

City of Taylor
Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting Minutes
Taylor City Hall, Council Chambers, 400 Porter Street
August 14, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Kelly Cmerek
Council Member Greg Redden
Council Member Shelli Cobb
Council Member Heather Long
Mayor Dwayne Ariola

Brian LaBorde, City Manager
Carly Pearson, Assistant City Manager
Mark Schroeder, City Attorney
Lucy Aldrich, City Clerk

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATIONS

- Proclamation – Honoring the 34th Annual Griffin-Stoglin Family Reunion
Mayor Ariola presented the proclamation to the Griffin-Stoglin family.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATION

Rick Pfeil spoke on behalf of himself and the Downtown Property Owner's Group regarding upcoming agenda item #10, downtown surveillance cameras.

Josh Ellard spoke on upcoming agenda item #10, downtown surveillance cameras.

Warren Smith spoke on upcoming agenda item #10, downtown surveillance cameras.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider approval of the minutes from the July 24, 2025, regularly scheduled City Council meeting.
2. Consider acceptance of the infrastructure for the North Drive Improvements.
3. Receive 2025 Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet.
4. Receive Certification of Additional Sales and Use Tax to Pay Debt Services (Comptroller Form 50-882).

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cmerek to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

Motion was seconded by Councilman Redden. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS / ORDINANCES

5. Hold a public hearing and introduce Ordinance 2025-22, a request for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow lodging without a full-time, on-site operator, for property generally located at 2112 W. Lake Drive, consisting of approximately 5.716 acres of land situated in the William J. Baker Survey, Abstract No. 065 more particularly described by Williamson Central Appraisal District Parcel R018819, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas.
Interim Development Services Director Shai Roos (HDR) – this item is being presented again to align with standard procedural requirements and to introduce Ordinance 2025-22. During the public hearing held on June 24, 2025, a vote was taken by the Council prior to the formal

introduction of the Ordinance. In accordance with established practice, Special Use Permits require a public hearing before both the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council, followed by the introduction of an Ordinance. The item is then placed on the next City Council agenda under the Consent Agenda for final action. This action will ensure full compliance with procedural standards and result in the issuance of an executed Ordinance for the applicant.

Mayor Ariola opened a public hearing at 6:20 p.m.

The following individuals spoke during the hearing:

The applicant, Jarrod West, spoke.

Mayor Ariola closed the public hearing at 6:23 p.m.

The City Attorney read the caption of the ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT (SUP) TO PERMIT A SHORT-TERM RENTAL GENERALLY LOCATED AT 2112 W. LAKE DRIVE, LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS APPROXIMATELY 5.716 ACRES OUT OF THE WILLIAM J. BAKER SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 65, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED BY THE WILLIAMSON CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT PARCEL R018819, TAYLOR, WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS, TO SHOW THE SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPROVED HEREIN; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE.

Ordinance was introduced. No action was taken.

REGULAR AGENDA; REVIEW/DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION

6. **Receive a presentation from Berry Dunn representatives on the Permit Audit findings.**
Interim Development Services Director Shai Roos (HDR) introduced Berry Dunn representatives, Kevin Price and Khara Doods who gave a presentation on the permit audit findings. Assistant City Manager Carly Pearson was available to answer questions and provide additional information.

Warren Smith, owner of the Texan Café, provided information on a historical experience he had with the permitting process and is looking forward to the proposed changes in the permit division.

Motion was made by Councilman Redden to receive the presentation as presented. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cmerek. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Receive and discuss the FY 2026 Proposed Budget.**
Robert Powers, Chief Financial Officer, presented the FY 2026 Proposed Budget.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cmerek to receive the presentation as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Redden. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **Discussion, consideration, and possible action on a proposed tax rate for Fiscal Year 2026 and to set a date for a public hearing and for adoption of the tax rate.**
Robert Powers, Chief Financial Officer, presented the item.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cmerek to propose a tax rate of \$0.585000 per \$100 valuation and set a public hearing to consider the proposed tax rate on Wednesday, September

10, 2025, at 6pm at Taylor City Hall, 400 Porter Street, Taylor, Texas 76574. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Long. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Discussion, consideration, and possible action on the acceptance of a grant from the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for the City of Taylor Kimbro/Shaw to 2nd Street Drainage Improvements - Phase I.

