

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 13, 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 Ann-Michelle Long, Councilman Eric Torres, Councilman John Villa, Councilman Bobby Vela, and Councilman John McAnelly, City Attorney Frank Garza, City Manager Kim Davis, City Secretary Miguel Cantu

Staff present: Assistant Finance Director Dee Willman, Director of Aviation Ryan Elder, Economic Development Director Genevieve Flores, Public Works Director Michael Schmidt, Hondo Police Officer Will Barton, Hondo Police Officer John Martinez, Hondo Police Officer Lt. Rick Garza, Hondo Police Officer CPL Juan Martinez, Hondo Police Officer Travis Brackeen, Hondo Police Officer CPL Jeffery Simmons, Hondo Police Officer Garret Ross, Water Superintendent William "Buddy" Stewart, City Planner II Lora Robbins, Street Crew Foreman Adam Zapata, Code Enforcement Supervisor Joseph Ramon, Electric Superintendent David Baker, and Parks and Recreation Manager Karissa Gonzalez

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

4. Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Danner.

5. Citizens' Comments

Chavel Lopez, 1401 14th Street, Hondo Empowerment Committee, addressed the City Council regarding brush pick up. He stated that he was at City Hall requesting brush pick up on Avenue S and Avenue T approximately two months ago. He said he is asking for the brush to be picked up. Mr. Lopez also discussed Torres Park Bathroom Project. He expressed his concern for the delay in the project since it is in the City's budget. Conclusively, Mr. Lopez stated that he has had discussions with several staff members regarding the paving of 14th Street. He stated he is still looking forward to seeing the street paved and hopes it continues to remain in the budget.

6. Discuss and consider approving the minutes from City Council April 22, 2019 regular meeting.

Councilman Vela moved to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Councilman Villa. Motion carried 5-0.

7. City Manager Report(s)

a. June Calendar

Mrs. Kim Davis addressed the calendars for the Library and Parks & Recreation for the month of June noting that the month will be very busy. The Library will have its summer camp starting on June 11th and Parks & Recreation its camp on June 3rd. On May 18th the Hondo Golf Course will have a tournament benefiting the Hondo-D'Hanis Rotary Club.

b. Recognitions

Mrs. Davis recognized Officer Jeffery D. Simmons, Hondo Police Department, for his 10 years of service to the city. Mayor Pro Tem Long presented Officer Simmons with a recognition plaque.

c. Hondo U Graduation

Mayor Danner recognized all of the Spring Session Hondo U Graduates. Council liaisons Councilman Villa and Councilman Torres presented plaques to George Adams, Michael Garcia, Aimee Garcia, Wes Huesser, Leandra Tapia, Gina Muennink, Katie Haby, Joel

Gonzales, and Craig Luedke. Not present: Jennifer Blue, Ernest Garza, Casey Hollingsworth and Tara Mumme. Mrs. Debbie Krueger was recognized by Mayor Danner as the staff coordinator.

8. Proclamation-National Police Week, May 12-18, 2019.

Mayor Danner read a proclamation recognizing National Police Week for May 12-18, 2019. The City of Hondo Police Department was presented with a Proclamation by Mayor Danner.

9. Proclamation-National Public Works Week May 19-25, 2019.

Mayor Danner read a proclamation recognizing National Public Works Week for May 19-25, 2019. The City of Hondo Public Works Department was presented with a Proclamation by Mayor Danner.

10. Proclamation-National Hospital Week, May 12-18, 2019.

Mayor Danner read a proclamation recognizing National Hospital Week for May 12-18, 2019.

