

City of Taylor
Regularly Scheduled City Council Meeting Minutes
Taylor City Hall, Council Chambers, 400 Porter Street
February 12, 2026, 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
Mark Schroeder, City Attorney
Lucy Aldrich, City Clerk

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ariola recognized the Moody Museum Valentine Gala that is going on tonight.

PROCLAMATIONS

- World Cholangiocarcinoma Day Proclamation
Mayor Pro Tem Cmerek read the proclamation and presented it to Mr. John McDonald.

- Government Communicators Day Proclamation
Mayor Ariola read the proclamation and presented it to Daniel Seguin and Jerrod Kingery, members of the Communications Department.

Newly hired Development Services Director Martin Griggs was introduced.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATION

Carrie D'Anna spoke on public safety.

Sarah Winters spoke on public safety.

Sarah Winters spoke on communications and government trust.

Marco Solis spoke on state sovereignty and annexation of corporations over human rights.

Abraham Mendez (time donated to Mr. Mendez from Angelica Salazar) spoke on increased activity of ICE in the area.

Terra Anders spoke on public safety (written comments attached).

Pam Harper spoke on Taylor's 150th year celebration and the TIF (Taylor Independence Festival) Days.

Bob Malone spoke on Consent Agenda Item #7.

Mayor Ariola pulled Items #5 and #9 from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Consider approval of the minutes from the January 22, 2026, regularly scheduled City Council meeting.**
2. **Consider awarding Bid # 2026-1, perimeter fencing project for the Public Works Building located at 205 S. Edmond Street to Monarch Fence, LLC., and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract.**
3. **Receive Monthly Financial Report for December 2025.**

4. **Receive Quarterly Investment Report for Period ending December 31, 2025.**
5. Consider approval of Resolution R26-03 approving the City Investment Policy and Strategy. (ITEM #5 CONSIDERED SEPARATELY)
6. **Consider approval of Resolution R26-04 designating the Director of Development Services as the City's representative for the HOME Competitive Awards Program and authorizing the Managing Director of Community Services as an alternate signatory.**
7. **Consider approval of Ordinance 2026-07 regarding a request for a Neighborhood Plan referred to as Sonora Bank, generally located at 602 SW Carlos G. Parker Boulevard, legally described as approximately 9.730 acres of land in the G.M. Reese Survey, Abstract No. 533, more particularly described by the Williamson Central Appraisal District Parcels R019660 and R311755, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas.**
8. **Consider approval of Ordinance 2026-08 regarding a request for a Neighborhood Plan referred to as Taylor Commons, generally located at 709 NW Carlos G. Parker Boulevard, legally described as approximately 8.607 acres of land in the William J. Baker Survey, Abstract No. 65, and Stellata Business, Block 1, Lot 1, more particularly described by the Williamson Central Appraisal District Parcels R319187, R508207 and R622658, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas.**
9. Consider approval of Ordinance 2026-09 regarding a request for a Special Use Permit to allow for light electronics disposal services as part of a commercial retail use generally located at 601 W 2nd Street, legally described as approximately 2.3123 acres of land in the City of Taylor, Block 69, Lot 1-10 (Abandoned), more particularly described by Williamson Central Appraisal District Parcel R015371, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas. (ITEM #9 CONSIDERED SEPARATELY)
10. **Consider approval of Ordinance 2026-06, Strength of Force, number of positions in the Fire Department.**

Motion was made by Councilman Redden to approve consent agenda items 1-4, 6-8, and 10 as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cobb. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Consider approval of Resolution R26-03 approving the City Investment Policy and Strategy.** Mayor Pro Tem Cmerek filed a Conflict-of-Interest with the City Clerk and left the dais at 6:40 p.m. The conflict is identified as Mr. Cmerek being an employee of one of the businesses identified in Resolution R26-03.

Motion was made by Councilman Redden to approve Resolution R26-03 as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Long. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Cmerek returned to the dais at 6:41 p.m.

