

City of Hondo
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JANUARY 2017

Mayor's Minute

Late November and December were wondrous months in Hondo as we all enjoyed the holiday season commencing with our "Christmas in God's Country" celebration and moving on to a beautifully decorated community with our abundant lighting topped off with a parkway with more holiday signs

or the construction and renovation of the city's water storage tanks along with the replacement of many of the city's waterlines. Construction should commence early in 2017. Documentation should finally be completed soon on the construction of the \$1.2 million annex to the city's South Texas Regional Training Center and the bid for the construction on this annex enlarging the city's job training capabilities

"Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending." -Carl Bard

than I've ever remembered. What a beautiful and welcoming sight for our visitors passing through our town. During the last few years the City of Hondo has developed and planned many projects which will in the future bring many benefits to our citizens. The year 2017 will be largely a "complete and finish year" as many of these projects come to culmination. Some of the projects you can see come to a completion are: 1) For our residents that live in the Avenue B area, the drainage and street construction for that neighborhood should be completed as soon as some additional improvements are made. 2) A contract has been awarded to a contractor on the \$1.5 million wastewater project and work will be started soon and with the completion early in 2017 this will bring better sewage disposal to our residents and also bring the city into compliance with the T.C.E.Q. 3) The financing arrangement has been completed on the approximate \$6.5 million water

should be let early in 2017 with construction starting shortly thereafter. Also, the conversion of a large area of the existing training center to an allied medical services training area along with the addition of more classrooms should be also completed early in the year. These are only a few of the many quality projects which you will see be started and hopefully completed in the coming year. However, the most long awaited community addition you will see soon should be the completion and grand opening of the city's new Hondo library. Thankfully, this new facility will be completed and opened during the first quarter of 2017. Your City Council and Management are pleased to be able to report the progress of these many enhancements to your quality of life in Hondo. It's my sincere wish that each and every one of our citizens has a productive and prosperous 2017 with good health and happiness.

~Mayor James W. Danner

Upcoming Events

City Council Meetings

January 9th at 6:00PM

January 23rd at 6:00PM

Boards & Commissions

Planning & Zoning Meeting
January 17th at 6:00pm

Economic Development Meeting
January 18th at 4:00pm

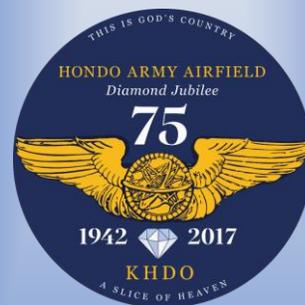
Board of Adjustment Meeting
January 18th at 6:00pm

Library Advisory Board
January 19th at 5:30pm

Parks & Recreation Board
January 25th at 6:00pm

CITY OFFICE CLOSED

January 2nd-New Year Day
January 16th-MLK Day



For more information on event visit:
www.facebook.com/hondoarmyairfield

Ribbon cutting/Open House honoring Zachry family for vital role played in construction of Hondo Army Airfield
January 13th @ 4pm-6pm

From the Desk of the City Manager

At the close of another year, I'm given the opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the year and also those moments we take as opportunities for improvements (OFI's). I'm proud to see how far we have come in the last year. Don't get me wrong – that's not to mean that we don't have room for improvement. I'm a firm believer that when you stop looking for ways to be more efficient or ways to learn and grow, that's when it is time to shake things up even more. But, with the dawn of a new year, I do want to take a moment to recognize some of our shining stars here at the City. Every year at our annual Christmas party, we recognize those members of our team who stand out and rise above and beyond what it typically means to be a public servant. Please join me in congratulating this year's winners:

Above and Beyond: Employees who go as the title says "Above and beyond" their normal duties through assistance of other departments, making sure the public is informed and educated about a specific issue, etc.

Reggie Rodriguez: Reggie is a new employee who works in a tough department – code compliance. He hit the ground running here at the City and has embraced making sure that our citizenry are well educated on our codes and ordinances. Reggie always has a smile and a great attitude (and wearing a Dallas Cowboys hat!).

Tony Saucedo: Tony is a member of our streets division. He has served on our employee committee for a number of years and does so with a kind spirit and big heart. He always has an infectious smile on his face and truly enjoys making his community a better place for all of us to live.

Thelma Simon: Thelma has worked with the City for 29 years! She is always willing to help – both her coworkers and visitors to our City. She is a staple at City Hall and everyone depends on her consistency and courtesy. She exemplifies quality customer service.

Newcomer of the Year: This award is for an employee who has been with the City a year and has already had a meaningful impact. **Rey Hernandez:** Rey has joined the City of Hondo and works at our Airport. After a long career in the military, Rey decided to continue his career of service above self and joined our team. Both our regular tenants at the airport, as well as our transient visitors enjoy his professionalism and courtesy.

Supervisor of the Year: This award is for a supervisor who demonstrates professionalism, integrity and a commitment to public service. **Lieutenant Brian Valenzuela:** Brian is born and raised here in Hondo. He has reinvigorated the police department with new ideas and goals to better serve both the officers who protect and serve us and the citizens that they serve. Brian is always willing to lend a helping hand to change the perception of the police department for the better whether he is on duty or not.

Employee of the Year: This award is for an employee who best represents all of the qualities who make exemplary public service employees. **Alfred Resendez:** Alfred is still young in his career with the City of Hondo, but has brought a number of new skillsets to our staff. He is a skilled carpenter and you can see a number of his quality woodworks here at City Hall. He takes on each task with a diligence and an excellence that ensures all of his works are of the upmost quality. He never lets a single task – either large or small – impact his quality of work and team player mentality. He is a great asset to our City.

Citizen Award: In 2016, we reinstated this award. This award is nominated by our citizens here in Hondo to recognize an employee who they feel is a shining star here at the City of Hondo.

Karissa Tellez: Karissa received several nominations for the Citizen Award. The theme in each of the nominations was the time and attention she takes to provide each customer she encounters the best interaction with the City. Karissa is the manager of our Recreation Division which also encompasses our parks and green spaces along such monumental areas such as the Highway 90 Parkway. As you can see just from the visual impact along Highway 90, Karissa takes her job with the City very seriously. She continues to find new ways to maximize her impact here in Hondo and I look forward to seeing the new ideas she comes up with to beautify our City and to impact our youth through her creative programming.

If you see any of these individuals out in Hondo, please take a moment to congratulate them on a job well done!

In closing, from my family to yours, we hope you enjoy a prosperous new year and that 2017 brings great things for Hondo.

-Kim Davis