

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

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 21st day of February 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
Raul Villarreal, Councilmember
Chase Murray, Councilmember
Mildred Jefferson, Councilmember

Charles Williams, 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 Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield gave the invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

3. Public Comments.

Denise Mattox wanted to say hello and wish the election candidates well wishes. She asked the council to have signs put out at the city park stating that dogs cannot be roaming free without leashes. She asked the police department to patrol the city park.

Carl Haywood asked the council to be granted a five-day extension.

Keisha Thompson asked the council for an extension and to lower the late fee.

Jennifer Thomas asked for an extension.

4. Consideration and action on minutes of January 17, 2023, and February 6, 2023, meetings.

Councilmember Chase Murray made a motion to approve the minutes. Mayor Pro-Tem seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

5. Annexation of an approximately 2.1854-acre tract of land being out of that certain called 4-3/4-acre tract recorded in Volume 116, Page 548 of the Waller County Deed Records, situated in the L Abbott Survey, Abstract No.1, in the Waller County, Texas.

a. Public Hearing was open at 6:20 P.M.

Melissa Hegemeyer stated this is property next to Waller County Golf Cars business. Public Hearing was closed at 6:21 P.M.

b. Consider an Ordinance granting annexation an approximately 2.1854-acre tract of land being out of that certain called 4 ¾ acre tract recorded in Volume 116, Page 48 of the Waller County Deed Records, situated in the L. Abbott Survey, Abstract No.1 in Waller County, Texas; providing for the extension of certain boundary limits of the City of Hempstead, Texas; providing for severability; and making findings and provisions relative to the subject.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield made a motion to discuss, and Councilmember Cindy Pearce seconded the motion. Discussion was held on the city sewer. The city sewer is not ready yet, the lines have to be ran and installed to the property.

Mayor Pro-Tem made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Councilmember Cindy Pearce seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

6. Consideration and action on an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Hempstead, Texas: Amending Chapter 5 “Business Regulations” of the Code of Ordinances by adding Article 5.08 “Tire Business” to provide regulation of the tire businesses; providing for severability; providing for repealer; providing for a penalty not to exceed \$2,000 per day of the violation; providing penalty; providing for the publication and effective date.

Councilmember Cindy Pearce made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Councilmember Raul Villarreal seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

7. Consideration and action on the purchase of advertising space in the Houston Astros Official Team Yearbook. (Presentation by from Samuel Marciano). (HEDC denied proposal on 2/13/23).

Samuel Marciano presented to Council a small presentation about how the company he works for puts together a yearbook representation of the Astros. It has all the small cities and geographic information about the cities. These books will be available to everyone in the skyline boxes at the games. It’s a great way to promote your city. A full page is \$14,500 with twenty-four game tickets or a half of page for \$7,500.00 with twelve tickets.

Mayor Pro-Tem thinks it’s a good idea but it’s not in the budget currently. Mayor Erica Gillum stated it was a great idea, but it wouldn’t be beneficial.

Councilmember Raul Villarreal made a motion to deny. Councilmember Cindy Pearce seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

8. Consideration and action on a request for City Council to revisit the delinquent accounts requirements, allowing for a five-day grace period. (Brandy Romero)
Brandy Romero discussed how the elderly and some citizens need an extra five days for the utility bill extension. The utility bills are due by the 20th. The Utility Department monitors the extensions every month. The city works with nonprofit companies that do make payments on utility accounts. Councilmember Cindy Pearce asked for council to have a workshop with Brandy Romero to have a plan in place. Attorney Charles Williams advised council to revisit the five-day grace period monthly.

Councilmember Raul Villarreal made a motion to approve the five-day grace period for January 15-February 15 billing period. Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

9. Consideration and action on a Budget Amendment on the payment of Symmetry Gas Winter Bill starting March 1, 2023, a payment of \$44,444.44 following an eight-month plan, for a total of nine monthly payments.

Councilmember Chase Murray made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment. Councilmember Raul Villarreal seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

10. Consideration and action on authorizing the Mayor to direct the City's Depository - to make payments by monthly wire transfers provided for in the Symmetry Gas Winter Bill Agreement.

