

September 19, 2016

On this the 19th day of September 6:30 p.m., the City Commission of the City of Hereford, Texas, convened in a regular session in the Commission Chamber, in the City Hall, the meeting being open to the public and notice of said meeting having been given as prescribed by Chapter 551 of the Government Code, with the following members being present and in attendance, to-wit:

Tom Simons, Mayor
 Jose A. Garza, Commissioner Place One
 Angie Alonzo, Commissioner Place Two
 Charlie Kerr, Commissioner Place Three
 Cathy Bunch, Commissioner Place Five
 Marcos Castro, Commissioner Place Six
 Rick L. Hanna, City Manager
 Suzanne Finch, City Secretary
 Audie Sciumbato, City Attorney

Absent: Linda Cumpton, Commissioner, Place Four

John Carson from the Hereford Brand was in attendance to witness the proceedings. Also in attendance were Assistant City Manager Steve Bartels, Police Chief Brent Harrison, and B. J. Gililland.

Mayor Simons called upon Commissioner Castro to voice the invocation and then called upon Commissioner Bunch to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag. He called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance, and introduced each item on the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING:

ITEM 1 – Hear public comments regarding the proposed budget for FY 2016-2017.

Mayor Simons opened the public hearing at 6:32 p. m. and asked for comments. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing at 6:33 p.m.

REGULAR HEARINGS:

ITEM 2 – Consider approval of minutes for the August 15th, 2016 Work Session, August 15th, 2016 Regular Meeting, August 29th, 2016 Special Meeting, and September 12th, 2016 Special Meeting.

Commissioner Bunch made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Kerr seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 3 – Consider approval of bids for group health insurance.

Mayor Simons called upon B. J. Gililland to speak on this item.

Mr. Gililand stated he appreciated the opportunity to represent the City for their health care needs; he sent several invitations to bid and of those six companies submitted a bid. He noted Assistant City Manager Bartels had prepared a comparison of the bids received.

Mr. Gililand stated the City of Hereford currently has an “old style” HMO plan that has co-pays only; it is the most restrictive as it is limited to in-network and pays nothing on out-of-network. He noted this has not been an issue as there are lots of providers in network. Mr. Gililand stated it is hard to compare the other bids received with the renewal plan from FirstCare as there is a considerable difference in benefits and it is his recommendation the City stay with FirstCare. He noted if we change to a different provider and then want to go back to the FirstCare plan we have now, we cannot get it back.

Commissioner Alonzo inquired to when this plan will no longer be available. Mr. Gililand stated he does not know as we have to wait from year-to-year to see what renewal is offered.

Assistant City Manager Bartels thanked Mr. Gililand for his help and also for the assistance his staff provides.

Commissioner Castro made the motion to approve the renewal of the FirstCare plan. Commissioner Alonzo seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 4 – Consider Ordinance No. 09.19.16 amending the schedule of rates for the furnishing of water by the City of Hereford, Texas, amending Subsection (1)(A), Subsection (1)(B), Subsection (1)(C), and Subsection (1)(D) of 13.02.122 of the Code of Ordinances and establishing new rates for such water services effective October 1, 2016.

City Manager Hanna stated this ordinance includes a three percent rate increase to be used for operations and also as a “war chest” for the acquisition of water hopefully in the not too distant future. He then called upon City Attorney Sciumbato to read the pertinent parts of Ordinance No. 09.19.16.

ORDINANCE NO. 09.19.16

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HEREFORD, TEXAS, AMENDING THE SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR THE FURNISHING OF WATER BY THE CITY OF HEREFORD, TEXAS, AMENDING SUBSECTION (1)(A), SUBSECTION (1)(B), SUBSECTION (1)(C), AND SUBSECTION (1)(D) OF 13.02.122 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND ESTABLISHING NEW RATES FOR SUCH WATER SERVICES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

Commissioner Kerr made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 09.19.16. Commissioner Castro seconded the motion and it passed with the following vote: Mayor Simons aye; Commissioner Garza aye; Commissioner Alonzo nay; Commissioner Kerr aye; Commissioner Bunch aye; and Commissioner Castro aye.

ITEM 5 – Consider Ordinance No. 09.19.16A amending the schedule of rates for the furnishing of wastewater service by the City of Hereford, Texas, amending Subsection (1)(A), Subsection (1)(B), and Subsection (2)(A) of Sec. 13.02.124 of the Code of Ordinances, and establishing new rates for such wastewater service effective October 1, 2016.

City Manager Hanna stated this ordinance includes a three percent rate increase to be used for operations and also as a “war chest.” He then called upon City Attorney Sciumbato to read the pertinent parts of Ordinance No. 09.19.16A.

