

**MINUTES
CITY OF HONDO
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 9th, 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 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, Chief Brian Valenzuela, Lieutenant Rick Garza, Human Resources Director Sharon Garcia, Director of Finance Judy Narezo, Director of Public Works David Baker, Golf Superintendent Jerry Busby.

3. Invocation by citizen Wayne Schultz.

4. Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Danner.

5. Citizens'/Public Comments.

Mr. Chavel Lopez spoke in regard to COVID and the rise in active cases within Medina County. Mr. Lopez stated that the Mayor of Houston set a mandate for City of Hondo employees that goes against Governor Abbott's rule against mask mandates and he believes that the Mayor and Council should do the same. Mr. Lopez spoke on the need to give a 7% rate increase across the board for all maintenance workers for their services for the City. Mr. Lopez stated this is necessary due to the increase in the cost of living. Mr. Lopez spoke about Sesajal and Lynas coming to Hondo and the potential of the City offering concessions to the companies and the companies paying minimum wage in return. Mr. Lopez stated these companies need to pay the employees they hire well and offer good benefits. Mr. Lopez also questioned why these companies are talked about in executive session and not open session and expressed his concern over environmental racism.

6. Discuss and consider approving the minutes from the City Council of July 12, 2021 special meeting, July 12, 2021 regular meeting, July 19, 2021 special meeting, and July 26, 2021 regular meeting, and July 27, 2021 Budget Workshop minutes.

Mayor Pro Tem Vela moved to approve the minutes of July 12, 2021 special meeting, July 12, 2021 regular meeting, July 19, 2021 special meeting, and July 26, 2021 regular meeting, and July 27, 2021 Budget Workshop. Motion seconded by Councilman Williams. Motion carried 5-0.

7. City Manager Report

Mr. Albert reported that there will be one more budget workshop held two weeks before the public hearings on the tax rate and budget and the purpose of this workshop will be to give council the chance to discuss changes to the proposed budget that was provided two to three weeks ago. Mr. Albert reported on the roof repair being done on the Post Office that would be completed by the end of this weekend. Mr. Albert stated that the repairs to the City Hall roof would begin next week and would take five to six days to complete. Mr. Albert reported that the roof repair at Hondo Aerospace would begin once the material was received which should be in about five weeks or so. Mr. Albert reported that the material for the Recreation Center roof repair would take about ten weeks for arrival. Mr. Albert reported that the Medina County Health Unit would be providing COVID vaccines Monday through Thursday from 7:30a to 11:00a and again from 1:00p to 5:30p.

Mayor Danner questioned if any of the items from the cancelled work session would be covered to

which Mr. Albert replied that the items that were to be discussed can be placed on a future Council agenda to be discussed. Councilman Villa asked for a report on the 14th Street project to which Mr. Albert replied that Mr. Baker would give that information during his report.

There was discussion regarding the Work Sessions that were scheduled to be held before the council meetings and whether there was a violation of the Open Meetings Act, to which it was explained that the Work Sessions are not a violation. It was also discussed whether the items from the Work Session would be discussed in the council meeting to which Mr. Albert responded that those items would be put on an agenda at a later date. It was also decided that any work session items would be placed on a regular council meeting agenda as discussion items and the Work Session would begin at 5:30 p.m. in the council chamber and the regular meeting would begin at 6:30 p.m.

No action was taken on the proposed changes.

8. Briefing on the upcoming SWTJC 2021 Fall Courses to be offered at the STRTC.

Mr. Luis Fernandez with SWTJC gave an update on the fall courses to be held at the STRTC and the upcoming vocational courses to be held this school year. Mr. Suarez gave an update on the Patient Care Technician program that they are bringing to the STRTC this fall. Mr. Fernandez stated that anyone wanting further information is to reach out to SWTJC.

9. Discuss and consider the following dates for tax public hearing, budget ordinance reading, and council meeting to adopt the budget and tax rate for FY 2021-2022. (Scott Albert, Judy Narezo)

Ms. Narezo gave a brief update on the upcoming proposed dates for the reading of the budget ordinance being August 23rd for the first reading and September 20th and a public hearing will be held for the tax rate, as well as the adoption of the budget ordinance, the adoption of the tax rate, and also the rate change ordinance and the increase in revenue for the adopted tax rate.

