

**Regular Meeting  
February 20, 2024  
6:00 p.m.**

The Herington City Commission met on the above date and time in the commission chambers at City Hall. In attendance were Mayor Eric Gares, Commissioner Robbin Bell, Commissioner Dan McDonald, Commissioner Dalton Scarff, Commissioner Cynthia Naylor, City Manager Thatcher Moddie, City Attorney Brad Jantz, Deputy City Clerk Chanda Wilson, Fire Chief Andrew Avantagiato, Police Chief Chad Langly. Also in attendance were Larry Mann, Jennifer Duenas, Bryant Duenes, Morgan Hanschu, Brian Hanschu and Rhonda Rice.

The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Gares called the meeting to order.

Public Forum – None

Approval of Agenda – Commissioner McDonald made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Naylor. Motion carried 5-0.

Consent Agenda – Commissioner Naylor made a motion to approve the consent agenda with correction to Minutes of the February 6, 2024; in the Ampride ROW Commissioner Bell made the motion and Mayor Gares seconded. - reappointment of Nathan Lawrenz and Scott Stroda to the board of construction, trades and appeals for 3-year terms to end in February 2027, December 2023 Library Board minutes and October 2023 BCTA Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Scarff seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Considered resolution for temporary exemption of licensing in Utility Vehicle Ordinance for April 6, 2024 Tri-County poker run. Commissioner Bell made a motion to accept the resolution with staff review of document, seconded by Commissioner Scarff, the motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner McDonald dissenting.

Chief Avantagiato reported that their calls have doubled from this time last year.

Chief Langly reported call volume has dropped compared to last year. The Police department has hired two people. They are considering new vehicle purchases. Reports were submitted by both Chiefs.

The commission considered a lease agreement with Union Pacific on 5<sup>th</sup> street building for the Fire Department. The FD intends to use the building for storage and training. The commission asked questions of Chief Avantagiato and the city attorney raised some questions as well. Commissioner McDonald requested updates regarding the questions raised and Staff review. Commissioner Bell made a motion to accept the lease agreement with staff review. Commissioner Naylor Seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

The commission discussed and considered an update to the Personnel Policy regarding Maternity/Paternity leave for city employees. Presented was a policy to include 6 weeks of paid leave. Mayor Gares made a motion to accept the policy with changes including the 6 weeks must be used within the first 12 weeks and to strike "primary" from the policy allowing leave for caregivers of the child. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McDonald and the motion passed 5-0

City Manager Moddie reported that there are grants coming in for Logan Point including one for \$180,000.00 and one for \$160,000.00. This should support construction of 5 homes.

The city completed a sexual harassment workplace harassment training course which was very helpful. We are looking at the next round of CDBG grants. Working on a grant application for Safe Walk to School which is due March 1. He reported that we think Casey's grand opening will be March 7. Insurance has been secured for the waterline project.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Naylor: None

Commissioner Scarff: None

Commissioner McDonald: Announced that at 6PM at the VFW would be a Girl Scout Cookie Sale and Sunday from 11:30AM-1:00PM would be a soup and chili supper benefit for the Historical Museum.

Asked about the removal of a recreational vehicle and if the towing company would charge the city? Mr. Moddie answered that costs will be assessed to the owner.

Commissioner Bell: Asked about the Camper at the lake. Mr. Moddie stated that we hope to know more by the end of the week. Notice has been given to the owner and the Castleberry's are able to help us with it. Commissioner McDonald asked if the towing company will charge us for removal? Mr. Moddie stated that those charges are typically assessed to the owner.

Mayor Gares also asked about the contract software for the commission and the disk golf. Mr Moddie answered that the software is in process, but Mayor Gares is set up. We will be discussing expanding the disc golf course at the next meeting. Mayor Gares also noted that they have had a group of volunteers helping to clear out debris from Father Padilla park.

Adjourn – Commissioner Bell Made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Naylor. Motion carried 5-0.

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Chanda Wilson, Deputy City Clerk