The City Council of the City of Taylor met on March 9, 2017, at City Hall, 400 Porter St., Taylor, Texas. Noting the absence of Mayor Pro Tem Brandt Rydell and Mayor Jesse Ancira, Council Member Chris Gonzales declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following present:

Council Member Robert Garcia
Council Member Christine Lopez

Isaac Turner, City Manager
Noel Bernal, Assistant City Manager
Ted Hejl, City Attorney
Susan Brock, City Clerk

INVOCATION

Chief Ekiss led the group in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Gonzales read a list of upcoming community events and activities.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATION

Mr. John McDonald, 2405 Meadow Lane, provided additional information regarding the information in the agenda packet on the charter amendments. Mr. Gary Gola, 1806 Cypress Cove, spoke on the lawn maintenance issue and stated that the information previously provided has now been corrected by staff.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. APPROVE ORDINANCE 2017-04 AMENDING PLUMBING CODE.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-04

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2001-6 ADOPTING THE STANDARD PLUMBING CODE 1994 EDITION BY AMENDING SECTIONS AS AMENDED HEREIN; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE.

2. APPROVE ORDINANCE 2017-05 TO REQUEST REZONING OF PROPERTY FOR A HOTEL DEVELOPMENT.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-05

AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING OF PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS BEING 1.104 ACRES IN THE WILLIAM J. BAKER SURVEY, ABSTRACT No. 65, GENERALLY LOCATED AT 200 CARLOS G. PARKER BOULEVARD IN TAYLOR, WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS, AND LEGALLY DESCRIBED IN THIS ORDINANCE FROM RESIDENTIAL AGRICULTURE DISTRICT R/A TO LOCAL BUSINESS DISTRICT B-1; AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF TAYLOR, TEXAS, TO SHOW THE ZONING CHANGE ADOPTED HEREIN; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE.

3. APPROVE ORDINANCE 2017-06 AMENDING INDUSTRIAL WASTE ORDINANCE.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-06

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE DISCHARGE OF INDUSTRIAL WASTES INTO PUBLIC SEWERS OF THE CITY OF TAYLOR; PROMULGATING REGULATIONS AND ESTABLISHING CHARGES FOR SERVICES RENDERED; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY UPON CONVICTION FOR VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES ONLY TO THE EXTEND THEY ARE IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING A PUBLICATION CLAUSE.

4. APPROVE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 23, 2017.
Council Member Lopez moved to approve the consent agenda as presented and Council Member Garcia seconded the motion. VOTE: Three voted AYE. Motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING

5. CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDER INTRODUCING ORDINANCE 2017-02 REGARDING A REQUEST TO REZONE PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS 38 ACRES NEAR FM 973.
Ms. Ashley Lumpkin, Director of Development Services, presented a request to consider rezoning 38 acres of property on the southwest side of the city. The request is consistent with the Future Land Use and would be appropriate for commercial use including multifamily, single family, and institutional use due to its proximity to the Taylor High School. Council Member Gonzales declared the Public Hearing open; hearing no comments, the hearing was closed and Council had no further discussion on the item. Mr. Hejl introduced the Ordinance as presented.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-02

AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING OF PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS BEING 38.979 ACRES IN THE GEORGE M. REESE SURVEY, ABSTRACT No. 533, GENERALLY LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF CARLOS G. PARKER BOULEVARD AND FM 973 IN TAYLOR, WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS, AND LEGALLY DESCRIBED IN THIS ORDINANCE FROM RESIDENTIAL AGRICULTURE DISTRICT R/A TO GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT B-2; AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF TAYLOR, TEXAS, TO SHOW THE ZONING CHANGE ADOPTED HEREIN; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE.

REGULAR AGENDA: REVIEW/DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION

6. CONSIDER INTRODUCING ORDINANCE 2017-07 AMENDING THE COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF ANIMAL CONTROL APPEALS BOARD AND SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE.
   Commander Branson presented information related to the Animal Control Appeals Board and Shelter Advisory Committee makeup and proposed changes. At the previous Council meeting council requested an ordinance to review regarding these changes. With no further discussion, Mr. Hejl introduced the Ordinance as presented.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-07

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAYLOR, TEXAS, AMENDING ORDINANCE 2009-7, THE TAYLOR ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE, BY AMENDING SECTION 7.A., ANIMAL CONTROL APPEALS BOARD, BY ALLOWING THE CITY COUNCIL TO APPOINT AN ADDITIONAL NUMBER OF CITY RESIDENTS NOT TO EXCEED FIVE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.

7. RECEIVE UPDATE ON ANIMAL SHELTER STATISTICS, NEEDS, AND FUTURE PLANS.
   Commander Branson provided information on the efforts currently underway to develop both a short term and long plan to meet the needs at the animal shelter. He provided a brief overview of three options and an overview of statistics for calls for service, citations issued, and numbers related to frequency of each type of call for service. Once appointment(s) have been finalized, the expanded committee will be charged with bringing back recommendations regarding the facility options presented to Council.

   Council Member Garcia moved to receive the report as presented and Council Member Lopez seconded the motion. VOTE: Three voted AYE. Motion passed.

