

## MINUTES

### REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 25, 2019 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 John McAnelly, Councilman Eric Torres, Councilman John E. Villa, Councilwoman Ann-Michelle Long, Councilman Bobby Vela, City Attorney Frank Garza, City Manager Kim Davis, City Secretary Miguel Cantu

**Staff:** Police Chief Brian Valenzuela, Economic Development Director Genevieve Flores, Assistant Finance Director Dee Willman, Public Works Director Michael Schmidt, Director of Aviation Ryan Elder, Police Lieutenant Rick Garza, Code Compliance Supervisor Joe Ramon, Electric Supervisor David Baker, Water Supervisor William “Buddy” Stewart, City Planner II Lora Robbins, Police Officer Garret Ross, Police Officer Eric Leimore, IT Network Administrator Josh Rodriguez, Golf Course Superintendent Jerry Busby

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

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

**5. Citizens’/Public Comments:**

Chavel Lopez, 1401 14<sup>th</sup> Street, said he hoped to hear a presentation regarding the street plan that discussed at a recent Leadership Workshop. He stated that the presentation should be presented to the public and not just as an internal plan for Councilmembers and staff. Mr. Lopez informed City Council that there were quite a few blowouts, vehicle shocks replaced, and quite a few vehicles now rattling in the city. Mr. Lopez further requested a timeline for the 14<sup>th</sup> Street mill and seal coat that was presented at the Leadership Workshop. Additionally, Mr. Lopez asked why the City of Hondo would consider a Citizens Patrol. He stated that it appeared that the Police Department wasn’t doing their job if they needed a Citizens Patrol. He added that the Hondo Police Department had not been doing their job because of a recent 14 year old missing child case of Ms. Eva Garcia. He asked if this was a case of race and class or a double standard on how families are being treated.

Crystal Garcia, 1606 11<sup>th</sup> Street, requested the support from the City for the search for 14 year old Ms. Eva Garcia. Mrs. Garcia was representing the entire family by asking City Council to be much more supportive in the search of the missing child. She stated that she had contacted the Mayor to be present at a prayer vigil but the Mayor did not show up. She asked City Council to be aware of their events in the city and show some support to help gain support to find the missing child.

**6. Discuss and consider approving the minutes from Joint City Council and EDC Workshop September 18, 2019 and Regular City Council meeting of October 28, 2019.**

Mayor Pro Tem McAnelly moved to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Councilman Vela. Motion carried 5-0.

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

a. December Calendar

Mrs. Davis stated that the Library would hold its regular programming throughout the month of December. At the next regularly scheduled meeting the unveiling of the City’s Christmas card will take place. She added that the Police Department will hold its annual Blue Santa project; if anyone needed to register to please contact the Hondo Police Department. Also, in January through July the STRTC will hold a Women’s

Entrepreneurship Boot Camp. The program is a collaboration with Alamo Workforce Solutions, Alamo Colleges, and Southwest Texas Boarder Small Business Development Center Network.

b. Board Appreciation Dinner

On December 11, 2019 the City will hold its annual Board Appreciation Dinner to recognize all of the board and commission members for their dedication to their community.

c. Employee Recognitions

Mrs. Davis congratulated the Water Division for winning the Hondo Chamber of Commerce Christmas in God's Country Parade Best Lighting award and the Golf Course winning the Best Business Award. Additionally, Hondo employee Golf Course Superintendent Jerry Busby was recognized for his 5 years of service. Mr. Busby stated that he really enjoyed working at the Hondo Golf Course and the parade award was the third win in the four years the Golf Course has participated. Mrs. Davis thanked all of the city staff who participated in the parade and said this year was the first time the majority of the divisions participated. Mayor Danner recognized the staff who worked on Friday and Saturday for their hard work during Christmas in God's Country event and participation in the parade. Moreover, Mrs. Davis wanted to recognize the Employee of the Quarter 2019 Mr. Josh Rodriguez who continues to provide technical support throughout the City. Councilman Vela and Councilman Torres presented Mr. Rodriguez with a plaque.

**8. Presentation: Mario Obledo, Jr., San Antonio Food Bank Chief of Government and Public Affairs**

Chief of Government and Public Affairs Mr. Mario Obledo introduced himself and stated the he wanted to provide some information regarding the San Antonio Food Bank. San Antonio Food Bank currently covers 16 counties in the area. Their facility is 210,000 square feet, and is located on a total of 40 acres on the west side of San Antonio and primarily operates off of donations and a collaborative work with partner agencies to distribute food to a variety of families, seniors and individuals in need throughout the South Texas region. Mayor Danner asked if the SAFB would be able to better assist the Medina County Food Pantry after the construction of the new facility was complete. Mr. Obledo stated that the food bank was looking forward to creating a strong partnership with be capability of offering more services to the Hondo community. Mr. Obledo stated that if the City ever needed assistance during a disaster and in a situation to fight hunger to call on the SAFB and they would be glad to assist the community of Hondo.