Councilmember Raul Villarreal made a motion to approve the Mayor to direct the City's Depository to make payments by monthly wire transfers. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chase Murray and carried unanimously.

11. Consideration and action from Joey and Amy Williams with Williams Business Solutions on the renovation of the structure, and the proposed repairs to the building within the Historic Downtown District located at 809 12th Street.

Joey and Amy Williams brought in pics to show the council what their plans were to repair the building. The building was taken down and there are metal beams. Their goal is to have a two-story building. The material will be stone and brick with a six-foot pyramid, arched windows and door.

No action taken by council.

12. Consideration and action on proposals for irrigation on four baseball fields, one football field, the Recreation Center and replacing fixtures at the Hempstead City Park. (James Glover)

A gentleman with Sisco talked to the council about the repairs needed at Hempstead City Park. The repairs would be to fix the spray heads and the valves. The system has not been maintained

since it was installed. Three companies came and looked at he was the most thorough with the work needed to be performed.

Councilmember Mildred Jefferson made a motion to approve the proposal. Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

13. Consideration and action of proposal to cut down nine trees at Hempstead City Park. (Alvaro Trujillo)

Councilmember Mildred Jefferson made a motion to approve the proposal. Councilmember Raul Villarreal seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

14. Discussion on adopting an updated version of the Swimming Pool Code. (Frank Rodriguez)

Fire Marshall Frank Rodriguez discussed that the swimming pool code was deleted in the International Code in 2018 and adopted again. The City will need to adopt it and make its own code book.

15. Discussion on adopting an updated version of the Fire Code. (Frank Rodriguez)

Fire Marshall Frank Rodriguez discussed that the appendixes in the Fire Code need to be adopted to be in compliance for the future growth of the city.

16. Discussion on amending the subdivision ordinance to adjust setback requirements relative to the eve of the house. (Frank Rodriguez)

Fire Marshall Frank Rodriguez discussed how the setbacks should be five feet from the eve of the house and adopted by the city.

Michael Trojan who is building a home in the city had a question as to why the setbacks are requested by the building department to be twenty-five feet instead of five feet. The twenty-five feet comes the subdivision ordinance and gives room for utilities.

17. Discussion on amending the subdivision ordinance to adjust regulations on the first-floor elevations of all residential dwellings. (Frank Rodriguez)

Fire Marshall Frank Rodriguez discussed on the elevation that due to the heavy rain the minimum is one foot above the center line road.

18. Discussion on updating Ordinance No. 14-116. (Frank Rodriguez)

Fire Marshall Frank Rodriguez discussed that we need to update the Ordinance to the 2021 Code.

19. Consideration and action on a budget of \$2,000.00 to sponsor the Waller County Sesquicentennial Parade for banner, float or classic car.

Mayor Erica Gillum met with the Sesquicentennial Committee, and she wants the city to sponsor the parade. She spoke with the Hempstead Chamber to see if the city could use their float. She wants either a trophy or a plaque as well.

Councilmember Mildred Jefferson made a motion to approve the budget of \$2,000 for the Sesquicentennial Parade. Councilmember Chase Murray seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

20. Consideration and action on C & C Sports Apparel Invoice.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield made a motion to approve the C & C Sports Apparel Invoice. Councilmember Raul Villarreal seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

21. Consideration and action on payment of current bills.

Councilmember Mildred Jefferson made the motion to pay the current bills. Councilmember Raul Villarreal seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

22. Presentations.

Mayor Erica Gillum stated that sales tax is up 6.45% for the month of February 2023
Mayor Erica Gillum gave an update on the Sesquicentennial Parade on, line item 19.

Councilmember Reports:

Councilmember Mildred Jefferson stated, “We are sending our most heartfelt condolences to the families of Robert Craiton and Mr. Norris “Steven” Hood. Let us keep them in our prayers”.

23. Adjourn City Council Meeting.

There being no further business, Councilmember Mildred Jefferson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 P.M. Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 20th day of March, A.D., 2023.

APPROVED:

/s/:Erica Gillum, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/Sabrina Alvarez, City Secretary