

City of Taylor
Regular City Council Meeting
Taylor City Hall, Council Chambers, 400 Porter Street
November 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Brandt Rydell declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following present:

Mayor Pro-Tem Dwayne Ariola
Council Member Robert Garcia
Council Member Mitch Drummond
Council Member Gerald Anderson

Brian LaBorde, City Manager
Mark Schroeder, Assistant City Attorney
Dianna Barker, City Clerk

INVOCATION – Travis Summerlin gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tom Yantis, Development Services Director, introduced Jan Harris, the new Main Street Manager.

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognition of Old Taylor High for Receiving an Award from the Texas Downtown Association.

Tom Yantis, Development Services Director – Recognized Old Taylor High, owned by Cliff and Kaitlin Olle, for being recognized by the Texas Downtown Association as the Best Restoration or Rehabilitation Project in a city under 50,000 population.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATION

Cari and John Farris, business owner of Salt and Lime – are currently heading up a petition drive to lift the restaurant restriction and allow businesses to sell alcohol without food and would like to see this proposition on the ballot in May.

JD Gins, 1417 Howard St. – Supports the petition drive Salt and Lime is heading up and requested Council put an alcohol status change on the May ballot themselves if the petition drive does not get enough signatures.

Amanda Bertelson, 421 N. Main – Read a letter from Judy Blundell on disruptive activity from homeless population and would like a meeting between business owners, City staff, and Council to form a plan on the homeless problem.

BOARDS & COMMISSION PRESENTATION

2. Update from Library Board.

Sharon Pick-Naiver, Chairperson – gave a brief presentation on the recent activities and the future goals of the Library Board.

Motion was made by Councilmember Garcia to receive the Library Board presentation as presented. Motion was made by Councilmember Drummond. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. **Approve minutes from October 24, 2019.**
4. **Concur with preliminary financials for September 2019.**
5. **Approve Taylor Public Library Confidentiality Policy.**
6. **Consider approving Resolution R19-25 awarding bid for the construction of HOME program houses.**

Motion was made by Councilmember Drummond to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Ariola. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING/ORDINANCES

7. **Consider introducing Ordinance 2019-31, amending the Flood Plain Ordinance.**
Bryan Martin, HDR Engineering - the floodplain ordinance is recommended to be amended to include the new Williamson County Flood Insurance Rate Maps, to include higher floodplain management standards. This amendment is to increase flood protection in Taylor.

The City Attorney read the caption of the ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-31

**AMENDMENT TO AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAYLOR, TEXAS
AMENDING CHAPTER 7 OF THE TAYLOR CITY CODE REGARDING
DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL REGULATIONS AND
PROCEDURES; PROVIDING A REPEALER; PROVIDING A MAXIMUM
PENALTY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING A
SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.**

This was the first reading. No action taken.

8. **Consider introducing Ordinance 2019-32, amending Subdivision Ordinance for Drainage Criteria updates as part of the Engineering Manual.**
Bryan Martin, HDR Engineering - The Engineering Manual needs to be revised to include a hierarchical outline and section numbers for reference, per HB3167, and other misc. changes. Mr. Martin went over the recommended changes. The Engineering Manual was last updated in November of 2009.

The City Attorney read the caption of the ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-32

**THIS ORDINANCE AMENDS ORDINANCE NO. 2009-37 WHEREIN AN
ENGINEERING MANUAL WAS ESTABLISHED FOR MINIMUM
STANDARDS AND CONSTRUCTION DETAILS FOR ALL PUBLIC
FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS, WITH STANDARD DETAILS FOR EACH
TYPE OF IMPROVEMENT; AND THIS ORDINANCE ESTABLISHES A
REVISED ENGINEERING MANUAL FOR THE PURPOSES SET FORTH IN
THE REVISED ENGINEERING MANUAL ATTACHED HERETO AND
INCORPORATED INTO THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE**

DATE; PROVIDING A PENALTY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A REPEALER CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE.

This was the first reading. No action taken.

9. **Consider introducing Ordinance 2019-33, amending the FY2018-2019 Budget. (Jeff Wood)**
Jeff Wood, Finance Director - This budget amendment is to have the budget reflect the actual financial activity that has occurred during FY2018-19.

The City Attorney read the caption of the ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-33

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAYLOR, TEXAS AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2019-25 ADOPTED ON AUGUST 22, 2019, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CITY FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2018 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019; BY AMENDING THE AMOUNT OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE GENERAL FUND THAT PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF OPERATING EXPENSES AND CAPITAL OUTLAY AND BY CHANGING THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY.

This was the first reading. No action taken.

10. **Hold a Public Hearing and consider Resolution R19-24, prevention of mining and drilling, and applying for a grant for a Percussion Park.**

Larry Foos, Parks & Recreation Director - Staff is seeking authorization to submit an application for a Texas Parks and Wildlife Local Park Grant to construct a Percussion Park in Murphy Park. Mayor Rydell stated his wife works for Good Life Taylor, a partner in the project of building the Percussion Park, and confirmed with the City Attorney that there is no conflict of interest due to no funds from the city being given to Good Life.

Mayor Rydell opened the public hearing at 6:55PM. With no one appearing, the public hearing was closed at 6:55PM.

Motion was made by Councilmember Anderson to approve Resolution R19-24 and apply for the Texas Parks & Wildlife grant for a Percussion Park. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Ariola. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA; REVIEW/DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION

11. **Receive Taylor Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Report for July - September, 2019.**
Tia Stone, Chamber of Commerce President - presented a report of activities and budget for the Chamber of Commerce as it pertains to the administration of the Hotel Occupancy Tax grant contract.

Motion was made by Councilmember Garcia to receive the report as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Drummond. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Receive an update on current Engineering and Grant Projects.

