

October 19, 2020

On this the 19th day of October, 2020 at 5:15 p.m., the City Commission of the City of Hereford, Texas, convened in a special 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  
 Angie Alonzo, Commissioner Place Two  
 Clint Savoini, Commissioner Place Three (via telephone)  
 Linda Cumpston, Commissioner, Place Four  
 Cathy Bunch, Commissioner Place Five  
 Rocky Bhakta, Commissioner Place Six  
 Steve Bartels, Interim City Manager  
 Suzanne Finch, City Secretary  
 Audie Sciumbato, City Attorney

Absent: Jose A. Garza, Commissioner Place One

No one from the media was in attendance to witness the proceedings.

Also, in attendance were Fire Marshal/EMC Dean Turney, HEDC Executive Director Wade Hawkins, and Officer Sky Holcomb.

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

**REGULAR HEARINGS:**

**ITEM 1 – Consider approval of minutes for the September 21st, 2020 Regular Meeting.**

Commissioner Bhakta made the motion to approve the minutes for the September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 Regular Meeting as presented. Commissioner Alonzo seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 2 – Consider approval of re-appointment of members to the City of Hereford's Planning and Zoning Commission.**

Mayor Simons stated the terms of Johnny Brownlow and Mike Schueler expire October 2020 and both have indicated they are willing to serve another two-year term.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to re-appoint Johnny Brownlow and Mike Schueler to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Commissioner Cumpston seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 3 – Consider board appointment to the Hereford Economic Development Corporation Board.**

Mayor Simons stated the terms of Jerry O’Rear and John Perrin on the HEDC Board expired September 2020. He noted we filled one of the spots at the last Commission meeting with Tim Laws. Mayor Simons stated he visited with Isaac Walker; he is employed at Stevens Chevrolet in the Finance Department and he is a very sharp, young man. Mayor Simons stated it is his recommendation that Isaac Walker be appointed to the HEDC Board.

Commissioner Bhakta made the motion to approve the appointment of Isaac Walker to serve on the Hereford Economic Development Corporation Board. Commissioner Bunch seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

Mayor Simons stated he thinks there will be another vacancy on the board (may have one leaving) and if so, we will fill the vacancy the next time the Commission meets.

**ITEM 4 - Consider approval of re-appointment of members to the City of Hereford’s Board of Adjustments.**

Mayor Simons stated the terms of David Smalts and Jerry Walker expire October 2020.

Interim City Manager Bartels stated this Board did meet recently for the first time in twenty-five years. He noted David Smalts and Jerry Walker both agreed to serve again.

Commissioner Bunch made the motion to re-appoint David Smalts and Jerry Walker to another two-year term on the Board of Adjustments. Commissioner Alonzo seconded the motion and it was approved by the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 5 – Announcements and comments from Mayor and City Commissioners.**

Commissioner Bunch noted the Myrick’s are in the process of planning the dedication; no date yet; but, in the works.

Mayor Simons stated the guys have done a lot of work on the Parks and Golf Course – improving the overall look.

Commissioner Bunch praised First Financial Bank employees for using their Columbus Day Holiday to clean up Veterans Park.

**ITEM 6 – Announcements and comments from City Staff.**

Interim City Manager Bartels gave an update on the new wells, noting the guys have laid ¼ to ½ mile of the 2-1/2 miles of pipe already.

He noted the drillers have drilled one of the five wells behind the SportsPlex and started this week on the first well out north of town.

Interim City Manager Bartels stated fifty-four building permits have been issued on the new addition – thirty-four single family and twenty multi-family (ten duplexes).

Mayor Simons stated a lot of those houses have already sold; very impressive.

Interim City Manager Bartels gave a progress report on the Civic Center; noting the contractors are still saying it will be complete by November 25<sup>th</sup>. He noted, we are still waiting on the tile.

Mayor Simons urged those that had not been by to go by the SportsPlex to see the progress.

Fire Marshal/EMC Turney gave a report on COVID-19 figures; noting 109 cases since the first of October. He stated they are looking at rule changes/ date changes on the CRF – noting, there is a possibility we might have to return some of the funds if the new criteria is not met.

Interim City Manager Bartels stated, for everyone's safety, the City will not have their Annual Service Awards in December; he noted when things get better, we will do something.

Interim City Manager Bartels stated he will contact Sid Shaw at the Chamber of Commerce to verify the Christmas Celebration of Lights has been cancelled noting he thinks cancellation would be in the best interest of our citizens and employees.

Interim City Manager Bartels noted Halloween is coming up and it is up to the parents to make the decision as to whether or not they will allow their child to trick or treat and the residents to decide whether or not they want to give out candy.

Commissioner Bhakta inquired about the benches at the skate park. Interim City Manager Bartels said he would take care of it.

HEDC Director Hawkins thanked the Commission for appointing Isaac Walker to his board; noting Mr. Walker will do a great job.

#### **ITEM 7 – Public Comments.**

There were no public comments.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:35 p. m.