8. RECEIVE UPDATE ON HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.
   Chief Pat Ekiss presented an update on the grant recently awarded to the City from the Texas Department of Emergency Management for the development of a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation action plan for Taylor and Thrall. Chief Ekiss reminded Council that this $49,500 is in addition to the $66,000 already awarded by FEMA. A Public Meeting was held and a survey is currently underway to allow citizens from both communities to determine what they think are the most critical hazards affecting the area.

   Council Member Lopez moved to receive the report as presented and Council Member Garcia seconded the motion. VOTE: Three voted AYE. Motion passed.

9. CONSIDER AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO HALFF ASSOCIATES FOR DRAINAGE PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE MDUS.
Mr. Matt Rector, Director of Public Works, presented a request to award a contract to Halff Associates to move forward with eight of the drainage projects previously approved by Council. Those included specific locations on Kelly Drive, Castlewood Court, Paula Lane and Medical Parkway, Laurel and Sams Streets, Kirk Street, N. Lynn Street, Booth and Oak Streets and Oaklawn at the Bull Branch Tributary (near Greenlawn).

   Council Member Lopez moved to award the contract to Halff Associates in an amount not to exceed $62,876 to be paid with funds from the MDUS fees. Council Member Garcia seconded the motion. VOTE: Three voted AYE. Motion passed.

10. DISCUSS PLANS FOR STREET AND LAWN MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS.
Prior to any discussion on this item, Mr. Turner stated that Mr. Hejl had provided a Letter of Opinion regarding the lack of any conflict of interest with Ms. Lopez participating in the discussion and any possible action on this item. Mr. Rector presented a review of the current streets and grounds maintenance plan and to discuss the past and present service levels while establishing future reasonable levels of service within the current budget.

    (Mayor Ancira joined the meeting during this discussion.)

    Council Member Garcia moved to accept the report as presented and Council Member Gonzales seconded the motion. VOTE: Four voted AYE. Motion passed.

11. CONSIDER AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR COMPLETION OF A COMBINED STRATEGIC FACILITIES/PROJECT MASTER PLAN.
Mr. Rector presented a request for council to approve a contract with Sledge Engineering to complete the development of a Strategic Facilities/Project Master Plan.

    Council Member Gonzales moved to award the contract to Sledge Engineering in an amount not to exceed $224,000 with $195,000 Utility Fund and $30,000 from the General Fund. Council Member Garcia seconded the motion. VOTE: Four voted AYE. Motion passed.

12. RECEIVE UPDATE REGARDING THE GIVENS COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT.
Mr. Rector provided a report on the status of improvements to the center since the city received $150,000 in funds through the Community Development Block Grant program of Williamson County. The project includes rehabilitation improvements to the roof, foundation, restroom, kitchen, floor, lighting, air conditioning, and wall finishes. The project is managed by Sledge Engineering and the architect is Debra J. Dockery. The project is expected to be completed by the end of August.

Council Member Lopez moved to accept the report as presented and Council Member Garcia seconded the motion. VOTE: Four voted AYE. Motion passed.

13. CONSIDER RATIFICATION OF THE CONTRACT WITH HALFF ASSOCIATES FOR AN APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD LOW INTEREST LOAN PROGRAM.
Mr. Rector presented a request to ratify a contract previously entered into with Halff Associates to submit an application on behalf of the City to the Texas Water Development Board low interest loan program. If the award is successful, the program would help fund drainage projects that are still pending once the MDUS funds are expended. Deadline for the application was March 3rd and staff moved forward in an effort not to miss the deadline and to take advantage of additional funding options.

Council Member Garcia moved to ratify the application and contract with Halff Associates as presented and council Member Gonzales seconded the motion. VOTE: Four voted AYE. Motion passed.

14. DISCUSS POSSIBLE CHARTER AMENDMENTS AND CHARTER AMENDMENT ELECTION.
Mr. Turner stated that this item was requested by Council Member Gonzales. Mr. Turner provided information submitted to Council in 2012-2013 by a committee appointed to review the entire Charter. The final results provided three possible amendments to present to the voters but the election was never called. Council discussed the possibility of revisiting these items after the new Council is seated. Council Member Garcia moved to receive the report as presented and Council Member Lopez seconded the motion. VOTE: Four voted AYE. Motion passed.

15. RECEIVE PRESENTATION ON GROWTH SUMMIT EVENT.
Ms. Lumpkin presented a recap of the results of the first Growth Summit held in the City of Taylor. She noted that over 140 people attended the event in addition to the staff and panel members. The preliminary results of the event will be forthcoming and staff will develop a list of items to be addressed within the next 12-18 months.

Council Member Garcia moved to receive the report as presented and Council Member Lopez seconded the motion. VOTE: Four voted AYE. Motion passed.

16. CONSIDER PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION.
Mayor Ancira asked Council Members for future agenda items. Council Member Lopez requested information on how to address downtown parking, an update on the West End School as well as the 7th Street Hospital. Council Member Garcia asked to add a discussion about masonry standards and the landscape code.

ADJOURN

With no further action Mayor Ancira declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Jesse Ancira, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan Brock

Susan Brock, City Clerk