

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to order.**

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

**2. Quorum check.**

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

Staff: Economic Development Director Genevieve Flores, Director of Aviation Ryan Elder, Economic Development Corporation Administrative Assistant Val Lopez, IT Network Administrator Josh Rodriguez, Police Lieutenant Rick Garza, Assistant Public Works Director William "Buddy" Stewart, Electric Superintendent David Baker, Custodian Yolanda Contreras, Grounds Supervisor Len McVay, Library Director Elsie Purcell, Recreation Program Coordinator Linda Quintero, Recreation Aide Lisette Hernandez, Airport Administrative Assistant Ana Garcia, Airport Technician Jonathan Velasquez, Airport Technician Chris Hernandez

**3. Invocation by Pastor Joyce McCormick, New Fountain United Methodist Church.**

**4. Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Danner.**

**5. Citizens'/Public Comments:**

Chavel Lopez, 1002 Avenue S, stated he believed that City Council should draft a resolution for the removal of President Donald J. Trump because of his involvement in the January 6, 2021 insurrection at the United States Capitol. Mr. Lopez believed President Trump threatens democracy. Mr. Lopez also asked that the City Council assist city residents with the removal of household chemicals by requesting the assistance of Republic Services. He believes the City should provide a location to drop off collected household waste items such as paints and batteries. Mr. Lopez also wanted to address the street work performed on 17<sup>th</sup> Street. He noticed that there was some work performed by a contractor but there were several potholes remaining. He felt that the contractor could have done a better job.

Florestela Gonzales 1002 Avenue S, stated that she was concerned with the cemetery clean up that was completed on January 4, 2021. She had just placed fresh flowers on her family burials and the flowers were removed. She stated that she understands that the flowers should be removed if they are faded; however, she had just purchased the flowers.

**6. Discuss and consider approving the minutes from December 15, 2020 special City Council meeting.**

Mayor ProTem Villa moved to approve the minutes for December 15, 2020 special meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Ytuarte. Motion carried 5-0.

**7. City Manager Report(s)**

**a. January Calendar**

Chief Valenzuela announced that the City of Hondo offices would be closed on January 18, 2021 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. He also stated that several boards would be meeting throughout the month of January to include the Board of Adjustment, Planning & Zoning, Library Advisory Board, and Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Chief Valenzuela also noted that the first day to file for place on the

election ballot is January 13, 2021.

**b. COVID-19 Update**

Chief Valenzuela stated that due the increase in COVID-19 cases city offices have closed its lobbies to the public. Staff is working to make sure they continue to provide All city services. Chief Valenzuela added that Parks & Recreation and the Library would continue to provide virtual classes and courses. Mayor Danner asked when the thermal scanners would be ready. Chief Valenzuela responded that the thermal scanners should be ready within the next week. The scanners will be placed at each City facility. Mayor ProTem Villa asked if a mask was required to enter into a business. Chief Valenzuela responded that it was up to the business to require a mask and not enforceable by the City. Mayor ProTem Villa stated that he was very concerned about customers entering business without a mask. Mayor Danner stated that the Little League was looking to start their season and he was seeking input from the City Council regarding the Little League to start. Mayor ProTem Villa stated that if professional games were cancelled he did not understand why the Little League could not be cancelled for this year. The concern was the personnel to control with a good plan for the kids that's fine. Councilman Ytuarte asked how the league would keep track of the kids since there are several in the dugout or if they start to run around. He stated that the plan would have to be a good plan; however, they should be given the opportunity to provide a good plan for the season. Councilman Vela agreed with Councilman Ytuarte. Mayor Danner emphasized that he valued the opinion of the City Council and would be having a meeting with the Little League offices to address the plan. Mayor Danner said he could email the three page plan that was provided to him with the application for the gathering.

**c. Staff Awards 2020**

Chief Valenzuela stated that typically City staff is recognized at a ceremony; however, because of the current pandemic this would be a modified recognition. Mayor Danner and Mayor ProTem Villa presented the following with their respective awards.

