

City of Hector City Council Meeting
Minutes From 1/20/25

Start time 6:30pm

5 Council Members Present
Peggy Gregory
John Mosley
Hannah Damato
Phillip Damato
Mike Geurian

Sandra Beck
Amy Manson

Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer led by Peggy Gregory

Appoint Amy Manson as recorder for the 1/20/25 meeting.

Motion made by Peggy Gregory, acting mayor consulted with city attorney Bill Smith asking if this needs to be a motion or just appointed due to being a one time taking minute notes. Attorney said appointment could be made at this time.

Motion to accept minutes from 12/16/24 meeting
Motion made by Peggy Gregory
2nd by Phillip Damato
passed unanimously

Motion to accept December Financials
Motion made by John Mosley
2nd by Peggy Gregory
Passed unanimously

Police:

All computers, night vision and medical bags received as state by Chief Hubbard

Street Dept:

No new business

Fire Dept:

Chief Geurian advised that new side by side was received by Dept on 1/17/25.

Chief Geurian expressed about incident that happened at Fire Dept on 1/19/25. Disciplinary action has been taken and investigation is being conducted by Hector PD in conjunction with Pope Co Sheriffs Office

Lopfi need to be done by 1/24/25

Act 833 Report—Rhonda Bowden is getting stuff together for report. Needing PPE information for report

Fema Grant—no new info

Regarding resolution 2024-41 SOGS of HVFD which passed on 11/25/24 will be discussed at the 2/17/25 meeting.

Motion to accept resignation as of 1/14/25 of Hector Advisory Board member Matt Huffman who was appointed by City Council.

Motion made by Peggy Gregory
2nd Hannah Damato
Passed unanimously

Old Business

Resolution 2025-1

Motion to accept resignation of Mayor John Riley effective 1/19/25
Motion made by Hannah Damato
2nd by Mike Geurian
Passed unanimously

Resolution 2025-2

Motion to remove John Riley as signature holder of City Bank Accounts and Credit Card
Motion made by Phil Damato
2nd by John Mosley
Passed unanimously

New Business

Resolution 2025-3

Motion to accept city fixed asset listing with understanding amendment will be made at later date
Motion made by Phillip Damato
2nd by Mike Geurian
passed unanimously

Public comment before Resolution 2025-4

Cindy Rector—Expressed concerns about partying and drinking taking place on city property or buildings that are being overseen by City

John Riley—Expressed his thanks to the City council for his support during time as mayor. Would like to express that hopes when decision is made for new mayor it is for person who wants to make Hector Better. Also expresses he has seen a notable divide in the community. Comments have been made by person of the community such as you are with us of against us.

Josh Dunkle—He feels some of officials have their own agenda and may not be for good of community. Brings up Code 21-8-304 stating anyone who could benefit from financial gain should not be allowed to vote for mayor. Also talks about bullying that has occurred in community and the incident a fire dept over weekend.

Phil Morley—He talks about an incident he had with one of the newest city council members at Hector Fest 2024 which involved person name calling. Also tells of multiple times said member has yelled derogatory names at him while member was in the company of Hector Officer Aaron Brock.

Misty Barnett—expressed concerns about spouses being allowed to serve on city council at same time; she feels not ethical.

Tim Morley—expresses concerns about Fire Chief being allowed to be city council member; he also expresses concern that 2 of the city council members did not attend the town meeting on 1/16/25 where mayor candidates spoke

Resolution 2025-4
Mayor candidate are as follows
Hannah Damato
Randy Smith

Phillip Damato makes motion for executive session.
2nd by Mike Geurian
passed unanimously

Before executive session start Hannah Damato expresses that neither her or Phillip Damato will be voting for mayor position

Interim Mayor Sandy Barton called Executive Session and let everyone know that council was going to Executive Session to discuss the appointment of Mayor of City of Hector for remainder of term ending December 31, 2026. Everyone was asked to leave and all recording stopped.

