

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

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of July A.D., 2023 at 2:00 P.M. the City Council met in a Budget Workshop 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  
Karon Neal, Councilmember  
Nora Hodges, Councilmember  
Mildred Jefferson, Councilmember

Sabrina Alvarez, City Secretary

**1. Call to order and invocation.**

Mayor Erica Gillum called the meeting to order at 3:03 P.M. and Public Works Director Fredrick Alexander gave the invocation.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

**3. Public Comments.**

No Public Comments.

**4. Discussion on 2023-2024 Budget**

Park & Recreation- Parks & Recreation Director James Glover discussed that he was needing two lawnmowers, tables and chairs, workout equipment, stripe the lines for parking lot, a 16-passenger van to transport kids to and from activities in the summertime, he needs to have two full time employees. Plumbing at the Recreation Center needs to be fixed correctly. Councilmember Nora Hodges asked if the two full time positions were budgeted in the budget.

Building Department-Building Inspector and Fire Marshall Frank Rodriguez discussed that his department is needing another code enforcement officer and a building inspector as well to help with reviewing plans, and inspections. One vehicle leased as well, a drone to help with the flood plains and a full-time position in conjunction with city hall to help with scanning plans and documents that are needed to digitize. Frank Rodriguez stated to the council that so far this year 346 permits have been issued; 983 were issued in 2022; and 999 in 2021.

Public Works Director Fredrick Alexander stated to the council that he would like to suggest that the council takes into consideration the items that are proposed for the various

departments. He stated the growth is coming and it will soon be here, and we will have to be ready. He will get pricing on leasing the equipment, so the costs won't be such a huge impact and compare what is more feasible to the city. Mayor Erica Gillum stated that we have been patching up things just to get through and it gets harder and harder for the employees to be efficient. We have older equipment that has been patched up over the years, the city needs the equipment to be ready to serve the citizens. She asked the council to be mindful of this budget. Councilmember Cindy Pearce stated that patching and repairing also gets expensive. Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield stated that changes are needed, and we must move forward, the decisions made today will be the future of Hempstead.

**5. Adjourn City Council Meeting.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:03 P.M. Councilmember Karon Neal seconded the motion and it carried.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this the 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, A.D., 2023.

**APPROVED:**

**/s/: Erica Gillum, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

**/s/: Sabrina Alvarez, City Secretary**