

**MINUTES
CITY OF HONDO
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 1, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.**

1. Call to order.

Mayor Danner called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

2. Quorum check.

Mayor James W. Danner, Sr., Mayor ProTem John E. Villa, Councilman John McAnelly, Councilman Wes Huesser, Councilman Jose "Porky" Ytuarte, Councilman Bobby Vela, City Attorney Jessie Lopez (Remote), Interim City Manager/Chief of Police Brian Valenzuela, City Secretary Miguel Cantu.

Staff Present: Assistant to the City Secretary Megan Rodriguez, IT Network Administrator Josh Rodriguez, Investigator Maria Rivas, STRTC Administrative Assistant Lillian Bales, Assistant Public Works Director William "Buddy" Stewart, Electric Superintendent David Baker, Director of Economic Development Genevieve Flores, Director of Finance Judy Narezo.

3. Citizens'/Public Comments:

No public comments.

4. Discuss and consider Mayoral Disaster Declaration issued February 19, 2021.

Mayor Danner presented a Disaster Declaration issued February 19, 2021 following the winter storm. The disaster declaration should allow for the City of Hondo to be eligible for benefits from FEMA or any other disaster relief assistance offered to cities. Mayor Danner noted that while the declaration covered a seven-day period, he requested that council extend the declaration for a 30 day period. Mayor Danner stated that Medina County has been tracking disaster benefits and since the county qualified to be covered under FEMA, the City is eligible as well.

Mayor ProTem Villa moved to authorize a 30 day extension of the Disaster Declaration. Motion seconded by Councilman Vela. Motion carried 5-0.

5. City Manager Report(s)

a. COVID-19 Update

Chief Valenzuela began with a report on the citywide spring cleanup beginning Monday, March 1, 2021 which will run through Friday, March 5, 2021. Chief Valenzuela stated that information regarding the cleanup was placed on the bottom of February's utility bill, published in the Hondo Anvil Herald, and was posted to the City's social media sites on February 23, 2021. Chief Valenzuela noted that on March 9, 2021 Medina County will host a food distribution event at the fairgrounds starting at 9:30 a.m. running until 10:00 a.m., noting interested families must call to register for the event to optimize the time and distribution.

Chief Valenzuela reported having 19 utility bill extensions for the month following the winter storm mainly due to reduced hours, plumbing, repairs, illness, etc. for customers as a result of the storm. For the month of March, the City did not charge disconnect fees, nor did we do any disconnections on February 25, 2021. Chief Valenzuela reported there were 97 accounts with outstanding balances, 55 accounts remaining unpaid which remain subject to disconnection.

Chief Valenzuela reported on COVID related payment arrangements stating there were originally 107 arrangements and they are down to 37 remaining arrangements. Chief Valenzuela stated that he has been in close contact with the Medina County Health Unit and reports the COVID numbers in Medina County remain on the decline as well.

Chief Valenzuela stated that as previously discussed at the prior council meeting, every single account up for disconnection will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Chief Valenzuela stated that utility staff was aware of the payment arrangement process which would include the assistance of Chief Finance Officer Judy Narezo and the City Manager's Office input.

Chief Valenzuela added that the City's lobbies will start to reopen to include the Rick Taylor Recreation

Center, Library, and the Golf Course. City Staff will continue to take precautions by requiring masks, temperature checks, and hand sanitizing. Additionally, it was noted that thermal scanners at every division within the City would be utilized.

b. Winter Storm Update

Chief Valenzuela stated that he wanted to first recognize City Staff and extend his appreciation and admiration to the employees of the City of Hondo. During the winter storm, witnessing the dedication our employees have for their job and community, he couldn't be more proud to work alongside a group of individuals that stepped up without hesitation. Chief Valenzuela also expressed appreciation to Ryan Weimers of C&W Fuels for assisting the City of Hondo, the community, and surrounding areas, providing fuel due to the temporary shortage during the storm.

Chief Valenzuela stated that due to the winter storm, the City has waived all permit fees for repairs related to recent weather events until March 5 allowing residents ample time to come in to pull those permits.

