmember, District 4



DWAYNE ARIOLA
Mayor Pro Tem
Councilmember At Large



BRIAN LABORDE
City Manager



JEFFERY JENKINS
Deputy City Manager



HELPING TAYLOR GROW

Throughout the year, Taylor City Council members participate in ceremonial events that mark momentous occasions for the City, including ground breakings, proclamations, and presentations of the Key to the City.

Taylor City Council meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 6 p.m. at City Hall. There is only one City Council meeting in the months of November and December.

MISSION

The Mission of the Taylor City Council is to be a productive, fiscally responsible organization that takes proactive steps to ensure economic growth and the safety, well-being, and success of Taylor residents, and the growth of business.

VISION

Our Vision is for the City of Taylor to be a vibrant and diverse community that provides residents the best lifestyle Texas has to offer.

STRATEGIC PLANNING



A vision for the future
*These three pillars form the basis
for City Council's strategic planning
throughout the year.*

The Taylor City Council and staff follow a Strategic Visioning Plan that is based on three pillars: Quality of Life, Economic Vitality, and Mobility & Infrastructure.

These pillars form the foundation of all of our efforts for the residents of Taylor, and we strive to achieve the goals within these three pillars when we create policies, adopt our budget, plan for the future, train our staff, and establish goals for our City's future.

FOCUS AREAS



NEIGHBORHOODS/DIVERSITY & POPULATION SIZE

It is vital that we pay attention to our neighborhoods and retain and respect our unique heritage and history.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We want our citizens to be engaged in the political process, and it is important to solicit their participation.



PUBLIC SAFETY

We want our citizens to know that our public safety officials are keeping them safe.



CUSTOMER SERVICE

We endeavor to provide excellent customer services at all levels of City government.



INFRASTRUCTURE/TRANSPORTATION/FACILITIES

Infrastructure is an ongoing priority for Taylor's City Council and vital to the City's future prosperity.



ART

Taylor has a thriving arts community, and City Council encourages the promotion and participation in the arts.



ECONOMIC VITALITY/FINANCIAL HEALTH

The City works in partnership with multiple economic development stakeholders to ensure a strong future.



PARKS, TRAILS, & OPEN SPACES

Our green spaces are a source of pride for the City of Taylor, and we strive to keep them well maintained.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MASTER PLAN

In addition to the Strategic Plan, in 2020 City Council also intends to update the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Master Drainage Plan, both of which will provide blueprints for Council and Staff moving forward as they make important decisions about the City's future.

FINANCE

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Management responsibility for all of the City's financial activity, including debt management, is centralized in the Finance Department. Major areas of responsibility include accounting, reporting, payroll, utility billing and collection, purchasing, budget operations, and treasury management.

The Director of Finance advises the City Manager and City Council Members on budget, financial, and accounting matters. Major areas of responsibility include financial administration and planning, accounting, payroll, utility billing and collection, risk management, and budget operations.

