

MINUTES OF THE
HENDERSON CITY COUNCIL
Regular Scheduled Meeting

June 18, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: *The Mayor will call the meeting to order, declare a quorum if present, and declare notices legally posted pursuant to Open Meetings Act.*

Mayor Fullen called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Council members present were Stephen Strong, Reggie Weatherton, Henry Pace, and Gina Juarez. Melissa Morton was unable to attend.

Staff members present were City Manager Jay Abercrombie, City Secretary Cheryl Jimerson, Chief of Police Chad Taylor, Fire Chief Sonny Ybarra, Director of Operations Davis Brown, Director of Public Services Kirk Kimbrell, Director of Utilities Randy Boyd, Planning and Zoning Administrator/Building Official Dennis Williams, Finance Director Karen Arnall, Animal Center Director Charissa Pool, Civic Center Manager Stephanie Kimbrell, Community Development Manager/Building Official Cliff McElfresh, Admin Assistant Supervisor/Accounts Payable/Purchasing Coordinator/Cemetery Laura Farquhar, Communications and Marketing Coordinator Phedra Johnson, and HEDCO Director John Clary.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council Member Reggie Weatherton gave the invocation, Mayor Buzz Fullen led the pledges.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizens' comments.

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Fullen acknowledged Cason Weatherton, stating that we were here this time last year acknowledging Cason's State Championship win. Here we are again, two years in a row! Congratulations Cason. What is your next step, asked Mayor Fullen? Cason said he would continue with UIL State Track and Field programs. Mayor Fullen asked Council member Reggie Weatherton if he had anything he would like to add to the acknowledgment of his grandson's accomplishments.

Council Member Reggie Weatherton said he was very thankful. The day Cason was born, nobody knew that someday this could happen. I do remember giving Cason's mother a big solid glass rock telling her to remember that "There is nothing too hard for God!"

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consideration and possible action upon the minutes of the regular scheduled Council meeting on May 21, 2024.

2. Consideration and possible action upon HEDCO financials for the month of April 2024. (Clary)

3. Consideration and possible action upon street closures for the Freedom Fest to be held on July 6, 2024.

Council Member Gina Juarez made a motion to approve the consent agenda, duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

COUNCIL BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION

4. Consideration and possible action upon a recommendation from the Cemetery Board appointing Neva Hand as a member of the Cemetery Board. (K.Kimbrell)

Public Services Director Kirk Kimbrell stated, the cemetery board met in May with an application submitted for a new board member. The board considered the application and made a recommendation for the City Council to approve Neva Hand as a new member.

Council Member Gina Juarez made a motion approving the Cemetery Board's recommendation to add Neva Hand as a new board member, duly seconded by Council Member Henry Pace. The vote was unanimous.

5. Consideration and possible action upon Resolution 2024-06-01 setting two public hearing dates of July 9th and August 6th, 2024 upon a voluntary annexation application for Good Shepherd Medical Center to be located in the 1700 Block of State HWY 259. (Jimerson)

Council Member Reggie Weatherton made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-06-01 setting two public hearing dates for July 9 and August 6, 2024 upon the voluntary annexation of the Christus Good Shepard Medical Center, duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

6. Consideration upon the first reading of Ordinance 2024-06-01 renaming Emma Street to Roquemore Street authorizing an ordinance to be put in place for the name change. (Jimerson)

Council had no questions or comments on the first reading of Ordinance 2024-06-01 renaming Emma Street to Roquemore Street.

7. Consideration and possible action upon the second reading of Ordinance 2024-05-01 on the proposed annexation for parts of TXDOT ROW on Loop 571, State Highway 323 and FM 2276. (Jimerson)

City Secretary Cheryl Jimerson stated there were no changes needed to this ordinance from the first reading.

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion approving Ordinance 2024-05-01 annexation of parts of the TXDOT ROW on Loop 571, State Highway 323, and FM 2276, duly seconded by Council Member Reggie Weatherton. The vote was unanimous.

8. Consideration and possible action upon the second reading of Ordinance 2024-05-02 on the proposed annexation of the Jim Allen Estate owned by HEDCO located on the corner of Loop 571 and FM 2276. (Jimerson)

City Secretary Cheryl Jimerson stated there were no changes needed to this ordinance from the first reading.