9. **Consider approval of Ordinance 2026-09 regarding a request for a Special Use Permit to allow for light electronics disposal services as part of a commercial retail use generally located at 601 W 2nd Street, legally described as approximately 2.3123 acres of land in the City of Taylor, Block 69, Lot 1-10 (Abandoned), more particularly described by Williamson Central Appraisal District Parcel R015371, Taylor, Williamson County, Texas.**

Director of Development Services, Martin Griggs – when this ordinance was introduced at the January 22, 2026, meeting there was discussion on the expiration term of the permit. Special Use Permits expire three (3) years after the date of issuance. On January 13, 2026, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval of the request for the Special Use Permit recommending

the extension of expiration term from three (3) years to five (5) years. Staff is recommending City Council consider approving the extension to five (5) years.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cmerek to approve Ordinance 2026-09 extending the expiration term from three (3) years to five (5) years as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Redden. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA; REVIEW/DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION

11. Receive an update on the Oncor 345 kV Transmission Line Project.

Managing Director of Community Services, Tyler Bybee provided a brief update on the proposed Oncor Transmission Line. Cory Miksch with Oncor was available to answer questions and provide additional information.

Carrie D’Anna and Pamela Griffin spoke on this item.

No action was taken.

12. Discussion, consideration, and possible action on American Legion Lease.

Managing Director of Community Services, Tyler Bybee, presented the item giving a brief description of the history between the Legion and the City and he also reviewed the details of the lease. Mr. Scott Dean with the American Legion provided an update on the renovations and he was available to answer questions and provide additional information.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Long to approve the lease with the American Legion as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cobb. Councilwoman Long rescinded her motion and made a new motion authorizing the City Manager to negotiate, finalize and execute the lease. Revised motion was seconded by Councilwoman Cobb. Motion carried 4 to 0 with Councilman Redden abstaining.

13. Discussion, consideration, and possible action on Resolution R26-05 establishing a policy for proclamations.

Managing Director of Administrative Services LaShon Gros – presented the proclamation policy for council’s consideration.

Chuck Farr spoke on this item.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Long to approve Resolution R26-05 as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilman Redden. Motion carried 4 to 1 with Councilwoman Cobb in opposition.

14. Discussion, consideration, and possible action on appointments of individuals to various Boards and Commissions.

Lucy Aldrich, City Clerk – the following represents the appointments made.

Animal Control Appeals & Shelter Advisory

Current Member	Reason for Appointment	Reappointment Requested	Appointed Member
Melanie Rathke	End of Term	Yes	Melanie Rathke
Thomas Rohlack	End of Term	Yes	Thomas Rohlack
Lin Crane	Resigned	N/A	Gennifer Tvrdik

Historic Preservation Commission

Current Member	Reason for Appointment	Reappointment Requested	Appointed Member
Lea Bowman	End of Term	Yes	Lea Bowman
Kay Peebles	End of Term	Yes	Kay Peebles
Erwin Stauffer	Resigned	N/A	John Hawkins
Vacant Seat	N/A	N/A	Lotte Vehko

Library Advisory Board

Current Member	Reason for Appointment	Reappointment Requested	Appointed Member
Maria Newman	End of Term	Yes	Maria Newman
Sheon Corley	End of Term	No	Norma Brenner
Jerrie Inman	Resigned	N/A	Lucy Cutrali
Brandi Lujano	Resigned	N/A	Vacant*

*There were four vacant seats and three applications which resulted in one vacant seat on the board.

