

On this the 18th day of December, 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
 James Stow, Commissioner Place Five
 Rocky Bhakta, Commissioner Place Six
 Steve Bartels, City Manager
 Suzanne Finch, City Secretary
 Audie Sciumbato, City Attorney

Absent: Mark Collier, Commissioner Place Four

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

Also, in attendance were Dean Turney, Wade Hawkins, Kirsten Williams, Robert Jones, Joseph Hernandez and his family, Aden Suarez, Ramon Nunez, Steve Bigham, Kim Bigham, and Nelson Kendall.

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 and welcomed those in attendance.

Mayor Bunch then asked the City Commission to come down from the dais and join her in presenting Joseph Hernandez of the Parks Department with the Employee of the Year award.

City Manager Bartels noted Joseph Hernandez has worked for a total of sixteen years in the Parks and Golf Course Departments and does whatever he needs to do and always has a smile on his face. City Manager Bartels also stated during the flood at San Jose Joseph took a boat to the first responders to help with the rescues and then stayed to assist the firefighters.

REGULAR HEARINGS:

ITEM 1 – Public Comments.

Mayor Bunch reminded the audience of the new rule: the public is not allowed to approach the dais after the meeting; they will be escorted out of the chamber.

There were no comments from the public.

ITEM 2 – Consider approval of minutes for the November 13th, 2023 Special meeting.

Commissioner Savoini made the 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 approval of bid for the Agricultural Lease Agreement for the City Farm for 2024.

Mayor Bunch stated we received five bids and they were as follows (per year):

Paya Ranch LLC, John Josserand	\$111,500.00
Heath Reinert	\$101,253.00
Jason Andrews	\$ 75,000.00
Todd Gudgell, Gregg Gudgell & Randy Shields	\$ 75,000.00
C U Family Farms, Chris Urbanczyk	\$ 61,000.00

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to accept the highest bid from Paya Ranch LLC in the amount of \$111,500.00 per year. Commissioner Alonzo seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 4 – Hear request from First Baptist Church to replace sidewalk in front of church building (located in the 500 block of Main Street).

Nelson Kendall with the Building and Grounds Committee of the First Baptist Church requested the church sidewalks be included with the Main Street sidewalk renovation project the City of Hereford is currently doing. He passed out photos to the City Commission and stated they want to make the parking spaces on Main Street deeper and reduce the width of the current sidewalk as it is a safety issue – the sidewalks are in a state of disrepair and the cars parked in front of the church stick out into the intersection. Mr. Kendall stated Johnny Brownlow is the repair person and he got a bid of \$60,000.00 today.

Mayor Bunch inquired if the City of Hereford chose not to do it all, would the church be willing to do part of it. Mr. Kendall stated he supposed so and thanked the Commission for hearing his request.

Commissioner Alonzo advised Mr. Kendall the Commission would only listen to the request, no action would be taken today.

ITEM 5 – Consider Resolution No. 12.18.23 approving the expenditure of funds for the construction of a new baseball/softball complex within the city limits of Hereford, Texas; repealing all resolutions in conflict; and, providing an effective date.

RESOLUTION NO. 12.18.23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HEREFORD, TEXAS, APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BASEBALL/SOFTBALL COMPLEX WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF HEREFORD, TEXAS; REPEALING ALL RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Hereford, Texas (the "City Commission") has caused to be developed plans for a Baseball / Softball

Complex (the "Baseball / Softball Complex") to be constructed in the City of Hereford, Texas;

WHEREAS, the voters of the City of Hereford approved a non-binding referendum on November 7, 2023 favoring the construction of the Baseball / Softball Complex by a vote of 562 for and 322 against;

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Hereford wishes to approve the expenditure of \$3,500,000.00 of city funds for the development and construction of the Baseball / Softball Complex; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Hereford wishes to request that the Hereford Economic Development Corporation contribute to the Baseball / Softball Complex project additional funds not to exceed \$3,000,000.00 after the City of Hereford spends the \$3,500,000.00 funds allocated herewith.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HEREFORD, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Findings and Determination. The City Commission hereby finds and determines that it is in the best interest of the City of Hereford to authorize funding for the Baseball / Softball Complex project.

SECTION 2. Authorization of Expenditure. The City Commission hereby authorizes the expenditure of city funds in an amount not to exceed \$3,500,000.00 for the Baseball / Softball Complex project.

SECTION 3. Request for Economic Development Contribution. The City Commission of the City of Hereford requests that the Hereford Economic Development Corporation contribute to the Baseball / Softball Complex project additional funds not to exceed \$3,000,000.00 after the City of Hereford spends the \$3,500,000.00 funds allocated herewith.

SECTION 4. Open Meeting. The City Commission hereby finds and determines that the meeting at which this Resolution was passed was open to the public, and public notice of the time, place and purpose at which it was read was given in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code.

SECTION 5. Any prior resolution of the City Commission in conflict with the provisions contained in this Resolution are hereby repealed and revoked.

SECTION 6. Should any part of this Resolution be held to be invalid for any reason, the remainder shall not be affected thereby, and such remaining portions are hereby declared to be severable.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this the 18th day of December, 2023 by the following votes:

6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT, 0 ABSTENTIONS

CITY OF HEREFORD, TEXAS

APPROVED:

Cathy Bunch
Cathy Bunch, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Suzanne Finch
Suzanne Finch, City Secretary

Commissioner Bhakta made the motion to approve Resolution No. 12.18.23. Commissioner Savoini seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 6 – Consider cancelling the Regular Meeting set for January 1, 2024.

Commissioner Stow made the motion to cancel the meeting set for January 1, 2024 in observance of the holiday. Commissioner Barrett seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 7 - Announcements and comments from Mayor and City Commissioners.

Commissioner Barrett stated she appreciates the City of Hereford employees for all their years of service and one in particular that has put all those years into one place.

Mayor Bunch agreed and noted Robert Murray has forty-one years of service with the Hereford Volunteer Fire Department; Lut Thongnoen has 25 years of service and Steve Bartels has 40 years with the City of Hereford.

ITEM 8 - Announcements and comments from City Staff.

City Manager Bartels gave an update on the TxDOT meeting he and Commissioner Bhakta attended earlier today. He went over the projects (Hwy 60, Main Street bridge replacement, ADA compliant sidewalks on Hwy 385, and a mill/fill on Park Avenue) and their proposed timelines and then wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Kendall asked if he could make one more comment. Mayor Bunch invited him to speak. Mr. Kendall stated he spoke out of turn earlier and the cost of the sidewalk repairs is not a budgeted item and the church would have to vote on any additional expenditures.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.