

On this the 16th 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  
 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 Dean Turney, Wade Hawkins, Kurt Jones, David Fisher, Sky Holcomb, Dolores Gonzalez, Zach Maldonado, Brent Brethour, Faith Fowler, and Ramon Nunez.

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.

Dolores Gonzalez stated the last audit was 2021 and inquired when the audit for 2022 would be completed. She suggested since Chris Leonard was retiring to look at getting someone from out of town to do the audit.

#### **ITEM 2 – Consider approval of minutes for the October 2nd, 2023 Regular meeting.**

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

#### **ITEM 3 – Hear presentation from Hellas and ask questions regarding the proposed ball park.**

David Fisher of Hellas gave a brief overview of some of the projects they had completed; the timeline for this project if the vote is favorable on November 7<sup>th</sup>; and his personal background.

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

City Manager Bartels explained this is a construction contract with a clause that if the vote does not pass – this contract will be null and void; passing this today just speeds up the process if it does pass.

Commissioner Alonzo voted to authorize the city manager to execute a construction contract for the ball park. Commissioner Barrett seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 5 – 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.**

ORDINANCE NO. 10.02.23

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HEREFORD, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 4.02 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF HEREFORD; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING A PENALTY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Bunch explained for restaurants that have an alcohol license/permit to sell, this allows extended hours on the weekends (Friday and Saturday nights until 2:00 a.m.).

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 10.02.23. Commissioner Stow seconded the motion and it passed with the following vote of the Commission: Cathy Bunch – aye; Rose Mary Barrett – aye; Angie Alonzo- aye; Clint Savoini – aye; Mark Collier – aye; James Stow – aye; and Rocky Bhakta - abstained.

**ITEM 6 – Hear report from Hereford Economic Development Corporation.**

Hereford Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Kurt Jones reported on the following:

- Lunch & Learn
- Annual Meeting / New president
- Reinert Hay
- Ball park
  - Mayor Bunch noted she has been showing a power point with information
  - Mr. Jones noted the HEDC currently has a fund balance of \$6.5 Million
  - City Manager Bartels wanted to make sure the public is aware of how the amounts would be split if the proposition passes and he noted taxes are not going up – these amounts are already in our reserves. He stated it will also bring people to town.
    - \$3.5 Million CITY
    - \$2.5 Million HEDC
    - \$0.5 Million HOT (Hotel Occupancy Tax)

**ITEM 7 - Consider re-appointment of members to the Planning and Zoning Commission.**

Mayor Bunch stated all three – Brent Dance, Sandy Tiemann, and Ricky Prisk - have agreed to serve again.

Commissioner Collier made the motion to re-appoint Brent Dance, Sandy Tiemann, and Ricky Prisk to serve a two-year term on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Commissioner Savoini seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 8 - Consider re-appointment of members to the Board of Adjustments.**

Mayor Bunch stated all three – Linda Cumpton, Brent Dance, and Robert Murray – are willing to serve again.

Commissioner Alonzo made the motion to re-appoint Linda Cumpton, Brent Dance, and Robert Murray to serve a two-year term on the City of Hereford Board of Adjustments. Commissioner Barrett seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 9 - Discuss and consider approval of change order for extension of sewer line from south of railroad to New York Avenue.**

City Manager Bartels gave a brief overview of the proposed change order noting the main thing the City of Hereford is responsible for as part of the TxDot Hwy 60 Project is the relocation of lines. He stated a sewer main crosses Hwy 60 to the block east of Schley and when they bore under Hwy 60, they could not find a good place to tie in. He noted part of the problem is the second line runs under a warehouse on the south side of Hwy 60 and in order to alleviate future problems he proposed this change order to abandon the old lines and extend a new line.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission that it would be better to deal with the problem now.

Commissioner Stow made the motion to approve the change order for the extension of a sewer line from south of the railroad to New York Avenue. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

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

Commissioner Savoini thanked the public for coming and stated he is excited about the future of Hereford.

Commissioner Collier asked for an update on the Hereford Aquatic Center.

City Manager Bartels stated we knew there would be some “unknowns” when construction began because we were not sure what would be found when they started digging for the new piers for the structure. He noted we had a structural engineer look at it to make sure what they wanted to do would be all right. He stated the piers have been poured, deck replacement will begin this week, and then the structure will go up fairly quickly – except for the block walls and they will take a little more time than the steel walls would’ve taken to complete; but they are more aesthetic. He noted we are looking at a completion date of the first part of January.

Commissioner Collier thanked the public for showing up today – noting he will invest in children and have their best interest in mind.

Commissioner Alonzo thanked the audience for coming and encouraged them to get out and campaign to get it passed.

Commissioner Rose Mary Barrett stated she is excited about the ball park and thinks it would be a good thing for the City of Hereford and encouraged everyone to go vote for it so everyone would have the same place to go.

Commissioner Stow stated he appreciated the comments and they are always taken seriously and that he is excited about the ball park, the aquatic center, and the pickleball courts noting we also want public input on what to do with the old community center site.

Mayor Bunch read the ballot language and stated it is a “yes” or “no” vote and thanked the public for their comments. She stated she is excited about the responses and wants to be proud of Hereford.

#### **ITEM 11 - Announcements and comments from City Staff.**

City Manager Bartels encouraged anyone with questions regarding the ball park to call either him or Mayor Bunch. He also thanked the audience for their support.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:02 p.m.