

MINUTES
CITY OF HONDO
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

1. Called the meeting to order.
Mayor McAnelly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Quorum check.
Mayor John McAnelly, Mayor Pro Tem Bobby Vela (Arrived at , Council Member Jose “Porky” Ytuarte, Council Member Brett Williams, Council Member Wesley Huesser, Council Member John E. Villa.

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Scott Albert, City Attorney Molly Solis, City Secretary Sue Ann Reyes, IT Network Administrator Josh Rodriguez, IT Support Specialist Adolfo Tellez, Public Information Officer Jamie Kindred, Public Works Director Rene Saenz, Director of Parks and Recreation Lora Socarras, Director of Aviation Ryan Elder, Water Division Superintendent Jeremiah Socarras, Golf Course Superintendent Jerry Busby.

3. Invocation by Pastor Mike Vasquez, First Baptist Church.
4. Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Citizens’/Public Comments: *Persons who desire to address the City of Hondo City Council will be received at this time. Those persons wishing to speak should complete a Public Comment Form and submit it to the City Secretary prior to the meeting. If the speaker wishes to comment on a particular agenda item, then the speaker should indicate such item(s) to on the form. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per speaker. Speakers must conduct themselves in a civil manner. In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the City of Hondo City Council cannot deliberate or take action on items not listed on the meeting agenda)*

Jerry Busby, 805 29th Street, expressed his concern with people blowing their leaves from their yards into the street. He felt this caused wear and tear, drainage issues, runoff issues and they were making it someone else’s problem. When it rained, it clogged everything up. Where there was no curbing, it washed everything into somebody else’s yard. He stated the ordinance talked about brush, shrubs and things falling but not about leaves and he felt that should be addressed in some way, form or fashion.

PRESENTATIONS

6. City Manager’s Report. (Scott Albert)

City Manager Scott Albert wanted to remind the residents that the electric rate increase would go into effect in February and the residents would recognize an increase in their utility bills. He stated for the past seven years, the City of Hondo had been very fortunate to not have to increase the electric rates but would not be able to continue that trend this year. CPS Energy recently increased the City's costs for purchasing wholesale power by approximately 22%, which was a \$1.4 million increase in the City's budget. The City could not afford to absorb the cost. A resident who averaged 1000 kilowatt an hour would see an about an increase of about \$17.27. Senior Citizens on an average of 1000 kilowatts would see an increase of about a \$9.02 to their utility bill.

7. Public Works Report. (Rene Saenz)

Public Works Director Rene Saenz gave a report on open and closed work orders from December 31 to January 15 noting there was one open work order in wastewater on the report, but as of today it was closed. It was a sewer backup and the problem was on the customer's side.

Mr. Saenz reported Avenue O and 31st Street was complete. He stated this was now the new norm for the City of Hondo. Regarding New Fountain Road because of the impending weather expected they would have to stop work. They will come back and chip seal all the way to Avenue M and should finish in the next two weeks. Mr. Saenz reported staff was working on an agreement with the County where the County would supply the labor force and the City would provide the materials.

Councilman Ytuarte confirmed that except for materials this was at no cost to the City. Mr. Saenz stated they were still in negotiations and were working on a plan for which streets to start construction on.

Mr. Saenz stated staff should be starting work on Highway 90 within three to four weeks and would keep Council up to date on the project.

Councilman Ytuarte asked about the installation of underground service to residential homes and if it was the responsibility of the developer. Mr. Saenz stated he would get back to Council regarding the question via email.

Councilman Ytuarte asked where the waterline repair on Avenue V was taking place. Mr. Saenz stated they were trying to come in from Highway 90 all the way to Avenue U. He stated Council had earmarked \$350,000.00 for the project and the engineering itself came out to a little over \$100,000.00 so it left \$250,000.00 and he did not think that was going to be enough. He explained asphalt alone was at \$250,000.00. He stated the project was still ongoing and staff was trying to make sure everything was done correctly. Discussion ensued regarding the budget for the project and Mr. Saenz stated he could rework the numbers and make sure they get as much as they could for the \$300,000.00.

Water Superintendent Jeremiah Socarras stated staff budgeted \$350,000, only for the water line replacement. It was not for streets or sewer. The budgetary numbers were from the city engineer they seemed a little low to him. He stated the way things have moved and the prices changed it was not going to cover it. The original plan was from Highway 90 to 24th Street. Once staff started on the project and got some more information, they realized it was not going to cover it. For \$100,000.00, the engineer was only going to engineer from 22nd Street to 24th Street for \$100,000.00, so it was only half the job. Mr. Socarras stated they would have to put a lot more money in it just to cover the water portion of it. It did not mean staff was going to forget about it, he personally had been working on it for three years and was still trying to get it going.

Councilman Ytuarte asked Mr. Saenz if he could put the numbers together and let Council know how much they would need to get the project done. He did not want it to disappear. Mr. Saenz clarified it included the full street from Highway 90 to 22nd Street. Councilman Ytuarte confirmed.

