

**MINUTES OF THE
HENDERSON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

January 19, 2021

The City Council met on this date at 6:00 P.M. with Mayor John (Buzz) Fullen presiding. Council Members present included Tommy Goode, Michael Searcy, Henry Pace, Melissa Morton and Steve Higginbotham.

Staff members present included City Manager Jay Abercrombie, City Secretary Cheryl Jimerson, City Attorney Joe Shumate, Police Chief Chad Taylor, Public Services Director Davis Brown, Director of Public Utilities Randy Boyd, Community Development Manager Billy Hughes Communications and Marketing Coordinator Letti Goodrich, and HR Specialist and Leadership Assistant Hillary Falkner. Joining the meeting virtually, Fire Chief Rusty Chote, , Animal Center Director Charissa Pool, Director of Finance Karen Arnall, HEDCO Director John Clary, Parks and Recreation Director Kirk Kimbrell.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Pastor Reginald Weatherton gave the Invocation and Mayor Fullen led the Pledges.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

There were none.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS AGENDA ITEMS:

There were none.

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

City Manager Jay Abercrombie introduced and welcomed the newest employee of the City; Hilary Falkner our HR Specialist and Leadership Assistant.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consideration and possible action upon the following minutes **(Jimerson)**
December 8, 2020 – Regular Rescheduled Council Meeting
2. Consideration and possible action on HEDCO financials from November and December 2020.
(Clary)
3. Consideration and possible action upon street closures for the Mardi Gras event in February.
(Taylor)

Council Member Steve Higginbotham made a motion to approve the consent agenda; duly seconded by Council Member Michael Searcy; vote was unanimous.

COUNCIL BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION:

4. Consideration and possible action to close out Phase 1 of the Eastside Sewer Main project.
(Boyd/Holland)
Public Utilities Director Randy Boyd recommended Council approve the close out, issuance of final payment and set a one-year warranty date as of midnight tonight for Phase 1 of the Eastside Sewer Main Project.
Council Member Michael Searcy made a motion to approve the close out, final payment and setting a one-year warranty date to begin as of midnight January 19, 2021 of Phase 1 Eastside Sewer Main, duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton; vote was unanimous.
5. Consideration and possible action upon the first reading of Ordinance 2021-01-01 changing the time of the Regular Scheduled Council Meetings from 6:00 P.M to 10 A.M. each month. (Mayor)
Mayor Buzz Fullen gave the statistics of a TML Survey of Cities in Texas that have their Council Meetings during the daytime hours. Council Member Steve Higginbotham had concerns on the hardship this would put on citizens that work the daytime shifts not being able to attend these meetings (virtually and when Texas opens back up to the public). Steve also had concerns on citizens that may want to run for a City Council or Mayor position not being able to if they worked a daytime shift. Council Member Mike Searcy asked if the Legislation has made the virtual piece of Council Meetings a permanent part of the Open Meetings Act yet.
City Manager Jay Abercrombie stated the legislation has not made this a permanent part of the open meetings act at this time but as far as the City of Henderson, we will permanently have all

Council Meetings virtual because of having to purchase such equipment to make this happen during the pandemic.

City Secretary Cheryl Jimerson stated having the last Council Meeting during working hours, she was able to be more efficient on getting all the items Council considered at the meeting signed, certified, filed, etc. before the end of the day.

Council Member Tommy Goode made a motion to approve the first reading of ordinance 2021-01-01 changing the time of the Regular Scheduled Council Meeting from 6 p.m. to 10 a.m., duly seconded by Council Member Michael Searcy; vote was 3 "for" Tommy Goode, Michael Searcy and Melissa Morton with 2 members opposed to changing the meeting time Steve Higginbotham and Henry Pace.

6. Consideration and possible action upon the second reading of Ordinance 2020-12-50 amending the wrecker service Ordinance 88-10-33. **(Taylor)**

Police Chief Chad Taylor stated there were no changes to the ordinance from the first reading last month.

Council Member Steve Higginbotham asked if the Wrecker Services selected would be required to have an office inside the city limits.

Chief Taylor stated yes, it would be required.

Council Member Steve Higginbotham made a motion to approve the second reading of ordinance 2020-12-50, duly seconded by Council Member Michael Searcy; vote was unanimous.

7. Consideration and possible action upon the second reading of Ordinance 2020-12-51 for a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to amend the Zoning Map for 6 lots from Urban Commercial (UC) to Medium Density Residential District (R2). **(Hughes)**
Mayor Fullen asked what defines the Urban Commercial District (UC).

Community Development Manager Billy Hughes stated the UC district accommodates the unique mix of retail, commercial, entertainment, governmental, and professional uses with appropriate upper floor uses that occur in a downtown setting.

Council Member Melissa Morton made a motion to approve the Zoning change, duly seconded by Council Member Henry Pace; vote was unanimous.

8. Consideration and possible action to appoint a new member to the Planning and Zoning Board. **(Hughes)**

Community Development Manager Billy Hughes stated Kelli Potts could not renew her appointment to the Board due to working in Tyler. The Board made a recommendation of Gary Wilson becoming a new member for the Board.

Council Member Steve Higginbotham made a motion to approve Gary Wilson for a two-year term on the P&Z Board, duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton; vote was unanimous.

9. Consideration and possible action to enter into a Municipal Lease/Purchase Agreement with Lease Service Center, Inc. dba NCL Government Capital for the purchase of a street sweeper. **(Brown)**

Public Services Director Davis Brown recommended Council approve a lease purchase and maintenance agreement for a new street sweeper for the City. Council Member Henry Pace asked if the sweeper would be able to get all the debris off HWY 64? Davis stated it should but, in some cases, he has needed to send out a backhoe to pickup some of the bark coming off the log trucks before the street sweeper goes through.

Council Member Melissa Morton made a motion to approve the lease purchase and maintenance agreement for a street sweeper, duly seconded by Council Member Michael Searcy; vote was unanimous.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

10. The City Council may deliberate and make inquiry into any item listed in the Departmental Reports.

- A. City Manager- Jay Abercrombie stated an agreement with the Henderson Baseball Association may be ready to come before Council at the February meeting.

Council Member Michael Searcy asked Jay how it was going on rounding up all the green Waste Connections carts, with Republic having delivered all the blue cans. Jay stated the City is having to

help pick them up and move them to the staging area at the baseball field because they are not getting them picked up in a timely manner.

- B. Fire Department
- C. Police Department
- D. Animal Center
- E. Community Development
- F. Public Services Department
- G. Parks and Recreation Department
- H. Public Utilities
- I. Finance Department
- J. City Secretary
- K. Communications and Marketing
- L. HEDCO

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

11. Executive Session to Consult with City Attorney discussing litigations, real property located on W. Fordall, W. Main, Katherine Streets and Henderson Sports Complex; in accordance with Vernon's Texas Government Code Annotated, Chapter 551, Sections 071, 072 and 073.
Mayor Fullen convened to executive session at 6:38 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION:

12. Mayor Fullen Reconvene into Regular Session at 7:28 p.m. stating there is no action to take from executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:


13. Adjourn.

There being no further business to come before Council at this time, upon a motion by Council Member Melissa Morton, duly seconded by Council Member Henry Pace; with a unanimous vote of the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

ATTEST:


Cheryl Jimerson, City Secretary

APPROVED:


John (Buzz) Fullen, Mayor