

**MINUTES
CITY OF HONDO
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

1. Call to order.

Mayor Danner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Quorum check.

Mayor James W. Danner, Sr., Mayor Pro Tem Bobby Vela, Councilman John E. Villa, Councilman Brett Williams, Councilman Jose “Porky” Ytuarte, Councilman Wes Huesser, City Manager Scott Albert, City Attorney Jessie Lopez, Interim City Secretary Megan Rodriguez.

Staff Present: IT Network Administrator Josh Rodriguez, IT Network Assistant Adolfo Tellez, STRTC Administrative Assistant Lillian Bales, Detective Sergeant Brandon Teer, Assistant Public Works Director William “Buddy” Stewart, Director of Finance Judy Narezo, Director of Aviation Ryan Elder, Human Resources Director Sharon Garcia, Interim Electric Superintendent Val Sanchez, Water Crew Leader Lance Ward.

3. Invocation by Pastor Beverly Kelling of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

4. Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Danner.

5. Citizens’/Public Comments:

No public comments.

6. Discuss and consider approving the minutes from the City Council of May 24, 2021 regular meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Vela moved to approve the minutes for the May 24, 2021 regular meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Huesser. Motion carried 5-0.

7. City Manager Report(s)

a. Employee Recognition – Lance Ward (5 years)

Mr. Albert recognized Mr. Lance Ward for five years of service within the Water Division for the City, stating that Mr. Ward is a dedicated and hardworking employee and has obtained the required licenses and certificates associated with the Water and Waste Water Divisions.

8. Public Works Report

a. Water Division

Mr. Stewart reported that reports have been provided to Council on the Water Division and Council has received replies to their questions from the last council meeting.

b. Street Maintenance

Mr. Stewart reported that the Street Division has completed 193 street repairs since the last council meeting and the Street Division has also completed 36 work orders.

9. Discuss and consider awarding R.L. Jones, LP the contract for 14th Street Improvement Project and authorizing the City Manager to enter into contract with R.L. Jones, LP for the amount, not to exceed, \$588,223.80.

Mr. Stewart reported that on May 25th City staff, along with M&S Engineering opened bids for the 14th Street Improvement Project. Mr. Stewart stated that five bids were submitted with the lowest bid being R.L. Jones, LP for the amount of \$588,223.80. Mr. Stewart stated M&S Engineering has reviewed the R.L. Jones bid package and has found it to be administratively complete, and

based on direct experience with R.L. Jones and their history of working with the City of Hondo, M&S Engineering recommends that the contract be awarded them for the bid amount of \$588,223.80. Mr. Stewart also stated that staff recommends awarding R.L. Jones the contract for 14th Street Improvement Project. Mr. Narezo was asked to come forward to offer an explanation to Council on the memo provided discussing how the project would be paid. Ms. Narezo reported that if the transfer to the 09 Fund was reduced there would be enough monies available to fund the 14th Street Improvement Project and there would still be \$615,000 remaining in the 09 Fund. Further discussion included Mr. Albert giving direction on the funds and how they would be distributed to prevent a deficit while allotting funds for the 14th Street Improvement Project. Councilman Ytuarte questioned the budget being at a deficit for the last budget year, to which Mr. Albert replied that the discussion was on the deficit this fiscal year. Discussion followed regarding the distribution of funds and the deficit in question. Ms. Narezo stated that these funds most often exceed revenues and funds are transferred to balance the funds. During discussion Councilman Villa questioned why Council approved a budget of \$1.2 million if it was not really there, to which it was explained that the monies were there at the time but had been reallocated. Mayor Pro Tem Vela moved to award R.L. Jones, LP the contract for 14th Street Improvement Project and authorizing the City Manager to enter into contract with R.L. Jones, LP for the amount, not to exceed, \$588,223.80. Motion seconded by Councilman Huesser.
Motion carried 5-0.

10. Discuss and consider the proposed FY 2021-2022 Budget Calendar.

Ms. Narezo presented the budget calendar for this upcoming budget process for the fiscal year of 2021 through 2022. Ms. Narezo stated there was a delay with TML releasing guidelines for the budget calendar this year. Ms. Narezo stated that they will begin meeting with staff this week to approve or deny budget requests. Ms. Narezo noted that the Council Budget Workshop will be held July 13th-14th this year. Mayor Pro Tem Vela moved to approve the proposed FY 2021-2022 Budget Calendar. Motion seconded by Councilman Ytuarte. Motion carried 5-0.

11. Discuss and consider approval for the City Manager to enter into a purchase contract with Aqua-metric for the purchase of both residential and commercial AMI meters, not to exceed \$149,919.79.