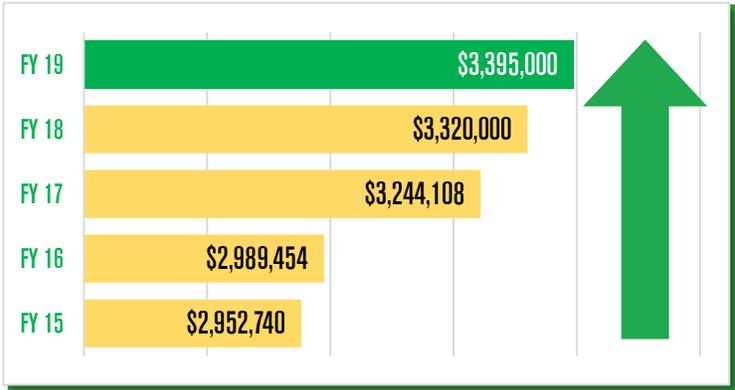
TAX DOLLAR BREAKDOWN

.809215¢ ADOPTED TAX RATE

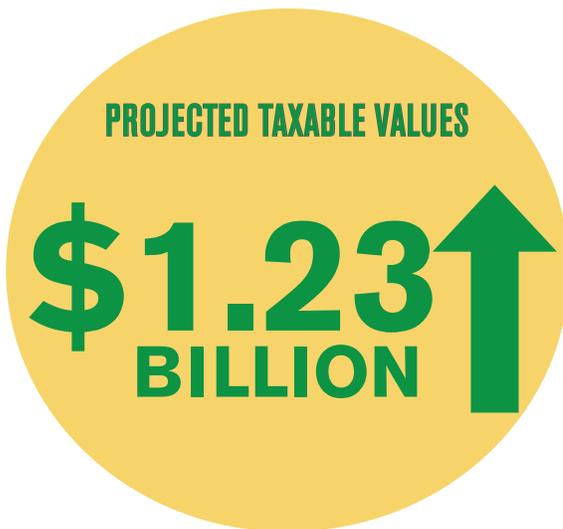


FINANCE DIRECTOR
JEFFREY WOOD

SALES TAX COLLECTIONS



TAXABLE VALUES



The City of Taylor anticipates a property valuation increase of 7% for FY 2019-20. Projected growth for FY 2021 and 2022 is anticipated to be at least 6%.

FINANCIAL EXCELLENCE

Certificate of Achievement
for Excellence
in Financial Reporting
11 CONSECUTIVE YEARS

Distinguished Budget Award
6 CONSECUTIVE YEARS

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Funding for long-term strategic plans, including a Comprehensive Plan and a Master Drainage Plan
- Additional City staff, including three additional Street Department staff to provide for general street repair and maintenance, two additional Parks & Recreation staff members, and an additional, full-time Animal Control Officer
- Wage and retirement enhancements to retain staff and improve recruitment, including a 3.0% salary and wage increase for eligible employees
- Much-needed technology upgrades, including replacement of servers, software upgrades, portable computers for the Development Services staff, and a disaster recovery system
- Funding for four (4) HOME Program houses
- Increase in the Over 65 Exemption to \$25,000
- Equipment replacement, including the purchase of a compact grader for the Streets Department
- Funding for Public Arts

PREPARING FOR GROWTH

Taylor's population is 19,859 and, with the growth expected in Williamson County in the coming years, we anticipate that our City will grow exponentially. Already more than 100,000 people live within a 15-mile drive of Taylor (up 73% since 2000). In the next five years, an additional 100,000 new residents are expected to move to the 15-mile area surrounding our City. We realize that this growth offers incredible opportunity for Taylor, and we are working hard to improve our quality of life, infrastructure, and overall customer service so that we can welcome new businesses and residents with open arms.



Development Services serves the residents of Taylor through consistent, courteous, professional enforcement of adopted community codes and standards.

We prepare for the future of Taylor and the surrounding region by encouraging quality growth, while striving to protect the unique features of our community that make it an outstanding place to live, work, shop, and play.



HOUSING

The City of Taylor is preparing for new residents with new housing developments.

Avery Glen and the Grove at Bull Creek are well on their way to completion, and together will account for 650 new residential lots. The Old Taylor High redevelopment includes 12 new apartment living spaces.

RETAIL

Downtown Taylor is quickly becoming a destination for food, drink, and live music.

In 2019, we welcomed the Loose Screw Craft Beer House and Garden to the City of Taylor, as well as Plowman's Kitchen, featuring upscale American cuisine. Old Taylor High, a historic revitalization project, transformed a former high school campus into a mixed-use development featuring offices, residential living, and event center spaces. In 2019, the Texas Downtown Association awarded the project the Best Renovation/Rehabilitation/Restoration Project in a Texas City of Less than 50,000 Population.

INDUSTRY

RCR Taylor Logistics Park is dual-served multi-modal logistics & transportation center.

The park, located on Texas US 79 and Farm-to-Market Road 3349, provides direct access to Texas US 79, Texas SH 130 Toll Road, Interstate 35 and two Class 1 rail carriers. The first phase is expected to be completed in 2020.

**ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
& DEVELOPMENT SVCS DIRECTOR
TOM YANTIS**

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed interviews and selection of Assistant Director of Development Services
- Continued processing of planned development zoning applications for RCR Rail Park and Castlewood subdivision
- Approved site development permit for new Health and Human Services building
- Selected a new Permit Technician in the Building Department
- Issued 154 new single-family residential permits in 2019; in May, the City issued a record number of new single-family home permits, with 35 issued that month
- Filled two (2) new Code Enforcement Officer positions
- Implemented changes to the development review process to comply with the passage of HB 3167
- Received 48 new planning applications in 2019
- Completed the hiring process for a new Planning Technician
- Celebrated the redevelopment of the lofts on the corner of South & Main Street
- Completed and turned over four homes as part of the 2019 HOMES HR Reservation program





SERVING WITH PRIDE

Taking Ownership

SEEKING EXCELLENCE

Making a Difference

The Taylor Fire Department provides fire suppression functions as well as EMS first response, rescue, fire prevention public education, fire investigation, hazardous materials response, wildland response, and pre-fire mitigation services.

Taylor Firefighters are trained to respond to fire and medical calls for service and to protect people and property at a moment's notice.

In addition to fire suppression and emergency management, the City of Taylor Fire Department also oversees the following programs throughout the year:

