

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

February 23, 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, Fire Chief Rusty Chote, Director of Public Utilities Randy Boyd, Director of Finance Karen Arnall and HR Specialist and Leadership Assistant Hillary Falkner. Joining the meeting virtually, Public Services Director Davis Brown, Animal Center Director Charissa Pool, HEDCO Director John Clary, Community Development Manager Billy Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director Kirk Kimbrell.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: City of Henderson's Chaplain Stacy Horne gave the Invocation and Mayor Fullen led the Pledges.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Kelly Baumgardner on behalf of the Downtown Merchants and as a Realtor wanted to bring to the City Council's attention concerns, she has about the Historical Landmark Preservation Committee. Kelly's belief seems to be the Preservation Committee makes it very hard to sell the buildings and bring businesses into the downtown area.

Trey Segora commended City employee's on very quick responses to cutting water on and/or off as needed during the week of the winter storm weather.

Mayor Fullen wanted to commend all departments that were on duty during the winter vortex; Police, Fire and Public Services departments worked very quickly to help when and where they were needed.

City Manager Jay Abercrombie stated water company's all around us had a lot of problems but not the City of Henderson's. He congratulated and wanted to say thank you to employees that were working around the clock helping citizens and working with the County and TXDOT.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS AGENDA ITEMS:

There were none

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consideration and possible action upon the following minutes **(Jimerson)**
January 19, 2021 – Regular Council Meeting
2. Consideration and possible action on HEDCO financials from January 2021. **(Clary)**
3. Consideration and possible action upon annual Statement of Compliance for Motel 6 tax abatement. **(Abercrombie)**
4. Consideration and possible action upon annual Statement of Compliance for 101 S. Marshall tax abatement. **(Abercrombie)**
5. Consideration and possible action upon annual Statement of Compliance for Eastern Fuels tax abatement. **(Abercrombie)**
6. Consideration and possible action upon route for Ebenezer Baptist Church 5K Resurrection Run scheduled for March 27, 2021 from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. **(Taylor)**

Council Member Tommy Goode made a motion to approve the consent agenda; duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton; vote was unanimous.

COUNCIL BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION:

7. Consideration and possible action upon an amendment to the Interlocal agreement between HEDCO and the City of Henderson regarding employee matters. **(Clary)**
Council Member Tommy Goode made a motion to approve amending the agreement between the City of Henderson and HEDCO adding additional employees that will work under the direction of the HEDCO Director, duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton; vote was unanimous.

8. Consideration and possible action upon creating a floating full time Fire Fighter position. **(Chote)**
Fire Chief Rusty Chote recommended Council approve a floating fire fighter position to work when other fire fighters are sick or on vacation to keep from paying overtime and rotating the regular fire fighters from one shift to the other so a full work crew is on duty. Last year overtime paid out was \$45,800 and so far, this year \$42,000 has been paid in overtime and we are only four months into the budget year. A full time Fire Fighter position is \$62,000 annually with benefits.
Council Member Steve Higginbotham made a motion to approve a floating fire fighter position, duly seconded by Council Member Michael Searcy ; vote was unanimous.
9. Consideration and possible action upon the second 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)**
City Manager Jay Abercrombie spoke on this item stating the request was not meant to be a convenience for staff, recommending the item be dropped from the agenda.
Council Member Tommy Goode made a motion to drop this item from the agenda, duly seconded by Council Member Michael Searcy; vote was unanimous.
10. Consideration and possible action upon Resolution #2021-02-01 on amendment #1 of the 2020-2021 budget. **(Arnall)**
Finance Director Karen Arnall made a recommendation Council approve amendment #1 for 2020-2021 budget. Most of the items were ordered last year but were not completed due to the size of the projects.
Council Member Michael Searcy made a motion to approved amendment #1 for the 2020-2021 budget, duly seconded by Council Member Henry Pace; vote was unanimous.
11. Consideration and possible action upon Resolution 2021-02-02 on a grant for the Police Department to receive an Interoperable Communications Repeater. **(Taylor)**
Police Chief Chad Taylor made a recommendation Council approve the Resolution for a Grant to purchase the communications repeater. The repeater would become the primary communications repeater for the Fire Department and secondary for the Police Department; replacing the one that was purchased in 2008.
Council Member Steve Higginbotham asked if it was a full or matching funds grant. Chief Taylor stated it is a matching grant; the city's match will be in the \$8,000 to \$10,000 dollar range.
Council Member Michael Searcy made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-02-02, duly seconded by Council Member Melissa Morton; vote was unanimous.
12. Consideration and possible action denying Resolution 2021-02-03 on a proposed rate increase for SWEPCO. **(Abercrombie)**
City Manager Jay Abercrombie explained the recommendation from Herrera Law & Associates the attorneys for members of the Cities Advocating Reasonable Deregulation (CARD). Their recommendation is that Council deny the SWEPCO rate increase. this will allow the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to regulate fair and compatible rates.
Council Member Tommy Goode made a motion to deny the rate increase, duly seconded by Council Member Henry Pace; vote was unanimous.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

13. 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
 - 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

Council Member Michael Searcy asked that all Committee reports and minutes be part of the Department Reports.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

14. 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 6:41 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION:

15. Mayor Fullen Reconvene into Regular Session at 7:07 p.m. stating there was no action to take from executive session.

ADJOURNMENT:

16. 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 Michael Searcy; with a unanimous vote of the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

ATTEST:


Cheryl Jimerson, City Secretary

APPROVED:


John (Buzz) Fullen, Mayor