

City Business
by Michael Leamons

The agenda for the November 14th Regular Council Meeting, subject to change between now and when posted on Friday, is expected to include discussion and action on the following:

1. A general review of the Park Policy with special consideration given to possibly removing the deposit requirements for local public and civic organizations. This was scheduled for last month but inadvertently failed to get posted on the official agenda.
2. The Ball Field agreement with HISD, which like the Law Enforcement Agreement, is subject to annual renewal. After some discussion and in view of the February renewal schedule, this item was tabled at last month's meeting.
3. Strategy for removing several street lights not in compliance with the Street Light Policy adopted last year. This item was also discussed last month, but the Council wished to have an opportunity to review the current street lighting prior to authorizing changes. Since then, some feedback has been received that rather than eliminating the proposed lights, some of them need to be relocated to areas currently not adequately lit. Additionally, since last month some citizens have expressed a desire for lighting to be provided along Pete's Path.
4. Follow up on the recent work shop addressing Building Inspection/Animal Control/Code Enforcement activities. The Council will consider a proposal for the construction of a small kennel to accommodate up to four dogs.
5. Amendments to the budget. The most significant amendment will reflect the Council's decision to initiate a direct purchase, rather than a lease purchase, of the skid steer loader and backhoe. Amendments to provide for repairs to the trash compactor and kennel construction (should the Council decide to pursue that strategy for dealing with stray dogs) will be considered along with other miscellaneous amendments.
6. Casting the City's ballots in the Hamilton County Appraisal District Board election. Last month, the City voted to re-nominate current board member, Lynn Allen.
7. Filling a vacancy in the Planning and Zoning Commission and developing a strategy for refining the current Zoning Ordinance to better meet Hico's needs. The current ordinance was borrowed from Fort Worth and some of its provisions don't seem to be a good fit.
8. Annual City Administrator performance and employment agreement review.

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. The Council members want your input. Recently they adopted a Vision Statement which includes this line: "We will encourage a 'front porch' atmosphere and attitude among our citizens." So, pull up a chair and strike up a conversation about what's on your mind.

May God bless the City of Hico.