

On this the 17th 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  
 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: Angie Alonzo, Commissioner Place Two  
 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, HEDC Executive Director Kurt Jones, Fire Chief Robert Murray, Richard Sanchez, Abel Sosa, Brenda Martinez, Josh Torres, Faith Fowler, Noah Leal, Lucas Mendoza, Danny Leal, Anselmo Ramirez, Dolores Gonzalez, Ramon Nunez, Grace Gamez, and Mari Gamez.

Mayor Bunch voiced the invocation and then asked Commissioner Barrett 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.**

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.

Delores Gonzalez suggested leaving out the part of the employment application that asks if the applicant has any relatives working for the City of Hereford to avoid favoritism. She also stated what the City of Hereford needs is “young blood” and the City should either pay for or help pay for their education.

#### **ITEM 2 – Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to the Hereford Volunteer Fire Department.**

Mayor Bunch read the Certificate of Appreciation.

*CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION*

*WHEREAS, on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the City of Hereford and surrounding areas including the San Jose Community just south of town received several inches of rain in a short time period which led to flooding that completely destroyed some homes, caused damage to many other homes, resulted in thousands of dollars of damage to vehicles and loss of personal property; and*

*WHEREAS, these losses affected many lives leaving individuals without food, housing, and transportation; and*

*WHEREAS, the Hereford Fire Department and Volunteer Firefighters have rendered service to the San Jose Community which deserves special recognition; and*

*WHEREAS, these individuals have devoted countless hours to studying, training, and coordinating all volunteer efforts in order to prevent the loss of property and life; and*

*WHEREAS, these firefighters are to be congratulated for their selflessness, professionalism, and bravery on the morning of May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023; and*

*WHEREAS, these volunteer firefighters used rafts to rescue members of the San Jose Community affected by the flooding; and*

*WHEREAS, congratulations and citations are in order for these rescues; and*

*WHEREAS, catastrophe was avoided because of the skillful and quick response to danger and the knowledge of life saving methods demonstrated by the Hereford Volunteer Fire Department; and*

*WHEREAS, this courageous action in averting what could have been a tragic loss to family, friends, and community was an act of heroism which deserves special recognition by the governing body of this city; and*

*NOW, THEREFORE, on behalf of the City Commission, the City Administration, and all the citizens at large of this community, I am pleased to present this Certificate of Appreciation to Fire Chief Robert Murray, Fire Marshal Dean Turney and all the Volunteer Firefighters, along with our sincere gratitude for their dedicated service to the safety and welfare of our community and the San Jose Community.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I do hereby set my hand, and cause the Corporate Seal of the City to be affixed this the 17th day of July, in the year of 2023.*

*/s/ Cathy Bunch  
Cathy Bunch, Mayor  
City of Hereford, Texas*

Mayor Bunch then presented the framed certificate to Fire Chief Robert Murray, Fire Marshal Dean Turney, and members of the Hereford Volunteer Fire Department (Richard Sanchez, Abel Sosa, Brenda Martinez, Josh Torres, Faith Fowler, Noah Leal, Lucas Mendoza, Danny Leal, and Anselmo Ramirez).

**ITEM 3 - Consider approval of minutes for the July 3rd, 2023 Regular meeting.**

Commissioner Bhakta made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Barrett 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 Jones reported on the following:

- Passed a couple of resolutions (done on our end / pending on recipient end)
- Lunch and Learn began July 13<sup>th</sup> on a variety of topics
  - 8 more left
  - Video of each session will be made available on their website
- New laundry mat incentive may be ready to bring before the City Commission next time
- Restaurants
  - Typically, does not funnel through him
  - Heard about a couple of different ones
    - Chicken Express – guy is planning to bring one in
    - Bennigan's sent an email – but he has not heard anything further

**ITEM 5 - Consider approval of Façade Improvement Grant Program application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their special meeting held on July 11th, 2023. (Requested by Amy Rodriguez / Belle Bee, LLC / 220 Main Street.)**

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve the Façade Improvement Grant Program application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their special meeting held on July 11th, 2023 for Amy Rodriguez of Belle Bee, LLC located at 220 Main Street). Commissioner Bhakta seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 6 - Announcements and comments from Mayor and City Commissioners.**

Mayor Bunch stated she appreciates the firefighter so much; she heard some pretty harrowing stories of the rescues.

**ITEM 7 - Announcements and comments from City Staff.**

City Manager Bartels stated Hereford is still the largest City that has an all-volunteer fire department and they are the best; he would put them up against any paid department. He asked Fire Chief Robert Murray to express his appreciation to them at the next fire drill.

City Manager Bartels stated the cover for the Hereford Aquatic Center will arrive August 14<sup>th</sup> and construction will begin soon after.

City Manager Bartels noted the pickleball courts will be done late September or early October. He stated the tennis court at Ironwood and Plains is in need of being resurfaced and the pickle ball court will be added at that time.

City Manager Bartels reported the hangars are complete at the Hereford Municipal Airport (replaces the ones that were destroyed in the storm). He stated we are looking at door options to get better and easier to use doors; he has been talking to Top of Texas.

City Manager Bartels also stated the City of Hereford scored number six on the Main Street grant and last year they funded fourteen. He is meeting with the concrete contractors to get their thoughts/ideas for work to be done outside of the grant.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.