Councilman Ytuarte asked what the STRTC repairs were. Mr. Saenz stated they put up some letters, painted and did some power washing.

CONSENT AGENDA

8. Discuss and consider approving the minutes from the January 09, 2023 regular meetings.

Council Member Ytuarte made a motion to approve the minutes of January 09, 2023; Seconded by Council Member Williams. The motion carried by the following vote: AYE: Ytuarte, Williams, Huesser, Villa. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Vela.

MISCELLANEOUS

9. Discuss and consider approval authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Freese & Nichols for a drainage study along FM462 (Hospital). (Rene Saenz)

Public Works Director Rene Saenz gave an overview of the agreement for the drainage study along FM462. Mr. Saenz noted the drainage report would help the City with the ponding issue happening in front of the hospital and on 27th Street. , The collect survey to aid in the engineering and reconstruction of 31st, 33rd, and G Streets. It would also help the hospital with proposed detention basins within their property. Staff had been in communication with the hospital administration and they are happy that this work was being done free for them.

Mayor McAnelly clarified study included 31st, 33rd and G only. It did not include 27th

Street. Mr. Saenz confirmed TXDOT would accept the work from Freese & Nichols. Councilman Villa asked if the money was budgeted. Mr. Albert stated the funds would come from the CO's that were issued for the Streets Program.

Council Member Ytuarte made a motion to approve authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Freese & Nichols for a drainage study along FM462; Seconded by Council Member Williams. The motion carried by the following vote: AYE: Ytuarte, Williams, Huesser, Villa. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Vela.

10. Discuss and consider authorizing the Hondo Golf Course to purchase a 2023 Kawasaki 4010 Mule for the golf course. (Jerry Busby)

Golf Superintendent Jerry Busby stated the current mule they had was over 10 years old and in need of several repairs and this was a piece of equipment they use every day at the golf course.

Council Member Ytuarte made a motion to authorize the Hondo Golf Course to purchase a 2023 Kawasaki 4010 Mule for the golf course; Seconded by Council Member Williams. The motion carried by the following vote: AYE: Ytuarte, Williams, Huesser, Villa. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Vela.

11. Discussion and consider proposed revisions to the Recreation Division personnel titles and seasonal lifeguard numbers. (Lora Robbins)

Parks and Recreation Director Lora Robbins gave an overview of the proposed personnel title changes. Ms. Robbins stated she was asking the Program Coordinator Position be changed to Program and Events Coordinator. She stated she currently had two full time rec aides and three part time rec aides and was requesting one of the full time rec aid positions be retitled to Athletics Coordinator. Another change was the title of Recreation Assistant Manager to Recreation Manager to be over the whole Recreation Division.

Mayor McAnelly asked if the positions were still nonexempt employees that would be paid overtime if necessary and if any of the title changes would change their positions or pay grades. Ms. Robbins stated only the Recreation Manager would go from a nonexempt employee to an exempt employee position. Discussion ensued regarding the employees in the current positions and roles.

Council Member Williams made a motion accept the revisions to the Recreation Division personnel titles and seasonal lifeguard numbers; Seconded by Council Member Williams. The motion carried by the following vote: AYE: Ytuarte, Williams, Huesser, Villa. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Vela.

12. Discuss and consider possible action regarding the City of Hondo Swimming Pool Facility Maintenance Project Proposal. (Lora Robbins)

Director of Parks and Recreation Lora Robbins presented the City of Hondo Swimming Pool Facility Maintenance Project Proposal on file. Ms. Robbins noted the proposal was presented to the Economic Development Corporation and the board recommended approval of EDC funds for the project for \$146,766.40.

Councilman Ytuarte asked why staff could not any of the repairs in house. Mr. Albert stated he would sit down with staff and see if there were any items on the list that could be done in house.

Council Member Villa made a motion approve the expenditure of the EDC funds in an amount not to exceed \$146,766.40 to fund necessary maintenance projects for the City of Hondo Swimming Pool Facility.; Seconded by Council Member Williams. The motion carried by the following vote: AYE: Ytuarte, Williams, Huesser, Villa. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Vela.

13. Discussion and consider possible action regarding Recreation Center Maintenance Project Proposal. (Lora Robbins)

Director of Parks and Recreation Lora Robbins gave an overview of the Recreation Center Maintenance Project Proposal on file. Ms. Robbins noted if approved the change in roof color would be Harbor Blue which was the same color used by Hondo ISD.

Councilman Ytuarte asked about the monies received from the insurance for the roof. Ms. Robbins stated the roof would be paid by the insurance monies and was not included in the current project amount.

Council Member Ytuarte made a motion approve the expenditure of the EDC funds in an amount not to exceed \$207,237.92 for the Recreation Center Maintenance Project; Seconded by Council Member Williams. The motion carried by the following vote: AYE: Ytuarte, Williams, Huesser, Villa. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Vela.

Councilman Vela arrived at 7:01 p.m.

