MINUTES OF THE
HENDERSON CITY COUNCIL
Regular Scheduled Meeting

September 3, 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 6:00 p.m.
Council members present were Stephen Strong, Reggie Weatherton, Henry Pace. Not able to attend were Melissa Morton (*Melissa joined the meeting at 6:18 p.m.*), and Gina Juarez.

Staff members present were City Manager Jay Abercrombie, City Secretary 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 Utilities Infrastructure and Delivery David Hortman, Code Enforcement Officer Wes Breitenberg, Finance Director Karen Arnall, Animal Center Director Charissa Pool, 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 Reggie Weatherton gave the invocation, Council Member Stephen Strong led the Pledges.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Jamie Holland of 1519 Peterson Lane submitted a request to speak about the $5.00 fee MD Health Pathways.
Phoebe Naber of 1406 Jacksonville Drive submitted a request to speak about MD Health Pathways.
Dirk Perritt of MD Health Pathways submitted a request to speak about this service to the community.

**PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no presentations.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Consideration and possible action upon the minutes from August 20, 2024 meeting. (Jimerson)

Mayor John (Buzz) Fullen struck this item. This will be on the agenda for September 10, 2024.

**COUNCIL BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION**

2. Consideration and possible action upon a final payment and setting a warranty date for the City Hall Elevator Addition project. (Holland/Brown)

Director of Operations Davis Brown explained the new elevator was necessary to comply with the ADA Compliance guidelines. He recommended the City Council approve the final payment of $26,364.37 and set a one-year warranty date effective from today if approved.

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion to approve the final payment and set the warranty date, duly seconded by Council Member Henry Pace. The vote was unanimous.

3. Consideration and possible action upon awarding the bid for the 2024 Water Improvements Project. (Holland/Hortman)

Director of Utility Infrastructure and Delivery David Hortman, on behalf of Neal Holland, recommended that the city accept the bid price and award the contract to John Wright Construction Inc. in the amount of $318,782.00.

Council Member Reggie Weatherton made a motion to approve the price of $318,782.00 and award John Wright Construction the project, duly seconded by Council Member Henry Pace. The vote was unanimous.

4. 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 2024-25 tax rate of .541799, the same as the current rate.

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

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

6. Consideration upon the first reading of Ordinance 2024-09-01 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)

Council had no questions or comments on the first reading of Ordinance 2024-09-01 on the proposed tax rate of .541799.

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

Mayor Fullen opened a public hearing on the proposed 2024-25 budget.

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

Council Member Reggie Weatherton 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 2024-09-02 on the 2024-2025 proposed budget. (Abercrombie/Arnall)

Council had no questions or comments on the first reading of Ordinance 2024-09-02 on the proposed 2024-25 proposed budget.

10. Consideration and possible action upon the second 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 Member Melissa Morton made a motion approving Ordinance 2024-08-01 Voluntary Annexation of Christus Good Shepard property, duly seconded by Council Member Henry Pace. The vote was unanimous.

11. Consideration and possible action upon the second 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 Member Henry Pace made a motion approving Ordinance 2024-08-02 for the Planned Development Standards and Covenants for the Business Park, duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

12. Consideration and possible action upon the second 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 January 1, 2025. (Abercrombie/Faulkner)

Executive Leadership Assistant/HR Specialist Hillary Faulkner stated this offers stability for the city's annual budget, and simplicity for a definite amount of payment instead of an estimate of payment to the employees before they officially retire.

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-08-03 adopting a repeated non-retroactive 70% COLA effective January 1, 2025, duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton. The vote was unanimous.

13. Consideration and possible action upon HEDCO Program of Work for fiscal year 2024-2025

HEDCO Director John Clary explained the Program of Work are goals listed for the upcoming budget year required by the Economic Development guidelines.

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion to approve HEDCO's Program of Work, duly seconded by Council Member Reggie Weatherton. The vote was unanimous.

14. Consideration and possible action upon HEDCO Budget for fiscal year 2024-2025.

HEDCO Director John Clary stated the Program of Work defines the budget. If the Council had any questions on the budget he would be happy to answer them. There were no questions.

Council Member Henry Pace made a motion to approve HEDCO's proposed 2024-25 budget, duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton. The vote was unanimous.

15. Consideration and possible action upon HEDCO Budget Amendments for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

HEDCO Director John Clary explained to the Council he tries not to make budget amendments all year long due to needing good information towards the end of the year and preparing a more accurate budget for the next year. Therefore, this is Budget Amendment #1 for the HEDCO 2023-2024 budget.

Council Member Reggie Weatherton made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #1 for HEDCO's 2023-24 budget, duly seconded by Council Member Henry Pace. The vote was unanimous.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**REGULAR SESSION:**

**ADJOURNMENT**

16. Adjourn

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion to adjourn at 6:29 p.m., duly seconded by Council Member Reggie Weatherton. The vote was unanimous.

ATTEST:

Cheryl Jimerson

Cheryl Jimerson, City Secretary

APPROVED:

Henry Pace

Henry Pace, Mayor Protem