

On this the 15th day of July, 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
 Deven Black, Commissioner Place Six
 Steve Bartels, City Manager
 Franchesca Jimenez, City Secretary
 Audie Sciumbato, City Attorney

Also, in attendance were Wade Hawkins, Kurt Jones, Ramon Nunez, Brent Brethour, Zachary Maldonado, Deaf Smith County Kids, Inc. Softball All-Star team, parents, and coaches.

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

Mayor Bunch voiced the invocation and then called upon 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.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

ITEM 2 - Consider approval of request to rezone property at 309 Avenue C (legally described as Evants Block 31 Renfro & Price, Lot 5 & S10' Lot 6) from "R-2" Two-Family District to "MH" Mobile Home District (Ordinance No. 07.15.24). Requested by Isidro Jimenez.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve the rezoning request for property located at 309 Avenue C from R-2 to MH. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

REGULAR HEARINGS:**ITEM 3 - Consider approval of minutes for the July 1st, 2024 Regular meeting.**

Commissioner Stow made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Black seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 4 - Third reading (Final) of the franchise agreement with Xcel Ordinance No. 06.17.24 an ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Hereford, Texas granting to Southwestern Public Service Company ("SPS") d/b/a Xcel Energy the right, privilege and franchise to conduct within the City of Hereford, Texas ("City"), an electrical lighting and power business and to enter upon, erect, construct, maintain, extend, repair, replace and remove in, under upon, within, over, above, across and along any and all of the present and future public roads, highways, streets, lanes, bridges and alleys of the city, a system of poles, pole lines, towers, distribution lines, transmission lines, wires, guys, cables, conduits, transformers, and other distribution and transmission equipment, facilities and appurtenances necessary or proper for the transmission and distribution of electricity into, in, within, from, across, and through the city as now existing, or as said city limits may hereafter be extended; providing that this franchise shall be effective for a period of ten (10) years; making miscellaneous provisions relative to this grant of franchise; repealing all previous electrical lighting and power franchise ordinances; providing for the acceptance of this franchise ordinance by SPS.

Mayor Bunch read the pertinent portions of Ordinance No. 06.17.24 for the third and final reading of the franchise agreement.

Mayor Bunch noted that the franchise agreement grants permission for Southwestern Public Service Company, also known as Xcel Energy, to pay for the right to operate within the city.

ITEM 5 - Consider approval of the franchise agreement with Xcel Ordinance No. 06.17.24 an ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Hereford, Texas granting to Southwestern Public Service Company ("SPS") d/b/a Xcel Energy the right, privilege and franchise to conduct within the City of Hereford, Texas.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve the franchise agreement with Xcel Ordinance No. 06.17.24 granting to Southwestern Public Service Company ("SPS") d/b/a Xcel Energy the right, privilege and franchise to conduct within the City of Hereford, Texas. Commissioner Alonzo seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 6 - Discuss and consider request from Deaf Smith County Kids, Inc.

Mayor Bunch stated in the Texas Constitution that the city must be responsible for the money it pays out, ensuring it is used for a valid purpose. She noted the city can not give money legally.

She expressed her sincere apologies to the coaches and softball team.

Commissioner Alonzo stated she was unaware that Deaf Smith County Kids, Inc. had lost their 501(C) status.

Zachary Maldonado confirmed that they lost their 501(C) status last year because they failed to submit the paperwork.

No motion was made.

Item 6 died for a lack of a motion.

ITEM 7 - Consider approval of Façade Improvement Grant application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at a regular meeting held July 2nd, 2024. (Requested by Britta Milligan of The Water Lot located at 413 N. 25 Mile Avenue.)

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve the Façade Improvement Grant Program application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their regular meeting on July 2nd, 2024 for Britta Milligan of The Water Lot located at 413 N. 25 Mile Avenue. Commissioner Collier seconded it and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 8 - Consider approval of Façade Improvement Grant application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at a regular meeting held July 2nd, 2024. (Requested by Jeri Wells of Zula Radio (KNNK) located at 207 S. 25 Mile Avenue.)

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve the Façade Improvement Grant Program application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their regular meeting on July 2nd, 2024 for Jeri Wells of Zula Radio (KNNK) located at 207 S. 25 Mile Avenue. Commissioner Stow seconded it and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 9 - Discuss and consider approval of solid waste contract with Republic Services.

