

MINUTES OF THE
HENDERSON CITY COUNCIL
Regular Scheduled Meeting

August 20, 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 and Acting Planning and Zoning Administrator Cheryl Jimerson, City Attorney Russell Brown, 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, Director of Utility and Infrastructure and Delivery David Hortman, Building Official Dennis Williams, Community Development Manager/Building Official Cliff McElfresh, Finance Director Karen Arnall, Civic Center Manager Stephanie Kimbrell, Executive Leadership Assistant/HR Specialist Hillary Faulkner, 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

Brian Ballard, President of the HEDCO Board, updated the Council on going through the process of hiring a HEDCO Director. There was a salary survey done to be able to advertise for an educated and experienced Economic Development Director. The results came to light that the City of Henderson was way below other cities in the management salaries. Brian stated he was very pleased with the 2024-2025 proposed budget Jay and staff presented to the council with a recommendation to the Council to consider a minimum adjustment of \$25,000 to the City Managers' salary, bringing it in line with other East Texas cities with the same population range as Henderson.

Michael Bell, Vice President of the HEDCO Board, stated he has very similar comments as Brian did about the salary survey. The City of Henderson is very fortunate to have Jay Abercrombie as the City Manager.

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no presentations.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consideration and possible action upon the minutes of the meeting held August 6, 2024. (Jimerson)
2. 2.Consideration and possible action upon the 9th Annual Run/Walk and Easter Egg Hunt at Lake Forest Park April 12, 2025. (Taylor/Ybarra)

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

3. Open a public hearing on the proposed tax rate to be the same as the previous year of .541799 per \$100.00 valuation on each assessment to be based upon 100% of its appraised value. (Abercrombie/Arnall)
Mayor Fullen opened a public hearing on the proposed tax rate of .541799 for the 2025 property tax rate.

City Manager Jay Abercrombie stated there are no changes to the proposed tax rate, it will stay the same as we currently are.

4. Consideration and possible action upon closing the public hearing. (Mayor)

Council Member Reggie Weatheron made a motion to close the public hearing, duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton. The vote was unanimous.

5. Open a public hearing on the proposed 2024-2025 budget. (Abercrombie/Arnall)

Mayor Fullen opened a public hearing on the proposed 2024-2025 budget.

City Manager Jay Abercrombie stated that after receiving the official numbers from the Appraisal District there was some money to disperse. There were a few lines to balance with the remainder of it going into the General Construction Fund for projects.

6. Consideration and possible action upon closing the public hearing. (Mayor)

Council Member Henry Pace made a motion to close the public hearing, duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

7. Open the second public hearing on the Voluntary Annexation for Christus Good Shepard Medical Center to be located in the 1700 block of U.S. HWY 259 S. (Jimerson)

Mayor Fullen opened a public hearing on the annexation of the Christus Good Shepard Medical Center located in the 1700 block of U.S. HWY 259 S.

The City Secretary stated there have been no changes to the voluntary annexation as listed.

8. Consideration and possible action upon closing the public hearing. (Mayor)

Council Member Reggie Weatheron made a motion to close the public hearing, duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

9. Consideration upon the first reading of Ordinance 2024-08-01 for the Voluntary Annexation of Christus Good Shepard Medical Center located in the 1700 block of U.S. Hwy 259. (Jimerson)

Council had no questions or comments on the first reading of Ordinance 2024-08-01.

10. Consideration upon the first reading of Ordinance 2024-08-02 for the Planned Development Standards and Covenants of the East Texas Regional Business Park located on Loop 571, FM 2276 and SH 323. (Jimerson)

Council had no questions or comments on the first reading of Ordinance 2024-08-02.

11. Consideration upon the first reading of Ordinance 2024-08-03 that includes adopting a repeated non-retroactive 70% COLA and the re-adoption of repeated 100% Updated Service Credit with transfers, both effective Jan 1, 2025. (Abercrombie/Faulkner)

Executive Leadership Assistant/HR Specialist Hillary Faulkner explained the change would be removing the 3-year average of the retirees' salary that could be drawn monthly, to what the existing 1-year salary was.

Council had no questions or comments on the first reading of Ordinance 2024-08-03.

12. Consideration and possible action upon a health insurance provider for city employees' health benefits. (Abercrombie/Faulkner)

Executive Leadership Assistant/HR Specialist Hillary Faulkner explained to the Council it was time to go out for bids on the health Insurance plan the city offers to the employees and dependents. Blue Cross Blue Shield offered a discount to go directly through them instead of under the umbrella provided last year through Texas Health.

Council Member Melissa Morton made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 health benefit plan through BCBS, duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

13. Consideration and possible action upon approving a recommendation from the Main Street/Preservation Board selecting Ben Patterson as a new member on both the Main Street and the Historical Preservation Board. (S. Kimbrell)

Civic Center Manager Stephanie Kimbrell explained to the council that there was an open seat on the Main Street/Preservation Board due to Brant Bain's resignation in July. There were individual interviews and the Main Street/Preservation Board's interview with Ben Patterson. The Board is making a recommendation for the City Council to appoint Ben as the new member of said Board.

Council Member Reggie Weatherton made a motion to approve Ben Patterson to the Main Street/Preservation Boards, duly seconded by Council Member Henry Pace. The vote was unanimous.