Tyler Bybee, Interim Managing Director of External Services – this item is to accept a grant from the Texas Division of Emergency Management for the Kimbro/Shaw to 2nd Street drainage improvements project, Phase 1. Judy Langford with Langford Community Management Services was available to answer questions and provide additional information.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cmerek to accept the grant as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cobb. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Discussion, consideration, and possible action on the procurement of Downtown Surveillance Cameras and Police Department building and parking lot cameras from Sharco.

Henry Fluck, Police Chief presented the item which is a procurement of surveillance cameras for downtown and for the Police Department building and parking lot. Monica Lassig with Sharco was available to answer questions and provide additional information. During discussions, downtown property owner/representative of the Downtown Property Owner's Group, Rick Pfeil was available to answer questions and provide additional information.

Mayor Ariola read emails from the following individuals who could not attend the meeting and had comments to provide regarding the downtown surveillance cameras: Sarah Winters, Rick Northcutt, Chuck Farr, Jeff Snyder, Shannon and Eddie Chavez with the Taylor Bike Company, Jesse Ancira, Andrew Gonzales, and Greg Ginn. Councilwoman Cobb read emails that she received regarding this item from: Carrie D'Anna, and Alyse Mervosh. (The referenced emails are attached to the meeting minutes)

Motion was made by Mayor Ariola to approve the procurement of the cameras as presented, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000, with any proposed additional cameras not included in the presentation be brought back to Council prior to installation and location selection. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Long. Motion carried 3 to 2 with Mayor Pro Tem Cmerek and Councilwoman Cobb in opposition.

Mayor Ariola read the executive session items and adjourned into closed session at 8:26 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Council may vote and/or act upon each of the items listed in this Agenda. The Council reserves the right to retire into executive session concerning any of the items listed on this Agenda, whenever it is considered necessary and legally justified under the Open Meetings Act including Section 551.071 (Consult with attorney); Section 551.072 (Real Property); Section 551.073 (Gifts and Donations); Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters); Section 551.076 (Security Devices); and Section 551.087 (Economic Development).

- a. Section 551.071, Consultation with City Attorney regarding Oncor.

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2025

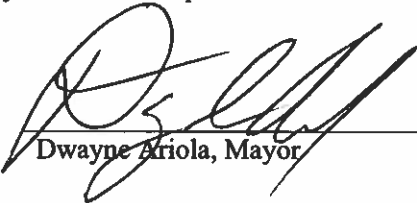
4

- b. Section 551.071, Consultation with City Attorney regarding Robert Marek, et al v. City of Taylor et al Cause No. 24-0447-C425.
- c. Section 551.071, Consultation with City Attorney regarding Kristopher Kibodeaux and Jamie Kibodeaux v. City of Taylor et al Cause No. 24-1746-C425.
- d. Section 551.071, Consultation with City Attorney regarding the City of Taylor et al v. Ubiquity DFW, LP, et al Cause No. 25-0472-C368.

Mayor Ariola reconvened into open session at 9:14 p.m. No action was taken

ADJOURN

With no further business Mayor Ariola declared the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.


Dwayne Ariola, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lucy Aldrich, City Clerk



From: [Brian LaBorde](#)
To: [Lucy Aldrich](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cameras Downtown
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2025 8:04:31 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brian LaBorde <brian.laborde@taylortx.gov>
Date: August 14, 2025 at 6:09:21 PM CDT
To: Brian LaBorde <brian.laborde@taylortx.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Cameras Downtown

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dwayne Ariola <dwayne.ariola@taylortx.gov>
Date: August 14, 2025 at 5:58:57 PM CDT
To: Rick Northcutt <rick@ricknorthcutt.com>, Brian LaBorde <brian.laborde@taylortx.gov>
Cc: Candy Buzan [REDACTED] Jim Buzan
Subject: Re: Cameras Downtown

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From: Rick Northcutt <rick@ricknorthcutt.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2025 5:54:30 PM
To: Dwayne Ariola <dwayne.ariola@taylortx.gov>
Cc: Candy Buzan [REDACTED]; Jim Buzan
[REDACTED]
Subject: Cameras Downtown

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

Dwayne, just wanted to let you know that we are in complete support of the downtown camera system. We've have had lots of vandalism at our buildings at 4th and Main. Thank you.