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| <b>i. Employee of the Quarter</b>  | <b>Yolanda Contreras, Custodian</b>  |
| <b>ii. Employee of the Year</b><br><i>(unavailable present to be recognized)</i> | <b>Isaiah Lopez, Wastewater Division</b>   |
| <b>iii. Newcomer of the Year</b>   | <b>Len McVay, Grounds Supervisor</b><br><b>Yolanda Contreras, Custodian</b>                                  |
| <b>iv. Supervisor of the Year</b>  | <b>Elsie Purcell, Library Director</b>   |
| <b>v. Above and Beyond</b>   | <b>Linda Quintero, Recreation Program</b><br><b>Coordinator</b><br><b>Lisette Hernandez, Recreation Aide</b> |
| <b>vi. Citizen of the Year Award</b>   | <b>William "Buddy" Stewart, Assistant Public</b><br><b>Works Director</b>                                    |
| <b>vii. City Manager's Excellence Award</b>                                      | <b>LT Rick Garza, Hondo Police Department</b>  |
| <b>viii. Executive of the Year</b>   | <b>Chief Brian Valenzuela</b>  |
| <b>ix. Christmas Decorating Contest</b>  | <b>South Texas Regional Airport</b>  |

**8. Presentation: Hondo U Graduates Fall 2020**

Mrs. Kindred presented the Fall 2020 Hondo U Graduates. She stated that the class was ready to work alongside the City of Hondo to help provide for the future growth and progress of the City. Mayor Danner and Mayor ProTem Villa presented plaques to Steve Dauphin, Michelle Flores, Mekenna Lange, Brittany Meyers, Penny Soliz, Elsie Purcell; not present to accept their awards were Barbara Desrosiers, Patricia Farness, Patricia Mares, Lori Wells, and Olga Wolff. Mayor Danner recognized Mayor ProTem Villa for having been the City Council liaison for Hondo U since the inception of the program.

**9. Presentation: Main Street Program, Susan Rios**

Mrs. Kindred presented Mrs. Susan Rios of Uvalde, Texas. Mrs. Rios is the Main Street

Manager for the Uvalde Main Street Program. She has served in this position for almost 5 years. She also oversees the historic preservation, economic development, and overall promotion of historic downtown of the City of Uvalde. Mrs. Rios stated that it is the belief that downtown revitalization is a crucial tool for enhancing the economic and social health of a community. In addition to being the most visible indicator of community pride and economic health, the historic downtown is also the foundation of the unique heritage of a community. The historic buildings in a downtown are prime locations for the establishment of unique entrepreneurial businesses and can be tourism attractors, all of which add to the community's sales tax collections and property values. Programs and the property/business owners in designated local Main Street districts receive pro-bono assistance from the state Main Street staff in the areas of economic and small-business development, design, historic preservation, and organizational management program. The Texas Main Street Program (TMSP) will positively influence and impact the economic health and the preservation of important historic resources in Texas and our work with local communities throughout the state will help achieve the goals of the Texas Historical Commission. Through guidance from the TMSP, designated local Main Street programs will be organizationally sound and their historic town centers will be visually improved and economically viable. Mrs. Rios added that the mission of the TMSP is to provide technical expertise, education, resources and support to designated Main Street communities. Today, there are 87 official Texas Main Street communities all across Texas that range in population from less than 2,000 to more than 300,000. Cumulatively, designated Texas Main Street communities have reported significant reinvestment into their historic downtowns. Each year, the Texas Historical Commission may select up to five Texas cities for official Main Street designation. Historic neighborhood commercial districts are also eligible to apply. There is no application fee. With this designation, communities become part of a powerful statewide and national network. Designated communities receive a range of services from the Texas Main Street Program (TMSP) staff. This includes professional expertise provided to the program, and downtown property and business owners in the areas of design, preservation, downtown-specific economic development, organizational management and small business development, as well as being able to showcase districts and assets on our proprietary website DowntownTX.org. There are currently 87 officially designated Main Street communities in Texas. There are communities of all sizes across the state of Texas utilizing the Main Street Program. Mrs. Rios asked if there were any questions; but if not anyone had any further questions Mrs. Kindred could provide her contact information.

## **10. Public Works Report**

### **i. Current Projects**

#### **1. 17<sup>th</sup> Street from Avenue P to Avenue R and Avenue Q from 17<sup>th</sup> Street to 18<sup>th</sup> Street**

Mr. Stewart reported several repairs were made to the streets and invited City Council to visit the sites. He stated that the streets were resurfaced and tracked the cost of the project for future reference. The drainage is being addressed; however, because of the rain the project will have to commence once the area dries.