Main Street Advisory Board and TIF #1 Board

Current Member	Reason for Appointment	Reappointment Requested	Appointed Member
Alyse Mervosh	End of Term	Yes	Alyse Mervosh
Ruth Rivera	End of Term	No	Michael Kaspar
Jennifer Lopez	Resigned	N/A	Kirsten Sheldrake
John McRae	Resigned	N/A	Brian Sherman

Moody Museum Board

Current Member	Reason for Appointment	Reappointment Requested	Appointed Member
Marilyn Fleming	End of Term	Yes	Marilyn Fleming
Leslie Hill	End of Term	No Response	Lara Baker
Susan Komandosky	End of Term	Yes	Susan Komandosky
Terry Pierce	End of Term	Yes	Terry Pierce
Travis Summerlin	End of Term	Yes	Travis Summerlin
Vacant	N/A	N/A	William Gibbs

Parks & Recreation Board

Current Member	Reason for Appointment	Reappointment Requested	Appointed Member
Vacant	Student Member	N/A	Giovanni Martinez
Stacy Olsen	End of Term	Yes	Stacy Olsen
Bill Harrington	Resigned	N/A	April Green
Austin Brown	Resigned	N/A	Buddy Michna
Larry Cmerek	Resigned	N/A	Sheri Poll

Public Arts Advisory Board

Current Member	Reason for Appointment	Reappointment Requested	New Member
Gail Samuels	End of Term	No Response	Gail Samuels*
Richard Stone	End of Term	No	Betsy Askew
Nathan Gray	Resigned	N/A	Nicolas Nadeau
Judith Grissom	Resigned	N/A	Vacant

*Ms. Samuels was reappointed and her term was corrected to reflect a term expiration date of February 2028.

Additionally, there were not enough applicants to fill all the seats. This has resulted in one vacant seat on the board.

Tree Advisory Board

Current Member	Reason for Appointment	Reappointment Requested	New Member
Pam Harper	End of Term	Yes	Pam Harper
Julie Rydell	End of Term	No	Lance Conway
Vacant	N/A	N/A	Linda Herera

TEDC (Taylor Economic Development Corp)

Current Member	Reason for Appointment	Reappointment Requested	New Member
Kelly Cmerek	End of Term	Yes	Kelly Cmerek
Joe Burges	End of Term	No	John Dohmann
Benjamin Willis	Resigned	N/A	Penny Rychetsky

Mayor Ariola announced that an additional resignation occurred after the agenda packets were published (Racheal Westerman) and that her resignation would be brought back to a future meeting. City Council directed staff to do another push for more applications.

Planning & Zoning Commission

Current Member	Reason for Appointment	Reappointment Requested	New Member
Barbara Aviles-Torsberg	End of Term	Yes	Barbara Aviles-Torsberg
Donna Frazier	End of Term	No	Ricky Selin
Alex Allrich	Resigned	N/A	Craig Eulenfeld

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Current Member	Reason for Appointment	Reappointment Requested	New Member/Term Alignments
Nancy Talley	End of Term	No Response	Nora Roy
Alex Allrich	Resigned	N/A	Ricky Selin
Emily Holmes	End of Term	No	Vacant
Craig Eulenfeld	Term Alignment	Yes	Aligned Term to February 2027
Michael Prillaman	Term Alignment	Yes	Aligned Term to February 2027
Amy Everhart, Alt	End of Term	Yes	Amy Everhart, Alternate
Nora Roy, Alt	Term Alignment	Yes	Vacant, Aligned Term to Feb 2027

Vacant, Alt	N/A	N/A	Vacant
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City Council directed staff to do another push for applications and bring this board back in the future for appointments to vacant seats.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Ariola read the executive session item and adjourned into closed session at 8:06 p.m.

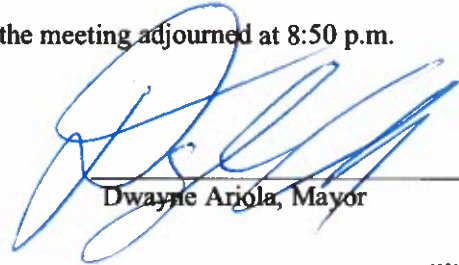
EXECUTIVE SESSION I. The Taylor City Council will conduct a closed executive meeting under Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, to consult with City Attorney regarding:

1. Waste Connections Agreement

Mayor Ariola reconvened into open session at 8:49 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURN

With no further business Mayor Ariola declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



Dwayne Ariola, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lucy Aldrich, City Clerk



Good evening, Mr. Mayor, Councilmembers. My name is Terra Anders.

