

**MINUTES OF THE
HENDERSON CITY COUNCIL
Regular Scheduled Meeting**

September 10, 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 was present and turned the meeting over to Mayor Protem Henry Pace
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, Fire Chief Sonny Ybarra, Director of Public Services Kirk Kimbrell, 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, 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

Dr. Dirk with MDHP extended the free service for another month, asking citizens to use this free service during this trial period.

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Proclamation for National Night Out

Mayor Protem Pace read a synopsis of the National Night Out Proclamation.

2. Proclamation for Cancer Awareness Month

Mayor Protem Pace read a synopsis of the Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation.

3. Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week

Mayor Protem Pace read a synopsis of the Fire Prevention Week Proclamation.

4. Proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Mayor Protem Pace read a synopsis of the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Consideration and possible action upon the HEDCO financials for the month of July 2024.

Council Member Reggie Weatherton made a motion to approve the consent agenda, duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton. The vote was unanimous.

COUNCIL BUSINESS - REGULAR SESSION

6. Consideration and possible action upon the minutes of September 3 and September 10, 2024 meetings.
(Jimerson)

City Secretary Cheryl Jimerson asked Mayor Protem Pace to move item 5 to the Regular Session.

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion to move item 5 to the Regular Session, duly seconded by Council

Member Reggie Weatherton. The vote was unanimous.

The City Secretary stated a correction was needed to the meeting dates for item 5. The minutes are from the August 20th and September 3rd 2024 meetings.

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 20th and September 3rd 2024 meetings, duly seconded by Council Member Reggie Weatherton.

7. Consideration and possible action upon Resolution 2024-09-01 amending the Master Fee Schedule on the Water and Sewer Rates. (Abercrombie)

Director of Infrastructure and Delivery David Hortman explained, Jay tasked him to analyze what it costs the city to treat a gallon of water and sewer. The best estimate David can get to (without a true water study being done) is a 10% increase of 5,000 to 8,000 gallons per user.

City Manager Jay Abercrombie wanted to give a little history of this. When he was first hired, there was a 10% increase on the water rate to go in place. The next year instead of the 10% increase, there was a usage tier system implemented. There have been 3 years gone by without any increase, even though the cost of everything has been going up. The plan is to put a committee in place to get started on a study. Then bring that information back to Council with actual numbers on what the cost is to treat and keep the infrastructure in place updated.

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-09-01 Water and Sewer Rate increase, duly seconded by Council Member Gina Juarez. The vote was unanimous.

8. Consideration and possible action upon the second 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 Member Gina Juarez made a motion approving the second reading of Ordinance 2024-09-01 adopting the same tax rate as last year at .541799, duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton. The vote was unanimous.

9. Consideration and possible action upon the second reading of Ordinance 2024-09-02 on the 2024-2025 proposed budget. (Abercrombie/Arnall)

Council Member Melissa Morton made a motion approving the second reading of Ordinance 2024-09-02 adopting the proposed 2024-2025 budget, duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

10. Consideration and possible action upon a two-year extension of the depository contract with VeraBank. (Arnall)

Finance Director Karen Arnall stated, the City is currently under a 3-year contract with Verabank ending September 30, 2024, and has the option to extend the contract for 2 years. Under the current contract, the interest rate on checking accounts is tied to the Fed Funds Target Rate, which is equal to FFT minus 1.75%. The rate will adjust as the Fed increases or decreases their rate. The current rate on City checking accounts is 3.82%.

Council Member Reggie Weatherton made a motion to approve a two-year extension of the depository contract with Vera Bank, duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton. The vote was unanimous.

11. Consideration and possible action upon a vote on the official ballot for the election of the Region 15 director for the TML Board of Directors. (Mayor)

Council Member Reggie Weatherton made a motion to approve the selection of Jesse Casey, Mayor in the City of Hallsville to the Region 15 Board of Directors, duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

12. Consideration and possible action upon the selection of the official ballot for the election of Places 11-14 of the Board of Trustees for the Texas Municipal League Intergovernment Risk Pool (TML-IRP). (Mayor)

Council Member Gina Juarez made a motion to approve the selection (listed below) to the Board of Trustees for TML-IRP, duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton. The vote was unanimous.

Place II - Randy Griswell, Place 12 - Allison Heyward, Place 13 - Harlan Jefferson, and Place 14 - Mike Land.

13. Consideration and possible action upon the 2024-2025 Holiday Schedule. (Jimerson)

The City Secretary Cheryl Jimerson stated there have been no changes to the 2024-2025 Holiday Calendar from the previous year.

Council Member Melissa Morton made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 holiday schedule, duly seconded by Council Member Gina Juarez. The vote was unanimous.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

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

A. City Manager

Jay Abercrombie reported to the council:

The 2024 Street Bid Opening will be September 12th.

The pump station is holding up and functioning well on the Sabine River Raw Water line.

Potential options on Lake Striker Water Rights.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant for a Generator to be located at the Municipal Services Complex is moving forward.

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 July 2024

L. Director of Operations Departmental Reports below.

Civic Center

Main Street/Tourism

Municipal Court

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Board of Adjustments Minutes

Planning and Zoning Minutes

Cemetery Board Meeting Minutes

Main Street Meeting Minutes

Preservation Minutes

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

REGULAR SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT

15. Adjourn

Council Member Melissa Morton made a motion to adjourn at 6:30 p.m., duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

ATTEST:


Cheryl Jimerson, City Secretary

APPROVED:


John Eullen, Mayor