

On this the 17th day of March, 2025 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 member being present and in attendance, to-wit:

Cathy Bunch, Mayor
 Rose Mary Barrett, Commissioner Place One
 Clint Savoini, Commissioner Place Three
 James Stow, Commissioner Place Five
 Deven Black, Commissioner Place Six
 Steve Bartels, City Manager
 Franchesca Jimenez, City Secretary
 Audie Sciumbato, City Attorney

Absent: Angie Alonzo, Commissioner Place Two
 Mark Collier, Commissioner Place Four
 Wade Hawkins, Assistant City Manager

Also in attendance were Johnny Torres, Landon Swan, Todd Murray, Lucas Mendoza, Robert Jones, Raymond Hasting, Selena Hasting-Rivera, and Luis Carrasco.

Jim Steiert from Hereford Brand was in attendance 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.

Luis Carrasco expressed interest in scheduling a meeting with city officials to discuss starting an electric scooter rental service in Hereford.

Raymond Hasting stated his property had a mobile home before and they were unaware that they had only one year to replace it after it burned. He voiced his frustrations as to why he needs permission to put a single or double mobile home on his property.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

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

ITEM 2 - Consider and take appropriate action on a zoning change request for property located at 820 S. McKinley legally described as N50' of the S200' of the E 140', BLK 3 RICKETTS from "R-1" Single Family District to "MH" Mobile Home District. (Requested by Raymond Hastings)

Mayor Bunch read the item and asked for comments.

Selena Hastings-Rivera presented a petition with signatures from individuals who live near 820 S. McKinley to the Commission. She requested the property to be rezoned to "MH" Mobile Home District and noted the area has many RV's, campers, and mobile homes.

Mayor Bunch stated the request was denied by the Planning and Zoning Commission for three reasons; a strong letter opposing the rezoning was faxed in, the owner did not attend the meeting, and the lot is too small for a mobile home.

Mrs. Rivera stated she would like to appeal the Planning and Zoning Commissions decision. She stated she has asked neighbors and no one has any issues with the rezoning. Mrs. Rivera noted she called the office several times and she was not told that she needed to be at the meeting.

Mayor Bunch stated the lot is not big enough for a mobile home.

Mr. Hasting stated the lot did have a 70 ft mobile home on the property before it burned.

Commissioner Savoini recommended the owners to re-apply.

Mayor Bunch stated there are not enough Commissioners at the meeting to overturn the Planning and Zonings decision and she encouraged the owners to re-apply.

City Manager Bartels apologized for any misunderstanding on behalf of the city staff.

Commissioner Savioni made the motion to deny the zoning change request for property located at 820 S. McKinley. Commissioner Barrett seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

REGULAR HEARINGS:

ITEM 3 - Consider approval of minutes for the March 3rd, 2025 Regular Meeting.

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

ITEM 4 - Consider approval of a proposed Employment Agreement between the City of Hereford and Ryan Polster as city manager.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve the proposed Employment Agreement between the City of Hereford and Ryan Polster as city manager. Commissioner Black 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 City of Hereford for the period of May 1, 2025 - through April 30, 2026.

Commissioner Stow made the motion to approve the one-year extension of the depository agreement with Happy State Bank a Division of Centennial Bank. Commissioner Savoini seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 6 - 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, 2025 - through April 30, 2026.

Commissioner Savoini made the motion to approve the one-year extension of the depository agreement with Happy State Bank a Division of Centennial Bank. Commissioner Stow seconded the motion and it passed with the unanimous vote of the Commission.

ITEM 7 - Discuss and consider proposed ideas for a splash pad.

Mayor Bunch called upon Parks Superintendent Robert Jones.

Mr. Jones stated he would like to add a splash pad at Langley Park on Avenue H, as well as a smaller version at Ironwood Park. Langley Park receives a lot of traffic and features a playground and a soccer field, he noted he would like to see continued improvements at Langley Park. Additionally, he would like to add a smaller version at Ironwood Park, since it is quieter with less street traffic and it is fenced off on three sides.

Mr. Jones noted they need to consider using either fresh water or a treated system. He stated using fresh water is more cost-effective and emphasized the importance of considering maintenance costs, chemicals, and manpower with a treated system. Overall, these expenses are lower when using fresh water.

Mr. Jones stated the cost for both splash pads will be \$279,500.00. The cost for the splash pad at Langley Park will be \$180,000.00 and the cost for the splash pad at Ironwood Park will be \$99,500.00. The budgeted amount for splash pads is \$250,000.00.

Mayor Bunch stated there would be additional expenses for shade structures, trees, and landscaping.

Mr. Jones stated it would be about \$15,000.00 for concrete and four shade structures. He stated he would like to request an adjustment to the budget for the splash pads.

Mayor Bunch expressed her excitement about the ideas of adding splash pads. She inquired when they would be able to start.

Mr. Jones stated it would be in May and would take up to two weeks to a month for completion. He noted the city would have to do site prep for the actual construction of the splash pads.

ITEM 8 - Hear report from Hereford Economic Development Corporation.

HEDC Director Jones gave a report on the following:

- There are no pending small business incentives.
- He will be attending a TEDC in Austin.
- There is interest in renewable projects and a data center in Hereford, and he would like to discuss opportunities for this kind of development.

ITEM 9 - Consider approval of Hereford Economic Development Corporation's incentive for Press (Requested by Haleigh Barba)

HEDC Director Jones stated Press is a small business that does custom apparel on Main Street. It is a sole propriety and the incentive is a three-year forgivable loan and will cover 95% of the cost for the press. They are required to average 2 full-time jobs, or the full-time equivalent thereof.

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

ITEM 10 - Announcements and comments from Mayor and City Commissioners.

Commissioner Savoini thanked the public, encouraged Mr. Hasting to re-apply, and remarked it was a great day at the ballpark.

Commissioner Barrett stated the ballpark looked nice and the people were happy. She thanked the city staff for cleaning up the brush and dirt from Friday's windstorm.

Mayor Bunch thanked the city employees for showing up before 6 a.m. to the ballpark to clean up before the tournament started.

Mayor Bunch announced the new city manager will start April 15th and an employee luncheon to introduce the new city manager will be held April 17th.

Mayor Bunch announced the grand opening for the John Bunch Complex will be held March 29th at 10:00 a.m. Caviness will be providing free burgers and there will be bouncy houses and food trailers available.

ITEM 11- Announcements and comments from City Staff.

City Manager Bartels thanked the city employees who helped clean up after the windstorm. He stated the hangars at the airport were carried away during the windstorm and he will contact the insurance company. He noted two trees at Veterans Park and a light pole at Dameron Park blew over.

City Manager Bartels thanked Parks Superintendent Jones for presenting information for the splashpad.

Utility Maintenance Foreman Mendoza remarked that many out-of-town visitors commented on how beautiful the complex is. He expressed gratitude to the Police Department for their assistance with traffic control and thanked all other departments for their help.

Fire Marshal Murray stated the generator failed during the windstorm, and they experienced communication difficulties over the radio. He commended the Police Department, Fire Department, and Sheriff's Department for working through it and for doing a good job during the windstorm.

City Manager Bartels stated during the strong winds, Xcel Energy shutoff power to part of the town to prevent wildfires, he credited Xcel Energy for working through the storm.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:07 p.m.