

June 7, 2021

On this the 7th day of June, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., the City Commission of the City of Hereford, Texas, convened in a regular session in the Commission Chamber in 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:

Cathy Bunch, Mayor
 Reyna Ruiz, Commissioner Place One
 Angie Alonzo, Commissioner Place Two
 Clint Savoini, Commissioner Place Three
 James Stow, Commissioner, Place Five
 Rocky Bhakta, Commissioner Place Six
 Steve Bartels, City Manager
 Suzanne Finch, City Secretary
 Audie Sciumbato, City Attorney (in attendance via telephone)

Absent: Mark Collier, Commissioner, Place Four

Jim Steiert was in attendance from the Hereford Brand to witness the proceedings.

Also, in attendance were Public Works Director Johnny Torres, Joe Kerr, and Carlos Luna.

Mayor Bunch voiced the invocation and then called upon Commissioner Bhakta 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 May 10th, 2021 Special Meeting.

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

ITEM 2 – Consider approval of appointment to fill vacancy for City Commissioner, Place Five.

Mayor Bunch stated we went through the procedure of advertising, accepting applications for two weeks, checking the applications, and her recommendation for appointment is James Stow for the vacancy for City Commissioner, Place Five. Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve the appointment of James Stow. Commissioner Bhakta seconded and the motion carried with the following vote: Mayor Bunch – aye; Commissioner Reyna – no; Commissioner Alonzo – no; Commissioner Savoini – aye; and Commissioner Bhakta – aye.

ITEM 3 – Administer Oath of Office to City Commissioner, Place Five.

Mayor Bunch called upon City Secretary Finch to administer the Oath of Office to City Commissioner, Place Five James Stow.

ITEM 4 – Consider authorizing the city manager to sign a Letter of Interest to submit to the Aviation Division of Texas Department of Transportation.

City Manager Bartels stated we are looking at improvements to the Hereford Municipal Airport and he along with our engineer and airport manager recently visited with the Tx Dot representative by phone. He noted the Letter of Interest is the first step in the process of applying for a 90/10 match grant for a new row of hangars. City Manager Bartels stated typically it takes one and one-half years for this process. He noted we are also looking at what it would take to “reskin” some of our existing hangars.

Commissioner Alonzo made the motion to authorize the city manager to sign the Letter of Interest and submit it. Commissioner Savoini seconded the motion and it passed with the following vote of the Commission. Mayor Bunch – aye; Commissioner Reyna – aye; Commissioner Alonzo – aye; Commissioner Savoini – aye; Commissioner Stow – abstained; and Commissioner Bhakta – aye.

ITEM 5 – Consider approval of new leases to be used by Hereford Municipal Airport.

City Manager Bartels presented five leases: Airport Aerial Applicator Lease Agreement, Airport Ground Lease Agreement, Airport Hangar Lease, Airport Shop Lease Agreement, and Storage Space Lease Agreement. He stated our current lease is a one-page document and the users of the airport wanted the lease updated. City Manager Bartels briefly went over each of the leases noting the new leases provide more protection for both the city and the tenants. He stated the rates for now would remain the same. He noted in the past, we have been very fortunate to have a maintenance operator at the airport to service the aircrafts that served the users well and we are trying to get back to the same situation. City Manager Bartels stated there is a waiting list for hangars and we will give preference to plane owners wanting to store aircrafts over non-aircraft storage as there are other places available for the storage of RV’s and other items available in town; we will make it a smooth transition.

Commissioner Bhakta made the motion to approve the new leases. Commissioner Savoini seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 6 - Consider award of bid for street overlay projects for alley behind post office, 100 and 200 blocks of East Fourth Street, and golf course pro shop driveway and parking area.

City Manager Bartels stated we started about six years ago doing these overlay projects on Main Street and Schley Street; the current project would be the 2 blocks by the post office, alley behind the post office, and the golf course parking lot and circle drive. He noted if we approve all three, it would save \$27,500.00 as there would only be one mobilization charge.

Commissioner Bhakta made the motion to approve all three bids submitted by J. Lee Milligan. Commissioner Reyna seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 7 - Consider approval of re-appointment of Dr. Howard Johnson as the City of Hereford's Health Authority.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to re-appoint Dr. Johnson to serve another two-year term as the City of Hereford's Health Authority. Commissioner Alonzo seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 8 - Consider approval of re-appointment of Cathy Bunch as one of City's representatives on the Hereford Area Tax Abatement Board.

Commissioner Bhakta made the motion to appoint Cathy Bunch to serve another two-year term as one of the City's representatives on the Hereford Area Tax Abatement Board. Commissioner Savoini seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 9 - Consider approval of re-appointment of Frank Bravo and Cassie Swan as members of the City of Hereford's Building Code Board of Adjustments & Appeals.

Commissioner Alonzo made the motion to re-appoint Frank Bravo and Cassie Swan to serve another four-year term on the City of Hereford's Building Code Board of Adjustments and Appeals. Commissioner Reyna seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 10 - Consider cancellation of regular City Commission meeting set for July 5th, 2021.

Commissioner Alonzo made the motion to cancel the regular City Commission meeting set for July 5th. Commissioner Savoini seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

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

Mayor Bunch thanked City Manager Bartels and the Hereford Municipal Airport Board for their hard work on the leases.

Commissioner Stow thanked the Commission for the opportunity and stated he is looking forward to serving with them and appreciated the leadership of Mayor Bunch.

Mayor Bunch reminded the Commission of the Bureau Veritas presentations (one at lunch and one in the evening) on June 15th and invited everyone to attend.

ITEM 12 – Announcements and comments from City Staff.

City Manager Bartels gave an update on some of the on-going projects: waiting on State approval on the new wells; lift station progressing; Bureau Veritas presentations; Dad Fest; Jamaica; fireworks display; and the Tierra Blanca golf tournament.

Mayor Bunch also reminded everyone of the Party in the Park set for July 2nd.

ITEM 13 – Public Comments.

Joe Kerr requested the Golf Course Advisory Board be re-instated noting he had served on it in the past and would be willing to serve again. Mr. Kerr stated there are a number of dead trees on the golf course.

Mayor Bunch stated she would do some research regarding his request. City Manager Bartels stated the city is aware of the dead trees; it is an on-going process the city staff tackles as we have time and man power available.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:05 p. m. upon motion by Commissioner Savoini, seconded by Commissioner Bhakta.