

On this the 21st day of November, 2022 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

Absent: Mark Collier, Commissioner Place Four

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

Also, in attendance were Assistant City Manager Dean Turney, Hereford Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Kurt Jones, Parks Superintendent Robert Jones, James Spence, Ryan Zaloudik, Karen Martin, Barbara Franks, and Officer Sky Holcomb.

Mayor Bunch voiced the invocation and then called upon Commissioner Stow 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 – Public Comments.**

There were no public comments.

#### **ITEM 2 – Discuss and consider final approval for plan for structure/cover over the Hereford Aquatic Center pool.**

Mayor Bunch stated she and City Manager Bartels had met with a group of interested mermaids and mermen to listen to their suggestions. She noted what they heard was the group wants to swim under the sun. Mayor Bunch stated she met with Robert Jones, Amy Adams (pool manager) and others interested in the topic to get their input on this topic. She suggested the commission still consider covering the large pool and adding a smaller outdoor pool. Mayor Bunch suggested taking no action today to get more input and more information noting she understands the pool dome is a big safety concern for both Robert Jones and Amy Adams. She stated she is hoping that we may still find a compromise.

Robert Jones gave a timeline on how quickly the dome went down – less than a minute – noting all the pool exits were blocked by the collapsed dome.

Commissioner Stow made the motion to postpone. Commissioner Savoini seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 3 - Consider authorizing the city manager to secure design services for new outdoor pool at the Hereford Aquatic Center.**

Robert Jones suggested by adding another pool it would make it easier to guard; it would be a classy covered facility; can swim during the winter; aquatic center is a great asset. He noted we can continue to make improvements and later expand to include a splash pad or a splash pool, or maybe a climbing wall.

City Commissioner Savoini made the motion to allow the city manager to secure design services. Commissioner Bhakta seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 4 - Consider approval of minutes for the October 17th, 2022 Regular meeting.**

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

**ITEM 5 - Hear report from Hereford Economic Development Corporation.**

Executive Director Kurt Jones reported on the following:

- Seed company
- Veterinary clinic
- Bids on property

He noted the HEDC will hold a work session after their regular meeting in December to put together a strategic long-term plan.

**ITEM 6 - Consider approval of budget amendment for irrigation at the golf course.**

City Manager Bartels stated our current irrigation controls run off the old Windows 98 software and we are lucky it has not gone out. He noted, originally, we thought the cost to upgrade the irrigation system was approximately \$200,000.00. City Manager Bartels stated Parks Superintendent Robert Jones thinks we can do in three stages with the initial stage being approximately \$65,000.00. He suggested we table this item until he can get the commission a more detailed listing of the cost.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to table this item. Commissioner Alonzo seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 7 - Consider authorizing the city manager to solicit bids for a new fuel system for the Hereford Municipal Airport.**

City Manager Bartels stated we budgeted \$150,000.00 for the new fuel system; ours are now too small; the first quote came in at approximately \$500,000.00. He noted there are a lot of

companies out there and if the Commission would allow him to get together a set of bid specifications and put this out for bids, we can see where we are at on cost.

Commissioner Ruiz made the motion to allow the city manager to solicit bids for a new fuel system at the Hereford Municipal Airport. Commissioner Stow seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 8 – Consider authorizing the city manager to secure design services for new sidewalks downtown.**

City Manager Bartels stated we were not approved for the TDA downtown grant; we can resubmit next spring and we will do so. He stated he would like to work to come up with some design concepts so that we could bid it out to see what the cost would be rather than delay it even more by waiting to see if we get approved for the grant next year.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to authorize the city manager to secure design services for new sidewalks downtown. Commissioner Ruiz seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 9 - Consider approval of façade improvement grant program application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their regular meeting on November 1, 2022. (Requested by Virgie Long / Purple Cow)**

Commissioner Alonzo made the motion to approve the façade improvement grant program application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their regular meeting on November 1, 2022 requested by Virgie Long. Commissioner Ruiz seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 10 - Consider approval of façade improvement grant program application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their regular meeting on November 1, 2022. (Requested by Lisa Formby / KPAN)**

Commissioner Stow made the motion to approve the façade improvement grant program application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their regular meeting on November 1, 2022 requested by Lisa Formby. Commissioner Savoini seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 11 - Consider approval of re-appointment of member to the City of Hereford's Board of Adjustments.**

Mayor Bunch stated David Smalts is willing to serve another term; however, there is still one vacancy on this board.

Commissioner Alonzo made the motion to re-appoint David Smalts as a member of the City of Hereford's Board of Adjustments. Commissioner Ruiz seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 12 - Consider approval of re-appointment of member to the Deaf Smith County Juvenile Probation Board.**

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to re-appoint Rick Mendez to the Deaf Smith County Juvenile Probation Board. Commissioner Stow seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 13 - Consider approval of re-appointment of Dean Turney to the Fire Fighters Relief and Retirement Fund Local Board of Trustees.**

Commissioner Alonzo made the motion to re-appoint Dean Turney to the Fire Fighters Relief and Retirement Fund Local Board of Trustees. Commissioner Stow seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 14 - Review and discuss draft of sign ordinance.**

City Attorney Sciumbato stated this is a skeleton of what the sign ordinance will ultimately encompass. He noted he is going to meet with Anselmo Ramirez and Todd Murray to get their comments since they both deal with the codes. He stated the ordinance does a good job of defining placement of the signs; it is all encompassing, but complex.

City Manager Bartels stated a digital copy would be sent out for all the Commission to review and make comments on and asked them to call him if they have any questions. He also noted if the commissioners get questions about existing signs – those would be “grandfathered” in unless significant changes are made to the signs then they would lose their “grandfathered” status.

**ITEM 15 - Consider cancelling regular City Commission Meeting scheduled for December 5, 2022. (Christmas Celebration of Lights.)**

Commissioner Ruiz made the motion to cancel the regular City Commission meeting set for December 5th, 2022. Commissioner Savoini seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 16 - Announcements and comments from Mayor and City Commissioners.**

Mayor Bunch encouraged everyone to come to the new vet facility ground breaking to show support for a great program that will be in conjunction with Texas Tech senior year students to give them hands on experience.

**ITEM 17 – Announcements and comments from City Staff.**

Robert Jones gave an update on the status of the pickleball courts, noting the cost is approximately \$27,400.00. He stated the plan is to eliminate one tennis court and add four pickleball courts at the Ironwood location, replace the posts, and give it a facelift.

Commissioner Stow thanked Robert Jones for being here; noting, we do take safety seriously and we will figure something out.

City Manager Bartels stated in lieu of the next commission meeting – there will be a little surprise – a fireworks display has been added to the Christmas Celebration of Lights. He stated in the morning, he will send out the invitation for the groundbreaking in case anyone did not receive one in the mail.

City Manager Bartels stated the Fall Fiesta Down Main was a really cool event; we had a great turnout; good weather; and, next year will be even bigger and better.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:06 p.m.