Rick Northcutt
REMAX Associates Group
rick@ricknorthcutt.com
512.296.7379

From: [Dwayne Ariola](#)
To: [Lucy Aldrich](#)
Subject: Fw: Concerns & Questions Regarding Proposed City Surveillance Camera System
Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 8:19:43 PM

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From: Sarah Winters [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2025 12:34:56 PM
To: Dwayne Ariola <dwayne.ariola@taylortx.gov>; Kelly Cmerck <kelly.cmerck@taylortx.gov>; Greg Redden <greg.redden@taylortx.gov>; Shelli Cobb <shelli.cobb@taylortx.gov>; Heather Long <heather.long@taylortx.gov>
Subject: Concerns & Questions Regarding Proposed City Surveillance Camera System

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Dear Taylor City Council,

I'm writing as a concerned Taylor resident regarding the proposal to purchase and install a new surveillance camera network downtown and at the police department. While the stated goals of increased safety and crime deterrence are understandable, there are serious issues with cost, privacy, and the potential for misuse that I believe must be addressed before moving forward.

I am less concerned with the intended uses of these cameras and far more concerned with the potential for misuse. As our country faces increasing threats to civil liberties, we cannot ignore how easily such a system could be repurposed to track citizens without cause, monitor protests, or be exploited in ways that undermine our constitutional rights. Even if the risk of hacking is low, it is not zero — and the consequences of a breach could be devastating.

The city is considering a system that costs over \$200,000 up front, with no clear demonstration that it will meaningfully reduce crime. These funds could be invested in alternative public safety measures — such as improved lighting, community policing, or mental health crisis intervention — that have proven track records and do not carry the same risks to civil liberties.

Below is a targeted list of questions I urge you to ask before approving this proposal:

Costs & Financial Justification

1. What is the true total cost over the life of the system, including licensing, maintenance, data storage, upgrades, and replacements?
2. Were costs compared to other proven safety measures like lighting, patrols, or community programs?
3. What will we have to cut from the budget to fund this system?

Data Use & Privacy

4. What safeguards will prevent these cameras from being used for non-crime purposes, such as monitoring protests or political gatherings?
5. Who exactly will have access to live feeds and stored footage? Will there be a public access log?
6. Will data be shared with other agencies, and under what conditions?
7. Why is retention only 30 days, and how is footage permanently erased from all backups?
8. How will you ensure due process so individuals aren't tracked without probable cause or a warrant?

Security & Hacking Risks

9. What cybersecurity protections will be in place?
10. If hacked, how will residents be notified?
11. Who bears financial and legal responsibility in a breach?

Scope & Expansion

12. Will adding more cameras in the future require council approval and public input?
13. Where exactly will each camera be located, and will that be made public?
14. Can this system integrate with facial recognition now or later?

Evidence of Effectiveness

15. What proof exists that similar networks reduce crime or improve case resolution rates?
16. Has the city reviewed examples where such networks were abused, and how will we avoid the same pitfalls?

For such a large and potentially far-reaching surveillance system, our city owes it to residents to be fully transparent, thoroughly vet the risks, and demonstrate the benefits before spending taxpayer dollars. I urge you to demand clear, public answers to each of these questions before casting your vote.

Sincerely,

Sarah Winters

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Brian LaBorde

Item #10

Surveillance Cameras

From: Brian LaBorde
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2025 11:06 AM
To: Brian LaBorde
Subject: FW: Surveillance cameras for downtown safety

Dear Mayor and Council -

Sincerely,

Brian LaBorde
City Manager
City of Taylor
400 Porter Street
Taylor, Texas 76574
Office: 512-352-3677



Good day, mayor and city council,

I will be out of town tonight for the council meeting, but I looked at the slide deck and have a few comments and questions for your consideration about the proposed new cameras.

1. I always worry about costs and would ask if the city managers got the best possible price for the best quality systems. \$188K is very expensive.
2. I do not have visibility for the total budget, but I hope this would not cut into our priorities and budget as an unexpected expense.
3. With these concerns stated, I support this proposal if you can answer and feel fiscally certain that this expense is within our means. Infrastructure for the entire city as well as safety from crime for our citizens and tourists are paramount.

4. I note that we have cameras proposed for the south side also, and I like that as a south side property owner. I would ask that some of the cameras for the temporary areas such as the current police station and some of the construction angles be moved (especially the 360 camera mounts) be moved to strategic locations under the train bridge when they are no longer needed, and I believe this central corridor of the downtown will one day be core to the downtown and is currently a dangerous area during night time.

