

**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF WALLER
CITY OF HEMPSTEAD**

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 7th day of August A.D., 2023 at 6:00 P.M. the City Council met in a Regular Meeting at the Hempstead City Hall, 1125 Austin Street, Hempstead, Texas, there being present, to-wit:

Erica Gillum, Mayor
Lonnie Garfield, Mayor Pro-Tem
Cindy Pearce, Councilmember
Mildred Jefferson, Councilmember
Nora Hodges, Councilmember
Karon E. Neal, Councilmember

Bridgette Begle, City Attorney
Sabrina Alvarez, City Secretary

1. Call to order and invocation.

Mayor Erica Gillum called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and Bruce Kirby gave the invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

3. Public Comments.

In Public Comments Kathy Carpenter stated to council that the board let her down. Denise Mattox who is with the Chairperson for the Waller County Democratic Party stated she is supportive of the current administration and impressed. The Democratic Party will be giving away to all the students of Hempstead free tablets and free wi-fi for two years. Malcolm Brown stated that on agenda item #8 he would like to hear from the council and mayor on their behavior as well.

4. Consideration and action of a Budget Amendment for part time employee in the Utility Department for Heavy Equipment Operator. (Johnny Wallin)

The council originally voted for contract labor for this position but are now wanting to hire him as a part time employee. Liability insurance costs too much. Councilmember Nora Hodges asked will he be using our equipment or his? Public Works Director Frederick Alexander stated it would be our equipment and will lease equipment as needed. Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment. Councilmember Karon Neal seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

5. Consideration and action on Replat from Luis Orostieta, Block 114, Lots 4,5,8,9 & 10.

Building Inspector Frank Rodriguez stated that Mr. Luis Orostitea would like to replat lot 4 & 5 as one, and lots 8, 9 & 10 as one for future development. Jared Engelke the City Engineer and Frank Rodriguez the Building Inspector have inspected the replat and have no issues. He would like for council to approve it with conditions, as the replat is subject to changes. Councilmember Mildred Jefferson made a motion to approve the replat. Councilmember Nora Hodges seconded the motion and carried it unanimously.

6. Consideration and action from Dave Burkey for a Hemp Festival to be held on April 20, 2024, at the Gazebo Park in Downtown Hempstead.

Mr. Dave Burkey made a presentation to the council on his plans to have a Hemp Festival in the Downtown Area in 2024. He would have 25-100 booths that sell clothing, sandals, soaps, pillows, etc. He would also like to have food vendors at the festival. He would like to showcase the City of Hempstead to potential manufacturing businesses. He would reach out to different companies to come to the festival to educate the community on the benefits of hemp farming. Councilmember Karon Neal stated it was a good idea and said considered changing the dates. Mayor Erica Gillum stated that it was good idea, she recommended he reaches out to get the community and have education classes on hemp. Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield agreed with Mayor Erica Gillum. Councilmember Cindy Pearce asked Mr. Burkey to contact HCCA and have a booth set up at one of their festivals. No action taken.

7. Consideration and action on a Public Comment Policy applicable to City Council and all City Boards and Committee Meetings.

Councilmember Mildred Jefferson made a motion to approve the Public Comment Policy. Councilmember Nora Hodges seconded the motion and carried it unanimously.

8. Consideration and action on a Rules of Decorum Policy applicable to City Council and all City Boards and Committee Meetings.

Councilmember Nora Hodges stated that she applauds the person or persons that put the Rules of Decorum together, however she wanted to make a couple of changes. Councilmember Nora Hodges went through the changes with the council. Attorney Bridgette Begle had no concerns with the changes Councilmember Nora Hodges wants to make. Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield has no issues with the changes as well. Councilmember Karon Neal stated that she liked the letter "O" on the rules stating the uniformed police officer be present to remove disruptive individuals in the meetings. Councilmember Mildred Jefferson stated she did not see any concern before. Councilmember Mildred Jefferson made a motion to table the rules. Councilmember Nora Hodges seconded the motion and it carried.

9. Discussion and presentation of Council Room Security Plan. (Chief Hartley)

Chief David Hartley stated that two uniformed police officers will be in every meeting to make sure everyone is safe. A police officer and himself will stay until the last person clears out of city hall and the parking lot.

10. Council will convene In Executive Session pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code to consult with its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation.

The City Council convened in Executive Session at 7:17 P.M.
The Executive Session closed at 7:35 P.M.

No action was taken in the Executive Session.

11. Presentations-

A. Mayor's Reports-

1. Department of the Month (June)-Street Department-Worked the Watermelon Festival will be treated to lunch
2. Department of the Month (July) – Grounds Department-Worked the Watermelon Festival, will be treated to lunch.
3. Employee of the Month (June) – Kollye Kilpatrick-appreciates all the hard work.
4. Employee of the Month (July) – Emily Grennon- She is detailed in her reports, immaculate emails, and has been clearing a lot of the old service orders from 2014.

B. Councilmember's Report-

1. Karon Neal- On July 20-21, 2023, I attended the TML Newly Elected Officials Orientation, it was helpful and informative, and got a chance to meet and connect with other elected officials. Also, a Thank You to Ms. Nora Hodges, Mr. Kilpatrick, and Ms. Alvarez for your help during that time of training.
2. Nora Hodges-On July 18, 2023, I attended the Texas General Land Office (GLO) virtual meeting for the Central Region Combined River Basin Flood Study to hear about the large-scale modeling in our area. Items discussed included Dam Rehabilitation, Community Engagement, Land for Mitigation Project, Drainage Improvements, Stakeholder Coordination, Awareness of funding time, FEMA Remapping, Watershed Modeling results, Project Identification. Contact phone number 512-750-6014; Email contact: glofloodstudies.central@recovery.texas.gov. The conclusion was "**planning together will promote unity and trust to empower decision makers to better protect Texans from disasters**".

B. On July 20-21, 2023, I attended the TML Newly Elected City Officials Orientation held in Round Rock, Texas which was very informative and educational; Topics included Collaborative Leadership, Parliamentary Procedure, City's Revenue Sources and Economic Development, Fundamentals of City Regulation, Land Use Zoning, Advocating for Your City, Texas Public Information Act and Texas Open Meetings Act.

C. On July 28, 2023, I attended a forum sponsored by West Houston Association's Quality Growth Partners (QGP) in collaboration with Houston Community College, on "Collaborating for Quality Growth". The forum featured three panels each providing a valuable perspective on the significance of planning in

development. Panel 1 - "Success stories of Quality Developments in Rural Communities", Panel 2 - "Understanding Market Share and Lot Size Ratio, Panel -3- " Development, Growth, & The Workforce". Other individuals attending from Waller County were County Judge Trey Duhon; Pattison Mayor, Joe Garcia, John Isom, Waller County Economic Development. This setting also provided me an opportunity to network with others.

12. Adjourn City Council Meeting.

There being no further business, Councilmember Mildred Jefferson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 P.M. Councilmember Karon Neal seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 21st day of August, A.D., 2023.

APPROVED:

/s/: Erica Gillum, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/: Sabrina Alvarez, City Secretary