

On this the 15th 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  
 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

Absent: Angie Alonzo, Commissioner Place Two  
 Clint Savoini, Commissioner Place Three

Also, in attendance were Wade Hawkins, Todd Murray and his wife, Kurt Jones, Ramon Nunez, Mona Hernandez, Gricelda Gonzalez, Bacilio Rodriguez, Dolores Gonzalez, Erin Hubbard, Robert Jones, Dr. Chris Grotegut, Sky Holcomb, Koki (K9), and Landon Swan.

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

Mayor Bunch voiced the invocation and then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag. She called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

### **REGULAR HEARINGS:**

#### **ITEM 1 - Introduce the new K9 Officer to the City Commission.**

Corporal Holcomb brought Koki into the chambers and gave some background information on the new K9. He stated he will be 2 years old in August; they have already had 3 weeks of training; and, he is already working – helping with the task force. Corporal Holcomb stated the goal is to get drugs off the street, away from our kids. He noted the K9 is an effective tool – if he alerts on a traffic stop, that gives them probable cause to search the vehicle.

Commissioner Stow and Mayor Bunch thanked Corporal Holcomb.

City Manager Bartels noted Merrick Pet Foods supplies the dog food for Koki.

#### **ITEM 2 – 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.

Dolores Gonzalez spoke against allowing alcohol in the civic center.

Mona Hernandez stated she did a good job when she was the water operator at Deaf Smith County Freshwater District and then questioned some of the recent paperwork turned in by the new operators. She then made an off-color remark in reference to allowing alcohol in the civic center.

**ITEM 3 – Consider approval of minutes for the April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Work Session and April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Regular meeting.**

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

**ITEM 4 – Consider approval of the appointment of Todd Murray as Fire Marshal.**

Commissioner Collier made the motion to appoint Todd Murray as fire marshal. Commissioner Barrett seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

Mayor Bunch called upon City Secretary Finch to administer the Oath of Office and Mr. Murray's wife did the pinning.

Mayor Bunch noted Fire Marshal Murray took lots of classes and she appreciates all his hard work.

**ITEM 5 – Discuss and consider Ordinance No. 04.15.24 an ordinance of the City Commissioners of the City of Hereford, Texas, amending the Code of Ordinances by introducing Section 1.13.033, Alcohol at Civic Center, to Article 1.13, Parks and Recreation, in Chapter 1, General Provisions; regarding the regulation of alcohol; providing for the repeal of ordinances in conflict herewith; providing a savings clause; and providing an effective date.**

Mayor Bunch read the caption.

**ORDINANCE NO. 04.15.24**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF HEREFORD, TEXAS, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY INTRODUCING SECTION 1.13.033, ALCOHOL AT CIVIC CENTER, TO ARTICLE 1.13, PARKS AND RECREATION, IN CHAPTER 1, GENERAL PROVISIONS; REGARDING THE REGULATION OF ALCOHOL; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Commissioner Collier suggested postponing taking any action on this item to allow more research to make a more informed decision.

Commissioner Collier made the motion to postpone this item. Commissioner Bhakta seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 6 – Consider approval of façade improvement grant application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at a regular meeting held April 2, 2024. (Requested by Marco Gomez of Salon de Fiesta El Tapatio located at 122 Main Street.)**

Commissioner Stow made the motion to approve the façade improvement grant application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at a regular meeting held April 2nd, 2024 requested by Marco Gomez of Salon de Fiesta El Tapatio located at 122 Main Street. Commissioner Bhakta seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 7 – Consider approval of budget adjustment in the amount of \$20,000.00 in the Utility Maintenance Department to cover the additional cost of a dump truck.**

Commissioner Stow made the motion to approve the budget adjustment in the amount of \$20,000.00. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 8 - Hear report from Hereford Economic Development Corporation.**

HEDC Executive Director Kurt Jones recognized his board president, Dr. Chris Grotegut, was in attendance and stated they are working on framework/guidelines to be more involved with small businesses while also operating within the economic development laws. He stated the next two items are incentive packages the HEDC approved and are now asking for City Commission approval.

The group briefly discussed the differences between 4A and 4B and the requirements for each.

**ITEM 9 - Consider approval of Hereford Economic Development Corporation's incentive for Texas Ink Spot Printing, Inc. (Requested by Carlos Ruiz.)**

Commissioner Stow made the motion to approve the incentive package for Ink Spot in the amount of \$20,193.20. Commissioner Barrett seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 10 - Consider approval of Hereford Economic Development Corporation's incentive for Rusty Pit BBQ. (Requested by Shane Kapka.)**

Commissioner Collier made the motion to approve the incentive package for Rusty Pit BBQ in the amount of \$60,500.00. Commissioner Bhakta seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 11 - Consider approval of appointment of member to fill the vacancy on the City of Hereford Golf Course Advisory Board.**

Commissioner Bhakta made the motion to approve the appointment of Antonio Enriquez to fill the vacancy on the City of Hereford Golf Course Advisory Board. Commissioner Stow seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

**ITEM 12 - Announcements and comments from mayor and city commissioners.**

Commissioner Collier thanked the audience for their participation.

Commissioner Barrett stated she would like to see our city bring more in for the younger kids, possibly at some point a splash pad.

Mayor Bunch stated she recently attended a Texas Water Development Board meeting and noted there are several opportunities available for water infrastructure that she would like the city to pursue. She noted several things are required in order to qualify including up-to-date audits, rates may have to be raised, and must have a water plan in place.

**ITEM 13 - Announcements and comments from city staff.**

City Manager Bartels stated we are converting tennis courts on Avenue H to pickleball. He noted the gentleman we were using at Advantage Courts retired and did not notify us. City Manager Bartels stated Hellas (the company doing the baseball/softball complex) also does these and will get us a price.

City Manager Bartels asked anyone that has questions about the proposed alcohol ordinance to give him a call.

City Manager Bartels noted the pool opened with 181 patrons on Saturday and 300 on Sunday.

City Manager Bartels gave an update on the status of the baseball/softball complex and also on the TxDot bridge project.

City Manager Bartels noted we are moving the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting to May 13<sup>th</sup> because of the canvass period.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:13 p.m.