

MINUTES OF THE
HENDERSON CITY COUNCIL
Regular Rescheduled Meeting

August 7, 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, Chief of Police Chad Taylor, Fire Chief Sonny Yabarra, Finance Director Karen Arnall, and Communications and Marketing Coordinator Phedra Johnson.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Henry Pace gave the invocation, and Council Member Stephen Strong led the Pledges.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Johnny Walker thanked the Mayor for the clean-up on HWY 259 and 79.

Rachell Thrasher noticed that intersection also. She knew the Mayor/City worked with the HOPE House. Her request to speak in public comments was asking to divide the members on both the Preservation and Main Street board members and proper training.

Chris Wheeler advertisement downtown. We will be looking at it for a long time. Some like it and some don't. Her main concern is that no local talent was used to paint the advertisement. Meeting the needs of the citizens that live here today, by recruiting a grocery store to be located at the north end of town.

Cindy Walker has served as the Main Street Coordinator, and currently serves on the Historical Commission and the Heritage Association. She quoted some of the rules and regulations from the city ordinance and the Texas Historical Commission about the Historical District.

Aleigh Townly attended the May 27th preservation meeting. The preservation board was not properly trained. She has pulled her board application because she has no desire to be part of any committee. It is a shame to have elected officials remain silent in the face of it. She urges the council to prove these citizens wrong.

Tana Hall asked if the city owns the water tower downtown and has there already been a notice posted for the artwork on it? She showed all the council a lion she believes could be the Henderson Lion in the future to be painted on the water tower. She asked the council why they hired a man like Bret Gardella as Director. She also asked why he would put Smart Flowers "solar panels" in the Innovation Park that serves nothing.

COUNCIL BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION

1. Consideration and possible action upon taking a record vote for the proposed 2025 property tax rate.
(Abercrombie/Jimerson)

Rachel Hale stated, "across Texas and here in Henderson, residents are pleading for relief from property taxes". She recommended the City Council adopt the No New Revenue tax rate.

Council Member Melissa Morton asked the City Manager, Jay Abercrombie, if he knew what other comparable cities are adopting? Jay stated he did not.

Council Member Michael Searcy stated he thinks the county is keeping the same rate as last year.

Council Member Stephen Strong asked what the difference would be between the same tax rate as last year and the no-new revenue tax rate. The difference is \$113,550. He asked Jay. Does that put us in a bind at all? Jay stated no. The only thing that would affect is the amount that would go back into the revenue fund.

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion to approve the no-new revenue tax rate of 0.529139.

Council Member Michael Searcy asked how much needed to go into the revenue fund to get to the required 3 months of operations. Jay stated his goal is to get 1 to 1.5 million. Obviously, it doesn't have to happen in one or two years. We just need to get started moving in that direction. Jay stated there is a motion on the floor.

Council Member Michael Searcy seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

2. Adjourn

Council Member Melissa Morton made a motion to adjourn at 6:40 p.m., duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

ATTEST:


Cheryl Jimerson, City Secretary

APPROVED:


Henry Pace, Mayor