14. Consideration and possible action upon a Minor Plat for Dervy's Addition located on Fair Park Drive dividing Lot 8 Block 1134 into two lots, adding Lot 8A to Block 1134. (Jimerson)

City Secretary and Acting Planning and Zoning Administrator Cheryl Jimerson recommended to the City Council approving a minor plat submitted by Mr. Dervys Morales Alfonso subdividing lot 8 Block 1134 into two lots to be known as lot 8 and 8A of Block 1134. Lot 8A will be sold to United Ag and Turf with future plans by Mr. Alfonso to build a home on Lot 8 if approved.

Council Member Henry Pace made a motion to approve the Dervys minor plat, duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton. The vote was unanimous.

15. Consideration and possible action upon a Minor Plat for Miguel Arellano combining lots 31, 32, and 33 into one lot located in the Maddox Addition on Shawnee Street. (Jimerson)

City Secretary and Acting Planning and Zoning Administrator Cheryl Jimerson recommended to the City Council approving a minor plat submitted by Miguel Arellano combining lots 31, 32, and 33 into one lot in the Maddox Addition on Shawnee Street. Mr. Miguel has plans to build a home on the lot if approved.

Council Member Reggie Weatherton made a motion to approve Miguel Arellan, duly seconded by Council Member Gina Juarez. The vote was unanimous.

16. Consideration and possible action upon a final plat of the Henderson Soccer Association Subdivision located at 1365 FM 782 being a re-plat of block 655 Lots 4 and 5 of the Panel Truss Addition Unit One. (Jimerson)

City Secretary and Acting Planning and Zoning Administrator Cheryl Jimerson recommended approval of a Final Plat submitted by the Henderson Soccer Association to the City Council. They are requesting to subdivide a 41 acre lot into 3 lots in Block 655 of the Panel Truss Addition Unit One located at 1365 FM 782.

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion to approve the final plat, duly seconded by Council Member Reggie Weatherton. The vote was unanimous.

17. Consideration and possible action upon HEDCO Program of Work for fiscal year 2024-2025. (Clary)

The HEDCO Director, John Clary, asked for this item to be tabled due to changes that need to be made at the next HEDCO Board meeting.

Council Member Reggie Weatherton made a motion to table this item, duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

18. Consideration and possible action upon HEDCO Budget for fiscal year 2024-2025. (Clary)

The HEDCO Director, John Clary, asked for this item to be tabled due to changes that need to be made at the next HEDCO Board meeting.

Council Member Reggie Weatherton made a motion to table this item, duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

19. Consideration and possible action upon HEDCO Budget Amendments for fiscal year 2023-2024. (Clary)

The HEDCO Director, John Clary, asked for this item to be tabled due to changes that need to be made at the next HEDCO Board meeting.

Council Member Melissa Morton made a motion to table this item, duly seconded by Council Member Reggie Weatherton. The vote was unanimous.

20. Consideration and possible action upon a recommendation from the HEDCO Board on the appointment of a new Director for HEDCO. (Mayor)

HEDCO President Michael Bell reminded the Council about the retirement of HEDCO Director John Clary coming on September 30th. There was a committee put together by HEDCO Board members and City Council with the job opening being posted on the Economic Development website and Indeed.com. There were 60 applications submitted with two sets of interviews set up. After the interviews, the committee narrowed it down to two qualified applicants. The committee recommended Bret Gardella for the position.

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion to approve Bret Gardella as the new HEDCO Director, duly seconded by Council Member Reggie Weatherton. The vote was unanimous.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

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

A. City Manager

Director of Utilities Infrastructure and Delivery David Hortman updated the Council about the Henderson/Kilgore Sabine Raw Water line that had broken (this feeds Henderson's surface water plant). It is back up and running. City Manager Jay Abercrombie commended the Utilities Director Rand Boyd for acting quickly to get the groundwater wells going to help the surface water continue to flow the same, keeping Henderson from having to limit water for their customers.

Jay also announced the dedication of the Municipal Services Complex facility, which is scheduled for October 16th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Stating this has been in the works for two years and there will be a lot to show, reveal and dedicate.

B. Fire Department

C. Police Department

D. Animal Center

E. Community Development

F. Public Services/Parks and Recreation Department

Council member Reggie Weatherton commended the Public Services/Parks and Recreation Director Kirk Kimbrell for quickly taking care of a concern of his.

G. Public Utilities

H. Finance Department

I. City Secretary

J. Communications and Marketing

K. HEDCO Sales Tax Revenue June 2024

L. Director of Operations Departmental Reports below.
Civic Center

Main Street/Tourism

Municipal Court

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Board of Adjustments Minutes of the July 9th meeting.

Planning and Zoning Minutes, there were no items submitted to consider for a meeting in July.

Cemetery Board Meeting Minutes, the next quarterly meeting scheduled for August 21st

Main Street Meeting Minutes

Preservation Minutes

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor John (Buzz) Fullen stated the City Council would convene in executive session under Local Government Code 551.074 to discuss Personnel Matters at 6:37 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION:

Mayor Fullen reconvened into regular session at 7:15 p.m. stating there was no action to take from the executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

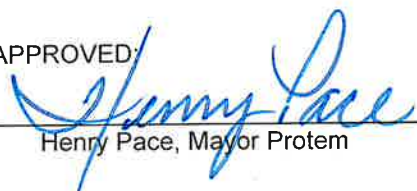
22. Adjourn

Council Member Gina Juarez made a motion to adjourn at 7:16 p.m., duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton. The vote was unanimous.

ATTEST:


Cheryl Jimerson, City Secretary

APPROVED:


Henry Pace, Mayor Protem