When folks ask me what I think about Taylor, I always think about the sense of community — the calm, the safety, and the way neighbors show up for each other.

That's why I'm asking about how our city will respond as the new version of federal immigration and customs enforcement (ICE) escalates across Texas.

When Williamson County renewed its 287(g) agreement with ICE, that wasn't routine paperwork. It directly shapes what could happen to our neighbors here in Taylor.

In the past, cooperation with ICE generally meant a clear legal process: someone convicted of a serious crime and found to be undocumented might be transferred to federal custody legally and with due process.

What we are seeing now is different — more aggressive, less transparent, and in some cases, fatal. Recent data shows that less than 14% of those arrested have a serious violent charge or conviction. 74% of people in ICE detention have no U.S. criminal conviction at all.

At a recent gathering with city employees, I asked our police chief what the biggest crime issue in Taylor is. The answer was immediate: domestic violence.

Now imagine the young wife, the elderly parent, or the frightened child who hesitates to call Taylor police because they fear immigration consequences for themselves or someone they love.

When people are afraid to report crimes, our community becomes less safe. Public safety depends on trust — not terror. Chief Branson himself called that fear "heartbreaking," and he prides his team on professionalism, compassion, dignity, and respect.

So I ask: When ICE comes to Taylor — as it already has in Elgin, Pflugerville, Bastrop, Austin, and other nearby cities — and asks our officers to assist with actions that lack a judicial warrant or clear due process, what will our police do? Where is the line?

As city council members, we realize you cannot control ICE. But you can control Taylor's finances, policies, priorities, and the rules that guide public safety. In times like this, you can increase fear and mistrust, or you can calm fears and build trust in every neighborhood.

45% of our community is now at risk.

How will you show up when federal pressure collides with local values?

Tonight, I'm asking for one concrete action:

1. A written public statement from city leaders and public safety officials that Taylor leaders do not condone violence, racial profiling or other unlawful tactics by any agency that make residents afraid to seek help — and that you will do everything within your power to protect our residents.

If you cannot make a unified statement, then I ask each of you to post your position individually on the city website. We elect representatives to reflect our values, and we have a right to know where you stand.

We know our community will stand up for our vulnerable neighbors. The question before you tonight is simple: Will you?

Thank you.

One example of the MANY testimonies I heard this week at the Travis County Commissioners Court. This testimony was read to the Commissioners by Ellie, because Maria was too afraid to attend in person.

"I'm here today to read testimony written by my neighbor Maria."

"I'm writing this testimony from the fear and exhaustion that I am experiencing as a result of ICE current actions. The situation has directly affected me and deeply impacted my mental health.

I live with a constant sense of alarm.

I wake up with anxiety and I go to bed with fear.

I think twice before leaving home, before going to work, before doing simple things like buying food or moving through my neighborhood.

The fear of sudden detention or of my family being separated is always present and it will not leave me in peace.

This emotional burden has created anxiety, insomnia and a permanent state of stress for me.

There are days when I feel paralyzed unable to concentrate or to feel at ease.

Living under this constant pressure deteriorates mental health and breaks down little by little one's emotional stability.

No one deserves to live like this.

I'm not a number or a file, I'm a person with feelings, with family, with dreams, and with the right to live with dignity.

Migration is not a crime, and yet these policies make us feel persecuted, unprotected and dehumanized.

I'm sharing my story because it's urgent that you recognize the psychological and human damage that these policies cause.

My fear is real. My pain is real, and it all deserves to be listened to by both you and the sheriff.

Thank you.