**9. Presentation: Hondo Police Department Citizens on Patrol (Brian Valenzuela)**

Chief Valenzuela stated that the Police Department has tasked itself to create better opportunities and programs to better improve the safety of the community and deter crime. The Hondo Police Department wants to create a program better known as Citizens on Patrol. The program works alongside the Police Department and recruits community volunteers that are trained to assist police with deterring and reporting crime. Chief Valenzuela introduced Mr. George Mayo. Mr. Mayo stated that he had been working with Chief Valenzuela to create a Law Enforcement Volunteer Program (LEV). The program would offer residents of Hondo the opportunity to participate in a special community involvement program. Volunteers would assist officers in the fight against crime under a new program introduced by the department also known as LEV. Applicants for the program would have to be at least 21 years of age with a valid driver's license and no class A or B misdemeanor convictions nor felony convictions. The volunteers would become familiar with identifying and reporting sights, sounds and other signs of suspected criminal activity. The preparation for the participant would consist of training on the Texas Penal Code sections, patrol procedures, incident response, and basic radio usage. They would also be required to ride with one of the police officers for a determined number of hours. The participants would be trained to observe and report criminal activity safely and not attempt to try and stop the activity. Some of the activities the participant would be engaged are directing traffic at major events, conduct searches for lost children and/or disoriented senior citizens, help to control access to concerts, sporting

events, graduation ceremonies, and other large community activities. The participants could also help to identify suspects, stolen cars, and observe crimes in progress and identify the actors committing them. Regarding recognition, the volunteers could be recognized by receiving caps, flashlights, or hour bars reflecting the number of hours spent working on the City programs. Mr. Mayo wished to address the pros and cons in the community. The programs have been in practice in most large cities and many small communities. Citizen involved policing has become the norm in many communities throughout the country; however, many have asked about the essentiality of having volunteers driving around the community. Some of the pros include bringing the community together. A joint effort with the Hondo community members and the police force, bringing the community and the police closer to each other to build a stronger and more unified city. Also, the volunteers would act as a good crime deterrent. Because there would be additional police (eyes and ears) presence in the neighborhoods this would deter crime. The volunteers would help to educate the community because they are easier to approach and feel comfortable when they see a familiar face they recognize from their community. The volunteers will educate the public on how to help keep their neighborhoods safe. It's believed, stated Mr. Mayo, that once people around the community would begin to communicate with one another since it will be the bases for fostering stronger ties and a better sense of responsibility to the community. Mr. Mayo addressed the cons of the program by emphasizing that struggle of power and how some community members are not civic minded but in fact some people may engage in the community policing for the wrong reasons. There is also the con of managing staff and scheduling. With varied schedules it could be hard to organize training sessions. Also, varied ideas that includes that some people find it unnecessary to have a police presence in the community. To many citizens it would feel as if someone was looking for something that was not there and they would consider community policing unnecessary and unconstitutional. To summarize Mr. Mayo stated that any program comes with risks and would need a sound structure to operate functionally, but overall, the hope is that the ideas has some support and would be beneficial to current officers and the community as a whole. Mayor Danner stated that contrary to what was mentioned before the Police Department does a great job and could always use help with more ears and eyes on the streets.

*Mayor Danner requested a recess of the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Councilman Vela moved to go into recess. Motion was seconded by Councilman Villa. Motion carried 5-0.*

*City Council reconvened at 6:35 p.m.*

10. **Discuss and consider approval of Resolution 338-19 by the City Council of the City of Hondo, Texas approving the issuance of revenue bonds designated as the “City of Hondo, Texas Cultural Education Facilities Finance Corporation Revenue Bonds (Goodwill Industries of San Antonio Project), Series 2019” by city of Hondo, Texas Cultural Education Facilities Finance Corporation; making applicable and necessary designations and any declarations under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; and authorizing the execution of certain documents in connection therewith. (Clay Binford)**

Mr. Clay Binford stated the resolution would create the checks and balances to the Corporation. Since the Texas Cultural Education Facilities Finance Corporation passed a resolution, this would affirm City Council approves of the issuance of bonds.

Councilman Vela moved to approve Resolution 338-19. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McAnelly. Motion carried 5-0.

11. **Discuss and consider authorizing the City Manager to enter into a purchase agreement with Tim’s South Texas in the amount of \$90,039.17 for the purchase of Welding Equipment. (Genevieve Flores)**

Mrs. Flores asked that City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into a purchasing agreement with Tim’s South Texas of Uvalde, Texas in the amount of \$90,039.17 for the purchase of welding equipment. The purchase would allow for classes to start at the training center in January 2020. Mayor Danner asked if the request has been to the City of Hondo EDC Board and if

they had approved the purchase. Mrs. Flores stated that the item has been to the City of Hondo EDC Board and was approved. Mayor Danner stated that now the City Council would have to approve the purchase. Mrs. Davis commented this purchase was 50% match from USDA and staff reached out for donations in the exact matching amount which has been obtained. There would be no funding from the city and the purchases will be city owned. Mrs. Flores stated that there were 27 donors who will be recognized by a display of plaques at the James Danner Sr. Annex Training Center.

