

City Business by Michael Leamons

The City received some good news this past week. TCEQ agreed to extend Hico's deadline for coming into compliance with the Wastewater Treatment Plant's phosphorus discharge limits until December 31st. Between now and then, staff will continue to seek both better treatment methods and funding for the irrigation system which would eliminate the whole phosphorus problem.

The not so good news is that there's no relief in sight from the hot, dry conditions afflicting Hico and the rest of Texas. High local water usage is taxing our system's resources. The City has received numerous reports of low pressure as well as an increase in reports concerning rust in the water. Staff has been monitoring the water level in the City's wells and has noticed a steady drop.

Although drought contingency plans haven't been triggered yet, the public is encouraged to voluntarily reduce water usage and to avoid watering between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. (when evaporation rates are the highest). Should you notice any water leaks or blatant waste, please contact City Hall so we can address the matter.

Recently the new City of Hico/Economic Development Corporation (EDC)/Chamber of Commerce website was launched. EDC Director Mike James has invested considerable time in coordinating this major overhaul to www.hico-tx.com. At this enhanced and updated cyber portal to Hico, citizens will be able to pay bills, file applications, monitor the calendar, read meeting agendas and minutes, consult ordinances and fee schedules, etc...Visitors will be able to review area attractions, accommodations, businesses, history, etc...Existing and prospective businesses will be able to monitor EDC incentives and programs.

Suggestions for improvements to the functionality or content of the website are welcome. Also, should you have any photographs, letters, diaries, other written materials or web-links related to Hico or its history that you would like to share, please let us know. The intent is for www.hico-tx.com to promote Hico from every angle possible and to make the services offered by the City, EDC and Chamber of Commerce more accessible.

May God bless the City of Hico.