Chief Valenzuela reported that the Public Works division reached out to the water supplies vendor and purchased several plumbing supplies that were needed for infrastructure repairs. Chief Valenzuela reported that a bulk of supplies was purchased for said repairs and the remaining was made available to the community to assist with plumbing repair supplies due to the local shortage. Chief Valenzuela mentioned there has been a lot of positive feedback from community members that have taken advantage of the opportunity.

Mayor Danner stated since the City is under contract with CPS for a fixed rate to the City, there should not be any excessive charges we need to consider passing on to the public. Mayor Danner stated he does not believe the residents will be faced with any exorbitant utility bills other than for usage following the winter storm.

6. Electric Department Report

Mr. David Baker gave a report on rolling blackouts by stating that the statewide electric system set a new system peak during the winter storm. Where the summer load peak historically has not exceeded 74,000 megawatts, during this week's winter storms the City reached 77,000 megawatt hours. Mr. Baker explained this is similar to going up a mountain with a small car pulling a trailer, "you're going to lose speed as the system loads up, you're going to bog down, and you've got to do something or you're going to completely stall and go nowhere"; that is the risk that ERCOT faced. Mr. Baker stated ERCOT kept the system in a manual setting and proceeded with rolling blackouts beginning Monday at approximate 1:00 a.m. resuming throughout the week on circuits 312 and 313, noting the 311 circuit carries the hospital and wastewater pumps and could not be interrupted.

Mr. Baker reported on the City's electrical infrastructure. During the week six line fuses melted out, which is not unusual during rolling blackouts. Mr. Baker reported three transformers went out and were replaced immediately, restoring service to the customers within an hour on each of those outages. Mr. Baker reported that this was the extent of the local impact on our system.

Mr. Baker explained that citizens in Hondo will see an increase in the consumption on their utility bill because they ran their heating systems longer and harder being that they were home and not at work during this storm. Mr. Baker stated some customers might not see as big of an increase in consumption due to the rolling blackouts. Mr. Baker also noted the price per kilowatt hour will not be impacted by the storm due to the contract in place with CPS.

7. Public Works Report

a. Emergency Response to the Winter Storm

i. Water/Wastewater

Mr. Stewart reported that during the winter storm the Water and Wastewater systems were able to be maintained. Crews were working all hours of the night maintaining pumps, motors, and elevated tanks. Mr. Stewart stated IT Administrator Josh Rodriguez was helpful after-hours assisting with the City's SCADA program. Mr. Stewart mentioned Medina County helped by loaning the City of Hondo a generator and Chief Valenzuela assisted with the coordination of fuel and other field operations.

ii. Streets

Mr. Stewart reported the Street Division did an excellent job with their quick response times when clearing the snow from the streets and applying the ice treatment to make the streets safer for the citizens. Mr. Stewart stated the Street Division crews were out multiple days clearing the snow and putting sand down on the icy spots with excellent response time.

iii. Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Stewart reported that City buildings and grounds had several leaks during the winter storm. Mr. Stewart stated they were working to get an estimated number of leaks and assess the full extent of damage caused by the storm and would provide City Council with a list of all the damages once the assessment was complete. Mr. Stewart stated there was no major damage except for the possibility at the airport where a pipe burst in one of the hangers. Aviation Director Ryan Elder would be coordinating the damages with Human Resources/Payroll Director Sharon Garcia for insurance purposes.

b. Streets and Alley Projects

i. Alley Project Update

Mr. Stewart reported alley project was delayed due to the winter storm; however, the project is 95% complete. Mr. Stewart stated that the project should be 100% complete by the next City Council meeting.

ii. Avenue M Project Update

Mr. Stewart reported that M&S Engineering completed the surveying and GeoTech reports. The information will be compiled by M&S Engineering which will provide the City with options and cost estimates. Mr. Stewart stated the report might possibly be available by the next council meeting. Mr. Stewart reported on the 14th Street project, stating that M&S has supplied the City with 50% of the plans with Chief Valenzuela having a copy of that in his office, and they would be reviewing them with the engineer this week to ensure that everything is correct moving forward. Mr. Stewart stated that once the review is complete, they will come back to Council with what has been completed and M&S can finish out the plans and drawings from that point.

