The City Council of the City of Taylor met on August 24, 2017, at City Hall, 400 Porter St., Taylor, Texas. Noting the absence of Mayor Pro Tem Christine Lopez and Council Member Chris Gonzales, 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

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

INVOCATION
Chief Pat Ekiss led the group in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

RECOGNITION/PROCLAMATIONS

1. PROCLAMATION: SEPTEMBER 11 IS PATRIOT DAY.
   Mayor Rydell presented a proclamation that was received by Police Chief Henry Fluck and Fire Chief Pat Ekiss recognizing September 11 as Patriot Day in the City of Taylor.

2. PROCLAMATION: SEPTEMBER IS LIBRARY CARD SIGN UP MONTH.
   Mayor Rydell presented a proclamation to Ms. Karen Ellis, Library Director, declaring September as the recognized month to encourage everyone to sign up for a library card.

3. RECOGNITION: FINANCE DEPARTMENT AWARDED CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING FROM THE GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION.
   Mayor Rydell presented a Certificate of Achievement to Ms. Rosemarie Dennis, Finance Director, and her staff. Mayor Rydell noted this is the 9th year the City has received this award.

(Council Member Gonzales joined the meeting at 6:09 pm.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Mayor Rydell read a list of upcoming community events and activities.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATION
Ms. Angela Boehm, 401 E. Rio Grande, expressed a concern with the Taylor Housing Authority management practices. Mr. Joseph Resendez expressed his appreciation to staff and Council for allowing him to serve as an intern with city staff for the past six months.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. CONCUR WITH PRELIMINARY FINANCIALS FOR JULY, 2017.
5. APPROVE MINUTES FOR AUGUST 10, 2017.
   Council Member Ariola moved to approve the consent agenda as presented and Council Member Garcia seconded the motion. VOTE: Four voted AYE. Motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018.
Ms. Rosemarie Dennis, Finance Director, presented an update on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2017/2018. Mayor Rydell opened the public hearing; with no comments, the hearing was closed.

7. CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING FIXING AND LEVYING AD VALOREM TAX RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2017/2018.
Ms. Dennis provided information regarding the proposed tax rate to be set a $0.798 and Mayor Rydell declared the public hearing open; hearing no comments, the hearing was closed and Mayor Rydell announced that a second public hearing will be held on September 7th at 6 pm at City Hall and a vote will be taken on the tax rate on September 14th at 6 pm at the same location.

REGULAR AGENDA: REVIEW/DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION

8. CONSIDER INTRODUCING ORDINANCE 2017-17 ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018.
Ms. Dennis presented the ordinance to adopt the budget for introduction. Council Member Garcia questioned the creation of an ombudsman position as well as the increased fee for the Municipal District Utility System (MDUS). Hearing no further comment or discussion Mr. Hejl introduced the ordinance as presented.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-17

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF TAYLOR, TEXAS, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2017 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018.

9. CONSIDER INTRODUCING ORDINANCE 2017-18 FIXING AND LEVYING THE AD VALOREM TAX RATE FOR TAX YEAR 2017/2018.
Ms. Dennis presented the ordinance fixing and levying the ad valorem tax rate at $0.798. There was no additional comment or discussion on this item and Mayor Rydell stated that a second public hearing will be held on September 7th at 6 pm at City Hall and a vote will be taken on the tax rate on September 14th at 6 pm at the same. Mr. Hejl introduced the ordinance as presented by reading the caption.

ORDINANCE 2017-18

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 2017-18.

10. CONSIDER INTRODUCING ORDINANCE 2017-19 ESTABLISHING FEES FOR CITY SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018.
Ms. Dennis presented a request for council to consider introducing an ordinance that will establish fees for city services for the upcoming fiscal year. She highlighted the change in fees which included an increase in the airport hangar rental rate, a PayPal fee for patrons to use the service to pay library fines; an increase for water and wastewater rates based on the wastewater rate study, and the proposed increase in the MDUS fee by $1.00. Hearing no comments or discussion Mr. Hejl introduced the ordinance as presented.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2016-17 ADOPTED ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2016 BY CHANGING CERTAIN RATES AND OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CITY.

11. CONSIDER INTRODUCING ORDINANCE 2017-20 REGARDING ASSIGNMENT PAY FOR FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS. Chief Fluck and Chief Ekiss presented an update on the need for an ordinance every year to continue to adopt the assignment pay plan for firefighters and police officers. With no additional comments or discussion Mr. Hejl introduced the ordinance as presented.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-20

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.

12. RECEIVE AUDIT FOR TAYLOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.
Mr. Mike Brooks presented an overview of the audit conducted with the Taylor Chamber of Commerce for fiscal year 2016, as required by the Publicity and Tourism Agreement between the Chamber and the City. Mr. Brooks stated that the audit received an unmodified opinion and indicated a high level of assurance. He stated there were four "findings" in need addressing including the use of recognized accounting principles, setting up a two-stage approval process for wire transfers, a change in payroll processing methods, the need to be more prompt in presenting the quarterly reports to the council, and the need to develop an approval process of new vendors. Ms. Tia Stone, President of the Chamber of Commerce, indicated she and her board have already addressed these findings and have adopted the recommended policies presented by Mr. Brooks. Council Member Ariola moved to receive the audit as presented and Council Member Gonzales seconded the motion. VOTE: Four voted AYE; Motion passed.

