

July 6, 2020

On this the 6th day of July, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., the City Commission of the City of Hereford, Texas, convened in a special telephonic session the meeting being open to the public via a toll-free number and access code provided on the agenda and notice of said meeting having been given as prescribed by Chapter 551 of the Government Code in accordance with Governor Abbott's March 16, 2020 requirements to permit open meetings to occur in a fully virtual setting to avoid further spread of the contagion, with the following members being in attendance, to-wit:

Tom Simons, Mayor (in person)
 Jose A. Garza, Commissioner Place One (via telephone)
 Angie Alonzo, Commissioner Place Two (via telephone)
 Clint Savoini, Commissioner Place Three (via telephone)
 Cathy Bunch, Commissioner Place Five (via telephone)
 Rocky Bhakta, Commissioner Place Six (via telephone)
 Steve Bartels, Interim City Manager (in person)
 Suzanne Finch, City Secretary (in person)
 Audie Sciumbato, City Attorney (in person)

Absent: Linda Cumpton, Commissioner, Place Four

Also, in attendance were Fire Marshal/EMC Dean Turney (in person), Captain Kirsten Williams (in person), and M. K. Lovell of the Hereford Brand (via telephone).

Mayor Simons called upon Commissioner Bunch to voice the invocation and then he led 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.

REGULAR HEARINGS:

ITEM 1 - Consider approval of minutes for the May 11th, 2020 Special Meeting.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve the May 11th, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Bunch seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 2 - Consider approval of Resolution No. 07.06.20 a resolution by the City Commission of the City of Hereford authorizing the submission of a FY2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program grant application to the Governor's Public Safety Office (PSO) and designating Police Chief Brent Harrison to act as the City's authorized representative in all matters pertaining to City's participation in this PSO Grant Program.

Interim City Manager Bartels noted these are the steps we need to go through; law enforcement is separate from the City; the City resolution is item #3 of this agenda. Captain Williams stated the amount is \$23,000.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 07.06.20

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HEREFORD AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A FY2020 CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING (CESF) PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION TO THE GOVERNOR'S PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE (PSO) AND DESIGNATING POLICE CHIEF BRENT HARRISON TO ACT AS THE CITY'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE IN ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THIS PSO GRANT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Governor's Public Safety Office (PSO) administers a variety of grant funds that can be used to support programs and projects aimed at addressing local and/or regional criminal justice issues; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Hereford finds it in the best interest of the City's citizens to apply for funding to implement a project entitled Coronavirus Prevention, Response & Preparedness Program which would be operated for the State Fiscal Years 2020-2021; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to file this application under the PSO's Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program, FY2020; and

WHEREAS, the City is eligible to apply for and receive funding through this PSO Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Hereford authorizes it's Police Chief Brent Harrison to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the application and/or subsequent grant on behalf of the City.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE City Commission of the City of Hereford, Texas:

1. That a FY2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program grant application is hereby authorized to be filed on behalf of the City with the Governor's Public Safety Office.
2. That the application be for funds to implement a local government Coronavirus Prevention, Response & Preparedness Program.
3. That the City Commission authorizes Police Chief Brent Harrison to apply for, accept, reject alter or terminate the application and/or subsequent grant on behalf of the City.
4. That in the event of loss or misuse of PSO funds, the governing body assures that those funds will be returned to PSO in full.

CONSIDERED AND APPROVED THIS 6th DAY OF JULY, 2020.

/s/ Tom Simons
Tom Simons, Mayor
City of Hereford, Texas

ATTEST:

/s/ Suzanne Finch
Suzanne Finch, City Secretary
City of Hereford, Texas

Grant Number: 4166101

Commissioner Bhakta made the motion to approve Resolution No. 07.06.20. Commissioner Garza seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 3 – Consider Resolution No. 07.06.20A a resolution by the City Commission of the City of Hereford authorizing the submission of a FY20 grant application to the Governor’s Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and designating the mayor to act as the City’s authorized representative in all matters pertaining to City’s participation in the TDEM Grant Program.

Interim City Manager Bartels stated the City’s immediate portion of the funding received is \$174,000.00 but we can receive up to \$823,000.00 if the proper steps are taken and approved. He noted we must justify how the funds are spent – coronavirus mitigation and response. Fire Marshal/EMC Turney noted 75% of funds must be used towards response and the other 25% could be used for economic development – but there are some restrictions and it is going to take some time to work through – it is a process. Fire Marshal/EMC Turney stated the 25% is not computed by simply multiplying .25 times the \$174,000.00; it is 25% of the total amount spent towards the COVID response. He noted it can be used for economic development for businesses impacted by COVID-19 or it can be used for other things the commission wants to look at spending it on as long as it is related to COVID-19 recovery.

RESOLUTION NO. 07.06.20A

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF CITY OF HEREFORD AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A FY20 GRANT APPLICATION TO THE GOVERNOR’S TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (TDEM) AND DESIGNATING THE MAYOR TO ACT AS THE CITY’S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE IN ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO CITY’S PARTICIPATION IN THE TDEM GRANT PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, The City Commission finds it in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Hereford, that the Coronavirus Relief Fund be operated for the FY 2020; and

WHEREAS, The City of Hereford agrees that the funds provided as grant payments from the State by Federal appropriation under section 601 of the Social Security Act will be used only to cover those costs that:

- a. are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency and governor’s disaster declaration on March 13, 2020 with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);
- b. were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020, for City of Hereford; and
- c. were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020.; and

WHEREAS, City of Hereford agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Office of the Governor funds, City of Hereford assures that the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full.