Jacob Walker, HDR Engineering - provided updates on ongoing planning, design, and construction projects. Dan Franz, Halff Association – briefly went over Edmonds/Mills Street improvements and 1st/Royal Street improvements. David Legere, Langford Associates – briefly went over current and ongoing grant projects and potential funding.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ariola to receive the engineering and grant project updates as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Drummond. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Consider expending FY2019 Bond funds for emergency repair of sewer line at Animal Shelter and water line at Justin Lane crossing.

Jim Gray, Public Works Director - Requested by City staff, HDR has submitted a proposal to provide engineering services needed for emergency repairs to a 24-inch potable water line in a drainage channel south of CR 398 and a 15-inch sewer line in Bull Branch Creek near the animal shelter. Staff requested \$320,000.00 as emergency expenditures for a sewer line at the Animal Shelter and a water line on CR398.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Ariola to approve the proposal from HDR Engineering, Inc. for the water and Wastewater Line Emergency Repair as submitted, and authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. to perform the engineering work and enter into a contract with a contractor to complete the emergency repairs, all not to exceed \$320,000 total. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Garcia. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Consider Bid Award for the construction of the Dickey-Givens Community Center.

Jacob Walker, HDR Engineering - The project includes construction of the new Dickey-Givens Community Center building along with associated site improvements. Three bids were received from G Creek, Inc. (Austin, TX), Pfluger Builders LLC (Taylor, TX), and Skyler Design Build, LLC (Houston, TX) with the base bid amounts of \$549,000.00, \$560,000.00, and \$499,981.00, respectively. Anticipated completion date is June 9, 2020.

Motion was made by Councilmember Anderson to award the Dickey-Givens Community Center Project to Skyler Design Build, LLC and authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract to perform the work. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Garcia. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Consider adding Charter amendments to the May 2020 Ballot.

Jeff Jenkins, Deputy City Manager – Staff is seeking Council decision on whether Council would like to amend the City Charter with the 3 propositions discussed in May 2019 and add the amendments to the May 2020 election ballot. The 3 propositions are conflict of interest, Council members elected by majority vote instead of plurality, and allowing the City Manager to hire and remove employees without Council's consent. Council directed staff to draft a resolution to place these propositions on the May ballot, and to look into putting alcohol status change on ballot even if petition drive does not yield enough valid signatures.

16. Receive update from the Public Arts Advisory Board and consider expending funds from the Public Arts Fund.

Richard Stone, Chairman - Presented the 50/50 Art Wall project that they plan to implement during the current fiscal year and seek authorization to expend funds from the Public Arts Fund not to exceed \$3,500.00, and requested \$1,000.00 for marketing items to promote the Public Arts Advisory Board group and projects.

Motion was made by Councilmember Drummond to authorize the expenditures from the Public Arts Fund as requested. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Rydell read the executive session meeting announcement and adjourned into executive session at 8:09p.m.

Executive Session I. The Taylor City Council will conduct a closed executive meeting under Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code in order to meet with its City Attorney on a matter in which the duty of the Attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas authorize and allow such a closed meeting and which Rules conflict with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

- a. Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction development issues
- b. Debt collection issues

The Council reconvened into regular session at 9:04p.m.

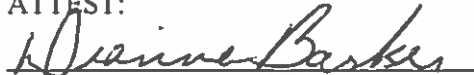
No action taken.

ADJOURN

With no further action Mayor Rydell declared the meeting adjourned at 9:04p.m.


Brandt Rydell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Dianna Barker, City Clerk



November 14, 2019

Amanda,

Below please find comments and notes relating to the active homeless population in downtown Taylor.

Over the past 11 months we have noticed an increasing level of disruptive activity around the McCrory Timmerman Building. There are three men in particular whose aggressive actions and invasive presence have caused alarm and concern among our tenants, customers and employees. They are Raymond, Remington and Mark.

Raymond is frequently under the influence of narcotics and endangers himself by running into traffic without looking. I have personally had to stop my vehicle and guide him across the street. I have also witnessed him stripping off his clothing and leaving a trail along the sidewalk outside my studio (Atelier 95 at 311 N. Main Street.) He collects objects and items left unattended and deposits them beneath the covered parking behind the McCrory, sleeps there when he believes he will not be detected and has been caught trying to prop our security doors open for entry into the building after hours.

Remington has been found unconscious after heroin use in the alley, been caught trying to use substances in our public bathrooms, approached customers in the coffee bar, deli and tap rooms asking for money and last week during a private catered function had to be physically removed from the building as he was attempting to hassle guests while they were eating. He has caused damage to the bathrooms in the Black Sparrow and also in the new facilities in Heritage Square Park. We have had to collect and dispose of used needles in the alley behind our building and clean up a number of his messes including feces.

Mark has been caught living in one of our tenants cars, lighting a fire next to her truck on Talbot St., sleeping in our public bathrooms, abusing our customers when they refuse to buy trinkets that he picks out of the dumpster behind the St. Vincent De Paul thrift store. He has shoved one of our tenants when they asked him to leave their store and also deposited refuse and his luggage in another tenant's space when they were attending to another customer.

We have active "CTW," Citizen Trespass Warrants on all three of the above mentioned people, but sadly, when they are messed up, they do not recognize the rules.

Naturally, we have concern for their welfare and safety. We have tried to find ways to feed them, connect them with services that can shelter and clothe them and generally keep an eye on them, but the more we interfere, the stronger and more abusive they seem to become. I am told that they have lived in the Taylor area for many years and have never proven dangerous. This may be true, however, they do have a profound impact on the experience of visitors and new businesses in our growing community.

Best,

Judy Blundell

Curb Side Coffee House
2nd Street Farm to Market
2nd Street Commercial Kitchen

The McCrory Timmerman Restoration Project