11. Discussion with representatives from Union Pacific Railroad.

Union Pacific Railroad Co. Sr. Director of Public Affairs Mr. Ivan Jaime and Union Pacific Construction Director Jason Tougas were introduced by Mayor Danner. Union Pacific Railroad (UPR) had been asked to provide the City of Hondo an update on recent events such as the increased speed limits and communication. Mayor Danner asked why the City did not receive any warning or communication regarding the announcement of speed limit increase to 70 mph through the City. Mr. Jaime stated that the railroad was certified for a speed increase; however, bureaucracy would not allow for any communication or to be transparent with the community. Mr. Jaime did state that not all trains will be traveling at speeds of 70 mph through the City. The speed of the train is determined by the type of railcars on the tracks and is further determined by the slowest rate speed allowable per railcar being pulled. The train will go at the speed of the slowest rated railcar allowable speed. Councilman Villa questioned Mr. Jaime as to the purpose of the increase in speed of the train through the City. Mr. Jaime stated that there was an increase in need for transportation to carry freight and the need to move more products over the transportation system. He also addressed derailment and stated that he could not predict derailments but the tracks had been inspected for safety. In Hondo, there have been no derailments. Mr. Villa asked Mr. Jaime to clarify the type of local control or what influence is allowed. Mr. Jaime added that there is no local control and the railroad is federally regulated. He added that if there were regulations by each city this would cause the train to speed up and slow down making it difficult to create a safer and better transportation of products.

Mayor Danner addressed another concern pertaining to communication during the recent reconstruction of the local tracks in the City. Mayor Danner asked why the City was not advised or given notice there was going to be any work so that the city could prepare its Police Department and Public Works for traffic and other control. Mr. Jaime stated that it was the fault of the UPR Company and now they have hired a new company called RailSafe and all they do is traffic control. The contractor will come in and request permits to close the crossings. He added that there is a challenge with communication with their contractors. Mr. Jaime apologized on behalf of UPR. Mrs. Davis stated that the City did reach out to UPR and there was no response from the contractor. She said that the city has the ability to alert the community of the temporary construction concerns in their community; however, good communication did not happen.

Mayor Danner stated that the appearance of the railyard needs attention. Mr. Jaime stated that he would drive through the area with Mr. Tougas to evaluate some of the concerns. The other option would be to work with a local organization providing grants and adding some Hondo Pride to the community. UPR looks forward to local input.

Mr. Villa asked how many trains were moving through the City of Hondo. Mr. Jaime stated that he estimates approximately 50-60 trains were moving through the city. Conclusively, Mr. Jaime stated that he would like to return to a City Council meeting in six months to provide an update and address the number of trains passing through the City at 70 mph.

Mayor Danner stated that Mrs. Davis had another item to address. Mrs. Davis said that in March 2018 Olsen Engineering had performed a hydrology study on the rail bridge. The city asked for a copy of the hydrology study; however, Olsen Engineering requested that the city prove the need for the study in order to provide a copy of the study. Mrs. Davis stated that the city had provided the documentation. After proving to the engineering firm the city's need for the study, the city has not had any responses from the firm or UP. Mrs. Davis asked if the bridge would be widened and when the City would be receiving the hydrology study. Mr. Jaime stated that he would track the information. Mr. Jaime did not know about the project. Mayor Danner asked if the closure of Avenue P was still being considered. Mr. Jaime stated UPR would like to start the dialogue and may be as simple as having a discussion.

Councilman Vela asked how the crossings were rated. Mr. Jaime stated that the crossings are rated based on historical data. Some of the facts are based on the occurrence of accidents or near accidents reported by train conductors.

12. Discuss and consider cancelling May 27, 2019 regularly scheduled City Council Meeting.

Mr. Miguel Cantu informed the City Council that May 27, 2019, a regularly scheduled City Council Meeting is Memorial Day and considered a recognized City Holiday.

Councilman McAnelly moved to cancel the May 27, 2019 City Council Meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Vela. Motion carried 5-0.

13. Discuss and consider Resolution 328-19 of the City Council of the City of Hondo, Texas authorizing the Hondo Police Department to submit a grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Office for a matching loan/grant for the purchase of two police vehicles fully equipped for the Hondo Police Department and authorizing the Mayor to sign and execute the grant agreement on behalf of the Hondo Police Department.

Chief Brian Valenzuela requested the City Council allow the Hondo Police Department to submit a grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Office for matching loan/grant for the purchase of two police vehicles. The vehicles would be fully equipped for the Hondo Police Department. Resolution No. 328-19 also authorizing the Mayor to sign and execute the grant agreement. The loan grant is 60/40 matching. This will be the seventh grant the Police Department has applied for and has been successful with the past six years. Chief Valenzuela is hopeful the grant will be awarded and if so then he will return to city council for a budget amendment. Mayor Danner emphasized the grants have been successful and the city should continue with the USDA Grants.

Councilman Villa moved to approve Resolution 328-19. Motion seconded by Councilman McAnelly. Motion carried 5-0.

