

## **City Business** by Michael Leamons

Last week, 50 citizens attended a meeting at the Senior Citizens Center called in response to Hill Country Community Action Association plans to close the Hico and Lometa nutrition/utility assistance and weatherization programs. Plans were made for a caravan to carry concerned citizens to the HCCA Meeting in Lampasas on Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, where the Board is expected to decide the fate of the Hico and Lometa programs.

Will the Board vote to keep the program? If so, will there be changes? If not, will the Hico community organize its own program? As this column is being written, the answers to these and other pertinent questions aren't known. Regardless of the HCCA Board Meeting outcome, if a Senior Citizens program in Hico is to continue, as a community, we are going to have to become more involved.

The City is moving forward with plans to re-establish the Hico Police Department. As with any government-related endeavor, there are reams of paperwork. One official with Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) suggested the process could take as much as two months to complete. Hico can't field law enforcement personnel until the necessary TCLEOSE certification is secured.

In addition to the completing the necessary paperwork, personnel, vehicles and equipment need to be secured. Due to both word of mouth and on-line advertising, several applications for Police Chief position have already been received. Some look promising.

The City also needs to coordinate dispatch and jail related services with Sheriff Bewley. It's going to be a race to get Hico's Police Department up and running prior to September 30<sup>th</sup>, when the Joint Law Enforcement Contract with Hamilton County is set to expire.

Subject to change between now and when posted on Friday, next week's Regular City Council Meeting Agenda is expected to include discussion and possible action on:

1. TML health insurance and risk pool coverage for the upcoming year.
2. The 2012/2013 Budget prior to its being filed with the City Secretary for public review.
3. Amendments to the current budget.
4. Re-adoption of the Juvenile Curfew Ordinance. State law requires such ordinances be re-adopted every three years.
5. Ratifying the EDC decision to provide \$2,500 to advertise Hico Six-Man Super Saturday.
6. Police Department organizational matters.
7. Senior Citizen Program plans.

As always, should you have questions or concerns regarding the above agenda items or other matters concerning the City, you are encouraged to contact your elected officials and/or attend the Council Meeting. Your participation in the process is encouraged.

May God bless the City of Hico.