

On this the 3rd day of July, 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
 Rose Mary Barrett, Commissioner Place One
 Angie Alonzo, Commissioner Place Two
 Mark Collier, Commissioner Place Four
 Rocky Bhakta, Commissioner Place Six
 Steve Bartels, City Manager
 Suzanne Finch, City Secretary
 Audie Sciumbato, City Attorney

Absent: Clint Savoini, Commissioner Place Three
 James Stow, Commissioner Place Five

Jim Steiert was in attendance from the Hereford Brand and Lane Formby from KPAN to witness the proceedings.

Also, in attendance were Assistant City Manager Dean Turney, Finance Manager Wade Hawkins, HEDC Executive Director Kurt Jones, Margaret Del Toro, David Wagner, Julia Wagner, Dolores Gonzalez, Linda Castaneda, Rick Castaneda, Carmen Nunez, Ramon Nunez, Teresa Garth, John Garth, and Iwana Rademaekers.

Mayor Bunch voiced the invocation and then asked Commissioner Alonzo 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 HEARING:

ITEM 1 – Public Comments.

Mayor Bunch reminded those present of the new rule: the public is not allowed to approach the dais without permission; the public will be escorted out of the chamber after the meeting is adjourned.

Margaret Del Toro urged management to keep the commission informed of situations that could cost the taxpayers.

Delores Gonzalez urged the commission to be the eyes and ears of the citizens. She questioned the residency of the city manager and why the duties of accounts payable had not yet been taken over by the finance manager.

Ramon Nunez inquired, in regards to the EEOC settlement, if the public would be informed of who the complainant is, what the charge was, and how the City of Hereford plans to remedy this situation in the future.

(Mayor Bunch began the executive session at 6:41 p.m.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ITEM 2 – Consultation with attorney regarding EEOC Complaint. (Pursuant to Government Code Sec. 551.071)

(Mayor Bunch concluded the executive session at 7:12 p.m. noting no formal action was taken.)

REGULAR HEARINGS:

ITEM 3 - Discuss and consider settlement of EEOC Complaint.

Commissioner Collier made a motion to approve the settlement. Commissioner Bhakta seconded the motion and it passed with the following vote of the Commission – Mayor Bunch – aye; Commissioner Barrett – aye; Commissioner Alonzo – nay; Commissioner Collier – aye; and Commissioner Bhakta - aye.

ITEM 4 - Consider approval of minutes for the June 5th, 2023 Regular meeting.

Commissioner Bhakta made the motion to approve the minutes for the June 5th, 2023 Regular meeting. Commissioner Barrett seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 5 - Consider request to extend city water service to 201 S. Kingwood, Hereford, Texas. (Requested by Steven R. Balderaz)

Commissioner Collier made the motion to extend city water service to 201 S. Kingwood. Commissioner Alonzo 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 June 6th, 2023. (Requested by Angela Gamboa / Deaf Smith County Crisis Center / 218 W. 3rd Street.)

Commissioner Bhakta made the motion to approve the Façade Improvement Grant Program application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their regular meeting on June 6th, 2023 for Angela Gamboa of Deaf Smith County Crisis Center located at 218 W. 3rd Street). Commissioner Alonzo seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 7 – Hear report from Hereford Economic Development Corporation.

HEDC Executive Director Jones reported on the following:

- Lunch and Learn beginning July 13th on a variety of topics
- New Facebook page available on the HEDC website
- New coin operated laundry incentive may be ready to bring before the City Commission next time for Brent Dance (purchased one of the properties HEDC sold).

ITEM 8 – Consider approval of Hereford Economic Development Corporation's financial incentive package for new truck wash.

HEDC Executive Director Jones explained there are three separate documents included – Economic Development Agreement for \$120,000.00 written to them (set up as a forgivable loan based on the number of employees), a Promissory Note, and a draft of a resolution that issues a \$100,000.00 check to the City of Hereford for infrastructure costs. He stated it was done this way because the original cost was \$120,000.00 but for \$100,000.00 more the City could put in water mains and sewer that could be utilized by future businesses.

Commissioner Collier made the motion to approve the draft of the HEDC Economic Development Agreement and Promissory Note in the amount of \$120,000.00 and approve the draft of the resolution for \$100,000.00 for infrastructure. Commissioner Bhakta seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 9 – Consider approval of Hereford Economic Development Corporation's financial incentive package for new housing.

HEDC Executive Director Jones noted this item is only for infrastructure for the 10-duplex development in the amount of up to \$47,500.00 and will be paid directly to the City of Hereford for the installation of city water and sewer lines near Greenwood Street. He stated additional items would be coming later for City Commission approval in the form of an agreement and a promissory note. He stated in response to a question from the Commission that the duplexes are not HUD/low-income as a study done by Bureau Veritas indicated the need is for affordable housing that is without HUD/low-income requirements.

Commissioner Alonzo made the motion to approve the HEDC draft of the resolution for \$47,500.00 of water and sewer infrastructure near Greenwood Street. Commissioner Bhakta seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 10 - Announcements and comments from Mayor and City Commissioners.

Commissioner Collier thanked those in attendance for taking time to express their concerns; it is 100% appreciated.

Commissioner Alonzo also thanked the public for their attendance and expressing their concerns.

Commissioner Collier thanked the city workers, volunteers, and community for caring and giving.

Commissioner Barrett thanked everyone for their input; it means a lot.

Mayor Bunch stated the city employees in Parks and Public Works went above and beyond to get ready for the Tierra Blanca Tournament and to get the parks back in shape. She stated she appreciates all the Police Department does too.

Mayor Bunch noted she recently attended a water meeting held in Lubbock and she will continue to do so to search for ways to obtain more water and also to search for dollars available for that purpose.

ITEM 11 – Announcements and comments from City Staff.

City Manager Bartels thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and wished all a Happy 4th of July holiday and invited them to enjoy the festivities.

City Manager Bartels noted we delayed sending out weed letters to allow everyone a chance to get caught up and many have done so. He stated for those areas that still need to be addressed, we will begin sending out notices.

City Manager Bartels stated we are currently running (weather permitting) two rigs to spray for mosquitoes.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:28 p.m.