

MINUTES OF THE
HENDERSON CITY COUNCIL
Regular Scheduled Meeting

July 9, 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, Melissa Morton, and Gina Juarez.

Staff members present were City Manager Jay Abercrombie, City Secretary Cheryl Jimerson, Chief of Police Chad Taylor, Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Stoddard, Director of Operations Davis Brown, Director of Public Services Kirk Kimbrell, Director of Utilities Randy Boyd, Director of Infrastructure and Delivery David Hortman, Community Development Manager/Building Official Cliff McElfresh, Planning and Zoning Administrator/Building Official Dennis Williams, Finance Director Karen Arnall, Animal Center Director Charissa Pool, Civic Center Manager Stephanie Kimbrell, Communications and Marketing Coordinator Phedra Johnson, and HEDCO Director John Clary.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council Member Henry Pace gave the invocation, Mayor Buzz Fullen led the pledges.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizens' comments.

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. UT Tyler Health School of Medicine to provide information on free breast mammograms and free cervical education.

Tracy Turner and Angelique Ramos of the University of Texas at Tyler made a presentation on free Breast Mammograms and free Cervical awareness education. This service is for all of Rusk County residents.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Consideration of possible action upon the minutes of the regular scheduled meeting on June 18, 2024. (Jimerson)

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

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

COUNCIL BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION

4. Consideration and possible action upon the emergency repair of the Sabine River Raw Water line for Henderson and Kilgore located on HWY 31. (Hortman)

Director of Utility and Infrastructure Delivery David Hortman stated, on Tuesday, July 2nd, Jay, Randy, John Wright (with John Wright Construction), and I met with the City of Kilgore to discuss an emergency repair of the shared 24" raw water supply line between Kilgore and Henderson. After discussion, it was determined that the necessary repairs would cost \$173,354. The City of Henderson will be responsible for 50% of that cost (\$86,677), and the repair will take an estimated two weeks to complete. This water line supplies the surface water plant for Henderson residents.

Council Member Reggie Weatherton made a motion to approve the raw water line bid of \$173,354, duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

5. Consideration and possible action appointing Chief Sonny Ybarra as City Fire Marshal and Assistant Chief Jeff Stoddard as Assistant City Fire Marshal.

City Manager Jay Abercrombie stated Sonny and Jeff have both completed the Fire Marshal certification program, with Sonny Ybarra being appointed City Fire Marshal and Jeff Stoddard being appointed Assistant Fire Marshal.

Council Member Melissa Morton made a motion to approve Sonny as City Fire Marshal and Jeff as Assistant City Fire Marshal, duly seconded by Council Member Gina Juarez. The vote was unanimous.

6. Consideration and possible action upon amending Resolution 2024-06-01 making it Resolution 2024-06-01A changing the two public hearing dates from July 9 and August 6, 2024, to August 6 and August 20, 2024, for the voluntary annexation application for Good Shepherd Medical Center to be located in the 1700 Block of U.S. HWY 259 S. (Jimerson)

Council Member Gina Juarez made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-06-01A changing the two public hearing dates on the proposed voluntary annexation of Christus Good Shepherd Medical Center, duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton. The vote was unanimous.

7. Consideration and possible action upon the second reading of Ordinance 2024-06-01 renaming Emma Street to Roquemore Street. (Jimerson)

Council Member Reggie Weatherton made a motion approving Ordinance 2024-06-01 to change the street's name to Roquemore from Emma Street, duly seconded by Council Member Henry Pace. The vote was unanimous.

8. Consideration and possible action upon the appointment of a search committee and selection process on the appointment of a HEDCO Executive Director. (Mayor)

Mayor (Buzz) Fullen made a recommendation upon the appointments of HEDCO Board members Brian Ballard, Michael Bell, and Michael Marshall to be members of the Interview Committee on the applications submitted for the Director of HEDCO. Mayor Fullen also nominated himself and Mayor Protem Henry Pace as part of this five-member committee.

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion to approve all individuals listed as the Interview Committee for the next HEDCO Director, duly seconded by Council Member Gina Juarez. The vote was unanimous.

9. Consideration and possible action upon Resolution 2024-07-01 entering into the 2024 Joint November Election Services Contract with the Rusk County Election Administrator as the County Election Officer. (Jimerson)

City Secretary Cheryl Jimerson recommenced the City Council approve Rusk County Election's to administer the November Municipal Election.

Council Member Gina Juarez made a motion to approve the November election to be administered by Rusk County, duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton. The vote was unanimous.

10. Consideration and possible action upon Resolution 2024-07-02 updating the Master Fee Schedule, changing rates for the Civic Center and Syrup Festival. (S.Kimbrell)

Civic Center Manager Stephanie Kimbrell stated the rates on the Civic Center Hall are unlike the rates of other Civic Centers, so the rate increases will put the City of Henderson in line with other facilities of our size. The Syrup Festival rates have not been increased since 2013, so it is time to adjust these rates as well. Stephanie asked if the Council members had any questions. If so, she would be happy to answer them.

Mayor Fullen said he had no questions, but he had seen that the Civic Center had been very busy. Stephanie answered, yes sir, there are only two Saturdays left this year that have not been booked. One in November and one in December. There were no other questions or comments.

Council Member Reggie Weatherton made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-07-02 updating the Master Fee Schedule, duly seconded by Council Member Henry Pace. The vote was unanimous.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

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

Mayor Fullen commented on how the City of Henderson was at a stand-still phase for quite a few years, and then the HEDCO Director, John Clary was hired about six years ago. John's time with the City has been very productive, and we wish him well during his retirement, which is scheduled to begin October 1, 2024.

A. City Manager

The City Manager, Jay Abercrombie, wanted to say that the Freedom Festival went very well. He commended all the employees involved with making it a great success. He also stated the city fared well with the severe weather yesterday.

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 May 2024

L. Director of Operations Departmental Reports below.

Civic Center

Main Street/Tourism

Municipal Court

The council had no questions or comments on the monthly reports.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Board of Adjustments draft minutes of June 11, 2024 meeting.

Planning and Zoning Minutes

Cemetery Board Meeting Minutes

Main Street Meeting Minutes

Preservation Minutes

There were no Council had no questions or comments on the Board meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

REGULAR SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT

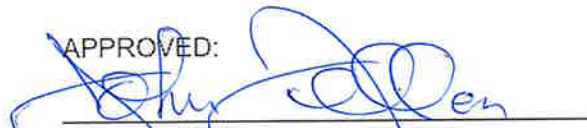
12. Adjourn

Council Member Melissa Morton made a motion to adjourn at 6:46 p.m., duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

ATTEST:


Cheryl Jimerson, City Secretary

APPROVED:


John Fullen, Mayor