

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

1. Called meeting to order.
Mayor McAnelly called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. Quorum check.
Mayor John McAnelly, Mayor Pro Tem Jose “Porky” Ytuarte, Council Member Brett Williams, Council Member Bobby Vela, Council Member Rachel Ramirez, Council Member John E. Villa.

Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Manager John Naron, City Attorney Molly Solis, Admin Assistant to City Manager Stephanie Velasquez, IT Network Administrator Josh Rodriguez, Police Chief Justin Soza (Remote), Lieutenant AJ Garza, Director of Public Works Rene Saenz, Water Superintendent Jeremiah Socarras, Director of Public Information and Recreation Jamie Kindred, Human Resources Manager Michele Thacker, Director of Aviation Ryan Elder, HEDC Executive Director Doug Dowler.

3. Invocation by Steve Peyton, New Fountain Methodist 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.

Mr. Chavel Lopez expressed his concerns on the payscale. He stated he urges the Council to look into a particular step system regarding the pay wages.

PRESENTATIONS

6. City Manager’s Report (John Naron)

City manager John Naron gave a brief recap over the events from the past two weeks. He looks forward to expanding these events and attracting more people from surrounding cities. Also discussed about the water tower, Rene Saenz is helping the school with this project. He stated in about 6 months or less the water tower would have lights celebrating school wins in Hondo Blue.

7. Public Works Report (Rene Saenz)

Public Works Director Rene Saenz stated he had only one item to report and would allow his superintendent of water Jeremiah Socarras to present and explain to the council of water forecast.

Jeremiah Socarras reported 2645 acre feet of water that the City of Hondo can use between January and September 30. The first nine months, the San Antonio pools experienced stage two restriction's for 44 days stage three restrictions for 157 days and stage four for 88 days. The City has pumped 1534 acre feet of water, it is about 9% decrease, which Mr. Socarras stated was actually good. He does think that they will need to tap into airport and lease the water rights to meet their numbers. They normally average about 2000 to 2100 acre feet a year. Councilman Ytuarte asked about 16 work orders that belong to water department. Jeremiah stated they are behind on work orders but they are getting to them.

CONSENT

Council Member Vela motioned to table item number 12 and 13 to discuss and consider approving the 2023 Payscale updating the pay schedule for pay rate and job titles. Second by Council Member Williams. The motion carried by the following vote: AYE: Vela, Williams, Ramirez. NAY: Villa. ABSENT: NONE

Item Number 12 consider amending the Economic Development Commission budget referencing the newly created Director of Marketing, Business Retention and Expansion, and Recruitment position. (Councilmember Ytuarte & Councilmember Vela). Pulled from the consent agenda

Item number 13 Discuss and Consider awarding the sale of 100.763 acres of Airport Property associated with RFB 002-23 (Ryan Elder). Pulled from the consent agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

8. Director of Aviation Ryan Elder presented the FY-23-24 RAMP grant. Grant was changed from a 50/50 match grant to a 90/10.

Council Member Villa motioned to approve RAMP grant. Seconded by Council Member Vela. The motion carried by the following vote: AYE: Villa, Vela, Ramirez, Ytuarte, Williams,. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: NONE. ABSENT: None.

9. Discuss and reconsider previously adopted Economic Development Commission budget previously approved by the City of Hondo on September 11, 2023. Council Member Ytuarte and Council Member Vela request to amend the Economic Development Commission budget regarding the newly created Director of Marketing Business Retention and Expansion recruitment position.

City Attorney Molly Soliz stated motion would be to reconsider it. If we're not reconsidering it, because we're going to leave it approved, then it would be direction to the city manager and HR to not fill the position for a certain duration of time until it can be evaluated and work with the EDC to restructure the title and job duties. Perfect. So it would be direction given to city staff.

The City Council of the City of Hondo convened into executive session at 6:33 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. 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 on the reassignment of a Hondo PD employee to the San Antonio Task Force. (Chief Soza)
 - b. Discussion with Hondo Railway regarding Gladiator project (John Naron)
 - c. Discussion with the City Attorney (Molly Soliz) regarding SRO contract update (John Naron)

The City Council of the City of Hondo reconvened into regular session at 7:57 p.m.

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

Council Member Vela motion to allow the chief of police to enter into a state and local task force agreement with the United States Department of Justice, drug force administration, Drug Enforcement Administration: seconded by Council Member Villa. The motion carried by the following vote: AYE: Council Member Ytuarte, Council Member Williams, and Council Member Ramirez. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None

Council Member Villa motion to authorize the City Manager a letter of intent to support brand application for Hondo Railway expansion project. Seconded by Council Member Ramirez. The motion carried by the following vote: AYE: Council Member Ytuarte, Council Member Williams, and Council Member Vela. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None

12. Adjourn

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

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2023

JOHN McANELLY JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

City Secretary/Admin

