

City Business
by Michael Leamons

At least for the time being, it appears water levels in the City's wells have stabilized at 46% to 48% of full. Thanks to all of you who are being more careful with your water use. With the continuing 100°+ temperatures and with no rain in sight, we will have to remain vigilant.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) called to notify the City they will be conducting a regular inspection of the City's Waterworks next week. Representatives of the Brazos River Authority are also expected next week as they review operations at the Wastewater Treatment Plant to see if they might have some ideas on how to lower the phosphorus discharge.

The agenda for the August 8th Regular Council Meeting, subject to change between now and when it is posted on Friday, is expected to include discussion and action on the following:

1. Renewal of the Inter-local Agreement with the Hico Emergency Services District (HESD). Under the agreement the City provides free water and wastewater service and allows HESD to use a city-owned property for its operations. In return, HESD takes care of all the property maintenance. There is an outside chance HESD and the City might reach an agreement on the sale of the property rather than continuing with the current arrangement.
2. Re-subscribing to the Texas Municipal League (TML) Health Insurance, Worker's Comp. and Risk Pool programs. TML provides excellent service to the City and their prices are in line with quotes received from another governmental pool.
3. Contracting out meter reading services.
4. Trading in the City's skid steer loader and back hoe on a 5 year lease/purchase agreement for new equipment.
5. The 2011/2012 budget. After the meeting, a budget will be filed both with the City Secretary and on www.hico-tx.com for public review. It is expected the Council will conduct a Budget Hearing and adopt the budget on September 12th, the day of the next Regular Council Meeting.
6. Disposal of miscellaneous un-used City property: an old jail cell and bunk, emergency siren, display case and miscellaneous furniture. Some of the items of historic value may be placed in the Billy the Kid Museum.
7. Settlement on an Atmos Rate Case negotiated on behalf of Hico and numerous other cities by Herrera & Boyle.
8. EDC Building Front Improvement Grant proposal.
9. Hamilton Master Mutual Aid Agreement between the various governmental entities and emergency service providers in Hamilton County.
10. Minor refinements to the City's Mission Statement.
11. An appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission.
12. Appointments to the Beautification Board.
13. Developments regarding the TEEX (Texas Engineering Extension Service affiliated with Texas A&M) coordinated long term economic development planning process for Hico.

As always, should you have interests or concerns about 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.