WHEREAS, the City Commission designates the mayor as the grantee’s authorized official. The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that City Commission approves submission of the grant application for the Coronavirus Relief Fund to the Office of the Governor.

PASSED and APPROVED this 6th of July, 2020.

Signed by: /s/ Tom Simons
Tom Simons, Mayor
City of Hereford, Texas

ATTEST:

/s/ Suzanne Finch
Suzanne Finch, City Secretary
City of Hereford, Texas

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to pass Resolution No. 07.06.20A. Commissioner Alonzo seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 4 – Consider request from Deaf Smith County for water service to the new Law Enforcement Center project and for continuing water service for the life of the Law Enforcement Center.

Interim City Manager Bartels stated this request pertains to the new jail/law enforcement center on Progressive Road. He noted the County has requested the City extend water services to the facilities; stating the County would pay for the extension and this cost is built into the bond. Interim City Manager Bartels stated the City has the capacity to handle the additional water services and also the ability to tie it into our existing sewer system.

There was discussion as to what rate the County would be charged since they are not within the city limits and typically there is an additional charge. Mayor Simons stated they will be charged the regular rate and will pay for the cost of running the line. Interim City Manager Bartels stated non-city residents are charged one and one-half times the city rate in lieu of taxes. However, he noted the County approached the City about annexing the property into the city. He stated there are no benefits to annexing the property since the County is another governmental entity and no City taxes would be collected and there are expenses tied to annexing the property. He noted the law enforcement center facility is a good deal for the City as the County houses prisoners for us.

Commissioner Bhakta made the motion to grant the request from Deaf Smith County for water service. Commissioner Alonzo seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 5 – Consider a request from Hereford Sports and Wellness for \$100,000.00 to be used for the construction of a 2.79-acre multi-purpose turf complex just south of the Caviness Sportsplex.

Mayor Simons stated this project will cost around a million dollars; Hereford Sports and Wellness has several donors that are contributing to the project. He noted they are requesting a commitment of \$100,000.00 from the City of Hereford; the City has the funds available.

Interim City Manager Bartels noted Jimmy Lackey of Hereford Sports and Wellness took into account at some point we may have a high school soccer team and he designated areas for future growth in case that comes to fruition.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve \$100,000.00 to be used for the turf complex. Commissioner Bhakta seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 6 – Consider approval of a property lease between the City of Hereford, Texas and Hereford Sportsplex, Inc.

Interim City Manager Bartels noted part of the property is owned by the City of Hereford and part of it is owned by Hereford Economic Development Corporation. He noted the lease is for a period of 64 years and the reason for this is because the City wanted the lease to end at the same time the lease ends for the facility located on 15th Street. Interim City Manager Bartels noted the HEDC will also consider passing a long-term lease at their next meeting. He stated this will benefit everyone.

Commissioner Bunch made the motion to approve the lease. Commissioner Alonzo seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 7 – Consider approval of re-appointment to the Hereford Area Tax Abatement Board.

Commissioner Bhakta made the motion to re-appoint Angie Alonzo as our member of the Hereford Area Tax Abatement Board. Commissioner Savoini seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 8 - Consider awarding the construction contract for the City of Hereford TCDP Water Distribution System Improvements, Project No. 7219191.

Interim City Manager Bartels stated late last year the City applied for another grant for water improvements to replace some old undersized lines located in the area of Higgins, McKinley, and Schley. He noted the bids came in considerably less than anticipated and this may allow us to utilize the engineers' addendum to do three more blocks on the east side of McKinley. He stated the engineers recommended the Construction Contract be awarded to the low bidder, Rink's Lease Service, Inc. in the amount of \$146,581.40.

Commissioner Bhakta made the motion to award the construction contract to Rink's Lease Service, Inc. Commissioner Garza seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 9 – Announcements and comments from Mayor and City Commissioners.

Mayor Simons stated in order to enter city facilities, citizens are asked to wear a mask. He noted for the most part the responses have been good.

Commissioner Alonzo inquired about tracing COVID-19 cases. Mayor Simons stated that task falls to the State as we are not equipped locally to do so. Fire Marshal/EMC Turney noted the State does not even have the needed resources as it would require a lot of personnel in order to do it properly.

Commissioner Savoini inquired about the financial position of the City. Interim City Manager Bartels stated the City of Hereford is doing really well – water revenue in line with the budget; majority of property taxes collected before COVID-19; and sales tax is up 4% over what we budgeted.

Commissioner Bhakta noted Hotel Occupancy Taxes (HOT) are down twenty-five percent.

Mayor Simons thanked Interim City Manager Bartels and Fire Marshal/EMC Turney for going above and beyond in their duties. He encouraged everyone to remain positive.

ITEM 10 – Announcements and comments from City Staff.

Interim City Manager Bartels stated we are just beginning the budget process and hopefully at some point we will be able to do an “in-person” budget work session.

Interim City Manager Bartels encouraged the commissioners to go by the new civic center if they haven’t done so lately as it is really progressing. He noted construction is on schedule.

The group discussed current COVID-19 numbers. They also discussed the new housing project south of town noting five of the new houses had sold and two families moved in this past weekend.

ITEM 11 – Public Comments.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:03 p. m.