

City Business
by Michael Leamons

Remember to vote! If you didn't participate in early voting, you still have an opportunity to vote in the City Election on Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center as 4 candidates vie for 2 open seats on the City Council.

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

1. Coordination with a local foundation regarding repairs/renovations to the Senior Citizen's Center. The Center is a City owned facility, and the foundation has the funds necessary to reimburse the City for any agreed upon repairs/renovations.
2. Awarding a contract for 2012 street repair projects scheduled for portions of N. Pecan, North and Polk Streets.
3. Selection of an auditor to audit this year's books.
4. Adoption of an RV Campground Policy. The upgraded RV campground in City Park is scheduled to open the weekend of the Steak Cookoff.
5. Adoption of a strategy for addressing dilapidated structures. Last month the Council was provided a summary of information presented at a recent Texas Municipal League workshop on addressing dilapidated structures, but action was deferred pending further clarification of the legal issues involved.
6. The City's response to State initiated changes regarding satellite motor vehicle registration centers. The State is eliminating support for satellite registration offices, like the one Hico has operated under the umbrella of Hamilton County. The Council will be asked, if the County isn't willing to provide the equipment for vehicle registration in Hico that used to be provided by the State, would the City be willing to purchase that equipment and continue to provide that service to the citizens.
7. Budget amendments. At the recommendation of the Auditor, the budget is periodically amended to reflect changes due to Council action, fluctuating operational conditions and differences between projected versus actual costs. An example of a fluctuating operational condition relates to our animal control efforts. As the City determined to become more active in enforcing the leash law, the number of animals being impounded was expected to increase substantially; consequently, rather than continue the system of housing impounded dogs at a local kennel and then transporting them to the Stephenville Animal Shelter, the Council budgeted \$5,000 to construct a small pound. The expected increase didn't materialize, so it appears the current arrangement can be continued and a pound won't be necessary.
8. Wage and performance reviews for Utility Billing Clerk Polk and Public Works Supervisor Pitchford.

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 as our system was designed to be a "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

May God bless the City of Hico.