c. Street Maintenance

i. Potholes

Mr. Stewart reported that the street crews repaired 144 potholes and 36 work orders that month. Mr. Stewart provided a printout of the iWorks work orders to councilmembers.

ii. Work Orders

Mr. Stewart reported that crews have been working to complete the work orders; beginning with 60 work orders and are now down to approximately 30. Mr. Stewart stated crews would be completing the work on alleyways and would begin to work on the secondary list.

8. Discuss and consider approval of Resolution of Appreciation.

Mayor Danner read Resolution Number 361-20.

WHEREAS, beginning Sunday, February 14, 2021, a historic winter storm event descended upon our Hondo community, resulting in nearly a week of snow, ice, and record setting low temperatures; and

WHEREAS, even though our city staff was inexperienced with such weather, led by Interim City Manager/Police Chief Brian Valenzuela, who was tirelessly out with the employees, responded very quickly and with no hesitation, to insure that our citizens were able to continue to function with electricity, water, the elimination of waste, and were able to travel as needed on our city's main thoroughfares; and

WHEREAS, even though areas of our town, some more than others, suffered hours of loss of electricity depending on the circuits decided for blackouts by CPS and ERCOT, our Electric Department, under the supervision of Electric Superintendent David Baker, kept electricity flowing to most of our residents; and

WHEREAS, although loss of water was a major concern of many, many Texas cities requiring the boiling of water, the City's Water Department under the management of Assistant Public Works Director William Stewart and Water Superintendent Jeremiah Socarras, using innovative actions, made sure that our citizens never lost their water, and Wastewater Superintendent Stephen Winters and his department insured that our wastewater service was maintained; and

WHEREAS, the city's Street Department, led by Street Superintendent Adam Zapata, kept most of our city's main thoroughfares bladed and passable so that emergency

personnel along with our police cruisers could navigate the city; and **WHEREAS**, since needed protection and safety of our citizens was a very high priority, the Hondo Police Department personnel under the direction of Police Lieutenant Rick Garza were all out in the cold and dangerous conditions throughout the week; and **WHEREAS**, as most of the members of our community were able to be safe and warm in their homes, we must recognize as heroes our city employees who sacrificed their wellbeing in serving the citizens of Hondo for what we should be proud and thankful, as we compare our experience during the storms to all the many Texas communities who were not as well cared for as we were in Hondo; and so, **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Members of the City Council of Hondo, Texas do thank and show great appreciation to our dedicated employees for their unselfish service which they gave to the city during this dangerous and stressful event and request that all of our citizens, as they have the opportunity, recognize and thank our employees for their actions on behalf of our community.

Councilman McAnelly moved to approve Resolution 361-20, a Resolution of Appreciation. Motion seconded by Mayor ProTem Villa. Motion carried 5-0.