Executive session ended and everyone was called back in. Interim mayor announced that the discussion was regarding appointment of Mayor of City of Hector and that council had reached a decision. A motion was made to elect Randy Smith as Mayor of Hector.

Executive Session start time 7:13pm end time 7:55pm

Appointment of mayor was made by City Council by Resolution 2025-4
Motion made by Peggy Gregory
2nd by John Mosley
Randy Smith is Mayor 2 yes and 1 no

Oath of Office for Randy Smith Done by Sandy Barton

Meeting handed over to Randy Smith

Resolution 2025-5
Motion to add signature holder Randy Smith to city bank accounts and credit card.

Motion made by Peggy Gregory
2nd by John Mosley
Passed unanimously

Council reviewed and approved banking transactions.

Special meeting will be set for fire department incident once investigation is complete.

Motion to adjourn meeting (8:30pm)

Motion made by Peggy Gregory
2nd by John Mosley
Passed unanimously



PUBLIC COMMENTS

Signup Sheet

1-20-2025 Regular Council Meeting

<i>Candy Rector</i>		
JOSH DUNKIE		
<i>John Riley</i>		
<i>Misty Barnett</i>		
<i>Philip Mosley</i>		

January 3, 2025

Dear members of the Hector City Council:

Please allow me to formally introduce myself and extend my interest in filling the position for the remainder of Mayor John Riley's term.

For those of you that do not know me, my name is Randy Smith, I am married to Belinda Riley Smith and I am John's brother-in-law. Love of this community and the desire to see community growth and progress has challenged me to want to serve, and it would be an honor to step in behind John and work with each of you to continue moving forward in that endeavor.

My 42 years of managerial leadership, with some of the biggest retail fortune 500 businesses has given me the ability to accurately assess critical situations, take action, and work together with teams for the best resolutions. I believe I possess the leadership skills needed to be able to address the issues that are a concern for this community and see growth. Understanding policies and procedure guidelines are crucial in managing and governing.

I will listen and work with every council member and the people of this community with an open door policy. I will ensure that what needs to be done to aid the Fire Department and bring it back to efficiency will be a priority and continue working with and continuing the great relationship with our school system.

Community focus has followed me everywhere my career has taken me. I have been able to be involved in many community programs in my tenure working with Habitat for Humanity on project builds and leading on the board for opening project restores for Habitat for Humanity. I worked with community programs to help rebuild Plaza Towers Elementary School in Moore, OK after tornado in 2013. I have served on the Rotary Club as president working to support non profit aid programs for communities, and lead 8 years in Children's Miracle Network fund raising campaign with 6 years being Top Fund Raiser, named Top Difference Maker across the nation benefiting Arkansas Children's Hospitals.

As mentioned, I believe my leadership experiences and focus for community growth and improvement would be an asset for our community. I would greatly appreciate your consideration in allowing me the opportunity to work with and for this community.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

RANDY SMITH

Dear Fellow Council Members,

I am writing to formally express my interest in filling the role of mayor for the remainder of the current term following John Riley's decision to step down.

Serving alongside all of you on the council has been an honor, and together we have tackled some significant challenges, none more so than addressing the critical issues within the Hector Fire Department. When the city assumed responsibility for the department, it was facing serious allegations of financial mismanagement and a loss of public trust. Through collaboration and determination, we've made significant progress by establishing new bylaws, creating job descriptions aligned with city policies, and forming an advisory board to ensure accountability and oversight.

This work has been challenging, yet deeply rewarding. My active involvement in this process has provided me with invaluable experience and insight into the complexities of leadership and the needs of our city. I believe this knowledge uniquely positions me to lead Hector through this transitional period as mayor.

If elected by the council, I will remain focused on our shared priorities: rebuilding trust in our institutions, addressing the ongoing challenges our city faces, and ensuring a brighter future for all residents. I deeply respect the contributions of each council member and look forward to continuing our work together in this new capacity.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Hannah D'Amato