

December 14, 2020

On this the 14th day of December, 2020 at 5:20 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:

Clint Savoini, Commissioner Place Three (via telephone)
 Mark Collier, Commissioner, Place Four (via telephone)
 Cathy Bunch, Commissioner Place Five (in person)
 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: Tom Simons, Mayor
 Jose A. Garza, Commissioner Place One
 Angie Alonzo, Commissioner Place Two

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

Also, in attendance in person were Fire Marshal/EMC Dean Turney, HEDC Executive Director Wade Hawkins, Police Chief Brent Harrison, and Officer Sky Holcombe. Gilbert Estrada, Gordon Siu, and Lydia Trevizo were in attendance via telephone.

Mayor Pro Tem Bunch voiced the invocation. Mayor Pro Tem Bunch then called upon Commissioner Collier to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag. She 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 November 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting.

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

(Mayor Pro Tem Bunch opened the public hearing at approximately 5:25 p.m.)

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

ITEM 2 – Consider zoning change request to rezone property located at 441 Avenue B from "C-2" Restricted Commercial Retail District to "CB" Central Business District. (Requested by Jose & Lydia Trevizo)

Interim City Manager Bartels stated this item was tabled to allow discussion regarding the next step. He noted in order to allow Mrs. Trevizo to make an application to revisit this rezoning request, the Commission would need to uphold the current decision of the Planning and Zoning Commission to deny this request. He offered to answer any questions.

Lydia Trevizo questioned some information she had been given about the property already being zoned "CB" Central Business which would allow for truck parking. Interim City Manager Bartels clarified noting the current zoning is "C2" Restricted Commercial Retail District which does not allow for truck parking.

Gordon Siu spoke against the rezoning stating the trucks would be a danger to children playing near the residences on Avenue B. He also noted "CB" Central Business allows for numerous noise / odor generating purposes that would not be compatible with the nearby residential area.

Gilbert Estrada spoke in favor of allowing his neighbor to park trucks in this area.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission to deny this application. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 3 – Consider zoning change request (Ordinance No. 12.14.20) for property located at 442 N. 25 Mile Avenue from "R-1" Single Family to "CB" Central Business District. (Requested by Gilberto Estrada)

Interim City Manager Bartels stated the Planning and Zoning Commission met December 3rd with three board members present to consider this request and voted two to one to approve the request.

Gilbert Estrada, owner of this property, asked the Commission to consider approval of the rezoning request stating he can use an alternate way to access his property from the highway if the owner of the mall prefers that he not drive across the mall parking lot.

Gordon Siu expressed his concerns about trucks coming through other people's property such as the mall parking lot or the supermarket parking lot rather than accessing it from 25 Mile Avenue. He suggested the rezoning require modifications such as widening the curb cut on the entrance to the owner's property from 25 Mile Avenue to make it more accessible.

City Attorney Sciumbato advised we cannot amend the recommendation and the item of business is to approve or disapprove the rezoning request.

ORDINANCE NO. 12.14.20

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1193, THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HEREFORD REZONING CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY FROM "R-1" SINGLE FAMILY DISTRICT TO "CB" CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

Commissioner Collier made the motion to approve the rezoning to Central Business District. Commissioner Bhakta seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

Mr. Estrada thanked the Commission for approving the request.

(Mayor Pro Tem Bunch closed the public hearing at approximately 5:50 p.m.)

REGULAR HEARINGS:

ITEM 4 – Hear report from Hereford Economic Development Corporation.

Mayor Pro Tem Bunch called upon HEDC Executive Director Hawkins. He reported on the following:

- Conveyor Video / Expio update
- Caviness Staffing update
- Recycling company
- L2L Development / Bureau Veritas

ITEM 5 – Consider approval of appointment of member to the Deaf Smith County Juvenile Probation Board.

Interim City Manager Bartels stated this board consists of County/City representatives and the County Judge presides over it. He noted LaLa Murillo served on this board, but is now retired. Interim City Manager Bartels noted Rick Mendez has agreed to serve on this board on behalf of the City and he would be a good fit; it is his recommendation the Commission approve Rick Mendez to join the board.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve Rick Mendez as one of the City Representatives on the Deaf Smith County Juvenile Probation Board. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 6 - Consider approval of re-appointment of Dean Turney to the Fire Fighters' Relief and Retirement Fund Local Board of Trustees.

Interim City Manager Bartels stated Fire Marshal Turney has served on this board since 2003 and is willing to serve another term.

Commissioner Bhakta made the motion to re-appoint Dean Turney to serve another term on the board. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 7 - Consider cancelling the Regular City Commission Meeting scheduled for January 4th, 2021.

Mayor Pro Tem Bunch stated the Commission typically cancels the first meeting in January since it is so close to the holiday and the Commission will do so again if no one objects. There were no objections.

ITEM 8 – Announcements and comments from Mayor and City Commissioners.

Commissioner Collier praised the Volunteer Fire Department for their ISO Fire Protection Class 3 rating; noting they are doing a great job.

Mayor Pro Tem Bunch thanked the City Staff for the work they do behind the scenes to make these telephonic meetings possible.

ITEM 9 – Announcements and comments from City Staff.

Interim City Manager Bartels gave an update on the Civic Center, noting it is 99% complete - just a small punch list to get through and hopefully he will be able to report at the next meeting in January that we are at 100%.

He noted the city workers have laid approximately one-third of the pipe for the new well field.

Interim City Manager Bartels reported on the reorganization of the airport board; he noted we may have some potential new board member names ready for approval as early as January.

Fire Marshal / EMC Turney reported on the latest COVID-19 numbers, noting vaccinations are hopefully coming hsoon.

ITEM 10 – Public Comments.

There were no public comments.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:01 p. m.