Citizen's Fire Academy

Honor Guard Academy

Red Santa Program



FIRE CHIEF

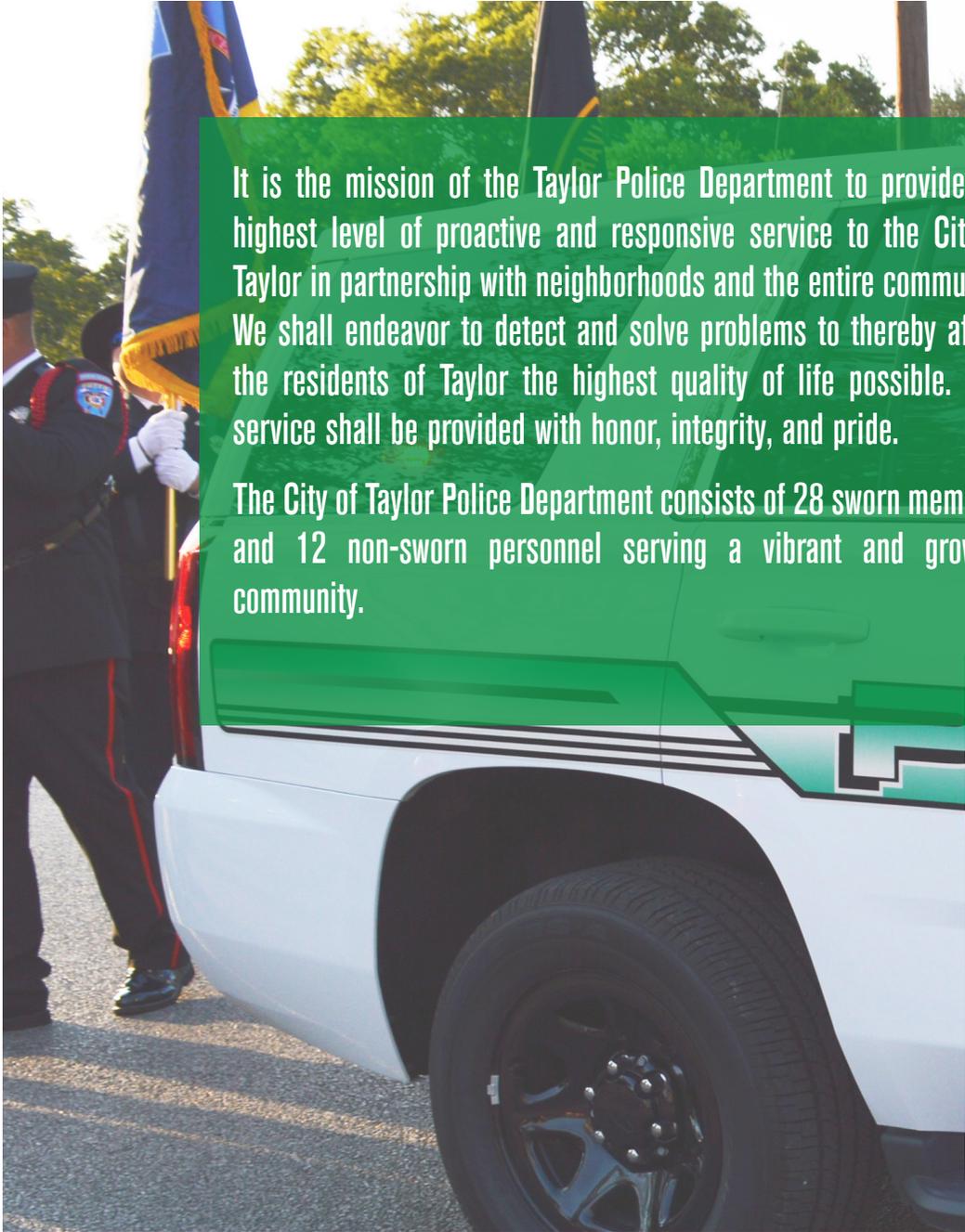
DANIEL BAUM

FIRE DEPARTMENT

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Welcomed our new Fire Chief, Daniel Baum
- Created a new Emergency Operations Center Committee and hosted monthly meetings with the committee to prepare for emergencies in the City of Taylor
- Started a new drone program for the City
- Held badge pinning ceremonies for new Firefighters and EMT's
- The Fire Department established the LODD Memorial at annual TEEEX Fire School
- Conducted numerous station tours throughout the year, including an Open House for the public in November
- Conducted safety demonstration for Youth Summer Camp
- Provided medical stand-by for annual rodeo, 5K charity race, Taylor ISD football games, and Tex-Mex Fest
- Conducted fire drills at Taylor ISD schools
- Conducted annual night burn drills
- Participated in Fire Prevention Month daycare visits
- Held fire extinguisher training for local businesses
- Hosted the 8th annual Honor Guard Academy
- Planned and participated in the 9/11 Memorial March and Patriot Day Program

POLICE DEPARTMEN



It is the mission of the Taylor Police Department to provide the highest level of proactive and responsive service to the City of Taylor in partnership with neighborhoods and the entire community. We shall endeavor to detect and solve problems to thereby afford the residents of Taylor the highest quality of life possible. This service shall be provided with honor, integrity, and pride.

The City of Taylor Police Department consists of 28 sworn members and 12 non-sworn personnel serving a vibrant and growing community.



INTEGRITY • EXCELLENCE • FAIRNESS • PRIDE • H

**POLICE CHIEF
HENRY FLUCK**

NT

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Received and placed into the vehicle fleet a Police Polaris ATV, which was purchased from donated funds and is used for special events and off-the-road patrol
- Began to build and install our Computer Aided Dispatch and Record Management System
- Received a \$1,000 grant from Walmart to purchase three (3) television monitors to use as message boards
- Started a Voluntary Physical Fitness Program
- Held swearing-in ceremonies for new Officers
- Continued to host quarterly Coffee with a Cop events in the City

NATIONALLY RANKED

For 11 consecutive years, the City of Taylor has been nationally ranked for its participation in the annual National Night Out event, thanks to the efforts of the residents working alongside the police and fire departments. In 2019, Taylor ranked 26th in the nation and 4th in the state for cities with a population between 15,000 and 49,999!

National Night Out involves more than 38.6 million neighbors across 16,500 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide.

ONESTY • SERVICE • COMPASSION • INNOVATION



PIERCE PARK

Pierce Park is the City of Taylor's newest addition to Parks and Recreation. The park was funded in part by a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and Certificates of Obligation bonds. The park's primary feature--a large, concrete, flow-style skate park--has proven to be popular with young people from Taylor and the surrounding areas.

The land for the park was donated by Chisum Pierce to honor his late father, Lieutenant Commander Thomas Floyd Pierce. Project LOOP raised significant funds for the park with their 50/50 initiative. The park was dedicated in a ceremony in November, 2019.



TAYLOR REGIONAL PARK & SPORTS COMPLEX

TRPSC is a state-of-the-art sports facility and the site of many national tournaments, particularly during summer months. The park's amenities include:

- 5 youth baseball fields (Lit)
- 5 fast-pitch softball fields (Lit)
- 2 adult soccer fields (Lit)
- 1 football field (Lit)
- 2 basketball courts (Lit)
- 3 playgrounds
- 6 acre lake and natural preserve
- 1 fishing pond with concrete fishing pad
- Concessions and restrooms



HERITAGE SQUARE

Heritage Square is located in historic downtown Taylor at 400 N. Main Street and serves as homage to our rich cultural history. It is 1.67 acres and hosts multiple seating areas under shade, a walking path, and historical markers.

