

MINUTES OF THE  
HENDERSON CITY COUNCIL  
Regular Scheduled Meeting

August 19, 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, 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, Civic Center Manager Stephanie Kimbrell, HPD Open Records Specialist Stacy Strong, Tourism and Main Street Coordinator Alexa Duke, Executive Leadership Assistant/HR Specialist Hillary Faulkner, Communications and Marketing Coordinator Phedra Johnson, and HEDCO Director Bret Gardella.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Reggie Weatherton gave the invocation, Council Member Stephen Strong led the Pledges.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

The 1st speaker was John Dulin of 110 Mary Street. He has finished going through all the City Cemetery meeting minutes and wants permission to go through all the Council meeting minutes. City Secretary Cheryl Jimerson will set up appointments with Mr. Dulin to go through all the minute books.

2nd was Donovan Dickson of 1925 Eastwood Drive, who reported to the Council on the HEDCO V.P's code of conduct. Mr. Ballard texted a private message to someone with a picture of a baby crying and a few comments about Donovan and the private message ended up being sent to Donovan.

3rd was Rachele Thrasher of 1925 Eastwood Drive. She gave her 3 minutes to Donovan. He talked about things he has done for the city.

The last speaker was Michael Bell President of HEDCO of 1101 U.S. HWY. 259 S. Donovan had contacted Michael about the item he discussed above. Michael respects Donovan. They do not always agree on everything. At the end of the day, we are both citizens of this community. Michael left Henderson when he was 18. He has been back here in this community for the last 30 years because of HEDCO. HEDCO took the opportunity years ago that people desented about saying they did not want it in their backyards, in their community, etc., because it was a prison. Is there any board or government agency perfect? Of course not? I just want to give back to my community and I listen when citizens speak. Michael stated, if any good comes out of this muriel disagreement. What started all of this is that the citizens have stepped up and applied to be on some of these boards and I think that is a good thing.

**PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Update on the Main Street Board and Historical Landmark Preservation Committee.

City Secretary Cheryl Jimerson updated the Council on the 17 board applications that have been received for various boards/committees.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

2. Consideration of possible action upon the minutes of July 8, 2025, and Budget Workshop of July 29, 2025. (Jimerson)

3. Consideration and possible action upon the annual Turkey Trot 5k and 1-mile Run/Walk for Saturday, November 29, 2025.
4. Consideration of possible action upon the HEDCO financials for the month of June 2025.

Council Member Michael Searcy asked for item 4 to be moved to the regular session.

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

Council Member Michael Searcy made a motion to table the HEDCO financial figures for the month of June, duly seconded by Melissa Morton. The vote was unanimous.

Council Member Michael Searcy would like for the HEDCO financials to be moved into the regular session each month going forward. Michael would also like to see monthly reports and minutes on the Council agenda.

### **COUNCIL BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION**

5. Consideration and possible action upon the final payment to John Wright Construction on the 2024 Water Improvements Project of \$34,890.00 and possibly setting a warranty date. (Hortman/Holland)  
Utilities Infrastructure and Delivery Director David Hortman recommended the council approve the final payment and set the warranted date as of today on the 2024 Water Improvements project.

Council Member Michael Searcy made a motion to approve the final payment and set the warrantee date effective August 19, 2025, duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton. The vote was unanimous.

6. Consideration and possible action upon the final payment to Rayford's Truck and Tractor on the 2024 Master Street Improvements Program of \$108,783.80 and possibly set a warranty date. (Brown/Holland)  
Director of Operations Davis Barown recommended council approve the final payment and set the warrantee date for the 2024 Master Street program.  
Melissa Morton asked how many streets we have? Davis stated about 400 we are down to about 50 more to resurface.

Council Member Michael Searcy made a motion to approve the final payment and set the warrantee date as of August 19, 2025, duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

7. Consideration and possible action upon Resolution 2025-08-01 for Boards and Commissions transparency.  
Council Member Gina Juarez made a motion to table this item, duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton. The vote was unanimous.

8. Consideration and possible action upon Resolution 2025-08-02 Ordering a Municipal Election to be held November 4, 2025, for Council Districts one, four and five. (Jimerson)

Council had no questions or comments on the first reading of Ordinance 2025-08-02 ordering an election .

9. Consideration and possible action upon a contract with the Rusk County Elections Administrator to run the November 4, 2025, Municipal Election for Council Districts one, four and five. (Jimerson)

Council Member Gina Juarez made a motion to approve an agreement for Rusk County to run the Municipal Election, duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

10. Open a public hearing on the proposed tax rate to be the No-New-Revenue tax rate of .529139 per \$100.00 valuation on each assessment to be based upon 100% of its appraised value. (Abercrombie/Arnall)

Mayor Pace opened a public hearing on a proposed tax rate.

There were no comments

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

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

12. Open a public hearing on the proposed 2025-2026 budget. (Abercrombie/Arnall)

Mayor Pace opened a public hearing on the proposed budget.  
There were no comments.

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

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

14. Consideration and possible action upon HEDCO Program of Work for fiscal year 2025-2026.

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

15. Consideration and possible action upon HEDCO Budget for fiscal year 2025-2026.

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

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

16. 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

D. Animal Center

E. Community Development

F. Public Services/Parks and Recreation Department

G. Public Utilities

H. Finance Department

I. City Secretary

The City Secretary Cheryl Jimerson made a PowerPoint presentation to go along with her verbal monthly report about what her job duties are.

J. Communications and Marketing

K. HEDCO

Sales Tax Revenue for June 2025

L. Director of Operations Departmental Reports below.

Civic Center

Main Street/Tourism

Municipal Court

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Board of Adjustments Minutes last meeting was March 2025.

Planning and Zoning Minutes last meeting was May 2025

Cemetery Board last meeting was May 2025.

Main Street Draft Minutes of the July 22, 2025, meeting.

Preservation Minutes Draft Minutes of the July 22, 2025, meeting.

HEDCO Meeting July 15, 2025 Draft Minutes

There were no question or comments about the Board meeting minutes.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mayor Henry Pace convened into executive session at 7:08 p.m. to consult with their attorney under Texas Government Code 551.071.

**REGULAR SESSION:**

Mayor Henry Pace reconvened into regular session at 8:35 p.m. with no action to take from executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

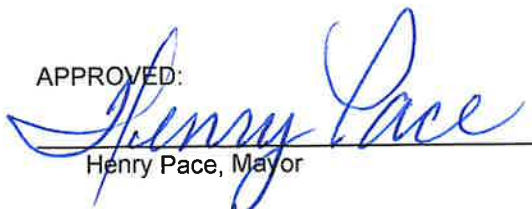
17. Adjourn

Council Member Melissa Morton made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m., duly seconded by Council Member Gina Juarez. The vote was unanimous.

ATTEST:

  
Cheryl Jimerson, City Secretary

APPROVED:

  
Henry Pace, Mayor