#### **2. 14<sup>th</sup> Street Project**

Mr. Stewart stated that the contract with the engineer was signed and the engineers have started the project and completed the surveying. At this time, the engineers should be at the drawing stage and he hopes they will be ahead of schedule.

#### **3. Avenue M from 19<sup>th</sup> Street to 30<sup>th</sup> Street**

Mr. Stewart reported that the engineer had started working on the project area by taking core samples. Due to COVID issues in their offices the project could be delayed.

4.

ii. **Street and Alley Maintenance**

1. **Potholes**

Mr. Stewart stated that staff continues to work on potholes throughout the city.

2. **Alley Update**

Mr. Stewart reported that the city alley work was 95% complete and on schedule. He hopes to have all citywide alleyways repaired by the end of February.

3. **Work Orders**

Mr. Stewart stated that they have identified work order by either preliminary or secondary work orders. Preliminary work orders are created by the community and secondary work orders are created by staff. Councilman Vela asked if the Water Department was shorthanded. Mr. Stewart responded that the division was fully staffed with eight personnel. Councilman Ytuarte asked if a pothole was not repaired because they are waiting for the Water Division to respond, to add some base to cover up the pothole in the meantime. During the rains, the water covers the potholes and makes it dangerous to drive through a street with potholes.

11. **Discuss and consider Resolution No. 357-21, a resolution authorizing a grant application to the Criminal Justice Division Office of the Office of the Governor of the State of Texas for the Rifle-Resistant Body Armor Grant Program, FY2022; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date. (Rick Garza)**

Lt. Garza stated that the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office Criminal Justice Division announced on December 14, 2020 the available funding for Rifle-Resistant Body Armor Grant Program, FY2022. The funds would be used for obtaining body armor compliant with the National Institute of Justice standards; including bullet-resistant vests, ballistic plates, and plate carriers. At this time, the Hondo Police Department seeks to apply for \$34,569.00 in grant funds to supply 23 officers with bulletproof vests. The life expectancy is approximately 5 years and the Police Department is seeking grant funds to replace the vests. LT Garza stated that there is no financial impact to the City of Hondo.

Councilman McAnelly moved to approve Resolution 357-21. Motion seconded by Councilman Ytuarte. Motion carried 5-0.

12. **Discuss and consider Resolution No. 358-21, a resolution approving a Notice of Intent to issue a refund to customers submitted by CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp D/B/A CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas, for its South Texas Division (“CenterPoint”); finding that the meeting complies with the open meetings act; making other findings and provisions related to the subject; and declaring an effective date.**

Mr. Baker stated that about November 6, 2020, CenterPoint Energy Resources Corporation, D/B/A CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas filed a “Notice of Intent to Reflect a Refund for the South Texas Division pursuant to Section 104.111 of the Gas Utility Regulatory Act” with the City of Hondo, Texas to change its rate schedules within the corporate limits of the City, specifically to refund the protected excess deferred income taxes resulting from the TCJA and to amortize these excess deferred income taxes using the Average Rate Assumption Method. Mr. Baker added that there was no financial impact to the City of Hondo. Only to its citizens on or about November 6, 2020, CenterPoint Energy Resources Corporation, D/B/A CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas (“CenterPoint”) filed a “Notice of Intent to Reflect a Refund for the South Texas Division pursuant to Section 104.111 of the Gas Utility Regulatory Act” (“Notice”) with the City of Hondo, Texas (“City”) to change its rate schedules within the corporate limits of the City, specifically to refund the protected excess deferred income taxes (“EDIT”) resulting from the TCJA and to amortize these excess deferred income taxes using the Average Rate Assumption Method (“ARAM”). Mr. Baker added that the City of Hondo had elected to maintain Original Jurisdiction over CenterPoint’s rates, operations, and services within the City. Resolution No. 358-21 is presented for approval, granting the following: approves the

rate tariff, approves the revenue allocation tables and total refund in an amount of approximately \$864,903 within the South Texas Division. This would include customers within the City and directs CenterPoint to issue a refund consistent with the rate tariff; and denies all other relief not expressly granted by this Resolution.

Councilman Ytuarte moved to approve Resolution No. 358-21. Motion seconded by Councilman Vela. Motion carried 5-0.

