

City Business by Michael Leamons

Over the weekend, 21 Airstream travel trailers set up camp in City Park. It wasn't the best of weather for an outing, but campers who visited City Hall expressed admiration for our Park and the recent improvements. Since the new RV campground opened in May, over \$10,000 in gross revenue has been realized. At that rate, it won't take long to pay for recent improvements. More important than the revenue flows are the extra visitors being brought to town. That increase in tourist traffic is the reason Hico's Economic Development Plan called for upgrading and expanding the Park's RV facilities.

Progress has been made on several of our infrastructure projects. Express Paving completed this year's street repair/resurfacing projects on North Pecan, North and Chestnut. The City crew completed the water system upgrade on Mary Street. K & S Backhoe has installed most of the new downtown water mains on North Railroad and Pecan Streets. Work will soon shift to First Street.

TCEQ arrived last Thursday to inspect the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. It had been two years since the last plant inspection. Other than one slight monthly overage on our phosphorus discharge (a reading of 1.05 when the permitted maximum is 1.00), our facility passed with flying colors. The inspectors complimented operator Mike Zavala on both his management of the plant and his knowledge of the plant processes. Last year, visiting officials from the Brazos River Authority also gave Mike high marks for a clean and well-managed plant.

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office personnel handed off the baton to Hico's new Marshal's Office at midnight Sunday. Marshal Tom Williams did a remarkable job in getting all the paperwork completed and equipment and personnel assembled in time to meet the October 1st deadline. For emergencies, please continue to call 9-1-1. Law enforcement related calls within the city limits will now be forwarded to the Marshal's Office.

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

1. An ordinance to regulate the discharge of firearms within the city limits.
2. An ordinance to permit the operation of golf carts on city streets.
3. A Community Development Block Grant Planning Grant Resolution
4. Pursuit of a Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program project.
5. Sale of the asphalt zipper.
6. Extension of the Ball Field Agreement with HISD.
7. Renewal of KSA Engineering's contract for general engineering services.
8. Appointments to the Economic Development Corporation and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

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.

May God bless the City of Hico.