

MINUTES OF THE
HENDERSON CITY COUNCIL
Regular Scheduled Meeting

February 20, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: *The Mayor will call the meeting to order, declare a quorum if present, and declare notices legally posted pursuant to Open Meetings Act.*

Mayor Fullen called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Council members present were Stephen Strong, Reggie Weatherton, Henry Pace, and Gina Juarez. Melissa Morton was not able to attend.

Staff members present were City Manager Jay Abercrombie, City Secretary Cheryl Jimerson, City Attorney Russell Brown, Chief of Police Chad Taylor, Fire Chief Rusty Chote, Deputy Fire Chief Sonny Ybarra, Director of Operations Davis Brown, Director of Public Services Kirk Kimbrell, Director of Utilities Randy Boyd, Finance Director Karen Arnall, Animal Center Director Charissa Pool, Community Development Manager Cliff McElfresh, Zoning Coordinator Billy Hughes, Zoning Administrator/Building Official Dennis Williams, Civic Center Manager Stephanie Kimbrell, Executive Leadership Assistant/HR Specialist Hillary Faulkner, Communications and Marketing Coordinator Phedra Johnson, and HEDCO Director John Clary.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council Member Reggie Weatherton gave the invocation, Council Member Stephen Strong led the Pledges.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizens' comments.

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

After over 32 years of service to the City of Henderson and the Fire Department within, Chief Rusty Chote is retiring. Chief Chote has been in his position as Chief for 15 years. Chief Chote has also served the City in the capacity of Interim City Manager twice. His service to the citizens, business owners, visitors etc. has been exemplary and always done with a gracious heart. Rusty will be missed by all the staff as he has been the solid rock for many during many changes over the years. Good luck in your retirement, Rusty Chote and don't be a stranger!

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consideration of possible action upon the Minutes of the City Council Meeting from December 19th Council Meeting, the meeting that was to be held January 16th was canceled due to bad weather and was not rescheduled.
2. Consideration and Possible Action upon HEDCO financials for the month of November 2023
3. Consideration and Possible Action upon HEDCO financials for the month of December 2023

Council Member Reggie Weatherton made a motion to approve the consent agenda, duly seconded by Council Member Henry Pace. The vote was unanimous.

COUNCIL BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION

4. Consideration and possible action on confirmation of the appointment of a Fire Chief for the City of Henderson. (Abercrombie)

City Manager Jay Abercrombie stated the news offered the difficult task of choosing the replacement as Fire Chief. Deputy Chief Sonny Ybarra will have served the City of Henderson's Fire Department for 20 years next month. He has served the last 4 and a half years as Deputy Chief. As we knew the retirement date for Chief Chote might be coming soon, Deputy Chief Ybarra stepped up and answered every question and challenge in front of him. I'm so encouraged that the most qualified candidate to fill the position as Fire Chief comes from within the department.

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion approving the selection made for the new Fire Chief, seconded by Council Member Reggie Weatherston. Vote was unanimous.

5. Consideration and possible action authorizing the City Attorney and City Manager to enter into an agreement with MD Health Pathways (MDHP) presentation by the founder of MDHP Dr. Dirk Perritt. This will be allowing citizens to have access to low-cost healthcare for a small fee and allowing this fee to be billed through the Henderson Utility Billing system.

Dr. Dirk Perritt had a presentation ready for the Council Members on the MD Access for All and the impact it has on communities. This service has improved patients' lives by removing barriers to health, proactively addressing health concerns, and reducing unnecessary ambulance calls and visits to the ER. Granting residents unlimited access to high-quality healthcare, regardless of their insurance coverage, has simplified the healthcare experience. Implementing this program would have positive cascading effects, such as first response calls strain relief, reduced financial burden of uncompensated care on hospitals, strengthened healthcare system infrastructure and capacity through referrals, enhancing delivery of appropriate care.

