

On this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, 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  
 Clint Savoini, Commissioner Place Three  
 Mark Collier, Commissioner Place Four  
 James Stow, Commissioner Place Five  
 Steve Bartels, City Manager  
 Suzanne Finch, City Secretary  
 Audie Sciumbato, City Attorney

Absent: Angie Alonzo, Commissioner Place Two  
 Rocky Bhakta, Commissioner Place Six

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

Also, in attendance were Assistant City Manager Dean Turney, Finance Manager Wade Hawkins, Hereford Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Kurt Jones, Parks Superintendent Robert Jones, David Wagner, Julia Wagner, Beverly Harrison, Brent Harrison, D. J. Wagner, Alberto Garza, Mona Hernandez, Paul Hernandez, James Spence, Esrael Silva, Jerry Teel, Denise Teel, T. J. Lucero, Christina Lucero, Alex Melendrez, Cynthia Lara, Fidincio Garcia, David Ellis, Carmen Castaneda, Ramon Nunez, Marisela Nanez, Jessie Mendoza, Chad Stephens, Phillip Kahlich, Dolores Gonzalez, George Castillo, and Jose Tapia.

Mayor Bunch voiced the invocation and then called upon Commissioner Savoini 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.**

David Wagner listed his work history in law enforcement and went over policies and procedures for new hires that were in place when he was chief of police.

Julia Wagner with the Commission's approval continued reading her husband's (David Wagner's) written comments regarding additional unwritten sexual harassment policies that he had put in place during his tenure and his suggestion to involve the Texas Rangers Integrity Unit.

Christina Lucero stated she resigned after seven and a half years; noting, she had reported to the city manager two years ago that Brent Harrison had sexually harassed her. Mrs. Lucero stated she had reported another complaint to the assistant city manager six months ago. Mrs. Lucero stated another woman was sexually harassed.

Mona Hernandez stated she had read the article by David Wagner regarding nepotism and she questioned how the judge he mentioned from Parmer County had been treated during the investigation. She made statements about the county and noted the new jail is not yet open. Ms. Hernandez suggested Brent Harrison should not be paid during his absence – he could be back paid if found not guilty.

Dolores Gonzalez began her comments by speaking to members of the public; Mayor Bunch directed her to address the City Commission. Ms. Gonzalez questioned the handling of the complaint and noted she will continue to come to meetings.

Randy Stribling stated he would still be at the police department if it were not for leadership. Mr. Stribling stated it was his understanding the City Commission planned to employ an independent investigator to look into the allegations. He suggested using the Texas Rangers at no cost to the taxpayers.

George Castillo stated he is a veteran and he hopes the City does what the City should do.

Beverly Harrison stated as a former administrator there are two sides to every story and it is usually somewhere in the middle. Mrs. Harrison stated Steve Bartels is very efficient, did his job, and made an adequate decision two years ago.

T. J. Lucero stated his wife, Mrs. Lucero, did say something but nothing was done.

**ITEM 2 – Consider approval of minutes for the November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 Regular meeting and the December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Special meeting.**

Commissioner Collier made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Stow seconded the motion and it passed with the following vote of the Commission: Mayor Bunch – aye; Commissioner Ruiz – nay; Commissioner Savoini – aye; Commissioner Collier – aye; and Commissioner Stow – aye.

**ITEM 3 - Hear report from Hereford Economic Development Corporation.**

Executive Director Kurt Jones reported on the following:

- Veterinary school
- Accepting bids on second property
- Work shop

The group briefly discussed the requirements for Type A versus Type B projects.

**ITEM 4 - Consider approval of financial incentive package for project proposed by Dr. Sturgess of Hereford Veterinary Clinic approved by the Hereford Economic Development Corporation at their Special Meeting held November 28, 2022.**

HEDC Executive Director Kurt Jones reported the decision was made to do an incentive in the amount of 10% of the cost; at their special meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November a budget was presented to the Board of approximately \$3.2 million. He stated it would be a forgivable loan

over a five-year period in the total maximum amount of \$320,000.00 to be used for infrastructure.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve the incentive package approved by the Hereford Economic Development Corporation Board for the Hereford Veterinary Clinic. Commissioner Ruiz seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 5 - Consider approval of grant application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their regular meeting on December 6, 2022. (Requested by J. W. Meyer/Bi-County Bail Bonds)**

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve the grant application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their regular meeting on December 6, 2022 for J. W. Meyer of Bi-County Bail Bonds in the amount of \$2,500.00. Commissioner Ruiz seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 6 - Consider approval of grant application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their regular meeting on December 6, 2022. (Requested by Ramona Martinez/Nutricion Es Vida)**

Commissioner Collier made the motion to approve the grant application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their regular meeting on December 6, 2022 for Ramona Martinez of Nutricion Es Vida in the amount of \$2,500.00. Commissioner Savoini seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 7 - Consider approval of grant application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their regular meeting on December 6, 2022. (Requested by Vanessa Nava/Hereford Senior Citizens)**

Commissioner Collier made the motion to approve the grant application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their regular meeting on December 6, 2022 for Vanessa Nava of the Hereford Senior Citizens in the amount of \$2,050.00. Commissioner Ruiz seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 8 – Discuss and consider approval of amendments to the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board Façade Improvement Grant Program forms.**

Mayor Bunch noted items were highlighted and a check off list included to help prevent having to table future applications because they were not filled out properly.

Commissioner Ruiz made the motion to approve the amendments to the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board Façade Improvement Grant Program forms. Commissioner Savoini seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 9 - Consider approval of budget amendment for golf course irrigation improvements.**

Robert Jones went over the proposed improvements to the golf course irrigation system.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to do a budget adjustment in the amount of \$110,000.00. Commissioner Stow seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 10 - Consider approval of Ordinance No. 12.19.22 an ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Hereford, Texas amending the Hereford Code Of Ordinances to provide comprehensive provisions for business sign regulations; providing for severability; providing for repealer; providing penalty; providing for publication; and providing for effective date.**

ORDINANCE NO. 12.19.22

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HEREFORD, TEXAS AMENDING THE HEREFORD CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE PROVISIONS FOR BUSINESS SIGN REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER; PROVIDING PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE .

Commissioner Collier made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 12.19.22. Commissioner Ruiz seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 11 - Consider cancelling regular City Commission Meeting scheduled for January 2, 2023.**

Commissioner Stow made the motion to cancel the regular City Commission Meeting scheduled for January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. Commissioner Ruiz seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 12 - Announcements and comments from Mayor and City Commissioners.**

Mayor Bunch thanked everyone for coming out today.

**ITEM 13 – Announcements and comments from City Staff.**

City Manager Bartels wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:13 p.m.