ORDINANCE NO. 09.19.16A

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HEREFORD, TEXAS, AMENDING THE SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR THE FURNISHING OF WASTEWATER SERVICE BY THE CITY OF HEREFORD, TEXAS, AMENDING SUBSECTION (1) (A), SUBSECTION (1) (B), AND SUBSECTION (2) (A) OF SEC. 13.02.124 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, AND ESTABLISHING NEW RATES FOR SUCH WASTEWATER SERVICE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

Commissioner Castro made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 09.19.16A. Commissioner Bunch seconded the motion and it passed with the following vote: Mayor Simons aye; Commissioner Garza aye; Commissioner Alonzo nay; Commissioner Kerr aye; Commissioner Bunch aye; and Commissioner Castro aye.

ITEM 6 - Consider Ordinance No. 09.19.16B an ordinance of the City of Hereford, Texas, amending the schedule of service fees for the collection of municipal solid waste, amending Subsection (1)(A), Subsection (1)(B), and Subsection (2) of Sec. 13.03.005 of the Code of Ordinances and establishing new service fees for such solid waste services effective October 1, 2016.

City Manager Hanna stated this ordinance includes a one and one-half percent pass through rate increase. He then called upon City Attorney Sciumbato to read the pertinent parts of Ordinance No. 09.19.16B.

ORDINANCE NO. 09.19.16B

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HEREFORD, TEXAS, AMENDING THE SCHEDULE OF SERVICE FEES FOR THE COLLECTION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE, AMENDING SUBSECTION (1) (A), SUBSECTION (1) (B), AND SUBSECTION (2) OF SEC. 13.03.005 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND ESTABLISHING NEW SERVICE FEES FOR SUCH SOLID WASTE SERVICES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2016

Commissioner Castro made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 09.19.16B. Commissioner Alonzo seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 7 - Consider approval of 2017 Proposed Budget for Deaf Smith County Appraisal District.

City Manager Hanna stated the City’s part of the Deaf Smith County Appraisal District’s budget is small in comparison to the other entities; we do the least taxing.

Commissioner Castro made the motion to approve the City’s portion of the budget for the Deaf Smith County Appraisal District. Commissioner Bunch seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 8 - Consider and adopt budget Ordinance No. 09.19.16C for the City of Hereford and the Hereford Economic Development Corporation for FY October 1, 2016--September 30, 2017.

City Manager Hanna stated this ordinance includes figures for the 2016-2017 budget starting October 1st; he then listed the amounts: General Fund \$9,591,458.00; Water and Sewer \$5,422,729.00; and, Hereford Economic Development Corporation \$760,000.00. City Manager Hanna called upon City Attorney Sciumbato to read the pertinent parts of Ordinance No. 09.19.16C.

ORDINANCE NO. 09.19.16C

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HEREFORD, TEXAS APPROVING THE BUDGET AND MAKING APPROPRIATION FOR SUPPORT OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT AND APPROVING THE BUDGET FOR THE HEREFORD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2016, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

Commissioner Bunch made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 09.19.16C. Commissioner Castro seconded the motion and it passed with the following vote: Mayor Simons aye; Commissioner Garza aye; Commissioner Alonzo abstained; Commissioner Kerr aye; Commissioner Bunch aye; and Commissioner Castro aye.

ITEM 9 - Consider and adopt Ordinance No. 09.19.16D setting the 2016 tax rate.

City Manager Hanna stated this ordinance funds the budget. He then called upon City Attorney Sciumbato to read the pertinent parts of Ordinance No. 09.19.16D.

ORDINANCE NO. 09.19.16D

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HEREFORD, TEXAS SETTING THE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR

Commissioner Garza made the motion the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of thirty-three cents per one hundred dollar valuation, which is effectively a 6.77% increase in the tax rate. Commissioner Kerr seconded the motion and it passed with the following vote: Mayor Simons aye; Commissioner Garza aye; Commissioner Alonzo abstained; Commissioner Kerr aye; Commissioner Bunch aye; and Commissioner Castro aye.

ITEM 10 - Consider approval of bids for Dry Land Farm Lease.

City Manager Hanna stated Jim Hund was the highest bidder and asked that if payment was not received by the tenth day [October 10th, 2016] after the due date [October 1, 2016] that rather than rebid it, the next highest bidder would be offered the lease.

Commissioner Alonzo made the motion to award the lease to Jim Hund for \$20,625.00 per year. Commissioner Garza seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 11 – Announcements and comments from Mayor and City Commissioners.

Commissioner Kerr stated he appreciated the hard work and commended City Manager Hanna and the employees.

Commissioner Garza thanked Mayor Simons and City Manager Hanna for all their work.

Mayor Simons thanked City Manager Hanna, Assistant City Manager Bartels, and all the staff for doing a wonderful job.

ITEM 12 – Announcements and comments from City Staff.

Assistant City Manager Bartels thanked the City Commission on behalf of all the City employees.

Chief Harrison thanked the Commission for allowing the employees the resources to do their job and stated the police officers are very appreciative.

ITEM 13 – Public Comments.

There were no public comments.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.