

On this the 18th day of November, 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

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

Also, in attendance were Wade Hawkins, Todd Murray, Margaret Del Toro, Fanny Nevarez, Doug Barnes, and Ramon Nunez.

Mayor Bunch voiced the invocation and then asked Commissioner Savoini to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

REGULAR HEARINGS:

ITEM 1 – Public Comments.

Margaret Del Toro stated when she graduated from high school, labor was cheap, with jobs paying just \$0.45 an hour. She stated many people cannot return to Hereford, and she expressed her concern for our city. Margaret encouraged the Commission to consider several applications for the city manager position and to interview the candidates to understand their past experiences and future plans.

Ramon Nunez inquired if the incentive contracts for the impacted businesses considered the tips received by the wait staff as part of their compensation.

ITEM 2 – Consider approval of minutes for the November 4th, 2024 Regular meeting.

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

ITEM 3 – Consider approval of re-appointment of member to the Deaf Smith County Juvenile Probation Board.

City Manager Bartels stated the function of the Deaf Smith County Juvenile Probation Board is to oversee the budget for the probation department. Rick Mendez is willing to serve an additional two-year term.

Commissioner Collier made the motion to re-appoint Rick Mendez to the Deaf Smith County Juvenile Probation Board. Commissioner Stow seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 4 – Consider cancelling the regular City Commission Meeting scheduled for December 2nd, 2024 (Christmas Celebration of Lights).

Commissioner Collier made the motion to cancel the regular City Commission Meeting scheduled for December 2nd, 2024 for the Christmas Celebration of Lights. Commissioner Black seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 5 – Hear report from Hereford Economic Development Corporation.

HEDC Executive Director Jones reported on the following:

- Lunch and Learn will be held on the second Thursday of every month.
- He is working on several incentive packages.

ITEM 6 – Consider approval of Hereford Economic Development Corporations revised updates to Incentive Guidelines and Application.

HEDC Executive Director Jones stated the Incentive Guidelines and Application was approved by the Commission in August – there are a few revisions to the incentive application process in order to make it easier to identify who will be responsible for payment.

Commissioner Collier made the motion to approve the revised updates to the Hereford Economic Development Corporations Incentive Guidelines and Application. Commissioner Stow seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 7 – Consider approval of Hereford Economic Development Corporation’s incentive contract for Big Time Car Wash.

HEDC Director Jones stated this incentive is for the new car wash. The EDC has approved the \$54,000 request to install equipment that recycles water and reduces water usage. It is required for the business to maintain eight jobs and each year a portion of the loan will be forgiven.

Commissioner Collier made the motion to approve the Hereford Economic Development Corporation's incentive contract for Big Time Car Wash. Commissioner Black seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 8 – Consider approval of Hereford Economic Development Corporation's incentive contract for Hereford Donuts.

HEDC Director Jones stated the Hereford Donuts will receive \$17,500 for a three-year term, with the requirement to retain five jobs, and each year a portion of the loan will be forgiven.

Commissioner Alonzo inquired how the EDC decided on this particular amount.

HEDC Director Jones stated the amount for Hereford Donuts was calculated by the number of employees. He noted the EDC Board set a cap of \$30,000 and applicants must provide proof of loss from July through October. HEDC Director Jones stated the Hereford Donuts did not provide the required receipts and it was based on the average salary per employee.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve the Hereford Economic Development Corporation's incentive contract for Hereford Donuts. Commissioner Alonzo seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 9 – Consider approval of Hereford Economic Development Corporation's incentive contract for Taqueria Jalisco.

HEDC Director Jones stated Taqueria Jalisco has twelve employees, meets the cap, and has provided evidence of loss. The incentive contract amount is \$30,000 over a three-year term and each year a portion of the loan will be forgiven.

Commissioner Collier made the motion to approve the Hereford Economic Development Corporation's incentive contract for Taqueria Jalisco. Commissioner Stow seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 10 – Consider approval of Hereford Economic Development Corporation's incentive contract for Tortilleria Chihuahua.

HEDC Director Jones stated Tortilleria Chihuahua has six employees and they have provided proof of loss through record keeping and receipts. The incentive contract amount is \$30,000 over a three-year term and each year a portion of the loan will be forgiven.

Commissioner Stow made the motion to approve the Hereford Economic Development Corporation's incentive contract for Tortilleria Chihuahua. Commissioner Barrett seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 11 – Announcements and comment from Mayor and City Commissioners.

Commissioner Savoini thanked the public for their attendance. He thanked the city staff, Commissioner Collier, Mayor Bunch, and Luis Arias for their hard work on the ballfields.

Commissioner Collier thanked the public for their comments. He stated he hopes to have the ballpark released to the city in the next thirty days and is excited for spring ball.

Commissioner Stow mentioned that he attended the last HEDC meeting; the board members have worked hard and are committed to the community. He expressed gratitude to HEDC Director Jones and City Attorney Sciumbato for their hard work and for everything they do.

Commissioner Black wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Mayor Bunch thanked Commissioner Collier and Mr. Arias for their effort. She thanked the HEDC Board for creating a plan to assist Hereford business owners who were impacted by the issues on Clements Street. Well done.

ITEM 12 – Announcements and comments from City Staff.

City Manager Bartels provided an update on the following:

- The rain has caused delays for the contractors, resulting in a muddy mess on Clements Street. They are aiming to have all of Clements Street reopened by the end of the month.
- TxDOT is aiming to have the Main Street bridge completed by the middle of December.

City Manager Bartels thanked City Attorney Sciumbato for all his hard work. He announced we will be celebrating the 28th year of the Christmas Celebration of Lights in the park. The Hereford High School choir and the Hereford adult choir will perform, followed by a fireworks display. He wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m.