

On this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 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

Absent: 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, Corporal Sky Holcomb, Assistant City Secretary Franchesca Jimenez, Parks Director Robert Jones, Chris Leonard, Dolores Gonzalez, Carmen Nunez, Ramon Nunez, Linda Casteneda, and Gracie Gamez.

Mayor Bunch voiced the invocation and 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.**

Dolores Gonzalez inquired about the status of the Chief of Police position.

Jim Steiert voiced his concern about the water supply for the City of Hereford. He stated the static water level has dropped significantly and with the possibility of new water infrastructure, the water supply and water planning must be a priority.

#### **ITEM 2 – Consider approval of minutes for the April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 Regular meeting.**

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

#### **ITEM 3 – Consider approval of audit for F/Y/E 09/30/2021.**

Mr. Leonard thanked the Commission and apologized for the delay; he announced McGinty is in the process of closing the audit portion of the firm. He stated they are working on the 2022 audit and plan on having it ready by the middle of summer. Mr. Leonard briefly covered the financial report and totals.

Mr. Nunez inquired whether there were any gains or losses. Mayor Bunch advised Mr. Nunez to get with her after the meeting.

Commissioner Bhakta made the motion to approve the audit for F/Y/E 09/30/2021. Commissioner Savoini seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 4 – Hear report from Hereford Economic Development Corporation.**

HEDC Executive Director Kurt Jones reported on the following:

- 2 projects to be considered by the HEDC Board (truck wash and duplexes)
  - Duplexes will provide an additional 20 homes.
- The MILE program from Texas Tech University toured local agriculture businesses.
- Upcoming series of Lunch and Learns about business planning to develop entrepreneurship in the community.

**ITEM 5 – Consider approval of Façade Improvement Grant Program application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their regular meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. (Requested by Evangelina Garcia / Headlines Beauty Salon / 124 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street.)**

Mayor Bunch stated the \$2,500.00 for the Façade Improvement Grant is money that the Hereford Beautification Board has raised from the Fiesta Down Main and Brick Sales; a total of 14 grants have been issued.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve the grant application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their regular meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for Evangelina Garcia of the Headlines Beauty Salon in the amount of \$2,500.00. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 6 - Consider approval of Façade Improvement Grant Program application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their regular meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. (Requested by Jimmy Cobb / Park Avenue Optometry / 801 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street.)**

Commissioner Bhakta made the motion to approve the grant application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their regular meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for Jimmy Cobb of the Park Avenue Optometry in the amount of \$2,500.00. Commissioner Ruiz seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 7 – Consider approval of Ordinance No. 04.17.23 an ordinance of the City of Hereford, Texas, authorizing execution of an amended Publicity and Tourism Agreement with the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 04.17.23**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HEREFORD, TEXAS,  
AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AMENDED PUBLICITY AND  
TOURISM AGREEMENT WITH THE DEAF SMITH COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Mayor Bunch stated the ordinance will allow the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce committee to allocate money without going through the CP&P special committee and will increase the hotel-motel tax to the Chamber from 3% to 4%.

Commissioner Ruiz stated she would like to see a 5% increase because 4% is not sufficient.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 04.17.23 an ordinance of the City of Hereford, Texas, authorizing execution of an amended Publicity and Tourism Agreement with the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Alonzo seconded the motion and it passed with the following vote of the Commission: Mayor Bunch – aye; Commissioner Alonzo – aye ; Commissioner Ruiz – nay; Commissioner Bhakta – aye; Commissioner Savoini – aye; Commissioner Collier – aye; and Commissioner Stow – aye.

**ITEM 8 – Consider authorizing the city manager to work with Parkhill engineers and architects to move forward with plans for the revitalization of downtown.**

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 9 – Discuss and consider options for bathrooms for Dameron Park, Veterans Park, and for parks events.**

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

**ITEM 10 – Consider approval of appointment to fill vacancy on the Hereford Municipal Airport Board.**

City Manager Bartels stated Airport Board Member Chris Woodard resigned from the board and left a vacancy; Landon Friemel has agreed to serve the remaining term.

Commissioner Alonzo inquired about how people are selected to serve on the boards. City Manager Bartels stated he contacted the Airport Board Chairman Tim Schlabs for suggestions.

Commissioner Ruiz inquired whether the board vacancies are advertised.

Mayor Bunch stated it is difficult to fill vacancies and it is generally people who are interested in serving on the board.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve the appointment of Landon Friemel to serve the remaining term on the Hereford Municipal Airport Board. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

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

Commissioner Savoini and Commissioner Ruiz thanked the public for attending the meeting. Commissioner Savoini stated he would like to discuss water bills and cost of water at the next meeting.

Commissioner Alonzo inquired about the bids for sealcoat; she stated the streets need repairs. City Manager Bartels stated bids have been opened, they came in lower than predicted and we are waiting for contractors to schedule sealcoat. He stated they will identify the streets that have damage and they will do work as needed.

**ITEM 12 – Announcements and comments from City Staff.**

City Manager Bartels provided an update on the relocation of sewer lines for the Highway 60 project; they are passed Lee Street and should move faster going west and should be completed in nine months.

City Manager Bartels stated he will announce the Police Chief this week.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:18 p.m.