The City Council of the City of Taylor met on October 26, 2017, at City Hall, 400 Porter St., Taylor, Texas. Mayor Brandt Rydell declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following present:

Council Member Dwayne Ariola
Council Member Robert Garcia
Council Member Chris Gonzales (Arrived at 6:02)
Mayor Pro Tem Christine Lopez

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

INVOCATION
Chief Ekiss led the group in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATION

1. PROCLAMATION: ARBOR DAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2017.
   Council Member Garcia presented a proclamation to Mike DeVito, Parks Director, and Tree Advisory Board member Nancci Burgess. They announced that the Arbor Day planting event is at 10:00 am Saturday, November 4th in Murphy Park near the Vance Street entrance.
2. PROCLAMATION: MUNICIPAL COURTS WEEK, NOVEMBER 6-10, 2017
   Mayor Pro Tem Lopez presented a proclamation to Municipal Court employees.
3. PROCLAMATION: VETERANS DAY IS NOVEMBER 11, 2017.
   Council Member Ariola was joined by Council Members Gonzales and Garcia and members of the American Legion local post to read a proclamation for Veterans Day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Mayor Rydell read a list of upcoming community events and activities. Council Member Garcia reminded the community that October 29th was the only day to register with the Red Santa program and applications were being accepted at City Hall on that one day only.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATION
Mayor Rydell invited those who signed up in advance to come forward during this time. Ms. Frances Sorrow, 702 7th St., Ms. Suzanne Bice, 840 W. 6th St., and Ms. Irene Michna, 1301 Davis St. spoke on the need to begin work on the historic preservation ordinance and to urge the council to appoint a task force to begin the process as soon as possible.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. APPROVE MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 12, 2017.
   Mayor Pro Tem Lopez moved to approve the consent agenda as presented and Council Member Ariola seconded the motion. VOTE: Five voted AYE. Motion passed.

REGULAR AGENDA: REVIEW/DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION

5. RECEIVE UPDATE ON CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAINING.
   Ms. Kim Peterson, Director of Human Resources, introduced Dr. Troy Coleman with Coleman and Associates, who reported on the recent customer service training conducted for the Development Services team, Utility Billing staff, and a few select individuals who were also invited to attend. He reported that the training was well received. Council Member

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

6. CONSIDER AWARDING BID FOR AIRPORT HANGAR FIRE SUPPRESSION IMPROVEMENTS.
Mr. Casey Sledge, Consulting City Engineer, presented a request to award a contract for the design and installation of a fire suppression system for the recently completed T-Hangar which is a Texas Department of Transportation, Aviation Division grand funded project. He commented that the proposal was in the amount of $38,500, well under the proposed budget of $60,000.

Council Member Ariola moved to award the contract to Ranger Builders, LLC for $38,500 as presented and Council Member Garcia seconded the motion. VOTE: Five voted AYE. Motion passed.

7. DISCUSS AND RECEIVE INFORMATION AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION ON UTILITY ACCOUNT ASSISTANCE OPTIONS.
Ms. Rosemarie Dennis, Finance Director, presented a response to recent requests from citizens to consider options for assistance with paying their utility bills. She noted that the current programs already in place include 1) waiving the late fee(s) for customers over sixty years of age; 2) payment extensions which are available to each customer up to three times a year in an emergency financial situation; and 3) payment plans which are available for those customers who may have experienced an unusually high bill due to a leak or some other event and need additional time to pay the bill out. As a result of staff researching what types of assistance other cities have, Ms. Dennis recommended they extend more time to customers who are on social security and disability to pay their utility bill without being assessed a penalty and/or disconnection of their services.

Council Member Garcia asked staff to research a "good neighbor fund" where individuals can donate for those in need. Staff discovered most of the cities they surveyed did not provide this option due to the difficulty in administering the fund and where available, a third party was in charge of this type of assistance, such as the Salvation Army. She stated the local Salvation Army was not interested in taking on this service.

With no other comments or discussion Council Member Gonzales moved to accept the report as presented and approve the recommendations as presented. Council Member Ariola seconded the motion. VOTE: Five voted AYE. Motion passed.

8. DISCUSS BOARD MEMBERSHIP OF THE TAYLOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TEDC) AND TYPES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS.
Council Member Garcia requested this item and was seeking a discussion with other council members on a proposal to expand the current board from five to seven. Mr. Mark Thomas,

TEDC President, and TEDC Board Chairman Kelly Cmerek questioned the need to make this type of change when the current board was performing in a successful manner.

Council Member Garcia stated that he saw a need and an opportunity to include more knowledge by expanding the existing board. Hearing no further comments or discussion Council Member Garcia moved to draft an ordinance to expand the TEDC Board from 5 to 7 members. Motion died for lack of a second.

9. RECEIVE UPDATE ON EFFORTS TO DEVELOP HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE.
Ms. Ashley Lumpkin, Director of Development Services, provided an update on staff efforts to address the creation of an ordinance regarding historic preservation. She pointed out that the document submitted by the Taylor Conservation and Heritage Society in June was still under review and a proposal to appoint a Task Force will be on the November 9th agenda for further consideration. Mayor Rydell invited those who had signed up to speak to come forward. Ms. Janetta McCoy, 819 Hackberry, Mr. Joe Burgess, 1801 Oaklawn, and Ms. Nancci Burgess, 1801 Oaklawn, all encouraged council to move forward with appointing the Task Force and begin the process of reviewing the historic preservation ordinance.

Mayor Pro Tem Lopez moved to accept the report as presented and Council Member Gonzales seconded the motion. VOTE: Five voted AYE. Motion passed.

10. RECEIVE UPDATE ON REVIEW SCHEDULE FOR DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCES.
Ms. Ashley Lumpkin, Director of Development Services, provided an update on the timeline and proposed schedule to address ordinances in need of review. The list was created as a result of feedback from those attending the Growth Summit as well as staff review.

Mayor Pro Tem Lopez moved to accept the report as presented and Council Member Gonzales seconded the motion. VOTE: Five voted AYE. Motion passed.

11. CONSIDER PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION.
Mayor Rydell asked Council Members for future agenda items. Mayor Pro Tem Lopez requested a memo on the proposed streets and grounds maintenance plan.

ADJOURN
With no further action Mayor Rydell declared the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Brandt Rydell, Mayor

ATTEST:
Susan Brock

Susan Brock, City Clerk