**13. Discuss and consider authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute an agreement with Shift S3ctor, LLC (SS3) for the exhibition half mile drag race at the South Texas Regional Airport. (Ryan Elder)**

Mr. Elder stated that the half mile race had been presented to City Council in April 2020; however, because of the pandemic the race had to be cancelled. Mr. Elder stated that a new date has been proposed for June 5 and 6, 2021; the fee SS3 would pay the city would decrease to \$7,000.00 from the previous \$12,000.00. One other change included a General Aggregate insurance decrease to \$2 million from the previously proposed \$3 million. Mr. Elder added that they would continue to pay the costs for personnel to operate the event. Councilman McAnelly asked why there are some changes to the contract. Mr. Elder responded that the reduction in costs is because of the pandemic and the organization wanted to assure that it would be a profitable event. He also reminded City Council that the event is a turnkey event. Mayor Danner stated that his concern was that the event was scheduled for June 2021 but did not address a safety plan for the gathering. Mr. Elder assured City Council that there would be a COVID-19 plan.

Councilman McAnelly moved to approve authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute an agreement with Shift S3ctor, LLC (SS3) contingent that SS3 provide a safety plan to address the COVID-19 concerns. Motion seconded by Councilman Vela. Motion carried 5-0.

**14. Discuss and consider Resolution No. 359-21 a resolution of the City of Hondo, Texas providing notice of General Election for Place 1 and Place 2; to be held jointly with Hondo Independent School District on May 1, 2021. Establishing early voting location and polling place for the election; authorizing the City Secretary to enter into a contract with Medina County Elections Administrator and making provisions for the conduct of the election.**

**Comentar y considerar la aprobacion de la Resolucion No. 359-21, resolucion del Consejo Municipal de la Ciudad de Hondo, Texas, ordenando la Eleccion General el dia 1 de Mayo, 2021 para el Lugar 1 y Lugar 4 autorizando a la Secretaria de la Ciudad a firmar el acuerdo del contrato electoral con la Oficina Electoral del Condado de Medina.**

Mr. Cantu stated that the resolution provide the notice for the General Election for Place 1 and 2. He added that he wanted to remind the public that there is additional requirements in the candidate application to include a two of the following (1) Valid Medina County Voter Registration Certificate; (2) Current utility bill; (3) Texas Driver's License or other state of Texas issued ID; or (4) Medina County property tax bill. The financial impact for the election contract with Medina County Elections would be an estimated cost of \$18,852.40; however this amount would be equally divided between the City of Hondo and Hondo ISD if the election would be a Joint Election. The cost would then be \$9,426.20. Mayor ProTem Villa asked if Hondo ISD did not have their election would the city have to pay the full amount. Mr. Cantu stated that the contract did state that in the event that an entity cancels their election, the remaining entity will be responsible for the full amount of the estimated cost of the election. Mayor ProTem Villa stated that he did not feel comfortable knowing that they would have to pay the full amount of \$18,852.40 or if the amount would be less. Mayor Danner stated that the City Council could call the election and remove the contract to approve later.

Councilman Vela moved to approve Resolution No. 359-21 removing authorizing the City Secretary to enter into a contract with Medina County Elections Administrator and making provisions for the conduct of the election. Motion seconded by Councilman McAnelly. Motion carried 5-0.

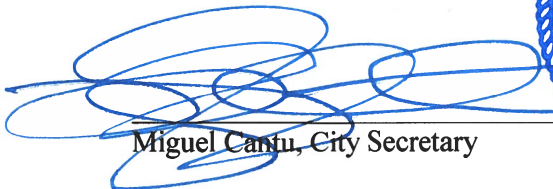
15. **Executive Session:** The City Council of the City of Hondo convened in Executive Session at 7:46: p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 8:34 p.m. in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, *Section 551.071* (Consultations with Attorney) on matters in which the duty 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):
- 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. Discussion about ongoing procedures in search for new City Manager.
16. **Discuss and consider appropriate action resulting from Executive Session.**  
No action
17. **Adjourn.**  
Councilman Vela moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilman McAnelly. Motion carried 5-0.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 25th DAY OF JANUARY 2021.**



JAMES W. DANNER, SR., MAYOR

ATTEST:



Miguel Canhu, City Secretary

