

City of Taylor
Regular City Council Meeting
Taylor City Hall, Council Chambers, 400 Porter Street
June 24, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Video Conference

In order to assist in maintaining the health of Council Members, staff and the public during COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was held by video conference.

Council Members attending via video: Mayor Brandt Rydell
Council Member Mitch Drummond
Mayor Pro-Tem Gerald Anderson
Council Member Robert Garcia

Others attending: Mark Schroeder, City Attorney
Brian LaBorde, City Manager
Jeff Jenkins, Deputy City Manager
Dianna Barker, City Clerk

Absent: Council Member Dwayne Ariola (joined the meeting at approximately 7:30pm)

Mayor Brandt Rydell conducted a roll call, declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATION

Lori Ashton, Jump-a-Lot Moonwalk – Taylor is only city she knows of that does not ask for insurance when setting up bouncy's in parks. Also, due to possible property acquisition with the space she is a tenant in, she may have to close her business doors.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Approve minutes from the June 10, 2021, regular Council meeting.**
2. **Consider Ordinance 2021-15, creating a no parking zone on Bull Run and repealing no parking zones on Burns Street and Huff Street.**
3. **Consider approving requests for off premise temporary signs for special events.**

Motion was made by Councilmember Drummond to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Anderson. Motion carried 4 to 0 via roll call vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS / ORDINANCES

4. **Introduce Ordinance 2021-18 increasing the Over 65 Property Tax Exemption.**
Jeff Wood, Finance Director - This ordinance will increase the Over 65 ad valorem property tax exemption to \$30,000 from the current amount of \$25,000. Council has expressed the goal of balancing the financial needs of the City with trying to keep Taylor an affordable place to live.

The City Attorney read the caption of the ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-18

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAYLOR, TEXAS; PROVIDING FOR AN ANNUAL EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXATION IN THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$30,000.00) FOR PERSONS WHO ARE SIXTY-FIVE (65) YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER BEGINNING IN TAX YEAR 2021; AND HAVING A REPEALER CLAUSE; AND HAVING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.

This is the first reading. No action was taken.

REGULAR AGENDA; REVIEW/DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION

- 5. Receive presentation regarding the redistricting process based on the 2020 census results and consider possible action as to when to start the process.**

Mark Schroeder, City Attorney - The City has retained the law firm of Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLC to perform the redistricting services.

Gunnar Seaquist - Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado, and Acosta Law Firm – gave a presentation and discussed the redistricting process and requested direction from council on whether the process should be completed for the May 2022 election or the May 2023 election.

Motion was made by Councilmember Garcia to receive the redistricting presentation as presented and to complete the redistricting process prior to the May 2023 election. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Anderson. Motion carried 4 to 0 via roll call vote.

- 6. Introduce the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2022.**

Jeff Wood, Finance Director - presented to Council the FY2022 preliminary budget document and gave a brief overview of the budget.

Motion was made by Councilmember Garcia to receive the FY2022 preliminary budget as presented as a basis for further discussion. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Drummond. Motion carried 4 to 0 via roll call vote.

- 7. Receive Parks & Recreation Master Plan and Maintenance Plan Presentation and consider adoption of the Parks Master Plan along with the Operation and Maintenance Plan.**

Tyler Bybee, Parks & Rec Director - presented the final master plans for Robinson, Bull Branch and Murphy Parks, and the Operation and Maintenance plan from Halff Associates. Council approved a professional services agreement with Halff Associates for Taylor Community Parks Master Plans, O&M Plan and Parkland Dedication Assessment in October 2019.

Brian Binkowski, Halff and Associates – gave a presentation summarizing survey results and recommended improvements to parks. James Hemenes with Halff and Associates gave a presentation on the park's operations and maintenance plan.

Councilmember Ariola joined the meeting at approximately 7:30pm.

Motion was made by Councilmember Garcia to adopt the final master plans for Robinson, Bull Branch and Murphy Parks, and the Operation and Maintenance plan as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Drummond. Motion carried 4 to 0 via roll call vote with Councilmember Ariola abstaining (due to not being present for the presentation).

- 8. Receive State of the Department report for City Management.**

Brian LaBorde, City Manager, and Jeff Jenkins, Deputy City Manager – gave a presentation on the assessment of the Taylor City Management Department to include strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, as well as present priorities to focus on in the coming years.

Motion was made by Councilmember Drummond to receive the state of the City Management department report as presented. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Anderson. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

9. **Consider Ordinance 2021-16, amending Ordinance 2008-40 to authorize city manager or city manager's designee to designate special public event parking areas in municipal parks.** Henry Fluck, Police Chief – this ordinance would allow the city manager or city manager's designee to be authorized to temporarily designate an area within any municipal park where parking is normally prohibited as a special event parking area to accommodate the additional parking needs for the special public event. This is the second reading of the ordinance.

Motion was made by Councilmember Garcia to adopt Ordinance 2021-16 as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Drummond. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Mayor Rydell read the executive session items and adjourned into closed session at 8:16pm.

Executive Session I. 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 which the City of Taylor, Texas, is conducting economic development negotiations and/or deliberate the offer of financial or other incentives to the business prospect.

a. Project Tobe

10. Reconvene into open session and take any action.

Council reconvened into regular/open session at 9:30pm. No action was taken.

ADJOURN

With no further business Mayor Rydell declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30p.m.



Brandt Rydell, Mayor

ATTEST:



Dianna Barker, City Clerk

