The City Council of the City of Taylor met on September 8, 2016, at City Hall, 400 Porter St., Taylor, Texas. Mayor Jesse Ancira declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. with the following present:

Council Member Robert Garcia	Isaac Turner, City Manager
Council Member Christopher Gonzales	Noel Bernal, Assistant City Manager
Council Member Christine Lopez	Ted Hejl, City Attorney
Mayor Pro Tem Brandt Rydell	Susan Brock, City Clerk

INVOCATION

Pastor Jeff Ripple led the group in prayer. Mayor Ancira asked for a moment of silence in memory of the recent passing of Commissioner Ron Morrison.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATION

1. PROCLAMATION: SEPTEMBER 11 PATRIOT DAY.
   Mayor Ancira presented a proclamation to Chief Fluck, his police officers, Assistant Fire Chief Bobby Copeland and his firefighters, and local first responders.

2. PROCLAMATION: FLOOD OF HOPE CHALLENGE, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2016.
   Pastor Ripple invited everyone to accept the challenge and assist local families who have not yet reached full recovery from the devastation caused by the Memorial Day floods of 2015.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATION

Gary Gola expressed his concern with the lack of information being provided to him regarding the collection of the residential Transportation User Fee. Prior to the next speaker, Council Member Lopez recused herself and left the room due to a conflict of interest. Ms. Lauren Teague, 3006 Davis, identified herself as the daughter of the landscaping firm under consideration for a mowing contract and encouraged council members to make a decision tonight and not consider rebidding the contract. Mr. Thomas Martinez, 2804 Greenlawn, expressed his support for the landscaping firm Black Stallion. Council Member Lopez returned to the dais to hear the next speaker. Mr. Mark Groba was allowed to speak by the Mayor without signing up due to his distribution of materials to the council prior to the start of the meeting. He expressed concern regarding the actions taken by the city with respect to the property he owns on 7th street.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. RECEIVE SEMIANNUAL REPORT FROM THE TAYLOR MARKETING PARTNERSHIP.
4. APPROVE ORDINANCE 2016-18 REGARDING ASSIGNMENT PAY FOR FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS.

ORDINANCE 2016-18

AN ORDINANCE CREATING "ASSIGNMENT PAY" FOR CERTAIN ASSIGNMENTS WITHIN THE FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS; "SENIORITY PAY" IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING A REPEALER CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN EXPIRATION DATE FOR THIS ORDINANCE.

5. APPROVE MINUTES FOR AUGUST 25, 2016.
Mayor Pro Tem Rydell moved to approve the consent agenda as presented and Council Member Lopez seconded the motion. VOTE: Five voted AYE. Motion passed.

REGULAR AGENDA: REVIEW/DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION

(The next two items were taken out of order by the Mayor; Council Member Lopez recused herself and left the room for agenda item number 16.)

16. CONSIDER AWARDING BID FOR MOWING SERVICES.
Mr. Bernal presented a request to review the bid process and consider awarding the contract for mowing services. Mr. Bernal reported that 60 vendors where notified, 11 downloaded the packet, and four attended the pre bid conference. While two bids were received, only one met the RFP requirements. After much discussion about the process and the definition of conflict of interest, Mr. Hejl stated that Ms. Lopez had successfully met all the requirements and taken all steps required of her regarding this subject. Mayor Pro Tem Rydell moved to award the bid to Black Stallion and Mayor Ancira seconded the motion. VOTE: Two voted AYE; Two voted NO (Garcia and Gonzales). Motion failed.

(Council Member Lopez rejoined the council dais to continue with the next agenda item.)

17. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION REGARDING THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION INCLUDING THE POSSIBLE REMOVAL OF A BOARD MEMBER.
Citing Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code Mayor Ancira granted a request to adjourn into closed session at 7:41 pm to discuss this matter with city attorney Mr. Hejl. Mayor Ancira and Council returned to open session at 8:16 pm and declared that no action or vote had been taken during the closed meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Rydell moved to table this item and Council Member Gonzales seconded the motion. VOTE: Three voted AYE; two voted NO (Lopez and Ancira). Motion to table passed.

(Mayor Ancira resumed the regular order of the agenda.)

6. APPROVE ORDINANCE 2016-15 ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016/2017 AND TAKE A RECORD VOTE.

Ms. Dennis presented a request to approve an ordinance to adopt the budget as presented and to take a record vote. Council Member Gonzales expressed his concern ~~that he would have liked to seen more funds applied to~~ regarding personnel in the proposed budget. Mayor Pro Tem Rydell moved to adopt Ordinance 2016-15 and stated that this budget will raise more property taxes than last year's budget by $136,953 or 1.9% and of that amount $102,258 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the roll this year. Council Member Lopez seconded the motion and Ms. Brock proceeded with the roll call vote: Council Members Garcia, Lopez, Rydell, and Mayor Ancira voted AYE; Council Member Gonzales voted NO. Four voted AYE; one vote NO. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE 2016-15

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF TAYLOR, TEXAS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2016 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017.

7. APPROVE ORDINANCE 2016-16 FIXING AND LEVYING AD VALOREM TAX RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2016/2017 AND TAKE A RECORD VOTE.

Ms. Dennis presented a request to approve an ordinance to fix the tax rate as presented. Council Member Lopez moved to adopt Ordinance 2016-16 and set the property tax rate at: Maintenance and Operations at $0.599488, Interest and Sinking at $0.204405, with a total tax rate of $0.803893. Council Member Garcia seconded the motion. Ms. Brock proceeded with a roll call vote: Council Members Garcia, Lopez, Gonzales, Rydell, and Mayor Ancira all voted AYE. Five voted AYE. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE 2016-16

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF TAYLOR, TEXAS AND PROVIDING FOR THE INTEREST AND SINKING FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017.