14. Discuss and consider setting up the South Texas Regional Airport as an official Hertz location for rental vehicles and authorizing the City Manager to execute the requested Supplier Information Form to the Hertz Corporation. (Ryan Elder)

Director of Aviation Ryan Elder gave an overview of the possibility of allowing the airport to be a satellite location to allow Hertz to supply pilots and passengers with rental vehicles. Mr. Elder stated at this time the City would only be filling out the supplier form to allow the City to be in the system as a Hertz location for vehicles.

During the interim time, through quarter one and two, Hertz would be using the time to establish some data and look into supplying permanent on sight vehicles for the public and possibly establishing an EV Charging station at no cost to the City.

Councilman Williams asked if Hertz would be offering a 5% commission back on all rentals and Mr. Elder stated yes that would start as soon as the supplier information form was submitted.

Council Member Ytuarte made a motion to authorize the City Manager to execute the requested supplier information form to Hertz in order to establish the South Texas Regional Airport as an official location in the Hertz system; Seconded by Council Member Villa. The motion carried by the following vote: AYE: Ytuarte, Vela, Williams, Huesser, Villa. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None.

15. Discuss and consider action regarding cemetery headstone issues from citizens requesting changes. (Councilmen Ytuarte and Villa)

Councilman Ytuarte stated he had been asked several times about the rules that did not allow stand up headstones. He stated he felt the Cemetery Board made a decision based on their needs and did not take into consideration the rest of the community. He agreed with the citizens. Councilman Villa stated he did not see how the City could dictate what kind of headstone citizens could put on their loved ones plots.

Councilman Ytuarte stated his motion was going to allow the citizens to get a stand up headstone if they want it. Mayor McAnelly stated the Cemetery Board did consider Council's questions. He stated their intent was to begin to have it look like a new cemetery and have everything flush. He stated the board took an actual action as a board to leave it as is.

Councilman Williams stated citizens should be able to have stand up headstone and did not understand why they were not allowed.

Florestella Gonzales, City of Hondo citizen, stated she believed if she was born here, raised here and will be buried here she should have the right to say what stone she wanted. It should not be pushed on somebody what that should be. It should be a choice. If you are going to pay for it, it should be our right to pick what you want.

Discussion ensued regarding height restrictions on the old section of the cemetery. Councilman Huesser stated he felt there needed to be height restrictions.

Council Member Villa made a motion to update the existing ordinance to allow for stand up headstones in the new section of the cemetery on the south side; Seconded by Council Member Huesser. The motion carried by the following vote: AYE:

Ytuarte, Vela, Williams, Huesser, Villa. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None.

16. Discussion on city owned vehicles, trailers, and heavy equipment. (Councilmen Ytuarte and Vela)

Councilman Ytuarte stated he requested the listing to discuss equipment owned by the City and how it was being utilized. He stated some of the equipment Council had discussed was still on the list and it had not been sold.

Mr. Saenz stated he was going to ask another trailer to move the paver. He explained how the paver was being moved on to the trailer and presented pictures. He stated staff did not use the trailer because it was not wide enough for the paver.

Councilman Williams stated if Mr. Saenz needed a trailer staff should come forth with a budget amendment. He felt staff needed to be monitoring their fleet but did not feel they needed to go through the list to see what kind of trailer staff needed. Mr. Albert stated staff did have a fixed asset list. Councilman Vela stated staff should go through all the equipment and make sure that they had the right trailers for the right equipment and then forecast it out for budget so that they could get the right equipment needed.

Discussion ensued regarding buying the right equipment to be utilized for each department.

The City Council of the City of Hondo convened into executive session at 7:28 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

17. Executive Session: The City Council of the City of Hondo may convene in Executive Session in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code:

Section 551.071(1) (A) and (2) (Consultations with Attorney) and Section 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters), Section 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), or Section 551.087 (Deliberations Regarding Economic Development Negotiations); Section 551.086 (Meeting concerning municipally owned utility-competitive matters);

- a. Discussion regarding airport water rights. (Ryan Elder)
- b. Discussion regarding the first amendment to the Master Service Agreement with Aqua Metric for AMI water meters. (Victoria Thomas & Scott Albert)
- c. Discussion regarding a forensic audit concerning the various employees who received pay adjustments and title changes during the tenure of Interim City Manager Brian Valenzuela. (Alan Nelson & Victoria Thomas)
- d. Discussion regarding positions in the electric division. (Victoria Thomas)

- and Scott Albert)
- e. Discussion regarding the HR/Payroll Director position. (Victoria Thomas and Scott Albert)

The City Council of the City of Hondo reconvened into regular session at 10:50 p.m.

18. Discuss and consider appropriate action on items resulting from Executive Session.

No Action

19. Adjourn.

Council Member Villa made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Council Member Vela. The motion carried by the following vote: AYE: Ytuarte, Vela, Williams, Huesser, Villa. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023.

JOHN McANELLY, JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

SueAnn Reyes, TRMC
City Secretary