Furthermore, this service has acted as a catalyst for economic growth, attracting businesses to operate in regions where the program is implemented. It's also led to a reduction in absenteeism in workplaces and schools, further increasing overall productivity. These factors have contributed to a healthier and more robust tax base, underscoring the extensive societal benefits of MD Access for All.

Council Member Henry Pace made a motion to approve the City Manager and the City Attorney to enter into a contract with MD Health Pathways, duly seconded by Council Member Gina Juarez. The vote was unanimous.

6. Consideration and possible action upon Resolution 2024-02-01 setting two public hearing dates for the application for the annexation of Bradshaw State Jail Facility located on the corner of Loop 571 and Industrial Park Drive, also known as County Road 203 and/ or Morris Street. (Jimerson)

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-02-01 setting two public hearing dates. One on March 19th and the second on April 2nd for the proposed annexation of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (Bradshaw State Jail), duly seconded by Council Member Henry Pace. The vote was unanimous.

7. Consideration and possible action upon scheduling a Special Council Meeting on April 2nd, 2024. (Jimerson)

Council Member Gina Juarez made a motion scheduling a special called council meeting on April 2nd at 6:00 p.m. for the second public hearing on the proposed Bradshaw State Jail annexation, duly seconded by Council Member Reggie Weatherston. The vote was unanimous.

8. Consider and possible action upon Resolution 2024-02-02 for 2023-2024 Budget Amendment #1. (Arnall)

Council Member Gina Jurez made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-02-02 for budget amendment #1 to the 2023-2024 budget, duly seconded by Council Member Reggie Weatherston. The vote was unanimous.

9. Consideration and possible action upon the second reading of Ordinance 2023-12-01, regarding a request to re-zone a property from R1 to I1. (Hughes/McElfresh)

Council Member Stephen Strong made a motion approving Ordinance 2023-12-01 changing the zone from R1 to an I1 on a property located in the 500 Block of Millville Drive, duly seconded by Council Member Reggie Weatherston. The vote was unanimous.

10. Consideration and possible action upon the second reading of Ordinance 2023-12-02, regarding a request to re-zone a property from R3 to M2. (Hughes/McElfresh)

Council Member Henry Pace made a motion approving Ordinance 2023-12-02 changing the zone from R3 to M2 on a lot known as BIH Addition located on North Evenside, duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

11. Consideration of a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission upon the first reading of ordinance 2024-01-01 regarding a request to create a new zoning district for Town Homes. (Hughes/McElfresh)

Council had no questions or comments on the first reading of Ordinance 2024-01-01.

12. Consideration and possible action upon a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to rezone a property from R2 to TH upon the first reading of Ordinance #2024-02-02.

Council had no questions or comments on the first reading of Ordinance 2024-02-02.

13. Consideration and possible action upon a recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to rezone a property from R1 to TH upon the first reading of Ordinance # 2024-02-02.

Planning and Zoning Coordinator Billy Hughes asked for a correction to the ordinance number from 2024-02-02 to 2024-02-03.

Council had no questions or comments on the first reading of Ordinance 2024-02-03.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

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

A. City Manager

B. Fire Department

C. Police Department including the 2023 Annual Racial Profiling Report.

D. Animal Center

E. Community Development

F. Public Services/Parks and Recreation Department

G. Public Utilities

H. Finance Department

I. City Secretary

J. Communications and Marketing

K. HEDCO Sales Tax Revenue November and December 2023

L. Director of Operations Departmental Reports below.

Civic Center

Main Street/Tourism

Municipal Court

Council had no questions or comments on the monthly reports.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Board of Adjustments Minutes

Planning and Zoning Minutes from January Meeting

Cemetery Board Meeting Minutes

Main Street Meeting Minutes

Preservation Minutes

Council had no questions or comments on the Board meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

REGULAR SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT

15. Adjourn

Council Member Reggie Weatherton made a motion to adjourn at 6:52 p.m., duly seconded by Council Member Stephen Strong. The vote was unanimous.

ATTEST:


Cheryl Jimerson, City Secretary

APPROVED:


John Fullen, Mayor