

August 15, 2022

On this the 15th day of August 2022 at 4:00 P.M., the City Commission of the City of Hereford, Texas, convened in a work session in the Conference Room, in the City Hall, the work session being open to the public and notice of said work session 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  
Mark Collier, Commissioner Place Four  
James Stow, Commissioner Place Five  
Rocky Bhakta, Commissioner Place Six  
Steve Bartels, City Manager  
Suzanne Finch, City Secretary  
Audie Sciumbato, City Attorney

No one was present from the media to witness the proceedings.

Also, in attendance were Assistant City Manager/Fire Marshal Dean Turney and Finance Manager Wade Hawkins.

Mayor Bunch called the work session to order and welcomed those in attendance.

**ITEM 1 – Public Comments.**

*All comments are limited to no more than 3 minutes (6 minutes if translation is needed) per individual. The City Commission will not comment or deliberate except as authorized by section 551.042 of the Government Code.*

There were no public comments.

**ITEM 2 – Review proposed budget for FY 2022 – 2023.**

City Manager Bartels went over the proposed list of capital expenditures and the proposed budget, noting included in the proposed budget was a three percent cost of living adjustment, the proposed capital expenditures, an estimated ten percent increase for group health insurance (bids not in yet) and no proposed increases in water, sewer, and trash rates. City Manager Bartels noted the proposed tax rate is \$0.2878 cents versus the current rate of thirty-one cents per \$100 valuation. City Manager Bartels stated the city has applied for a federal grant that will pay the salaries and benefits for six full-time firefighters. He noted one public hearing is required on the proposed tax rate and this can be done at the same meeting that the tax rate is adopted.

The group discussed at length the cost of a paid fire department, incentives/recruiting for volunteers, ISO ratings, the need for a side-by-side comparison of the pros/cons, and the effect on the budget if the grant was not awarded.

Mayor Bunch pointed out the numbers on the current budget are through June 30, 2022 and City Manager Bartels answered questions on the proposed budget as the commissioners brought them up.

**ITEM 3 – Announcements and comments from Mayor and City Commissioners.**

There were no comments from the Mayor and City Commissioners.

**ITEM 4 – Announcements and comments from City Staff.**

There were no comments from City Staff.

*The City Commission may go into closed session as permitted by the Texas Open Meetings Act, (Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code) regarding any item on this Agenda.*

There being no further business before the Commission, the work session was adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.