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion approving Ordinance 2024-05-02 for the voluntary annexation of the Jim Allen Estate located on the corner of Loop 571 and FM 2276, duly seconded by Council Member Gina Juarez. The vote was unanimous.

9. Consideration and possible action upon the second reading of Ordinance 2024-05-03 on the proposed annexation of the East Texas Regional Business Park owned by HEDCO located on the corner of loop 571 and between State Highway 323 and FM 2276. (Jimerson)

City Secretary Cheryl Jimerson stated there were no changes needed to this ordinance from the first reading.

Council Member Reggie Weatherton made a motion approving Ordinance 2024-05-03 on the voluntary annexation of the East Texas Regional Business Park located on Loop 571, State Highway. 323 and FM 2276, duly seconded by Council Member Henry Pace. The vote was unanimous.

10. Consideration and possible action upon the second reading of Ordinance 2024-05-04 amending chapter 4 of the Code of Ordinances enforcing Sex Offenders residency restrictions. (Taylor)

Chief Police Chad Taylor stated this will be another law enforcement tool to help keep children safe.

Council Member Gina Juarez made a motion approving Ordinance 2024-05-04 enforcing Sex Offenders Residency restrictions, duly seconded by Council Member Henry Pace. The vote was unanimous.

11. Consideration and possible action upon the second reading of Ordinance 2024-05-05 changing the zoning from R1 a Residential Zone, to IS an Institutional Zone for the Rusk County Emergency Services District located at 1515 Whippoorwill. (Williams)

Council Member Reggie Weatherton made a motion approving Ordinance 2024-05-05 for the Residential Zone to be changed to an Institutional Zone for the Rusk County Emergency Services District, duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

12. Consideration and possible action moving the Regular Council meeting from July 16th to July 9th, 2024. (Jimerson/Abercrombie)

The City Manager stated the changing the council meeting dates are mostly budget related and that he would be out of town on the 16th.

Council Member Gina Juarez made a motion to approve changing the meeting dates, duly seconded by Council Member Reggie Weathrton. The vote was unanimous.

13. Consideration and possible action calling for Regularly Scheduled Council meetings to be held August 6th, September 3rd and September 10th, 2024. (Abercrombie)

City Manager Jay Abercrombie stated this is due to the budget calendar.

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion to approve calling for regular rescheduled meetings, duly seconded by Council Member Henry Pace. The vote was unanimous.

14. Consideration and possible action upon calling for two public hearings on the 2024-2025 proposed budget and proposed tax rate to be held August 20th and September 3rd, 2024. (Abercrombie)

City Manager Jay Abercrombie stated this is due to the budget calendar deadlines and requirements.

Council Member Gina Juarez made a motion approving public hearing dates, duly seconded by Council Member Reggie Weatherton. The vote was unanimous.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

15. The City Council may deliberate and make inquiry into any item listed in the Departmental Reports.

A. City Manager

B. Fire Department

C. Police Department

D. Animal Center

E. Community Development

F. Public Services/Parks and Recreation Department

G. Public Utilities

H. Finance Department

I. City Secretary

J. Communications and Marketing

K. HEDCO Sales Tax Revenue April 2024

L. Director of Operations Departmental Reports below.

Civic Center

Main Street/Tourism

May 2024 Monthly Report

Municipal Court

Council Member Reggie Weatherton asked for the scope of work on the next street project. Director of Operations Davis Brown stated the City Engineer should have it ready within the next month. Council Member Weatherton also asked for more code enforcement within his neighborhood and had complaints about trees that have fallen.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Board of Adjustments Minutes

Planning and Zoning Minutes

Cemetery Board Meeting Summary of Discussion of May 29, 2024

Main Street Meeting Minutes

Preservation Minutes

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

REGULAR SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT

16. Adjourn

Council Member Reggie Weatherton made a motion to adjourn at 6:27 p.m., duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

ATTEST:


Cheryl Jimerson, City Secretary

APPROVED:


John Fullen, Mayor