Councilman Vela moved to authorize the City Manager to purchase welding equipment with Tim's South Texas not to exceed \$90,039. Motion seconded by Councilman Villa. Motion carried 5-0.

**12. Discuss and consider authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Arbor Experts, Inc not to exceed \$121,000.00 for vegetation maintenance services on the City's electrical system north Hwy 90.**

Mr. Baker stated that the city has been on a four year vegetation program and this would be the final year. The vegetation management services will be for the untrimmed electric circuits north of Highway 90 and west of Avenue M in order to maximize system reliability from vegetation related damage and outages. Mr. Baker stated that after this year, the City will enact a maintenance program that would be more effective and less costly. Mayor Danner asked if this was the 4<sup>th</sup> year. Mr. Baker confirmed that the program was in its fourth phase. Mr. Villa asked how the cost of the service was determined. Mr. Baker stated that a field assessment was conducted by the vendor who provided a proposal for the work. Mayor Danner stated that there was still concern for trees hanging over the street right of ways and if there was any plans to address this. Mrs. Davis stated that Code Enforcement was working to identify the concerns and work towards voluntary compliance. Mrs. Davis reminded the public the tree trimming and clearing was to allow for better emergency services and school bus access. Staff will also work on a right of way maintenance ordinance which will specify the height and clearance to allow a vehicle to move freely through a neighborhood. Councilman Torres asked if there was anyway the City could inform the public about the trimming. Mrs. Davis stated that the City had a very ambitious way of notifying the public. The City will leave a door hanger, knock and talk, and the contractor speaks to the property owners. Many citizens notice a big difference during the tree trimming because vegetation maintenance has taken such a long time leaving the trees looking butchered and drastically cut back. Mrs. Davis stated that the City uses several standards to assure that trees are properly cut and use contractors because they understand the standards. Mrs. Davis concluded that there was only one bid; however, the request for proposals was direct mailed out to businesses, placed on the TML website, and advertised in the newspaper. Arbor Experts was the only company that responded.

Mayor Pro Tem McAnelly moved to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Arbor Experts, Inc. not to exceed \$121,000. Motion seconded by Councilman Vela. Motion carried 5-0.

**13. Discuss and consider Ordinance No. 1212-11-19 of the City of Hondo amending Chapter 2. Article 2.10.001 of the City of Hondo Code of Ordinances to provide an exception for vacating and abandonment of platted but undeveloped streets through the subdivision platting procedures established under the Unified Development Code.**

Mrs. Robbins stated City staff had identified a concern with the strict interpretation of Section 2.10.001 which could warrant revision in an effort to support a more efficient development process for such unique circumstances. According to the current City Code, if a property owner requests abandonment or closure of an adjacent public right-of-way, the owner must comply with the requirements of City Code Chapter 2, Section 2.10.001, including but not limited to paying for an appraisal of the property, paying the required application fee and paying the City the fair market value of the right-of-way. In most cases which would fall in this category, the owner/developer has dedicated right-of-way to the City at no cost, but in order to abandon the undeveloped right-of-way the owner/developer



would be required to buy back the right-of-way from the City at fair market value per City Code Chapter 2, Section 2.10.001. Mrs. Robbins stated that in order to address these unique situations, City staff drafted an ordinance amendment which would create an exception for streets and alleys that have been dedicated to the city by subdivision plat, but remain undeveloped and closed to the public. Staff proposes that Council allow such portion of a street or alley that has been dedicated by a subdivision plat but remains undeveloped and closed to the public to be vacated and abandoned by the subdivision platting procedures established under the City's Unified Development Code. The recommended process would be vacate and replat process instead of the abandonment process. No payment would be required as part of the abandonment process, but there would be a payment for the vacate process. The petition to vacate application would go to Planning and Zoning and would be coordinated by City Staff.

Councilman Torres moved to approve Ordinance No. 1212-11-19. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Long. Motion carried 5-0.

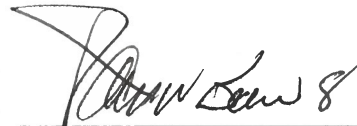
14. **Executive Session: The City Council of the City of Hondo convened in Executive Session at 6:52 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 7:19 p.m. in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 (Consultations with Attorney) on matters in which the duty of the 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 551.087 (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.

15. **Discuss and consider appropriate action resulting from Executive Session.**  
Motion was made by Councilman Vela, seconded by Councilman Torres, to authorize the City Manager to release VT-SAA from their Airport Master Lease dated December 8, 2015 and to authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute new lease on the airport with VAAYU/Hondo Aerospace and VT-SAA based on the proposed items discussed in the Executive Session on November 26, 2019. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.


16. **Adjourn.**

Councilman Vela moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilman Torres. Motion carried 5-0.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2019.**

  
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JAMES W. DANNER, SR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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Miguel Cantu, City Secretary

