

City Business
April 11th Agenda
by Michael Leamons

The Regular City Council Meeting will be next Monday, April 11th, at 5:30 p.m. The agenda may change between now and when it is posted on Friday, but following is a list of what is currently scheduled for discussion and possible action:

1. The Peddlers Ordinance adopted last month will be revisited. The Council decided to prohibit street solicitations at three different intersections (it had been expected only the intersection of Highways 281 and 6 would have been chosen). The way the Ordinance is worded, the prohibition extends out for 1,000 feet, so once a 1,000' arc is drawn from each of the three intersections virtually the whole town is covered. By law the Council is allowed to prohibit street solicitations in some areas, but it cannot prohibit them city-wide. Thus, either the number of intersections identified or the 1,000 foot requirement need to be reduced.
2. The Council will consider a 5 year extension of the IESI contract to allow a transition to poly carts. After last month's meeting, it was discovered the contract could be extended early because it concerns a matter of public health and safety. In exchange for an early extension, the City has asked for a number of contract concessions. A final response from IESI has not yet been received, but is expected to arrive prior to the meeting.
3. The Council will appoint an Election Judge and clerks for the May 14, 2011 election.
4. Previously, the Council indicated a desire to sell the old Pecan Street Waterworks property. As part of that process, the Council will be provided with a certified appraisal and will be asked how the Council wishes to proceed in the matter.
5. The Council will consider lighting options for the Esplanade. Currently, the lighting consists of 6 tall parking lot type poles with 2 cobra head 200 watt high pressure sodium lights each, 10 pairs of ornamental carriage type lights with 100 watt incandescent bulbs and LED "Christmas" lights along the tops of the buildings. The City spends \$1,128/month for the cobra head lights which are on all night, about \$20/month on electricity to operate the ornamental lights and about \$3/month to operate all the LED Christmas lights. (The ornamental and LED "Christmas" lights are on for 4 to 6 hours each night depending upon the time of year. The City is responsible for their maintenance, whereas TNMP is responsible for maintaining the cobra head lights.) The Council will consider eliminating the cobra head lights (except perhaps the one adjacent to Highway 6) and upgrading the light output of the ornamental lights by installing 50W LED bulbs. (The City of Waco has begun installing LED bulbs in their ornamental lights.) The LED bulbs should put out about 5 times as much light as the incandescent bulbs. The bulbs cost between \$300 to \$400 dollars each, have a 3 year warranty and are reported to have a 35,000 lifespan (about 8 years of normal use). The Council is being asked if it would like to pursue LED lighting and, if so, would it approve the purchase of one LED bulb to be used as a sample to determine if that type of lighting would be suitable. If used, the City would be able to save the \$1,128/month charges associated with the cobra heads, which would pay for the purchase of the LED lights in 6 to 8 months. The \$20.00 in monthly electric costs associated with the ornamental lights

should remain about the same as the wattage would be cut in half (from 100 watts to 50 watts), but the run times would be doubled.

6. The Council will revisit the recently adopted Park Policy. Mayor Tooley was recently quizzed concerning what impact the policy might have on some young people who like to play their instruments in the park. Currently, the policy addresses reserving the pavilions, but the unscheduled use of the pavilions (which haven't been reserved for special functions) for an impromptu event isn't addressed. The policy will be reviewed with an eye to unanticipated circumstances and unintended consequences. Additionally, the Council will be asked to incorporate a new section of policy to address use of the Esplanade. Currently, when an event is held the streets are closed to vehicular traffic, which has been a matter of concern to some of the merchants. To accommodate an event, the City puts out trash barrels, provides barricades, sweeps the streets and cleans up and stocks the Peppermint Park restrooms. The City was asked to provide porta-potties for the Sesquicentennial Celebration and did so. The City was asked to do the same for the recent Billy the Kid Day, but the request was received after the March Council Meeting, so no action was taken. Should event holder's or taxpayers' be responsible for providing porta-potties for special events? Under what circumstances should the streets be closed? These and other questions will be submitted for the Council's consideration.

This agenda summary is provided to keep you abreast of matters that may affect you. As always, you are encouraged to participate in the process. Between now and when the meeting is convened on Monday, let your elected officials know what you think about the matters at hand. Additionally, you are welcome to address the Council during the Public Comments segment of the meeting.

May God bless the City of Hico.