13. RECEIVE QUARTERLY REPORT FROM THE TAYLOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR APRIL-JUNE, 2017.
Ms. Stone presented a quarterly report for the period April-June, 2017. She highlighted the financials and provided a comprehensive report on the Stomp N Holler festival that was held in June in Heritage Square. Council Member Garcia moved to accept the report as presented and Council Member Ariola seconded the motion. VOTE: Four voted AYE. Motion passed.

14. RECEIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018 FOR TAYLOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.
Ms. Stone presented the proposed budget for the Chamber for fiscal year 2017/2018. A portion of the Hotel /Motel Occupancy Tax received annually by the city is transferred to the Chamber to provide visitor and tourism services. The amount anticipated for the upcoming fiscal year is estimated to be $50,000. No further comments were made and Council Member Garcia moved to receive the budget as presented and Council Member Ariola seconded the motion. VOTE: Four Voted AYE. Motion passed.

15. RECEIVE BUDGET FOR TAYLOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TEDC) FOR 2017/2018 FISCAL YEAR.
Mr. Mark Thomas, President of the TEDC, provided a budget worksheet for fiscal year based on an estimate by Mr. Dennis of a portion of sales tax to be collected which is projected at $1,044.645. Mr. Thomas took this opportunity to remind the public of the various new businesses that have elected to make Taylor their place of business including: Summit Cabinets, Noren Products, the Texas Beer Company, and the Pilot Knob Winery. Council Member Garcia moved to receive the budget as presented and Council Member Ariola seconded the motion. VOTE: Four voted AYE. Motion passed.

16. CONSIDER AWARDING CONTRACT TO T. F. HARPER FOR FANNIE ROBINSON SPRAYGROUND.
Mr. Casey Sledge, consulting engineer, presented an update on the improvements underway at Fannie Robinson Park. He stated that he is seeking the approval of an agreement with T. F. Harper for a Design-Build contract for Robinson Park Splash Pad and Overlook. Staff indicated the project should be completed by the end of the year. Council Member Ariola moved to award the contract for Design-Build to T. F. Harper in the amount not to exceed $170,000 and Council Member Gonzales seconded the motion. VOTE: Four voted AYE. Motion passed.

17. RECAP OF STRATEGIC PLANNING STRATEGIES REGARDING STREETS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE.
Mr. Turner asked for this opportunity to update Council and the Mayor on the commitment to develop an action plan within the next 30-45 days for streets and ground maintenance. Council Member Ariola moved to accept the information as presented and Council Member Garcia seconded the motion. VOTE: Four voted AYE. Motion passed.

18. <u>DISCUSS PARKING IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA.</u>
Ms. Lannen, Main Street Manager, presented an update on the current parking situation in the downtown area. She stated the need for business owners to relocate their own vehicles away from the front entrance of their stores to free up parking spaces for their customers. Based on a staff survey, there are approximately 200 parking spaces in the "downtown shopping" area with only two parking places designated as handicapped parking places. Staff will continue to seek a creative way to manage the parking situation in the downtown area and provide any possible solutions that become available. Council Member Garcia moved to accept the report as presented and Council Member Gonzales seconded the motion. VOTE: Four voted AYE. Motion passed.

19. <u>DISCUSS ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER POSITION.</u>
Council Member Garcia expressed his concern for refilling the Assistant City Manager position before considering if this position might be better utilized somewhere else, more specifically in the parks division. Mayor Rydell expressed his support of refilling the vacant position of ACM and his appreciation to Mr. Turner and the staff for working together and sharing tasks until the position is filled.

20. <u>CONSIDER PROPOSED FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION.</u>
Mayor Rydell asked Council Members for future agenda items. Council Member Garcia had a comment about a recent 911 phone call but agreed to take the item up later with the police department.

(Mayor Rydell presented the certified agenda and entered into council chambers to discuss these items further.

21. <u>EXECUTIVE SESSION I</u>. The Taylor City Council will conduct a closed executive meeting under Section 551.071(1) of the Texas Government Code in order to meet with its 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.
    - Cause No. 15-0119-C26, the City of Taylor, Texas, Plaintiff vs. Mark Groba, Defendant 26th Judicial District Court, Williamson County, Texas
    - Cause No. 1:17-cv-00253-SS, Jacky Jones, Plaintiff vs. City of Taylor, Robert Walla and Joel Graham, Defendants United States District Court, Western District, Austin Division

22. <u>EXECUTIVE SESSION II.</u> The Taylor City Council will conduct a closed executive meeting pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meetings Law, Chapter 551, Texas Local Government Code, and the authority contained in Section 551.074 to discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.
    - Reporting assignments

23. EXECUTIVE SESSION III. The Taylor City Council will conduct a closed executive meeting pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meetings Law, Chapter 551, Texas Local Government Code, and the authority contained in Section 551.087 to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial and/or financial information on a business prospect that the City of Taylor, Texas, seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the City of Taylor, Texas and with the City of Taylor, Texas, is conducting economic development negotiations and/or deliberate the offer of financial or other incentives to the business prospect.
    - Project Bay

24. CONSIDER ACTION FROM EITHER EXECUTIVE SESSION.
Mayor Rydell returned the meeting to open session at 9:57 p.m. (without Mr. Gonzales at the dais) and stated that no action or vote was taken in closed session. Mr. Turner asked the Mayor to bring some of these items back for discussion at a future council meeting.

ADJOURN
With no further action Mayor Rydell declared the meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Brandt Rydell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan Brock

Susan Brock, City Clerk