



NEWCOMER'S GUIDE

April 2012

"Where everybody is somebody!"

Welcome to Hico!

We're happy you've chosen to live and/or operate your business in Hico. This guide has been prepared to help you become familiar with our practices and provide you with some helpful information. As you begin to settle in, should you wish to bring a concern or suggestion to our attention, please feel free either to stop by City Hall and visit with the staff or contact me or one of the Aldermen. There's always room for improvement and someone new, like you, are more likely to notice something than those of us who've grown accustomed to the way things are.

We're so glad you're here!

Trash Disposal

The City contracts with IESI for trash collection services. Poly carts are provided for all residential customers and should be set out for collection by 7:00 a.m. on Wednesdays. Once emptied, the carts may not be left at the curb, but need to be pulled back to your house or behind it.

The City has a Transfer Station on Utility Street open the first (soon also on the third) Saturday of the month from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Costs vary depending on the type and size of load, but it should run about \$25.00 to dispose of a full sized pick-up load. Scrap metal and used motor oil can be disposed of at no cost.

For a \$10.00 fee, citizens can obtain a key and dispose of brush at a City owned tract of land, known as the North 40, on the outskirts of town.

Another resource for disposal of construction debris and non-putrescent trash (kitchen scraps and other items subject to decaying and creating unpleasant odors are considered putrescent) is the Stephenville landfill (254-968-3138) located at 669 CR 385, south of Stephenville off Hwy 377/67.

CITY of HICO

Governing Body

Mayor Lavern Tooley
Mayor Pro-Tem Linda Koonsman
Alderman Kevin Wenzel
Alderman Pat Ross
Alderman Steve Morgan
Alderman Mike James

Vision Statement

The City of Hico will continue to be one of the Best Small Towns in America. Our attractive community has a sense of pride, a sense of caring and a sense of place.

We will focus on preserving the heritage of the past in an effort to create an identity for the present and a vision for the future. We are committed to preserving our small town values and sense of community while providing a high quality of life for our citizens.

We will encourage a "front porch" atmosphere and attitude among our citizens.

We value the contributions of our youth and recognize the importance of youth in shaping the present and the future of the Hico community.

We will encourage community-oriented governance through partnerships with citizens and public and private organizations.

We understand the value of a healthy economy and will encourage responsible, progressive development that will lead us into the future.

Mission Statement

With open government, good stewardship, teamwork and a helpful attitude, the City of Hico is committed to delivering quality municipal services, encouraging measured growth and providing a safe, healthy and attractive place to live and raise a family.

VISIT: WWW.HICO-TX.COM

Housekeeping 101

For residents and visitors alike, we want to keep our town safe and attractive. Consequently, we have a few minimum housekeeping standards:

1. Grass and weeds need to be kept trimmed shorter than 8" on residential properties.
2. Items may not be stacked or piled-up in the yard.
3. Junked vehicles aren't allowed where visible to public view. If a vehicle doesn't run, please repair it or keep it out of sight.
4. Dilapidated structures, where the roof or walls have gaping holes, doors or windows are missing or the structure is giving way, need to be repaired or torn down.
5. Building permits and inspections are required for all construction related activity.
6. No-fee permits are required for all non-cooking related, outdoor burning.

If you aren't physically or financially able to get something done, please give us a call. Between the Hico Beautification Committee, local church and service organizations and civic minded citizens, we can probably find someone to lend a hand. If you are one of those civic minded citizens who would like to volunteer to be of help, please let us know.

Neighborly Ways

When living together in close proximity, a little respect and consideration for others makes for a more pleasant community. Those in the country know, "Good fences make good neighbors." Here in town, those good fences aren't the barbed wire variety, but are our Nuisance, Animal Control and Zoning Ordinances. Our requirements are fairly simple and shouldn't be a problem for most. Please,

1. Keep the noise down. If your music or, if applicable, your child's music, can be clearly heard more than 50' from its source, it's too loud.
2. Watch the number of pets and animals. Having too many can create noise, odor and insect nuisances. No more than: 3 dogs and/or 7 cats per residence; 1 large sized animal (i.e., a horse) per acre; or 1 medium sized animal (i.e., a goat) per ¼ acre. Pigs aren't allowed in town except at HISD's ag barn.

3. Don't let your animals run loose. Keep them on a leash or behind a fence.
4. Keep your pet's rabies vaccinations current.
5. Respect our Zoning Ordinance. Other than bed & breakfasts, businesses aren't allowed in residential neighborhoods.

Utility Billing Made Easy

Meter reading takes about a week and begins on the 15th of each month. Bills go out the first of the month and payment is due by the 10th. If required, a late fee is assessed and a late notice is sent; service is disconnected for non-payment on the 20th; and, payment of the past due bill, late fee and reconnect fee are required prior to service being reconnected.

If for some reason you can't pay your bill on time, please call City Hall and see if some arrangement can be worked out prior to having your service disconnected. If you're willing to pay our service provider's \$3.00 per \$100.00 of payment surcharge, you can pay bills on-line with a credit card.