9. **Discuss and consider authorizing the Interim City Manager to extend the lapsed Depository Banking Service Agreement between the City of Hondo, Texas and Broadway Bank that will be ending March 31, 2021.** Ms. Narezo reported that on March 20, 2017 the City entered into a Bank Depository Contract with Broadway Bank for the City's depository services. The contract was for the period of April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2020. The depository contract included an option to renew for two one-year periods. The agreement presented was for the **first extension agreement** utilized from the original depository agreement. Ms. Narezo stated that the first extension for the depository contract should have been implemented in March 31, 2020; however, the extension agreement has been backdated to reflect the start date of the agreement as March 31, 2020. Broadway Bank has continued to provide the promised services in the original contract without the extension being filed the previous year; this extension agreement will expire March 31, 2021. Councilman McAnelly moved to authorize the Interim City Manager to extend the lapsed Depository Banking Service Agreement between the City of Hondo, Texas and Broadway Bank expiring March 31, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilman Ytuarte. Motion carried 5-0.
10. **Discuss and consider authorizing the Interim City Manager to extend the Depository Banking Service Agreement between the City of Hondo, Texas and Broadway Bank that will be ending March 31, 2022.** Ms. Narezo reported that March 20, 2017 the City entered into a Bank Depository Contract with Broadway Bank for the City's depository services. The contract was for the period of April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2020. The depository contract includes an option to renew for two one-year periods extensions and this will be for the **second and final extension agreement** utilized from the original depository agreement with Broadway Bank that began on April 1, 2017. This will extend our agreement for depository services with Broadway Bank until March 31, 2022. Councilman McAnelly moved to authorize the Interim City Manager to extend Depository Banking Service Agreement between the City of Hondo, Texas and Broadway Bank expiring March 31, 2022. Motion seconded by Councilman Vela. Motion carried 5-0
11. **Discuss and consider Ordinance No. 1242-03-21, an ordinance of the City of Hondo, Texas, authorizing amendments to the adopted annual budget of the City of Hondo, Texas for the 2020-2021 fiscal year providing for supplemental appropriation and/or transfer of certain funds; providing for severability; and providing for other matters related to the subject.** Ms. Narezo reported that on September 14, 2020 Council approved Ordinance No. 1233-09-20 adopting the City of Hondo's annual budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Ms. Narezo presented Amendment Number 10 that will amend the budget for the emergency purchase of a new police vehicle unit. The unit had encountered unforeseen mechanical issues that resulted in the cost to repair the vehicle far exceeding its value. The total amendment will be for \$38,800. This amount includes the vehicle and outfitting for the new police unit. Staff recommends that this budget amendment be accepted, and the adjustments be made to the 2020-2021 Budget. Councilman Vela moved to approve authorizing amendments to the adopted annual budget of the City of Hondo, Texas for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Motion was seconded by Councilman McAnelly. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Discuss and consider Appointments to the City of Hondo Ethics Review Board.

Mayor Danner stated the item was placed back on the agenda due to an appointee by Councilman Vela being ineligible to be on the board. The appointee was not eligible because she does not reside within the city limits. Mayor Danner stated that in place of the previous appointee, Councilman Vela has requested Elva Miranda to serve as his appointee. Mayor Danner stated the council will need to approve the full slate of the ethic review board appointees, and there will be copies of the Ethics Review Policy being sent to all councilmembers and member of the board.

Mayor ProTem Villa moved to approve the appointments to the City of Hondo Ethics Review Board; to include the appointment of Mrs. Elva Miranda. Motion seconded by Councilman Huesser. Motion carried 5-0.

- 13. Executive Session:** The City Council of the City of Hondo convened in Executive Session at 4:03 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 4:46 p.m. in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, *Section 551.071* (Consultations with Attorney) on matters in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly requires discussion in closed session; Pending or contemplated litigation; *Section 551.072* (Deliberations about Real Property); and *Section 551.087* (Deliberations Regarding Economic Development Negotiations):
- Discussion regarding potential lease, purchase or value of real property.
 - Discussion regarding potential lease/sale of property located at the South Texas Regional Airport.
 - Discussion regarding potential development incentives and negotiations with a prospect for development at the South Texas Regional Airport.
 - Discussion about ongoing procedures in search for new City Manager.

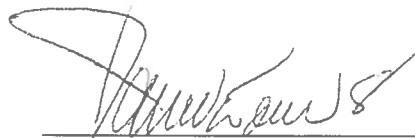
14. Discuss and consider appropriate action resulting from Executive Session.

No action.

15. Adjourn.

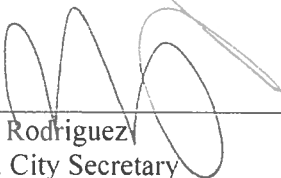
Councilman McAnelly moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:46 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilman Huesser. Motion carried 5-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 22nd DAY OF MARCH 2021.



JAMES W. DANNER, SR., MAYOR

ATTEST:



Megan Rodriguez
Interim City Secretary



