

## **City Business** by Michael Leamons

The City of Hico has several tools at its disposal which can be used to maintain and enhance our town's curb appeal. One of those tools is a set of procedures for removing junked vehicles.

Vehicles without a lawfully affixed, unexpired license plate and a valid motor vehicle safety inspection certificate or which have been either dismantled or inoperable for 30 consecutive days are considered junked vehicles. The City's current junked vehicle ordinance provides that after the proper notification and hearing process has been followed, if the property owner hasn't satisfied the requirements of the ordinance, a fine of \$200 can be levied, and the vehicle may be removed from the property and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Transportation Code.

Currently, if provided with a valid title, the City will arrange to have junked vehicles hauled off from properties within the city **at no cost to the property owner**. Property owners who avail themselves of this offer can avoid the hassle and/or expense of a citation under Hico's "Prohibition of Junk" Ordinance.

The removal of junked vehicles will improve the appearance of our fair city and eliminate potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes and rodents. I and all of the City staff are here to serve you, the citizens. Let's work together to rid Hico of junked vehicles!

The City just received some good news regarding sales tax receipts. The State Comptroller's Office has issued the City a one-time audit payment of \$34,905.08. Because of privacy concerns related to local businesses' sales activities, no additional details were provided regarding the basis for the payment.

Another piece of good news concerns the City's new pipe-cutting chain saw. Previously, staff would dig an extra wide ditch and in two locations work a circular cut off saw most of the way around a pipe needing to be cut. Then, the pipe would have to be broken. Often, a clean break wasn't achieved, and the pipe would have to be re-cut. The whole process would take 30 minutes to an hour. With the new, pipe-cutting chain saw, the process takes about 2 minutes.

The City received some not so good news yesterday regarding Hico's former City Administrator Lambert Little who is now the City Administrator of Clarendon, Texas, near Amarillo. Sunday night the private airplane Mr. Little was flying from Abilene to Clarendon crashed. Lambert survived the crash, but was hospitalized with a broken leg. I'm sure your prayers and expressions of sympathy would be appreciated. The address for the City of Clarendon is P.O. Box 1089, Clarendon, TX 79226-1089.

May God bless the City of Hico.