

On this the 2nd day of October, 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
 Clint Savoini, Commissioner Place Three
 Mark Collier, Commissioner Place Four
 James Stow, Commissioner Place Five
 Steve Bartels, City Manager
 Suzanne Finch, City Secretary
 Audie Sciumbato, City Attorney

Absent: Rocky Bhakta, Commissioner Place Six

Jim Steiert was in attendance from the Hereford Brand to witness the proceedings.

Also, in attendance were Dean Turney, Wade Hawkins, Sky Holcomb, Mona Hernandez, Ramon Nunez, Carmen Nunez, Stephanie Hernandez, Dolores Gonzalez, and Margaret Del Toro.

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 everyone of the new rule: no one allowed to approach the dais after the meeting without permission; the public will be escorted out when the meeting adjourns.

Margaret Del Toro spoke regarding the upcoming election for the ball park.

Dolores Gonzalez spoke again on accounts payable; in favor of a new ball park for the youth; inquired when improvements to Main Street would begin, and requested the “Beef Capital of the World” on Highway 60 be changed to “Welcome to Hereford”.

Stephanie Hernandez stated she is affiliated with Deaf Smith Kids, Inc. – has coached for them and has had trouble with them – and is not proud of their fields. She stated in the past when she voiced concerns regarding the maintenance of the area, she was told they did not have enough volunteers. She also stated she had contacted Amarillo Kids Inc. and was told they were not affiliated with our Kids, Inc. Ms. Hernandez stated other towns have beautiful fields and it would be nice to be able to host tournaments here.

Mona Hernandez complained about the condition of the current baseball fields and restrooms. She stated she does not live in town; but, her grandkids love to play and a baseball complex is needed.

ITEM 2 – Consider approval of minutes for the September 18th, 2023 Regular meeting.

Commissioner Collier 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 3 - Consider Ordinance No. 10.02.23 amending Chapter 4 Business Regulations, Article 4.02 Alcoholic Beverages of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Hereford; providing for a repealer; providing for severability; providing for a penalty; and providing for an effective date.

Mayor Bunch stated some restaurants want to be able to serve mixed drinks from midnight until 2:00 a.m. and City Manager Bartels and City Attorney Sciumbato have provided such an ordinance. She stated some of the Commission have expressed concerns regarding whether this should be limited to the weekends and not every night. She asked for a motion.

There was none – item died for lack of a motion.

ITEM 4 – Discuss and consider authorizing the city manager to execute a construction contract for the ball park.

Mayor Bunch stated there are lots of questions regarding this item. Hellas was not able to be here tonight – but will be available at the next meeting, October 16th. She asked for a motion to table this item to allow the Commission to get some clarification.

Commissioner Alonzo moved to table this item. Commissioner Barrett seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 5 – Discuss and consider approval to resurface tennis courts on Avenue H to pickleball.

City Manager Bartels explained one of the existing tennis courts would be turned into four pickleball courts and the other tennis court would remain. He stated if approved the cost would be approximately \$32,000.00 and the project would commence next spring.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve the resurfacing of the tennis courts on Avenue H. Commissioner Stow 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 thanked the public for expressing their opinions and for their creative ideas.

Commissioner Collier also thanked the public agreeing that kids are our future.

Commissioner Alonzo also thanked the public for coming to express their thoughts on the ball park.

Commissioner Barrett also expressed her appreciation to the public for coming to talk about the ball park. She also commented on an article she had seen about the “Beef Capital of the World”.

Commissioner Stow also thanked the audience.

Mayor Bunch noted the Chamber of Commerce is working on four new “welcome” signs and she hopes the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board gets to be a part of that project. She also stated the City and the HEDC have the funds to build the ball park – but, the HEDC requires a vote.

ITEM 7 - Announcements and comments from City Staff.

City Manager Bartels stated under the “FYI” tab in the packets is a draft of a survey form to get public input on what to use the site where the old community center used to be for and asked the Commission to look at and let us know if there are any changes to be made before we put those on our Facebook page and website.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:57 p.m.