

On this the 1st day of April, 2024 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

Also, in attendance were Dean Turney, Wade Hawkins, Officer Garza, Dolores Gonzalez, Ramon Nunez, and Grace Gamez.

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.

REGULAR HEARINGS:

ITEM 1 – Public Comments.

Mayor Bunch reminded the audience of the 3-minute limit and also the rule that the public is not allowed to approach the dais and will be escorted out of the chamber after the meeting adjourns.

There were no public comments.

ITEM 2 – Consider approval of minutes for the March 18th, 2024 Regular 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.

(Mayor Bunch opened the public hearing at approximately 6:33 p.m.)

PUBLIC HEARING:

ITEM 3 – Consider approval of request to rezone property at 226 N. 25 Mile Avenue (legally described as Evants Block 13, Lytle Lot 12 (N5') & Lot 13) from “R-2” Two-Family District to “CB” Central Business District (Ordinance No. 04.01.24). (Requested by Pedro R. Martinez.)

City Manager Bartels stated the Planning and Zoning Commission met and approved this zoning change. Commissioner Savoini inquired if we knew what was going in there. City Manager Bartels stated the lot is located between Gebo's and the car lot and he thought they were considering a small restaurant. He also noted most of the businesses in this area are already zoned "CB" Central Business District.

ORDINANCE NO. 04.01.24

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1193, THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HEREFORD REZONING CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY FROM "R-2" TWO-FAMILY DISTRICT TO "CB" CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

Commissioner Collier made the motion to approve the rezoning as approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Commissioner Barrett seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

(Mayor Bunch closed the public hearing at approximately 6:35 p.m.)

REGULAR HEARINGS:

ITEM 4 – Consider approval of a one-year extension of the depository agreement with Happy State Bank a Division of Centennial Bank for the funds of the City of Hereford for the period of May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025.

City Manager Bartels stated under state law, cities can have a banking contract for three years with the option of two one-year extensions. He noted we switched to Happy State Bank in 2021 and they have agreed to the extension.

He noted the HEDC contract is the same; however, the paperwork comes out of their home office and they sent out the original paperwork given to the Commission with the wrong dates which have now been corrected.

Commissioner Stow made the motion to approve the one-year extension of the City of Hereford depository agreement with Happy State Bank. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 5 – Consider approval of a one-year extension of the depository agreement with Happy State Bank a Division of Centennial Bank for the funds of the Hereford Economic Development Corporation for the period of May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025.

Commissioner Collier made the motion to approve the one-year extension of the Hereford Economic Development Corporation depository agreement with Happy State Bank. Commissioner Alonzo seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 6 – Consider approval of appointment of members to the City's Golf Course Advisory Board.

Commissioner Savoini made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Rocky Bhakta, Charlene Sanders, Phillip Kahlich, and Joe Kerr to the Golf Course Advisory Board. Commissioner Stow seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 7 - Consider approval of appointment to fill vacancy on the Hereford Municipal Airport Board.

Commissioner Savoini made a motion to approve the appointment of Nathan Elam to fill the vacancy on the Hereford Municipal Airport Board. Commissioner Stow seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 8 - Consider approval of by-laws adopted by the Hereford Baseball/Softball Complex Advisory Board.

Mayor Bunch stated the purpose of the advisory board is to have good communication and currently the board consists of two people from Hereford Sports & Wellness, two gentlemen from Deaf Smith County Kids, Inc., and three representatives from the City. She noted we are working on getting a woman to serve on the board.

Commissioner Collier made the motion to approve the by-laws adopted by the Hereford Baseball/Softball Complex Advisory Board. Commissioner Alonzo seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 9 - Announcements and comments from mayor and city commissioners.

Commissioner Savoini stated they have done an outstanding job with the new softball/baseball complex.

Commissioner Collier encouraged everyone if they had not already done so to go look at it as it is very impressive.

Commissioner Alonzo stated it is beautiful.

Commissioner Barrett stated it is wonderful.

Commissioner Stow stated he is excited; especially for the kids to see the new facility.

Commissioner Bhakta agreed.

Mayor Bunch extended her appreciation to the citizens of Hereford and stated she can't wait to see names start going up on scoreboards and poles.

ITEM 10 - Announcements and comments from city staff.

City Manager Bartels stated he has really been impressed with the baseball/softball complex contractors – they have been at work during all kinds of inclement weather.

City Manager Bartels noted they will do the final walk through on the Hereford Aquatic Center Wednesday morning; hoping to be open weekend after next for open swim.

City Manager Bartels stated they have begun the demo of the bridge on Main Street and suggested avoiding the area if at all possible.

City Manager Bartels stated TxDot is still looking at options on the Highway 60 project; they only received one bid and it was really high.

City Manager Bartels gave an update on the dog park – waiting on fencing & materials.

City Manager Bartels stated he has visited with an auditor and they are working on a proposal.

City Manager Bartels stated the proposed alcohol ordinance will be ready by the April 15th meeting for the Commission's consideration. He noted also at that meeting, we will bring in the new drug dog to meet the Commission; stating this is the first time in seventeen years we have had a K9.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:46 p.m.