

On this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023 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  
 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

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, Captain Kirsten Williams, Dolores Gonzalez, Pete Vargas, Ramon Nunez, Carmen Nunez, Steven Cortez, David Wagner, Julia Wagner, Ally Hubbard, Robert Chavez, Lupita Chavez, and Mona Hernandez.

Mayor Bunch voiced the invocation and then led 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 spoke on nepotism and policies that were in place when he was the chief of police, noting many employees left or took early retirement because of the situation with Brent Harrison.

Ramon Nunez stated he is fairly new to Hereford and inquired about the hiring/selection process.

Dolores Gonzalez stated it was upsetting it took Brent Harrison two years to retire and questioned the City's decision to pay him and also pay an investigator rather than to use the Texas Rangers. She questioned management's handling of the sexual harassment complaints. She also stated if it is not nepotism, then it is favoritism.

Steven Cortez inquired if the investigation is still going on and if they were using a private investigator and why and how the public could get an answer.

Julia Wagner read a series of questions regarding the investigation of the complaints against Brent Harrison and how it was handled.

Mona Hernandez questioned the choosing of leaders including the sheriff and chief of police and suggested Brent Harrison's credentials and retirement should be taken away if he is found guilty.

Robert Chavez stated the police had broken down the doors to an apartment complex he owns looking for drugs without a warrant and no drugs were found. He stated he had spoken to Jay Lewis and he tried to speak to Brent Harrison about it. Mr. Chavez stated he had also gone to the city attorney's office and left a message with his secretary and he had tried to speak to the city manager about it.

**ITEM 2 – Consider approval of minutes for the December 19th, 2022 Regular meeting.**

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

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

HEDC Executive Director Kurt Jones reported on the following:

- Set goals at last meeting – focus on expansion of existing & ancillary businesses
- Bids on second property will close on January 31st
- Candy/ice cream shop

**ITEM 4 - Consider approval of Order and Notice for the City Officers' Election set for May 6, 2023. (Considerere aprobacion de Orden y Aviso de Eleccion de los Oficiales de la Ciudad para el 6 de mayo de 2023.)**

Commissioner Ruiz made the motion to approve the Order and Notice for the City Officers' Election set for May 6, 2023. Commissioner Stow seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 5 - Consider approval of Resolution No. 01.16.23 authorizing the submission of a grant application on behalf of the Hereford Police Department for the Hereford Police Department SRO (School Resource Officer) Project to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division and designating the city manager to act as the City's authorized official in all matters pertaining to the City's participation in the Hereford Police Department SRO (School Resource Officer) Project Grant.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 01.16.23**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF HEREFORD, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF THE HEREFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE HEREFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT SRO (school resource officer) Project TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION AND DESIGNATING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACT AS THE CITY'S AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL IN ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE HEREFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT SRO (SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER) PROJECT GRANT.

WHEREAS, the City Commission for the City of Hereford, Texas finds it in the best interest of the citizens of Hereford that the Hereford Police

Department SRO (School Resource Officer) Project Grant be operated for the 2023-2024 year; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission for the City of Hereford agrees to provide applicable matching funds in the amount of \$60,000.00 (Sixty thousand dollars and zero cents) for the said project as required by the Criminal Justice Division of the Office of the Governor grant application; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission for the City of Hereford agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Criminal Justice Division funds, the City Commission for the City of Hereford assures that the funds will be returned to the Criminal Justice Division in full; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission for the City of Hereford designates City Manager Steve Bartels as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HEREFORD, TEXAS:**

That the City Commission for the City of Hereford approves submission of the grant application for the Hereford Police Department SRO (School Resource Officer) Project Grant to the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division.

**Passed and Approved** the 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023.

/s/ Cathy Bunch  
Cathy Bunch, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Suzanne Finch  
Suzanne Finch, City Secretary

Grant Number: 4493701

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve Resolution No. 01.16.23 authorizing the submission of a grant application on behalf of the Hereford Police Department for the Hereford Police Department SRO (School Resource Officer) Project. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 6 – Consider approval of appointment of member to the City of Hereford's Planning and Zoning Commission.**

Commissioner Collier made the motion to approve the appointment of Ricky Prisk to serve the remainder on an unexpired term on the Planning and Zoning Commission with said term to expire October of 2023. Commissioner Savoini seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 7 - Consider approval of appointment of member to the City of Hereford's Board of Adjustments.**

Commissioner Stow made the motion to approve the appointment of Josh Lucio to serve the remainder or an unexpired term on the City of Hereford's Board of Adjustments with said term to expire October 2024. Commissioner Alonzo seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 8 - Consider approval of Resolution No. 01.16.23A authorizing the city manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement with Panhandle Regional Planning Commission for application assistance for 2023 TXCDBG DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM & associated administration consideration if funded.**

Ally Hubbard of Panhandle Regional Planning Commission gave a brief overview of what the Downtown Revitalization Program grant covers – ADA accessibility on Main Street, sidewalks, and lighting noting applications are due by May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. She also stated it is now a 15% match rather than a 10% match.

Commissioner Stow made the motion to approve Resolution No. 01.16.23A authorizing the city manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement with Panhandle Regional Planning Commission for application assistance for 2023 TXCDBG DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM. Commissioner Savoini seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 9 - Announcements and comments from Mayor and City Commissioners.**

Commissioner Ruiz suggested slowing down a little when going through the agenda items to allow time for questions.

Mayor Bunch stated the City used Covid funds to purchase automated meters and this has freed up eighteen employees two days per month to allow them to do other work as they no longer read the meters individually.

Dolores Gonzalez interrupted several times with questions about a previous agenda item. Mayor Bunch advised Ms. Gonzalez this item is reserved for announcements and comments from the Commission. Commissioner Stow advised Ms. Gonzalez the time to ask questions is during the agenda item that she has questions on.

**ITEM 10 – Announcements and comments from City Staff.**

City Manager Bartels stated we have started the process of getting ready to hire a new police of chief – reviewing/updating job description to advertise locally and post statewide. He noted there is no timeframe – just want to hire the best possible person for the job.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned upon motion by Commissioner Collier, seconded by Commissioner Ruiz at approximately 7:15 p.m.