

On this the 7th day of October, 2024, 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
~~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

Absent: Clint Savoini, Commissioner Place Three

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

Also in attendance were Wade Hawkins, Todd Murray, Landon Swan, Luis Arias, Dolores Gonzales, Margaret Del Toro, and Chris Grotegut.

Mayor Bunch voiced the invocation and then asked Commissioner Black 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 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.

Margaret Del Toro stated she had contacted Mayor Bunch to volunteer to serve on the Hereford Economic Development Board and she was not given a chance. She urged the Commission to interview those interested in serving on boards before appointing new board members.

Dolores Gonzales stated Margaret Del Toro was bypassed; she offered to volunteer for the Hereford Economic Development Board, and she should have been considered. She emphasized the Commission should have the opportunity to interview and vote for new board members, instead of leaving it solely to the mayor's decision.

Jim Steiert stated he will not be able to attend the next Hereford Economic Development Board Meeting. He finds it alarming that there is a second request for double or triple the funds when there are people waiting. He stated the Ogallala Commons is marking its 23 years of Playa Festivals and he will be speaking to 5th graders about the Ogallala Aquifer.

President of the Hereford Economic Development Board, Dr. Chris Grotegut commented on Jim Steiert's statement regarding a request from a local business for additional funds, this amount is over three-quarters of the HEDC budget and is a cause for concern. The best allocation of the budget will be discussed at the next meeting. Dr. Grotegut stated the individuals selected as board members for the Hereford Economic Development Board is solely up to the mayor according to the by-laws. He noted the board has done some unique work with a much broader impact – the board identifies areas where the funds can benefit the community and create a multiplier effect to optimize the use of money. He thanked the Commission for their support.

ITEM 2 - Consider approval of minutes for the September 16th, 2024 Regular meeting.

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

ITEM 3 - Discuss and consider approval of Mutual Cooperation Agreement with South Plains Auto Theft Task Force.

City Manager Bartels called upon Police Chief Landon Swan to give a brief overview of the agreement.

Police Chief Swan stated the city will be responsible for a cost of \$2,887 for the year and the South Plains Auto Theft Task Force will cover the remaining costs for the flock camera system. The flock camera system is equipped to read and capture license plates and the cameras can assist in locating vehicles flagged by the Hereford Police Department. The City of Amarillo is utilizing the system and has 32 cameras installed. The cameras record 24 hours and capture still photographs; five flock license plate reader cameras will be installed within the city limits.

Commissioner Barrett inquired if the camera system can track the direction of a vehicle entering Hereford that has been registered in the system.

Police Chief Swan stated yes, the camera system would provide a broader still photograph of the vehicle. He mentioned that there is an option to extend the agreement after the first year, with the goal of funding the costs through grants.

Commissioner Collier made the motion to approve the Mutual Cooperation Agreement with South Plains Auto Theft Task Force. Commissioner Barrett seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 4 - Discuss and consider authorizing Caviness Beef Packers employees to be on city property.

Mayor Bunch stated Caviness has offered to finish the parking lot, resolve the draining issues, and finish the landscaping at the ballpark.

Mayor Bunch called upon Luis Arias from Caviness Beef Packers – she thanked Caviness for being involved in the project.

Mr. Arias stated several issues need to be addressed. Caviness Beef Packers will have electricians, plumbers, and contractors on-site to address those issues. He stated it is important to do the job right and it takes time and effort.

Commissioner Collier stated he is excited about the ballpark and it has to be done right.

Commissioner Alonzo thanked Mr. Arias and Caviness Beef Packers for their generosity.

Commissioner Barrett made the motion for City Manager Bartels to write Caviness Beef Packers a letter granting them authorization to be on city property. Commissioner Stow seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 5 - Consider approval of Façade Improvement Grant Program application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at their regular meeting on October 1st, 2024. (Requested by Chris Powell / Powell Insurance Agency)

Commissioner Stow made the motion to approve the façade improvement grant application approved by the Hereford Beautification Advisory Board at a regular meeting held October 1st, 2024 requested by Chris Powell of Powell Insurance Agency located at 232 Main Street. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 6 - Discuss and consider appointing Carlos Ruiz as a new member to the Hereford Economic Development Corporation Board.

Mayor Bunch stated Mr. Ruiz is the owner of Ink Spot and has been in business for 25 years; he has agreed to serve a three-year term.

Commissioner Stow made the motion to appoint Carlos Ruiz as a new member to the Hereford Economic Development Corporation Board. Commissioner Black seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 7 - Consider re-appointment of members to the Hereford Economic Development Corporation Board.

Mayor Bunch stated Chris Grotegut and Phillip Kahlich have both agreed to serve another three-year term. Commissioner Stow made the motion to re-appoint Chris Grotegut and Phillip Kahlich to the Hereford Economic Development Corporation Board. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ITEM 8 – Employee appointment and employment. (Provided by Title 5, Chapter 551, Government Code §551.074)

(Mayor Bunch ended the executive session at 6:54 p.m. and noted no action was taken.)

REGULAR HEARINGS:

ITEM 9 – Announcements and comments from Mayor and City Commissioners.

Mayor Bunch stated according to the Hereford Economic Development Corporation by-laws, the mayor appoints each member to the board, and the Commission votes. She encouraged the public to request amendments to the Hereford Economic Development Corporation by-laws. Mayor Bunch thanked Margaret Del Toro for her willingness to serve.

Mayor Bunch stated they are working diligently to get the contractors to do what they agreed to address at the ballfields, but there are still many things that need to be fixed.

Commissioner Collier thanked Mayor Bunch for her time and dedication to the ballfield project.

ITEM 10 – Announcements and comments from City Staff.

City Manager Bartels stated the city will be putting asphalt milling down on the kaliche roads on 19th and 18th Street. He thanked Mr. Arias. City Manager Bartels announced the electronic billboard on Highway 60 is up and running and Lindmark has offered to advertise ads for the city at no cost. He thanked those in attendance.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:34 p.m.