14. Discuss and consider Resolution 329-19 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 equipment for the South Texas Regional Training Center Annex for the City of Hondo Economic Development Corporation and authorizing the Mayor to sign and execute the grant agreement on behalf of the City of Hondo Economic Development Corporation.

Mrs. Genevieve Flores stated this is the first time the CoHEDC would be working with the USDA. Mrs. Flores is requesting to submit an application for the purchase of training equipment for the South Texas Regional Training Center Annex. The grant/loan is a 50/50 match. The resolution would authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement to apply for funds from USDA for the

completion of the CoHEDC project. The city's match will not affect the General Fund account. The total grant request may total \$153,060. Mrs. Flores added that the grant opportunity was presented to the CoHEDC Board. The STRTC Annex is close to completion and the City is looking forward to the grand opening.

Councilman Vela moved to approve Resolution 329-19. Motion seconded by Councilman Torres. Motion carried 5-0.

15. Discuss and consider authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with JR Sitework Inc for the continuation of the rehabilitation of Castro Avenue in the amount of \$604,015.50.

Mrs. Genevieve Flores asked for the City Council to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with JR Sitework in the amount of \$604,015.50 for the rehabilitation a portion of Castro Avenue. The recommendation came from a selection committee consisting of CDS Muery Engineer John Rothe, Public Works Director Michael Schmidt, and Street Crew Foreman Adam Zapata. The criteria evaluated for each proposer included: the price proposal, relevant experience and past performance, project management ability, subcontractor and supplier support capabilities and financial strength. A ranking summary was provided by the City Engineer for D&D Contractors, JR Sitework, Inc. and Salinas Construction. She further added that the City of Hondo Economic Development Board of Directors met during a Special Meeting May 1, 2019 to review the scoring documents and unanimously approved the project. The recommendation included to proceed to requested approval by the City Council and additional funds to complete the project. The engineering costs are \$56,500 for CDS Muery and reconstruction costs of \$604,015.50 totaling an amount of \$660,515.50. The difference between budget and project cost is \$135,515.50 from the Economic Development Corporation, this amount will require the budget to be adjusted. Councilman Villa asked where the location of the construction would take place. Mrs. Flores stated that the project area was from Hwy 90 to Carter Street but would not affect the concrete section. Councilman Villa asked if the road was in such a bad condition that it needed to be completed. Mr. Schmidt stated the road had been evaluated and it was decided that a crack seal repair would not be beneficial. Councilman Villa asked if there were any potholes in the street. Mr. Schmidt stated that there were not on the street but on the side of the street. Mrs. Davis emphasized that the funds would not be contributed from the General Funds but the EDC funds. Mayor Pro Tem Long moved to approve the contract with JR Sitework Inc. in the amount of \$604,015.50. Motion seconded by Councilman McAnelly. Motion carried 5-0.

16. Discuss and consider authorizing the City Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement between the Hondo Independent School District and the City of Hondo, Texas to provide a School Resource Officer.

Chief Brian Valenzuela stated that the Hondo Independent School District requested that the City of Hondo Police Department continue to provide the services of a School Resource Officer for the 2019-2020 school year. A draft was provided to City Council that included a few modifications to include increase for officers' salary and the cost for use of a patrol unit during the school year. The agreement was consistent with previous years. Chief Valenzuela stated that the financial impact for HISD would be \$60,336.13 which includes officers' increase for 12 months, which the school covers 9 months and includes retirement, FICA, insurance, unemployment and Workman's Compensation. The yearly amount will be pro-rated for the months the officer is providing services to the Hondo ISD pursuant to the agreement. Additionally, the District pays for the use of the City of Hondo Patrol Unit/Vehicle. Councilman Villa asked if the contract was for one officer or two. Chief Valenzuela clarified that the contract is for a Resource Officer and not the K9 Officer. Councilman Torres stated that there is a need for Officers at the school and hopes the council and staff continue to do what it takes to keep officers at the school. Mayor Danner asked to specify where the line of authority starts with the school and the City. Chief Valenzuela stated that the school has its own basic code of conduct they follow. Code of Conduct Class A on School grounds happens internally through the school code of conduct. Chief Valenzuela and Mrs. Davis met with HISD Superintendent Dr. A'Lann Truelock regarding an open line of communication and

the response was successful. Councilman McAnelly stated that the city comes under criticism when it is unaware of events and it is important that the community understands the distinction of what types of misdemeanors the school can handle while the city police officers may handle all other misdemeanors.