In addition to serving as a recreational space for residents and families, Heritage Square is home to family-friendly events throughout the year, including a weekly Farmer's Market, the Main Street Car Show in October, the annual Spooktacular, Christmas Fair, and the Christmas Tree Lighting in December.

PARKS & RECREATION

200 ACRES OF GREEN SPACE

- The City of Taylor is proud to boast its expansive park system with various amenities, including swimming pools, walking trails, lakes, basketball courts, playgrounds and more!
- The City's 10 parks provide more than 200 acres of green spaces for Taylor residents to enjoy.

PARKS DIRECTOR

LARRY FOOS

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meets monthly to make recommendations to City Council regarding sports, recreational programs, and facilities, and to help ensure that present and future needs are met.

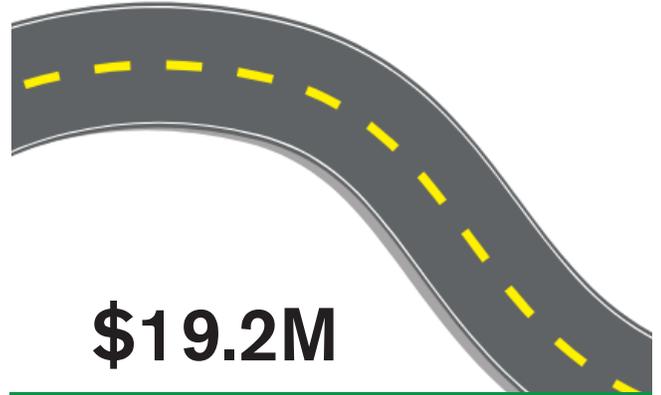
MEETING INFORMATION:

The Parks Board meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers, 400 Porter St. The public is welcome.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) contains all the individual capital projects, equipment purchases, and major studies for a local government. The plan provides a working blueprint for sustaining and improving the community's infrastructures.



\$19.2M

streets & sidewalks

- \$490K Annual Street Maintenance
- \$5.85M Street Rebuilds
- \$12.9M Widening of County Road 101
 - \$11.7M Williamson County
 - \$ 1.2M City of Taylor



\$1.3M

general fund

- \$525K Dickey-Givens Center
- \$290K Gateway, Wayfinding Projects
- \$250K Master Drainage Study
- \$250K Animal Shelter Design and Improvements



\$3.9M

drainage fund

- \$1.5M Edmonds Phase 2
- \$1.6M Edmonds Phase 3
- \$459K 1st/Royal/Walnut

\$1.8M



utility fund

- \$50K Fire Hydrant Replacements
- \$100K Lift Station Portable Generator
- \$1.73M Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements



\$1.7M

airport fund

- \$1.6M Terminal Apron Construction
- \$125K Old Apron Rehab

PUBLIC WORKS



**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
JIM GRAY**

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Updated GIS Water and Wastewater Model Maps
- Completed Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plans
- Earned a letter of general compliance for recent inspection of plant from TCEQ.
- Successfully passed the TCEQ audit of the City's distribution system
- Completed the install of new non-potable water pumps
- Made improvements to the City Cemetery
- Established a new AWOS System for weather data at the Taylor Municipal Airport
- Negotiated a lease that provided new tenants for avionics work at the airport



KEEPING US ON TRACK

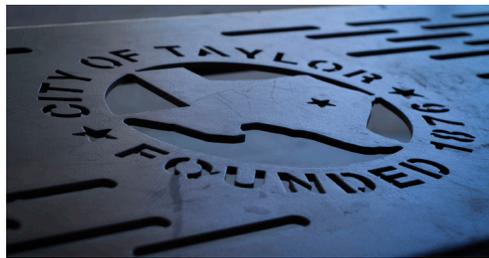
The Internal Services Department oversees all City of Taylor building maintenance, information technology and city-owned fleet vehicles. Services include routine preventive maintenance, welding and fabrication, and general repair work.



