MINUTES OF THE
HENDERSON CITY COUNCIL
Regular Scheduled Meeting

January 21, 2025

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 Pace called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.
Council members present were Stephen Strong, Michael Searcy, Greg Jackson, Melissa Morton, and Gina Juarez.

Staff members present were City Manager Jay Abercrombie, City Secretary Cheryl Jimerson, City Attorney Russell Brown joined the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Chief of Police Chad Taylor, Fire Chief Sonny Ybarra, Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Stoddard, Director of Operations Davis Brown, Director of Public Services Kirk Kimbrell, Director of Utilities Randy Boyd, Director of Utility Infrastructure and Delivery David Hortman, Community Development Manager/Building Official Cliff McElfresh, Finance Director Karen Arnall, Animal Center Director Charissa Pool, Civic Center Manager Stephanie Kimbrell, Executive Leadership Assistant/HR Specialist Hillary Faulkner, and HEDCO Director Bret Gardella.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council Member Stephen Strong gave the invocation, Council Member Gina Juarez led the Pledges.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizens' comments.

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Proclamation designating January as 2025 National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. (Mayor Pace)

Mayor Pace proclamed January 2025 for the Women's Center of East Texas as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Consideration of possible action upon the minutes of the meeting held November 26, 2024. December 17, 2024 Council Meeting was cancelled there are no minutes to approve. (Jimerson)

3. Consideration and possible action upon the HEDCO financial' s for the month(s) of October 2024 & November 2024.

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

COUNCIL BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION

4. Consideration and possible action upon authorization to issue requests for proposals for administrative services (RFP) and requests for qualifications (RFQ) for the 2025 Texas Community Development Block Grant Program, Downtown Revitalization Program, administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture. (Abercrombie/Rob Barthen)

Council Member Michael Searcy made a motion to approve the issuance of RFP and RFQ for a CDBG Grant, duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

5. Consideration and possible action upon authorizing the purchase of a new ladder Fire Truck. (Ybarra)

Fire Chief Sonny Ybarra recommended the City Council to approve the city proceeding with construction of a new 100 ft ladder truck for the City of Henderson Fire Department. The new Ladder Truck being proposed will last the City of Henderson fifteen to twenty years. The ladder truck will accommodate the needed equipment for the Firefighters to perform their duties in an effective, efficient and safe manner.
The Ladder Truck will be used inside the city limits when needed. The Ladder Truck will respond to all Structure Fires, Rescues, car fires, MVC's, extrication calls as needed or other emergencies that may occur or when the front-line apparatus response units are responding to other emergencies. The Henderson Fire Department truck committee, which is composed of firefighters from each shift, Chief Sonny Ybarra, and Assistant Chief Jeff Stoddard. The Ladder truck will be designed to carry all the necessary equipment required for the Firefighters and will meet the Texas Commission on Fire Protection and ISO standards.
Mayor Pace asked about the payment plan. City Manager Jay Abercrombie intervened, asking Sonny if he stated which proposal they were going with; Sonny stated Sutphen. Jay proceeded, stating, we are working on the finance side of it. We do not have to pay anything right now, payment in full will be upon delivery. We are working with Hilltop Securities to advise us on the financing without it affecting the tax rate.
Council Member Michael Searcy asked if there is a local service option if we need it; Sonny stated yes, they are located in Palestine a 30 or 40-minute drive away. Council Member Gina Juarez asked how long it would take to build the truck; Sonny stated 35 to 37 months. Council Member Stephen Strong asked about a warranty; Sonny stated it would have a 5-year warranty.
Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion to approve the purchase of a new ladder truck, duly seconded by Council Member Gina Juarez. The vote was unanimous.

6. Consideration and possible action upon an Inter-local Agreement with the 791 Purchasing Cooperative. (Hortman)

Utility Infrastructure and Delivery Director David Hortman explained, 791 Purchasing Cooperative is a leading national public cooperative purchasing organization that provides publicly procured, competitively solicited contracts for a wide array of products and services. We follow public procurement guidelines to ensure our members stay in compliance without having to go out for bids. In addition to BuyBoard.
Council Member Michael Searcy made a motion to approve an agreement with Water Company of America for a utility audit through 791 Cooperative, duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton. The vote was unanimous.

7. Consideration and possible action upon an agreement with Water Company of America for a Utility Audit through the 791 Cooperative. (Hortman)

Utility Infracture and Delivery Director David Hortman explained, Water Company of America (WAC) has specialized in locating, assessing and correcting problem conditions in the field related to water metering, wastewater collection and stormwater, as well as utility billing database discrepancies, thereby increasing utility revenues.
Council Member Michael Searcy made a motion to approve a utility audit of our billing process and collections, duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton. The vote was unanimous.

8. Consideration and action upon a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission on a zoning change for a property located on N. Van Buren between HWY 64 and C.R. 201 also known as Austin Avenue. Mr. Tenbrink requested to change the zone from General Industrial (I2) to a High Density Multi-Family District (M3). (Jimerson)

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion to approve a recommendation from the P&Z Commission and create an ordinance changing the zing of said property, duly seconded by Council Member Michael Searcy. The vote was unanimous.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

9. 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

Police Chief Chad Taylor gave a verbal departmental report to the Mayor and Council. He started with the Community Outreach program. October was National Night Out. This event started out as a neighborhood watch

program. The city started out by having this event at Fairpark in October 2021. This year's spongers were MTC and Chick -fil-A. They handed out 2500 hotdogs, and it continues to grow. It has been a great success.
Blue Santa is a new event called "Oh What A Night". It was sponsored by Whataburger they donated 50% of the proceeds raised, officers and the Citizens Police Academy all made donations. Proceeds were used to purchase gifts for names that were on angle trees, this event went over very well.
Police Chief Chad Taylor stated the crime rate stats for Henderson have not increased in 3 years even though the department is working with fewer officers.

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 for October 2024 and November 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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

REGULAR SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT

10. Adjourn

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion to adjourn at 6:33 p.m., duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton. The vote was unanimous.

ATTEST: Cheryl Jimerson

Cheryl Jimerson, City Secretary

APPROVED: Henry Pace

Henry Pace, Mayor