Mayor Pro Tem Long moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement. Motion was seconded by Councilman Torres. Motion carried 5-0.

17. **Discuss and consider Ordinance No. 1199-05-19, an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Hondo, Texas, authorizing amendments to the adopted annual budget of the City of Hondo, Texas for the 2018-2019 fiscal year providing for supplemental appropriation and/or transfer of certain funds; providing for severability; and providing for other matters related to the subject.**

Mrs. Dee Willman addressed several amendments to the budget:

Amendment 14 – Police Department Motorola GTR 8000 VHF Repeater

On March 25, 2019, Council authorized the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Advantage Communications, Inc. for the purchase of a Motorola GTR 8000 VHF Repeater in the amount of \$18,782.00. As Chief Valenzuela stated at the March 25th meeting, on March 13, 2019, the Police Department Emergency Communications Repeater experienced a failure to the main repeater unit. The Icom Repeater was purchased back in 2016 from Rad Com Communications. While the repeater was down, the Police Department's inner channel communications was not operational and we had to resort to working off the main Medina County Channel leaving our officers without radio communications. Advantage Communications was contacted and rushed over after hours and confirmed that the Repeater had failed. They provided us with an older unit to borrow until we could move forward. Communications were back up later that evening. The Repeater was scheduled to be submitted in this coming budget as a Capital outlay expense due to the Police Department moving towards converting the older model Icom handhelds and mobile units to Motorola units. In moving forward with the purchase, the new Motorola repeater will be the first step in the internal infrastructure set up for our communications system.

Amendment 15 – Airport Jet A Aviation Fuel

After Airport Director, Ryan Elder, places his next order for Jet A Aviation Fuel his budget account line for Jet A will be negative. With the summer months still ahead he expects to need to order Jet A fuel at least twice more with an increase in use of the Airfield. This amendment will add additional funds to the revenue account line for Jet A Aviation Fuel in the amount of \$68,000 and expense account lines of \$40,000.00 for Jet A Fuel product and \$8,500 for credit card fees.

Amendment 16 – Castro Avenue Rebuild Highway 90 to Carter Street

On April 24, 2019, the City of Hondo Economic Development Board of Directors approved an additional \$135,516 to be paid from Economic Development Funds to cover the difference in cost of the 2018-2019 budgeted amount of \$525,000 for the Castro Avenue Rebuild from Highway 90 to Carter and the bid proposal of J.R. Sitework to be accepted for the rebuild work.

Councilman Vela moved to approve Ordinance 1199-05-19. Motion seconded by Councilman McAnelly. Motion carried 5-0.

18. **Discuss and consider authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Doug Martella for accounting services in the amount of \$28,500.00.**

Mrs. Dee Willman stated that three firms answered the city's request for accounting services. Mr. Doug Martella was the only applicant from the responses that had experience with municipal and/or government finances. Just as Mrs. Rebecca Underhill had performed the job, Mr. Martella has the capacity to perform the job duties remotely. His resume identifies he's capable of handling offsite accounting services. Mayor Danner asked if there was a cost difference in the amounts and

if references were checked. Mrs. Willman stated the cost was lower from the previous firm and she would perform a reference check upon approval of Mr. Martella. Councilman McAnelly asked if the contract was for multiple years. Mrs. Willman answered that the contract was for twelve months with the option for a two-year renewal. Mrs. Davis added the contract is to replace previous Accountant Firm of Mrs. Rebecca Underhill.

Mayor Pro Tem Long moved to approve Doug Martella for accounting services in the amount of \$28,500.00 annually. Motion was seconded by Councilman Vela. Motion carried 5-0.

- 19. Executive Session:** The City Council of the City of Hondo convened into Executive Session at 7:19 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 7:46 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
- 20. Discuss and consider appropriate action resulting from Executive Session.**
No action taken.
- 21. Adjourn.**

Councilman McAnelly moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilman Villa. Motion Carried 5-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10TH DAY OF JUNE 2019.



JAMES W. DANNER, SR., MAYOR

ATTEST:



Miguel Cantu, City Secretary

