

On this the 21st day of August, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., the City Commission of the City of Hereford, Texas, convened in a special 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  
 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, Marisela Nanez, and Junie Wagner.

Mayor Bunch voiced the invocation and then asked 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.**

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.

Junie Wagner, Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce Director, stated she was asked in December of 2021 to become a member of the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board. She stated she received the renewal letter but has not signed it yet. Mrs. Wagner expressed concerns that the board has not met their main goals – don't have new sidewalks, public asking what happened to the bricks they purchased, grant denied last year, grant only pays for one block, Parkhill ridiculously expensive. She inquired why the sidewalks were not included in the \$6.5 million election the City called for the ball park.

Marisela Nanez, stated she was also asked to renew as a board member and expressed her concerns regarding Main Street and the bricks. She questioned why the City and HEDC (was told wrong type) could not fund the sidewalks as they have lost clients and vendors because they are unable to get into the businesses.

**ITEM 2 – Consider approval of minutes for the August 7th, 2023 Regular meeting.**

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

**ITEM 3 - Consider approval of re-appointments to the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board.**

Mayor Bunch stated the two that did send it in asked to be renewed. She noted Jeri Bezner responded but was unable to serve again and no response received from Marisela Nanez or Junie Wagner.

Commissioner Bhakta made the motion to reappoint the two that did respond (Cathy Bunch and Kim Leonard) to serve another two-year term on the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board. Commissioner Savoini seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 4 - Consider cancelling the Regular Meeting scheduled for September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to cancel the regular meeting set for September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in observance of the Labor Day holiday. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 5 – Review proposed budget for FY 2023 – 2024.**

Mayor Bunch called upon City Manager Bartels to go over the budget.

City Manager Bartels thanked the City Commission, public, city staff, and Jim Steiert for coming to the budget work session. He went over the cover letter noting the proposed budget includes a 5% rate increase (base rates not changing) for water, sewer, and trash collection services; a 4% cost of living adjustment, and a proposal for IT services.

Commissioner Collier thanked the guests for coming and noted if they needed to leave, they could; but they were welcome to stay. Junie Wagner and Marisela Nanez left the meeting at approximately 6:34 p.m.

City Manager Bartels went through the budget and capital list. The group discussed cost of living adjustments, merit raises, insurance, rate increases, other items such as Main Street, a dog park, a ball park and other ideas such as a splash pad, full-size basketball courts, and roller rink and how such items were selected to be added to the current budget.

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

There were no additional comments from the mayor and city commissioners.

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

City Manager Bartels thanked the Commission for staying so long and added if they need another budget work session to please let him know; if not, the next meeting will be September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and it will be a lengthy one.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.