

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

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August A.D., 2023 at 10:00 A.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 2:09 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**

Discussion was held on proposed 2023-2024 salaries. City Secretary updated the salaries to show bilingual, education, and shift differential pay for the police department. Several of the staff from the utilities department showed up to speak up about their responsibilities and accomplishments. Supervisors from the Street Department, Grounds Maintenance, Wastewater, Water, Electrical, Gas, Park & Recreation and Building department all spoke about their crews and their responsibilities. The supervisors and the department heads also spoke about the equipment that is desperately needed to perform their jobs. They spoke about the equipment being fixed repeatedly but there is only so much fixing you can make because that is expensive as well. Public Works Director Fredrick Alexander states that supervisors and department heads are hands on. They have taken the necessary classes to become certified, to perform their job duties. He stated all departments perform a job well done. Alan Younts, the city's part-time finance advisor gave the council a presentation of the city's trend over a five-year period for revenues. He stated the city had a good audit; the city is getting better it will just take time. He stated that the city must guard against going backwards. He stated that what concerned him was the deficit is much higher. Last year the utility fund had a surplus, but it's lower this year. Councilmember Cindy Pearce only approved of the raises and step program for the Police Department, for Scott Duncan, and for

Blake Duncan and Eric Kilpatrick due to their promoted positions. She stated no one disputes their dedication, but the city is at a 28% poverty rate. She appreciates all the employees.

Councilmember Nora Hodges also stated she appreciated all employees and will decide on salaries based on a balanced budget and comparison of salaries with that of other cities similar to our population. Councilmember Mildred Jefferson stated that everyone deserves a raise. Councilmember Karon Neal stated that she appreciates all employees and all their hard work. Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield stated he appreciated all employees.

**5. Adjourn City Council Meeting.**

Councilmember Mildred Jefferson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 P.M. Councilmember Karon Neal seconded the motion, and it was carried out.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, A.D., 2023.

**APPROVED:**

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

**ATTEST:**

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