A record vote was done by Mayor Danner.

Motion to set the public hearing for the 2021-2022 budget for August 23rd and the hearing for the 2021-2022 Voter Approval Tax Rate of .4866 on September 20th with both the budget and property tax rate being considered for adoption of September 20th.

Councilman Villa made the motion. Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Vela.

Record vote was taken as follows:

Councilman Ytuarte – Yay; Mayor Pro Tem Vela – Yay; Councilman Williams – Yay;

Councilman Huesser – Yay; Councilman Villa – Yay. Motion carried 5-0.

10. Discuss and consider the resumption of the enforcement of utility disconnection and administration fees. (Scott Albert, Judy Narezo)

Ms. Narezo stated that under Council's direction, the City has not enforced disconnection or administration fees to utility customers due to financial hardships imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and with the world resuming to normalcy and more financial stability for utility customers, the City would like to aim to resume to normal disconnection procedures which include the enforcement of our disconnection and administration fees.

Mayor Pro Tem Vela moved to resumption of the enforcement of utility disconnection and administration fees. Motion seconded by Councilman Williams. Councilman Villa opposed the motion. Motion carried 4-1.

11. Discuss and consider a change order in the amount of \$(-2023.50) to the city's contract with R.L. Jones for the 14th Street Project to add work for adjustment of manholes and utility meters. (David Baker)

Mr. Baker stated that on July 26, 2021, Council approved Change Order 001 for the 14th Street Improvement Contract with RL Jones LP. to incorporate replacement of the existing 8" sewer line prior to street re-surfacing in the amount of \$102,175.07 and at that time, staff advised Council that an additional change order would be necessary to include lowering and raising the manholes and water valves as a component of the street re-surfacing in addition to a timeline extension of the contract to allow for the additional

sewer work. Mr. Baker stated that staff is now seeking approval of Change Order 002 as attached, incorporating the addition of the lowering and raising of manholes and water valves, deleting certain cement allowances, and extending the original contract completion date by 67 days. Mr. Baker stated these changes result in a net reduction to the contract of \$2,023.50.

Mayor Pro Tem Vela moved to approve Change Order 002 of the 14th Street Improvement Contract with RL Jones LP. Motion seconded by Councilman Ytuarte. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Discussion regarding the American Rescue Fund. (Councilman Ytuarte)

Councilman Ytuarte stated that the American Rescue Act funds are being provided to the City and the original committee that was set up had not met to discuss where these funds should be allocated once disbursed to the City. (The committee consists of Councilman Ytuarte, Councilman Huesser, the City Manager, and Mayor). Councilman Ytuarte questioned the dates the City is to receive the funding and how much will be allocated to the City of Hondo. Ms. Narezo stated it will be 1.1 million dollars in 2021 and remainder will be received in 2022, totaling about 2.3 million dollars. Ms. Narezo stated all documentation has been completed to receive funding and funds should be disbursed to municipalities by mid-August. Councilman Ytuarte questioned the use of funds on revenue loss and the recouping of those funds and offering assistance to residents as we did with the last round of funds. Councilman Ytuarte requested that Ms. Narezo be added to the committee.

13. Executive Session: The City Council of the City of Hondo may convene in Executive Session 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. Update on all economic development projects and inquiries (Genevieve Flores)
- b. El Cortijo, Sesajal, Lynas (Scott Albert)

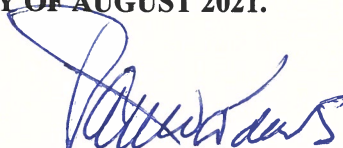
14. Discuss and consider appropriate action resulting from Executive Session.

No action was taken.

15. Adjourn.

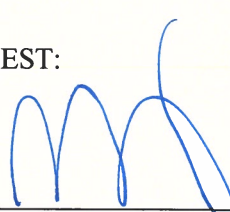
Councilman Villa moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Huesser. Motion carried 4-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 23RD DAY OF AUGUST 2021.



JAMES W. DANNER SR., MAYOR

ATTEST:



Megan Rodriguez
Interim City Secretary