City Manager stated the original contract was done in 2002 and it has been amended six times. BFI contacted him to renew the contract with the following changes: a 20% rate increase and an annual rate adjustment of 6% for the duration of the contract. He stated it is high but it can be worked through by negotiating a fair agreement for the City of Hereford and its residents. He mentioned the possibility of rebidding solid waste services, or the city can get back into managing the trash service, but it is pricey.

ITEM 10 - Consider approval of proposed Ordinance No. 07.15.24A amending Chapter 12, "Traffic and Vehicles", City of Hereford Code of Ordinances, specifying restrictions and prohibitions of use; motor vehicle insurance; providing definitions; providing for a penalty; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

Commissioner Collier made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 07.15.24A amending Chapter 12, "Traffic and Vehicles", City of Hereford Code of Ordinances, specifying restrictions and prohibitions of use; motor vehicle insurance; providing definitions; providing for a penalty; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date. Commissioner Alonzo seconded it and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 11 - Consider approval of proposed Ordinance No. 07.15.24B amending Chapter 12, "Traffic and Vehicles", City of Hereford Code of Ordinances, specifying restrictions and prohibitions of use of golf carts; providing definitions; providing for a penalty; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

City Manager Bartels stated there are a separate set of rules for the golf cart ordinance addressing the general requirements and operation regulations. He noted that the golf cart must have the proper equipment and cannot be driven at night or when there is low visibility.

Commissioner Collier made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 07.15.24B amending Chapter 12, "Traffic and Vehicles", City of Hereford Code of Ordinances, specifying restrictions and prohibitions of use of golf carts; providing definitions; providing for a penalty; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date. Commissioner Stow seconded it and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 12 - Hear report from Hereford Economic Development Corporation.

HEDC Director Jones reported on the following:

- 1 more vote to approve the package for small business incentives
 - HEDC will meet August 7th, 2024
- Lunch and Learn beginning in October - March
 - covering financing and funding
- Hotel
 - In contact with the Marriot Bonvoy Hotel

HEDC Director Jones announced that he has become a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) through the International Economic Development Council (IEDC).

Finance Director Hawkins congratulated Mr. Jones on completing his certification.

ITEM 13 - Announcements and comments from mayor and city commissioners.

Commissioner Savoini expressed how proud he is of the girls softball team and thanked the public for their attendance.

Commissioner Collier thanked everyone in attendance and encouraged the community business leaders to support the young ladies and coaches in their endeavors.

Commissioner Alonzo apologized to the softball team but assured them that she would help them.

Commissioner Barrett expressed how proud she is of the girl's softball team.

Commissioner Stow stated that the community is proud of the girls and it was tough being on this side of it. He thanked Commissioner Barrett and Commissioner Alonzo for the work they put into doing research and for the years of experience they bring to the city commission.

Commissioner Black also stated he was proud of the girls and congratulated them on their accomplishments.

Mayor Bunch wished the girls the best of luck and thanked those in attendance.

Mayor Bunch stated the bridge at the golf course was designed by the University of Texas and they will be conducting research on it.

Mayor Bunch inquired about the auditor search. City Manager Bartels stated there is a firm in Lubbock that he will reach out to, he noted not many auditing firms are doing government accounting.

Mayor Bunch inquired about cybersecurity for our water supply. City Manager Bartels stated the well meter reading system is regularly monitored, and an annual security survey must be submitted to the state.

ITEM 14 - Announcements and comments from city staff.

City Manager Bartels provided an update on the following:

- The beams are in place on the bridge and they are ahead of schedule, with the deadline set for September.
- TXDOT has completed overlay work on Highway 60 and Main Street. The city is waiting to hear from TXDOT regarding the rebidding process.

- The sidewalks and bump-outs have been completed on Main Street. The next steps include re-stripping the crosswalks and parking lot spaces, as well as designing handicap spots near each bump-out.
- The bleachers are going up this week and the fence is being built at the ballpark. Hella's is expected to complete the work by the end of July or the beginning of August. Once Hella's is done the city will begin work. Concrete pouring for the sidewalks has started. Deaf Smith Electric gave the city an outstanding rate and the price is half of what it should be. Additionally, a light pole from the parking lot at the aquatic center was recycled and used at the ballpark.

City Manager Bartels thanked the public for their attendance and congratulated and wished the girl's softball team the best of luck.

There being no further business before the board the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.