

MINUTES
CITY OF HONDO
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
July 26, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

1. Call the work session to order.

Mayor Danner called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Discussion regarding the public works report.

Mr. Baker reported that the Street Division has repaired 273 potholes and has completed 34 work orders, with 23 pending work orders as of today. Mr. Baker reported that the Water Division has 17 pending primary work orders and 2 pending secondary work orders.

Mr. Baker reported that he will be creating a new reporting format for work orders. Mr. Baker stated the report is good but he believes it can be more informative and reflect more of the current workload of the divisions. Mr. Baker also stated that he would like to work in conjunction with other divisions to identify potholes around town and make work orders, so their efforts will be more on the City rather than so much on the residents.

Mayor Danner brought attention to the need for trimming of brush around stop signs at intersections throughout town.

3. Discussion regarding Second quarter water forecast.

Mr. Socarras reported on the Water Forecast. Mr. Socarras reported that January through June 2021 the city was under Stage 1 water restrictions and for a short time, February through March, the city was under Stage 2 water restrictions. Mr. Socarras reported that the prediction for July through December 2021 is that the city will be under Stage 1 water restrictions. Mr. Socarras stated the Water Division will continue monitoring and reporting back to Council as necessary.

4. Discussion regarding extreme weather event policy.

Mr. Garcia reported that there will be a proposed change to the existing policy to cover Hazard Pay for those employees who work during extreme weather conditions. Ms. Garcia stated that previously \$1000 was given to those employees who worked during the extreme conditions of the winter storm when the City offices were closed.

Councilman Williams suggested that the Hazard Pay would need to stay with what is significant to the hours/works done by each employee and prorated accordingly. Councilman Vela suggested the possibility of offering a percentage of pay as the Hazard Pay versus the hourly rate.

Ms. Garcia stated she would come up with a Hazard Pay schedule to present to Council.

5. Discussion regarding trademark for This is God's Country Please Don't Drive Through It Like Hell.

Ms. Garcia reported that the trademarking on marketing and promotional services and road signs has expired and the only active trademarking is on key chains and t-shirts. Ms. Garcia stated that a consultant was hired previously to work on the trademarking but the city failed to follow up in 2019 and 2020 allowing portions of the trademarking to expire. The City now has the option of continuing with the key chain and t-shirt trademarking, applying for trademarking on what has already expired, and not moving forward with any sort of trademark.

Councilman Williams stated that it may be beneficial to move forward if the cost isn't too great. Ms. Garcia stated the costs are \$1500 for the first application and \$750 for each additional

application.

Ms. Garcia stated this would be brought before Council for discussion.

6. **Discussion regarding the Texas Municipal League Annual Conference.** Ms. Garcia stated the TML Conference will be held October 6th through 8th at the George R. Brown Center in Houston, Texas and she will need a head count of all those wishing to attend so reservations can be made. Ms. Garcia asked that anyone wishing to attend please reach out to her.
7. **Discussion regarding the annual County Fair and Prospect show.**

Ms. Kindred reported on the attempts by her and Mr. Albert to reach out to Mr. Raul Ytuarte in regard to the Fair Association, to which no response was received. Ms. Kindred stated that she made contact with Mr. Robbie Watkins and he stated he was not certain of the future of the Fair Association but he did note that the Medina County Fair will not be held this year but a cookout may be in the works.

Mr. Albert reported that there is not much to report on the financials or the future of the financials of the Fair Hall as the City has just taken ownership a little over a month ago and it will take about a year to see any gain or loss financially.

Ms. Kindred reported that the Maintenance Division has done a lot of repair to the facility and it has improved greatly. Ms. Kindred stated that more renovations will take place over the next year.

Councilman Vela requested council be emailed a copy of the fee schedule pertaining to the Fair Hall.

8. **Discussion regarding AMI versus AMR water meters.**

Mr. Socarras reported on possibility of moving from the AMR meters to AMI, noting that the move to AMR began back in 2018. Mr. Socarras stated that \$685,000 is already budgeted for the AMI meters and moving forward with the conversion would cost nearly one million dollars with either one of the three quotes offered. Mr. Socarras stated there was some concern with the conversion due to the meters already in place and how to incorporate them without the cost and having them be compatible in signal strength. Mr. Socarras stated that the features and functions are better with the AMI rather than the AMR and staff recommends Sensus meters over Mueller for that reason.

Mr. Albert added that the additional funding needed would most likely come from the American Rescue Plan. Mr. Albert stated that the AMI metering system would be brought before Council in September.

9. **Discussion regarding the regular council meeting dates**

Mr. Albert questioned the possibility of changing the day of the Council meetings for Monday to possibly Tuesday or Wednesday. Mayor Danner stated that the day of the meeting was moved to Monday years ago mainly to meet the deadline of the newspaper. Councilman Williams and Councilman both stated that Mondays are not good nights for them, Wednesdays would be better. Mr. Albert stated the suggestion would be made to the remaining three Councilmen. Mayor Danner stated he preferred the meetings remain on Monday night.

Adjourn

Mayor Danner closed the work session at 5:48 p.m.