

City of Hondo
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www.hondo-tx.org

OCTOBER 2017

Mayor's Minute

Your City of Hondo Budget approved by City Council on September 10th emphasizes the continuation of current service levels to our citizens yet allows for significant capital expenditures. The budget contents are highlighted by the following:

**"You cannot make everybody happy.
You are not a taco." ~Unknown**

- The adoption of a tax rate equal to the same as the 2016-2017 current rate of .5139 per \$100 valuation
- Essentially maintains the same user fees currently being paid by our citizens
- no increase in utility rates other than a small increase in garbage pick-up fees equal to the contractor's increases fees to the city

It's pleasing to report that a strong commitment was made by council members to improve the assets and infrastructure in our city. Significant budgeted items are as follows:

- \$440,000 allotted to street repairs throughout the city
- \$4,950,716 to complete the water storage tank replacements or tank repairs along with water line replacements throughout the city
- \$330,000 water line replacements on the city's north side (CDBG grant of \$275,000) as we continue to replace and improve the infrastructure in that area
- \$161,000 sewer improvements
- \$520,000 street reconstruction on Castro Avenue
- \$129,500 in park improvements (City Parks 1 & 2, Sunset, T.A. Lopez and Nature parks)
- \$164,000 in Rick Taylor Recreation Center repairs

Also of interest are budgeted amounts to construct badly needed new buildings to house the city public works departments (\$400,000) and the police department (\$525,000) both to be located on land on the city's airport. Very much appreciated is the several months work by city management and staff as a sincere attempt was made to address citizens' needs. Also appreciated is the diligent effort by your City Council to

address not only current needs but also the future requirements of the city as growth comes to our community. As mentioned in a previous issue of this newsletter, culture and arts are very vital to our enviable quality of life. Once again our community's own Dramatic Divas Productions is presenting a melodrama "Trapped by a Treacherous Twin or Double Trouble" on October 20th and 21st at Knowlton's Vista Verde Ranch.

Again produced and directed by the innovative, talented Susan Freeman, the cast includes Allora Leonard, Jack Young, Kim Kerley, Kris Macon, Kimberly Rodriguez, Jonathan Aken, Chip Macon, Keith Lutz and Guy Davis along with the piano playing by our Councilman John McAnelly and emceed by Kathy Blount.

I understand the event has been completely sold out which is not surprising due to the quality of this group's past productions. Net proceeds are to be utilized for future theatrical productions.

Thanks to Dramatic Divas Productions for its contributions to Hondo's God's Country.

~Mayor James W. Danner, Sr.

Upcoming Events

City Council Meetings

October 9th at 6:00PM

October 23rd at 6:00PM

Boards & Commissions

Golf Advisory Meeting
October 10th at 6:00pm

Board of Adjustment Meeting
October 17th at 6:00pm

Airport Advisory Meeting
October 18th at 3:00pm

Library Advisory Board
October 24th at 5:30pm

Parks/Rec Advisory Board
October 25th at 6:00pm



Tuesday, October 3rd

Front of Hondo PD

6pm-9pm

*Fun, Food and Games!!
FREE EVENT FOR EVERYONE!*



*Brought to you by
Hondo Police Dept., City of Hondo &
Hondo Volunteer Fire Dept.*



A boo-boo in last month's newsletter as tribute was paid to the City's very worthy recipients of

hotel-motel tax funds left out two organizations. These were the Hondo Museum and the Rodeo Association. These two groups add many contributions to our community. Please accept our apologies for this lack of recognition.

Hondoween

Hosted by Hondo Rec. Center & your local churches and businesses

10-31-17 6pm-7pm



Costume Contest Inflatables

Halloween games AND MORE!

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?

Please contact the staff at the Rec Center 830-426-2475 to get more information.



Grease Traps

Did you know per Chapter 13, Section 13.08.014, Traps; Grease traps are

required for establishments that discharge fats, oils and grease (FOG's) into the sanitary sewer system of the City of Hondo. Problems caused by wastes from these establishments have served as basis for city ordinances and regulations governing the discharge of FOG's into our sanitary sewer system.

Grease traps are typically used in commercial establishments such as restaurants, hospitals, schools, nursing homes, and any establishment that introduces FOG's into the system. They may cause sewer line blockages and/or hinder sewage treatment. Blockages that become a serious issue may end up costing the customer and city hundreds up to thousands of dollars to repair.

By achieving compliance through the spirit of education and cooperation you can help stop the grease monster from getting into our sanitary sewer system!

Code Compliance/Building Inspection Division at 830-426-4737.

Hondo Public Library brings you



10.30.17 * 6:30pm



\$25 per runner

\$100 teams of 6

Children 12 & under free with paid adult

Register by Oct. 10th to be guarantee a shirt

Zombies Needed!



For more information contact the HPL staff at 830-426-5333

From the Desk of the City Manager

October starts the new fiscal year for the City of Hondo. This year, I thought I would take the monthly utility newsletter to share information about a few topics that we continually get inquiries about. What better topic is there to start off with other than your utility bill itself! Here are just a few things to know about your bill:

- 1) Your bill is for **all** of your municipal utility services. These services include electricity, water, wastewater and solid waste. We hear it referred to often as the "light bill" and compared to other entities that only reflect one utility on the bill. While your electricity is a portion of what makes up the bill, it isn't the only thing.
- 2) Your utility bill goes to support utility operations, not what is considered "general" fund operations. What does that mean exactly? The general fund operations are comprised of things like police, streets, parks, library, etc. Those services are supported and paid for by your property taxes. If you have a rate increase on your utilities, it is because that is what is needed to support the operations, repair and maintenance to keep the water flowing, the lights on and the sewer going down the drain. The City of Hondo does have a payment in lieu of taxes that goes from the utility funds to help support the general fund. Think of that as you are the stockholder of the company and you are paying yourself a dividend. This payment assists the City with keeping your property taxes low.
- 3) There is a senior citizen discount available to residents over the age of 65 on your utilities. Just bring proof of age to the utility billing counter and we will apply the 10% discount. Please keep in mind that you don't "see" the credit on your bill because it is taken off of the rate directly instead of a credit reflected on the bill itself.
- 4) Bills are mailed on or before the first day of the month. They are due by the 15th of the month. If you are paying after the 15th, you are subject to a 10% penalty. Bills not paid in full by the 25th of the month are subject to disconnection of services. The City offers you various ways to make payment. You can stop by City Hall, you can mail in your payment, you can sign up for bank draft, you can leave your payment in the drop box on the north side of the building, or you can pay online.
- 5) If you have questions about your bill, you can always contact the Utility Billing division and they will be happy to assist you. We look forward to a new fiscal year in Hondo and continuing to improve on our customer service. If you have any questions/concerns/feedback, please don't hesitate to call, drop by or email me at kdavis@hondo-tx.org.

~Kim Davis