INTERNAL SERVICES

**INTERNAL SERVICES DIRECTOR
LISA THOMPSON**

2019 HIGHLIGHTS



FLEET MAINTENANCE

- Purchased new trucks for the Utility Maintenance, Streets and Building Maintenance Department
- Purchased new fire engine for the Fire Department
- Purchased new marked vehicle for the Police Department
- Purchased new tractor and mower for the Streets Department

CITY HALL

- Renovated Council Chambers by replacing carpet, and ceiling tiles, as well as painting walls
- Replaced hallway carpet at City Hall with new tile
- Upgraded the City Hall and Municipal Court camera system

TECHNOLOGY

- Upgraded City computers from Windows 7 to Windows 10
- Upgraded AV System in Council Chambers
- Upgraded internet services at WWTP, Airport, and the Moody Museum

HUMAN RESOURCES

The City of Taylor is a progressive and exciting place to work. We have a culture of innovation where our employees can make a difference, and we are looking for like-minded, dynamic individuals to come and join our team.

Job vacancies are posted online, where an online application is required for each position for which you are applying. Applications will be accepted for posted positions only.



DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES & CIVIL SERVICE

KIM PETERSON

2019 HIGHLIGHTS



NEW HIRES

The following key staff members were hired in 2019:

- City Manager Brian LaBorde**
- Fire Chief Daniel Baum**
- Finance Director Jeff Wood**
- Main Street Manager Jan Harris**

TRAINING & BENEFITS

- Conducted Civil Service exams for Police Officer, Police Corporal, and Firefighter/ EMT
- Added new employee benefits, the Employee Assistance Program, and increase in TMRS City contribution for FY 19-20 implementation

APPRECIATION

The City hosted an Employee Appreciation lunch for all City employees in December. Service awards were given for employees celebrating 10, 20, and 30 years of service. Awards were also given to Department Employees of the Year who were nominated by their peers.

MAIN STREET

Taylor's Main Street district is the cultural hub of the City and a gathering place for visitors and residents alike. The Main Street Program strengthens business, historical preservation, and culture in downtown Taylor by using a comprehensive approach of design, economic restructuring, organization, and promotion.

The Main Street Program focuses on downtown revitalization within the context of historical preservation. We envision a culturally diverse and economically viable downtown that attracts both Taylor residents and visitors to its unique mix of historic buildings, shops, restaurants, services, and old town atmosphere. In order to achieve this vision, the Main Street Program provides several incentives for downtown business owners, including facade and sign reimbursement grants. The Main Street program also sponsors multiple events throughout the year designed to attract visitors and business for downtown merchants.

**MAIN STREET MANAGER
JAN HARRIS**

ANNUAL MAIN STREET EVENTS

Blackland Prairie Days
MAY

Main Street Car Show
OCTOBER

Wine Swirl
Tree Lighting
Christmas Fair

DECEMBER

LIBRARY

LIFE-LONG LOVE OF READING FOR ALL

The mission of the Taylor Public Library is to promote a life-long love of reading and to provide educational, informational, and recreational resources to patrons of all ages and of all cultural and economic backgrounds.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

KAREN ELLIS

2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Funding from the Taylor Library Foundation and the Woman's Study Club allowed the library to purchase books for beginning readers as well as free paperback books for young readers to add to their home libraries
- A total of 503 children, teens, and adults were enrolled in the Reading Incentive Program. In the summer, 2,829 youth and 1,021 adults attended a total of 50 programs
- The Library applied for a pilot project grant for Simply E, a simplified platform for e-books and similar materials through Amigos and the Texas State Library & Archives Commission
- With funding from an e-rate application, Spectrum ran fiber optic cable to the library's public computers, which increased the speed of the computers



400 PORTER STREET
TAYLOR, TEXAS 76574
PHONE 512-352-3675

VISIT US ONLINE AT
www.taylor.tx.gov

REPORT ISSUES OR CONCERNS
Use the City of Taylor
Mobile App on IOS or
Android Devices

STAY IN TOUCH! FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook

cityoftaylor texas

twitter

@CityOfTaylor

instagram

@cityoftaylor tx

youtube

city of taylor, texas