8. APPROVE ORDINANCE 2016-2017 ESTABLISHING FEES FOR CITY SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016/2017.

Ms. Dennis presented a request to amend the current fee schedule to include changes to the airport hangar rates, engineering inspection fees, and utility rates for water and sewer. Council Member Lopez moved to approve Ordinance 2016-17 as presented and Council Member Gonzales seconded the motion. VOTE: Five voted AYE. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE 2016-17

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE NO. 2016-10 ADOPTED ON MAY 26, 2016 BY CHANGING CERTAIN RATES AND OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CITY.

9. CONSIDER APPROVING PROPOSAL FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN OF EDMOND STREET PHASE I.

Mr. Walter Ragsdale, Interim Public Works Director, presented a request to approve an agreement for design services on the Edmond Street Phase I project. Mayor Pro Tem Rydell moved to approve the agreement with Halff and Associates for $139,720 work order #2 as presented and Council Member Garcia seconded the motion. VOTE: Five voted AYE. Motion passed.

10. CONSIDER APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH ALLIANCE GEOTECH FOR INSPECTION AND TESTING SERVICES RELATED TO THE MAIN STREET TRAIL PROJECT.

Mr. Mike DeVito, Recreation Superintendent, presented a request to approve an agreement for inspection and testing services for the Main Street Trail Project funded by TxDOT. Due to the strict requirements of this project, these services are outside the scope of both Sledge and KSA engineering firms. Mr. DeVito stated that this cost was not included in the original budget and will be paid for with remaining unexpended bond funds.

Council Member Gonzales moved to approve the agreement with Alliance Geotech for $61,842 with funds from previous bonds and Council Member Garcia seconded the motion. VOTE: Five voted AYE. Motion passed.

11. RECEIVE UPDATE ON TRANSPORTATION USER FEE APPEALS PROCESS.

Mr. Turner provided an update regarding the appeals process and actions taken during their most recent meetings. He stated the group reviewed 12 appeal requests and that all have been addressed. Mr. Turner stated that the list Mr. Gola is requesting does not exist and he was provided with the latest list of commercial properties earlier this year. Information related to individual residential accounts is not readily available and each account would need to be reviewed for confidentiality issues. The possibility of an audit of accounts was discussed and a suggestion that information be included in the monthly newsletter regarding a customer's right to request their information be kept confidential. Council Member Garcia made a request that the parcel method be readdressed for additional discussion at an upcoming council meeting. Council Member Lopez moved to accept the report as presented and Mayor Pro Tem Rydell seconded the motion. VOTE: Five voted AYE. Motion passed.

12. CONSIDER APPROVING BUDGETS FOR FY 2016/2017 FOR THE TAYLOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE TAYLOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TEDC).

Mr. Turner reminded council that they received the budgets for both entities at their last meeting and now that they have had time to review the details, it was necessary for them to formally approve them. Council Member Gonzales made a request for more detail in the budget provided by Ms. Tia Stone, President, Taylor Chamber of Commerce. Council Member Gonzales moved to receive the Chamber budget and Council Member Garcia seconded the motion. VOTE: Five voted AYE. Motion passed.

Mr. Thomas, President, TEDC, was present to respond to questions from council regarding changes to his proposed budget related to the one from last year. He stated his approach to economic development is different from the previous president and he was able to reduce the costs for contract wages among other things. Mayor Pro Tem Rydell moved to approve the TEDC budget and Council Member Lopez seconded the motion. VOTE: Five voted AYE. Motion passed.

13. CONSIDER APPROVING RESOLUTION R16-26 AUTHORIZING STAFF TO ACCEPT A GRANT IF AWARDED FROM UNION PACIFIC FOUNDATION FOR A SKATE PARK.
Mr. DeVito presented a request to approve a resolution that would allow staff to accept the award if the grant request submitted is successful. The grant was submitted to Union Pacific prior to the August 15, 2016 deadline and is a request for funding for the Downtown Parks Enhancement Project, which includes a skate park.

Council Member Garcia moved to approve Resolution R16-26 as presented and Council Member Gonzales seconded the motion. VOTE: Five voted AYE. Motion passed.

14. RECEIVE UPDATE ON AN ENERGY SAVINGS PERFORMANCE CONTRACT WITH SIEMENS, INC.
Mr. Bernal presented an update on the disposition of securing an energy savings performance contract. A representative from Siemens was present to respond to questions and hopes to bring a contract for their approval before the end of the year.

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

15. RECEIVE UPDATE ON 12TH STREET WASTEWATER EMERGENCY REPAIRS.
Mr. Ragsdale presented an update on repairs to the wastewater line on 12th Street. BSP Engineers developed bid documents for the repairs and six bids were received with the low bid from Whitestone Civil Construction for $295,030. Staff is proceeding with the emergency repairs as planned and the completion of the project is scheduled within 90 to 120 days.

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

(Items 16 and 17 were taken out of order at the beginning of the regular agenda.)

18. CONSIDER PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION.
Mayor Ancira asked council members for any items in need of further discussion. Council Member Gonzales requested a discussion regarding a charter review; Mayor Ancira asked for an update on the hotel prospects.

ADJOURN

With no further action Mayor Ancira declared the meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Jesse Ancira, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan Brock

Susan Brock, City Clerk