5. If this proposal proves fruitful, I would support some incremental additions to the southside and other corridors in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Chuck

--

Chuck Farr

Broker Associate, Real Estate Agent

Send Realty, PLLC

512.415.6840 call/text | 512.270.9092 call/text

cfarr@chuckfarr.com | www.chuckfarr.com

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Brian LaBorde

From: Brian LaBorde
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 3:30 PM
To: Brian LaBorde
Subject: FW: Email to Council on downtown security cameras

In case you didn't receive, email for support for downtown cameras.

Sincerely,

Brian LaBorde
City Manager
City of Taylor
400 Porter Street
Taylor, Texas 76574
Office: 512-352-3677



From: Ruby Fisher <ruby.fisher@taylortx.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 3:27 PM
To: Brian LaBorde <brian.laborde@taylortx.gov>
Subject: FW: Email to Council

From: Ruby Fisher <ruby.fisher@taylortx.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 12:05 PM
To: Jeff Snyder <jeffsresurrections@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: Email to Council

Thank you Jeff!

From: Jeff Snyder <jeffsresurrections@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 11:50 AM
To: Ruby Fisher <ruby.fisher@taylortx.gov>
Subject: Re: Email to Council

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Council,

I am pleased that you are considering cameras downtown. Our Police cannot be everywhere at all times. My concern is that there are no cameras on 1st St. There has been considerable damage to property and theft from individuals coming into downtown by the rails.

Also, Once the new city hall construction starts; there should be cameras to protect the Cities investment. I am all for the addition of city cameras in addition to the cameras in currently place by property owners.

CAMERAS WILL DETER CRIME

Jeff Snyder

Owner

Jeff's Resurrections LLC

512.365.5346

jeffsresurrections@yahoo.com

www.jeffsresurrections.com

Brian LaBorde

From: Brian LaBorde
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 3:26 PM
To: Brian LaBorde
Subject: FW: Support for Downtown Surveillance Camera Proposal

fyi

Sincerely,

Brian LaBorde
City Manager
City of Taylor
400 Porter Street
Taylor, Texas 76574
Office: 512-352-3677



From: Ruby Fisher <ruby.fisher@taylortx.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 3:24 PM
To: Brian LaBorde <brian.laborde@taylortx.gov>
Subject: FW: Support for Downtown Surveillance Camera Proposal

From: Taylor Bike Company <Howdy@taylorbikecompany.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 3:23 PM
To: Dwayne Ariola <dwayne.ariola@taylortx.gov>; Shelli Cobb <shelli.cobb@taylortx.gov>; Greg Redden <greg.redden@taylortx.gov>
Cc: Ruby Fisher <ruby.fisher@taylortx.gov>
Subject: Support for Downtown Surveillance Camera Proposal

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Hello City Council Members

I'm writing on behalf of Taylor Bike Company to express our strong support for the proposed installation of surveillance cameras in the downtown business district.

We believe this initiative is critical for improving public safety and protecting both businesses and residents. Our support is based on three key concerns we have personally experienced:

1. **Crime Prevention & Drug Activity:** For years, there has been known drug activity directly behind our business. If cameras had been in place, those involved could have been identified and apprehended much earlier.
2. **Vandalism & Theft:** Several large storefront windows in the district — including those of neighboring businesses — have been smashed, resulting in costly repairs and theft. Cameras would help identify and prosecute offenders, deterring future acts.
3. **Traffic & Pedestrian Safety:** Dangerous speeding, failure to stop at red lights, and cars turning without yielding to pedestrians have created serious hazards. Cameras could allow for monitoring and prompt enforcement to reduce these risks.

The downtown business district is the heart of our community, and ensuring its safety is essential to its growth and vitality. We urge the city to approve and prioritize this proposal so our community can feel safer, and our law enforcement officers have the tools they need to address these ongoing issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Shannon and Eddie Chavez

--



TAYLOR BIKE COMPANY

204 N Main st

Taylor Texas

512-595-5077

www.taylorbikecompany.com

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

Brian LaBorde

From: Jesse Ancira [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2025 4:18 PM
To: Brian LaBorde; Dwayne Ariola
Cc: Henry Fluck; Jesse Ancira III; Jesse Ancira
Subject: Downtown cameras

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Mayor and City Council Members,

First, thank you for your service to our community. I appreciate your efforts to make investments that help foster a safe and secure community.

Regarding item number 10 on tonight's agenda concerning placing cameras in the downtown area, I fully support such an investment.

As a local business owner with a physical storefront in downtown Taylor, I appreciate the added security and safeguards that such cameras would offer.

We recently moved our office and warehouse from a location on 2nd St. to a location on E. 3rd St. There is less foot and car traffic in this part of downtown compared to our previous location.