Mr. Sanchez stated that the approved 2020-2021 City budget included a capital outlay of \$150,000 for the purchase of commercial and residential AMI meters for the Electric Division. Mr. Sanchez reported that this quote is for 187 commercial meters and 575 residential meters costing a total of \$149,919.79, and with this purchase the Electric Division will be closer to completing the AMI conversion plan. Mr. Sanchez stated that staff recommends and Council approve the City Manager to enter into a purchase agreement with Aqua-Metric for the purchase of the AMI meters for a total cost of \$149,919.79. Mayor Pro Tem Vela questioned if this brought us closer to completion of the conversion, to which Mr. Sanchez replied that after these meters are installed only 200 more remain. Mayor Pro Tem Vela moved to approve the City Manager to enter into a purchase contract with Aqua-metric for the purchase of both residential and commercial AMI meters, not to exceed \$149,919.79. Motion seconded by Councilman Williams. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Discuss and consider Resolution No. 367-21, a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Hondo, Texas Authorizing the City of Hondo Economic Development Corporation to submit a grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Office for a matching loan/grant for the purchase of diesel mechanic equipment for the James W. Danner Sr. Annex and authorizing the Mayor to sign and execute the grant agreement on behalf of the City of Hondo Economic Development Corporation.

This item was tabled by City Manager Scott Albert. Mr. Albert stated this item would be presented at the June 28th Council meeting.

13. **Discuss and consider Ordinance No. 1242-06-21, an Ordinance of the City of Hondo, Texas adopting a speed strip map for certain portions of US HWY 90: declaring a public purpose; incorporating recitals; providing for severability; providing a repealer; providing a penalty; requiring publication and setting an effective date.**

Detective Sergeant Teer stated that this ordinance is being presented because there have been ongoing discussions between the City of Hondo and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) on conducting a speed study on the east and west ends of town for the purpose of lowering speed limits due to motor vehicle accidents and fatalities. Detective Sergeant Teer stated based off of the study done, TxDOT is recommending the lowering of the speed limit on the east and west end of town. Detective Sergeant Teer stated that there are revisions that need to be made to the ordinance before it is executed and he would be getting with City Attorney Lopez to have the ordinance amended. Councilman Huesser questioned if there was a grace period for motorists after the new speed limit goes into effect, Detective Sergeant Teer stated that there is a grace period for motorists to get used to the change in the speed limits but he was not aware of the exact amount of days allotted for the grace period. Councilman Villa asked if this grace period was also in effect for those traveling through town who are not familiar with the speed limits, to which Detective Sergeant Teer replied that this is a courtesy to all. Councilman Huesser questioned if there would be notice given to residents, to which Detective Sergeant Teer replied that media outlets would be used to get the word out, such as the newspaper, social media, and the City website.

Councilman Villa moved to approve Ordinance No. 1242-06-21 with corrections, an Ordinance of the City of Hondo, Texas adopting a speed strip map for certain portions of US HWY 90: declaring a public purpose; incorporating recitals; providing for severability; providing a repealer; providing a penalty; requiring publication and setting an effective date. Motion seconded by Councilman Huesser. Motion carried 5-0.

14. **Executive Session:** The City Council of the City of Hondo convened in Executive Session at 6:26 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 7:42 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);

Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters); and

Section 551.087 (Deliberations Regarding Economic Development Negotiations):

- a. Discussion regarding potential lease, purchase or value of real property.
- b. Discussion regarding potential lease/sale of property located at the South Texas Regional Airport.
- c. Discussion regarding potential development incentives and negotiations with a prospect for development at the South Texas Regional Airport.
- d. Lease agreement with Carpe Diem Farms LLC .
- e. Indio Estates
- f. Lease agreement with the Medina County Fair Association.
- g. Consideration of Hondo Charter Violation and any Penalties to be inflicted thereof.
- h. Amendment to the Professional Services and Employment Agreement with Scott Albert.

15. **Discuss and consider appropriate action resulting from Executive Session.**

Councilman Williams moved for the City to take over the operations and management of the Medina County Fair Hall, Livestock Barn, and related property from the Medina County Fair Association. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Vela. Councilman Ytuarte voted nay. Councilman Villa abstained from voting. Motion carried 3-1-1.

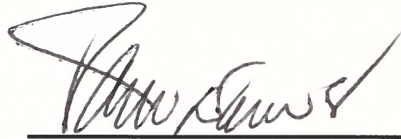
Mayor Pro Tem Vela moved to amend the Professional Services and Employment Contract for Scott Albert making his severance package effective immediately. Motion was seconded by

Councilman Huesser. Councilman Villa and Councilman Ytuarte opposed the motion. Mayor Danner stated for the record he is against the motion.
Motion carried 3-2.

16. Adjourn.

Mayor Pro Tem Vela moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilman Williams. Motion carried 5-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 28TH DAY OF JUNE 2021.



JAMES W. DANNER SR., MAYOR

ATTEST:



Megan Rodriguez
Interim City Secretary

