

**City Business**  
June 13<sup>th</sup> Agenda  
by Michael Leamons

Yesterday, the telephone company broke a water main on Magnolia Street. Before, when we had a break in that area, the whole City was without water. Because of last year's repairs to the pressure sustaining valves, this time the water outage was limited to the immediate area of the break. Now, to the agenda.

As of right now (subject to change until the agenda is posted on Friday), the following items are expected to be taken up by the Council at its Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting:

1. Re-seating of Council members whose seats were scheduled to be filled during last month's election.
2. Awarding of contract for the construction of a wastewater main from Highway 6 to the Poplar Court Subdivision on Old Iredell Road.
3. Adopting Mission and Vision Statements.
4. Revisiting Ordinance 082305 which regulates the location of businesses selling alcoholic beverages. The ordinance currently requires said businesses be 300' from a church or public hospital and 1,000' from a public school. The 1,000' provision violates the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code and will have to be reduced to 300'. (The 1,000' restriction can only be enacted in cities having a population of 900,000 or more.)
5. Revisiting the City's prohibition against propane tanks. The State Legislature just adopted a bill, effective September 1, 2011, whereby "the rules and standards promulgated and adopted by the Texas Railroad Commission preempt and supersede any ordinance, order, or rule adopted by a political subdivision of this state relating to any aspect or phase of the liquefied petroleum gas industry".
6. Revisiting the City's prohibition of dual water service connections. Currently, the City prohibits a water meter serving one single family residence from serving other occupied structures. In the past, there hasn't been aggressive enforcement of this provision because of the burden it would place on property owners. Compliance, in many instances, would require that tracts be re-platted and new water taps be installed. Evidently, the intent of the rule was to make sure that everyone paid for their fair share of utility service expenses including the base water, wastewater and garbage collection charges. The Council will be asked to consider other, more citizen-friendly ways to achieve the desired result.
7. Revisiting the rate and fee schedule to make adjustments as needed. Specifically, the garbage collection rates need to be raised about 10% to reflect increases associated with the IESI contract extension and new poly cart service. The last IESI price increase was in August, 2007. (Even if the Council hadn't opted to extend the contract and incorporate poly carts, the City had been informed IESI would be raising rates in August due to increases in both landfill disposal costs and the Consumer Price Index.)

At previous meetings, the Council had expressed an interest in both eliminating the \$50 demolition permit fee to encourage citizens to tear down dilapidated structures and protecting the City's financial interests by requiring a deposit for roll-off services (these services entail monthly costs of \$800+). These matters will be considered. In response to a few citizen complaints, the \$10/load fee assessed for brush hauled to the

City's North 40 will also be reconsidered. The per cubic yard transfer station fees, which are less than those being charged by the Stephenville Landfill, will also be revisited. (Fees collected at the transfer station do not defray the costs associated with that operation.) At the Council's pleasure other rates and fees may be revisited.

8. Amending the budget. Some expenses are trending higher than expected, while others are trending lower. As a housekeeping measure, budget amendments will be considered to reflect these changes and to reflect the new IESI rates and fees.

9. A business owner is requesting permission to erect a tent on First Street immediately adjacent to her store October 26<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup> for the sale of antiques. (The Homestead Antique Fair is scheduled for that Friday and Saturday.)

This column is provided to keep you informed about matters being considered by the Council so you can participate in the decision making process. Should you wish to weigh-in on any of the above agenda items, you are encouraged to contact your elected representatives and/or attend the meeting.

May God bless the City of Hico.