Recently, we experienced vandalism, where an individual threw a large rock at one of our windows and shattered the window. Unfortunately, our cameras were off-line due to a storm that was passing through that evening, so we have no footage of the incident.

It's not uncommon to see individuals walking up to our office and warehouse space and appearing to be examining our entrances and exits. Thankfully, we have had no other incidents at this time.

I am also aware of other businesses located in the downtown area that have experienced vandalism in the recent past.

While I certainly respect everyone's privacy, I do believe that city officials have a responsibility and obligation to police the downtown area, particularly when your local business owners are investing in your community, serving your constituents and attracting visitors to downtown Taylor.

Our business and my family contribute much to this community and we are proud of our downtown and want to encourage further investment and development in this area. News of vandalism, no matter how minor, only adds to deter such investment and can tarnish the image of our community.

I know you will strike a balance between safety and privacy, but please note that my family and I are fully supportive of additional safeguards in the downtown area that can be brought through the usage of such cameras.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions that you might have. Thank you again for your service,

Jesse Ancira
512-964-2180

Brian LaBorde

From: Brian LaBorde
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 4:36 PM
To: Brian LaBorde
Subject: FW: Downtown Secuirty

Dear Mayor and Council –

While you get opposition, here is another downtown business in support of the cameras.

Sincerely,

Brian LaBorde
City Manager
City of Taylor
400 Porter Street
Taylor, Texas 76574
Office: 512-352-3677



From: Dwayne Ariola <dwayne.ariola@taylortx.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 3:09 PM
To: Andrew Gonzales <andrew@taylorsportinggoods.com>
Cc: Brian LaBorde <brian.laborde@taylortx.gov>; Dwayne Ariola <dwayne.ariola@taylortx.gov>
Subject: RE: Downtown Secuirty

Thank you, I will share with Council as well.

Respectfully,

Dwayne

From: Andrew Gonzales <andrew@taylorsportinggoods.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 3:01 PM
To: Dwayne Ariola <dwayne.ariola@taylortx.gov>
Subject: Downtown Secuirty

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Good afternoon,

I have noticed an increase in unwanted foot traffic in downtown Taylor over the past several months. I see more vandalism now than ever before. Our store has a second story that you can access from the roof. We have had to make several repairs to them breaking the latch and door to the second floor access into our building. They walk around the second story and step through the ceiling tiles. We can never find out who it

is as there is no video surveillance in the alley. It would also help with people leaving trash in our bins that end up filling up and causing us to leave items on the ground and get ripped open. I'd be happy to walk the property and show what had been tampered with and receipts to damages fixed if this helps get cameras added in low traffic areas. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Taylor Sporting Goods

Andrew Scott Gonzales

512-352-8964

M-F 10AM-6PM

Brian LaBorde

From: Dwayne Ariola
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2025 4:39 PM
To: Brian LaBorde
Subject: Fw: Security cameras

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From: Greg [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2025 4:19:25 PM
To: Greg Redden <greg.redden@taylor.tx.gov>
Cc: Dwayne Ariola <dwayne.ariola@taylor.tx.gov>; Shelli Cobb <shelli.cobb@taylor.tx.gov>; Rick Von Pfeil [REDACTED]
Subject: Security cameras

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I'm all for the city having low crime statistics in order to better entice big corporations to move here. But I'd rather see it done by actually reducing crime as opposed to fudging the stats.

I've been in Taylor and have had businesses here for about 20 years. I didn't experience much crime until an avalanche of burglaries and vandalism hit my businesses about 3 years ago. Between about 3 years ago and up until about a year ago, I had in excess of 25 burglaries and 20 acts of vandalism on my 4 downtown buildings and my nursery on W second st.

I've lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in stolen property and much vandalism. The result was me having to close my plant nursery and fertilizer company. I also lost so much equipment that my recording studio is no longer functioning.

As far as I know, none of these crimes were officially reported as crimes. So, they didn't contribute to crime statistics. I'm happy about that, but feel that small businesses have been sacrificed for low crime stats and my businesses have been road kill in the process.

I plan to move remaining business out of Taylor in next few years.

For the past 10 months I've experienced very little vandalism and burglaries. I had some outdoor solar panel light signs stolen and a few acts of vandalism, but not the constant barrage. I'm not sure if that's due to the fact that they got everything of value they could or better enforcement. I suspect it's a combination of the two factors.