Be Part of the Community

We hope you become an active member of the community. There are quite a few civic, social, service and faith based organizations from which to choose: Baseball Association, Beautification Committee, Bluebonnet Country Club, Chamber of Commerce, Churches (Carlton Baptist, Church of Christ, Duffau Baptist, Fairy Baptist, First Baptist, First UMC, Grace Bible Fellowship, Jars of Clay, Olin Baptist, Primera Hico, and Seventh Day Adventist), Civic Club, Lion's Club, Masonic Lodge, Ministerial Association, Review Club, Senior Citizens Center, Texas Midwest Community Network and United Care.

Major Annual Events

Each year we have numerous special events which you, your friends and your family might find appealing: Billy the Kid Day and Car Show (first Saturday in April), Homestead Antique Fair (second Saturday, both in May and October), Texas Steak Cookoff (3rd Saturday in May), Old Settlers Reunion (late July), Six-Man Super Saturday (last Saturday in August), Chili Cookoff (first Saturday

in October), Christmas Market and Parade of Lights (Saturday after Thanksgiving).

Enjoy City Park

The City provides an extensive park system for the enjoyment of our citizens and guests. Our hike and bike trail, Pete's Path, extends for over a mile along the north bank of the Bosque River; for your enjoyment, benches, covered picnic tables with grills and even a rose garden have been provided along the way. City Park has RV camp sites, 3 pavilions, ball fields and a restroom/shower facility available for use by reservation. Plan a family reunion, birthday party or other special event!

Learn About Hico's History

Original Hico was settled in 1856 and was incorporated in 1883. Since then, more than a little water has passed under the Bosque River Bridge. For the historically inquisitive, both Blue Star Trading Post and the Billy the Kid Museum have displays where you can learn about Hico's past.

Planning for the Future

Times have changed, and so have economic realities. The railhead and cotton trade which brought such incredible prosperity to Hico over a hundred years ago, are long gone. The gins shut down, the tracks were torn up and the depot burned. Now, in the early part of the 21st Century, what can be done to revitalize Hico's economy?

Realizing economic growth doesn't usually "just happen", local leaders turned to A&M's Texas Engineering Extension Service for answers. With their help, area citizens and leaders worked to draft an Economic Development Plan which is expected to grow the local economy. That Plan, adopted by both the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and the City of Hico, is now in the first stages of implementation. It will take several years of concerted effort to accomplish all its objectives.

If you are interested in establishing or expanding a business in Hico; if you know of someone so inclined; or, if you want to roll up your sleeves and help implement the Plan, please give EDC Executive Director Mike James a call at City Hall.

Stay Informed

City and EDC agendas are posted on the outdoor bulletin board at City Hall. Official notices are published in the Hico News Review. Both are also published at www.hico-tx.com, which has been updated recently through a collaborative effort by the City, EDC and Chamber of Commerce. A calendar is included to remind you of upcoming meetings and events. New items of interest are regularly posted on our home page. All that has been touched on in this guide and much more is just a few keystrokes away.

Be Blessed

Again, welcome to Hico. May God bless you, and may God bless the City of Hico.

CITY OF HICO

Staff

Justin Denton.....	Streets, Water & Wastewater Maintenance
James Gary.....	Animal Control, Code Compliance, Water & Wastewater Maintenance
Michael Leamons.....	City Administrator, Building Official
Anita Mueller.....	City Secretary, Municipal Court Clerk
Jim Pitchford.....	Public Works Supervisor
Sandra Polk.....	Utility Billing Clerk, Municipal Court Clerk
Marvin Steel.....	Park Maintenance
Mike Zavala.....	Wastewater Plant Operator, Water & Wastewater Maint.

Contracted Services

City Attorney.....	Connie White
Fire Marshall.....	Sam Maserang
Meter Reader.....	Jerry Cole
Municipal Judge.....	Charlie Buenger
Plumbing Inspector....	Walter Guillot

Service Providers for Hico

Service Type	Provider	Phone #	Web Address
Business Directory	Hico Chamber of Commerce	(254)-796-4620	www.hico-tx.com
EMS	Hamilton Emergency Service District	911	
Education	Hico ISD	(254)-796-2181	www.hico-isd.net
Electricity (line & pole) (retail provider guide)	Texas New Mexico Power Public Utility Commission	(888)-866-7456 poles down or outages (866)-797-4839	www.tnmp.com www.powertochoose.org
Fire Department	Hico Volunteer Fire and Rescue	911	www.hicovfd.com
Law Enforcement	Hamilton County Sheriff's Office	911 or (254)-386-8128	hamiltoncountytx.org/Offices.htm
Medical	Hico Clinic	(254)-796-4224	www.hamiltonhospital.org/clinics/hicoclinic.html
Natural Gas	Atmos Energy	(888)-286-6700 customer service (866)-322-8667 emergencies	www.atmosenergy.com
Public Transportation	Hill Country Transit District (HOP)	(800)-791-9601	www.takethehop.com
Senior Citizen Services	Hill Country Community Action	(254)-796-4488	www.hccaa.com/agingservices.html
Telephone (local provider)	CenturyLink	(800)-788-3600 residential repairs (800)-788-3500 residential new service	www.centurylink.net
Trash	City of Hico/IESI	see below	
Water & Sewer	City of Hico	(254)-796-4620 weekday business hrs (254)-485-7982 after hrs emergencies	www.hico-tx.com