So, I'm in support of measures to mitigate these types of crimes. I don't recommend any decision be based on official crime statistics, as they are woefully flawed.

There was a crime ring in the homeless encampment in Taylor. I've noticed less homeless people in the last year, so I don't know if the ring is still operating.

I have a birthday party to attend tonight so I can't go to the meeting, but hopefully other Taylor businesses can state their case.

Greg Ginn

From: [Shelli Cobb](#)
To: [Lucy Aldrich](#)
Subject: Fwd: Police Surveillance Cameras
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2025 8:17:07 PM

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From: Carrie D'Anna [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2025 10:32:04 PM
To: Shelli Cobb <shelli.cobb@taylor.tx.gov>
Subject: Police Surveillance Cameras

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Hey Shelli,

It's so weird that we were just talking about surveillance cameras Saturday and now they are on the agenda. I wasn't expecting it to make it to the agenda this soon, the CIP site had it slated for October.

I have noted that there are changes and additions to the project previously proposed and approved through the CIP process.

Prior project was using the FLOCK camera system (ALPRs) along the Main Street north of the railroad tracks focusing on the businesses and had a price tag of \$200,000, which has had it's funding approved.

Current project does not mention FLOCK and site Felix Media & Sharco Technologies. The scope of the project has increased to include the intersection across the bridge at MLK jr. + police dept + site where the new justice center will be built and has increased the total amount.

While the absence of the mention of FLOCK does give me hope.... I have a plethora of questions about accountability for use, the locations and the price.

Below I am going to attach the articles and links I told you I would send. Many of them will mention FLOCK but the problems mentioned extend to any brand of surveillance cameras and equipment.

I do not believe this is a partisan issue and I am think the community at large will have a hard time with such extensive surveillance of Taylor.

Feel free to email me a questions or thought as I continue to look into the details of policing through surveillance.

I am AGAINST VIDEO SURVEILLANCE - by Police, Throughout City, Public funded

- Security Cameras can be owned and operated by individual business establishments and people to protect their property. There are laws that concern privacy and accountability measures already established for these cases.

- Police and other government entities should not have surveillance access to the general public, this is an encroachment on privacy.

Here are articles and news stories about surrounding cities:

Austin Ends License Reader Program June 2025

<https://www.kvue.com/article/news/local/austin-license-plate-readers-ends-privacy-concerns/269-4dc64690-c6c0-4ace-a009-fd8a13f69113>

Kyle Considers Camera Surveillance July 2025

<https://www.kut.org/crime-justice/2025-07-23/kyle-tx-austin-texas-flock-safety-cameras-license-plate-readers>

Austin Rejects Surveillance- Deportation July 2025

<https://www.austinchronicle.com/news/2025-07-04/austin-rejects-mass-surveillance-amid-mass-deportations/>

Hays County July 29, 2025

<https://cbsaustin.com/news/local/hays-county-joins-growing-list-of-communities-reconsidering-flock-cameras>

San Marcos June 2025

<https://cbsaustin.com/news/local/san-marcos-city-council-votes-to-deny-flock-camera-expansion-after-hours-of-heated-debate>

Hutto has FLOCK June 2025

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GANoneN90Cg>

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Carrie D'Anna



From: [Shelli Cobb](#)
To: [Lucy Aktrich](#)
Subject: Fwd: Downtown Surveillance Cameras
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2025 8:17:19 PM

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From: Alyse Mervosh [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 3:47:54 PM
To: Shelli Cobb <shelli.cobb@taylor.tx.gov>
Subject: Downtown Surveillance Cameras

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Dear Council Member Cobb,

Downtown needs more people, not surveillance cameras. Having more people around is a much more effective way to stop crime (break-ins, vandalism, etc.).

As a downtown business owner, I urge the city to put this money toward bringing more residential to downtown and finding ways to make downtown more welcoming/comfortable for tourists and locals alike.

Surveillance cameras are reactive, not preventative, while the mere presence of regular folks acts as a crime deterrent.

Compared to cameras, encouraging more people to be in our downtown is

- less expensive
- more effective
- better for businesses, and
- revenue generating for the city, EDC, etc.

In addition to privacy issues and potential misuse of footage (where the city could be held liable), the ongoing expenses for camera/system maintenance, servicing, and equipment updates are another financial burden for the city.

It's great we have a downtown police officer. Let's continue along those lines with proven, effective ways to prevent crime rather than spending money on equipment that doesn't solve the problem.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Alyse Mervosh