

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

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March 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

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.**

Phil Richey made a statement of resignation from the Hempstead Economic Development Corporation B Board. He apologized for comments and his actions. He resigned effective March 20, 2023, and handed a letter of resignation.

**4. Consideration and action on minutes of February 21, 2023, and March 6, 2023, meetings.**

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

**5. Specific Use Permit Request for placement of a home to be used as a residence in the Central Business District at Block 143 Lot 1 – 606 13<sup>th</sup> Street. (Approval recommended by Planning and Zoning on 3/6/23)**

The Public Hearing opened at 6:08 P.M. No comments made in Public Hearing.  
The Public Hearing closed at 6:09 P.M.

**Consideration and action on recommendation to City Council on an Ordinance of the City of Hempstead, amending the City of Hempstead Code of Ordinances by granting a Specific Use Permit for placement of a home to be used as a residence in the Central Business District at Block 143 Lot 1 – 606 13<sup>th</sup> Street.**

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

**6. Adopting the 2021 International Fire Code Appendixes A-N; the 2021 International Swimming Pool & Spa Code; and the 2021 Plumbing Code.**

The Public Hearing opened at 6:10 P.M. No comments in the Public Hearing  
The Public Hearing closed at 6:11 P.M.

**Consideration and action on an Ordinance of the City Council of Hempstead, Texas amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Hempstead, Texas by adopting the 2021 International Fire Code Appendixes A-N; the 2021 Swimming Pool & Spa Code; and the 2021 Plumbing Code; repealing all Ordinances inconsistent or in conflict therewith; providing a penalty in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 for each day of any violation hereof; providing for severability; providing an effective date.**

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

**7. Zoning Ordinance amendment increasing minimum front setbacks in certain residential districts.**

Item number seven was tabled until the next meeting in April.

**8. Consideration and action on Cleargov for Budget Software for the City of Hempstead.**

Kirsten Fine with Cleargov made a presentation on the budget software and showed the council the different benefits to suit the city. The software shows transparency to the council and to the citizens. El Campo, Katy, Waller are some of the cities that use Cleargov.

Councilmember Cindy Pearce commented that it's not a budgeted item. Councilmember Mildred Jefferson commented that it looks like a great benefit to the city. Councilmember Raul Villarreal asked about the 3% annual increase and stated that he doesn't like the annual percentage added annually. Kirsten Fine stated that she would get with her boss and she the language and what could be done. Councilmember Chase Murray agreed with Councilmember Raul Villarreal.

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

**9. Consideration and action to allow delinquent account holders to receive a five-day extension on their utility accounts beyond the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. (Brandy Romero)**

Denise Mattox the Chairperson of the Democratic Party stated to be careful you who vote in office on election time. Keisha Thompson asked for an extension for her utility bill until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month. Mayor Erica Gillum stated that the city will continue to look for programs to help with the utility bills.

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

**10. Consideration and action on acceptable forms for utility bill deposits. (Brandy Romero)**

The city policy states only cash to be used or cashier checks for all utility accounts deposits. The city is wanting to implement all forms of payments for utility deposits.

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

**11. Discussion and action on Resolution of the City Council of the City of Hempstead authorizing expenditures by the Mayor in an amount up to \$10,000.00 for budgeted items and emergency expenditures without further approval by City Council.**

Councilmember Cindy Pearce asked what is in place now for the policy. Mayor Erica Gillum responded there is nothing in policy. Councilmember Raul Villarreal stated that he didn't think emergency expenditures had to come before the council. Attorney Bridgette Begle stated that Mayor Erica Gillum has no purchasing power, and it must be in policy.

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

**12. Discussion and action on Resolution of the City Council of the City of Hempstead supporting the creation of a Hospital District in the City of Hempstead, Texas.**

Mayor Erica Gillum stated that this opportunity would bring a huge tax based for hospitals, urgent care, micro hospitals. She stated that it would be along the ETJ. Mayor Erica Gillum read a letter from Waller County Judge Trey Duhon in support of the Hospital District. Also on board would be Texas State Senator Lois Kolkhorst and State Presentative Stan Kitzman.

**13. Consideration and action on Interlocal Agreement between the County of Waller, Texas and the City of Hempstead for On-Site Sewage Facility Inspections and other Sanitation Services.**

Building Inspector Frank Rodriguez stated that the Interlocal Agreement would be any property that is annexed into the city the county would inspect the sewer since the city doesn't have the staff.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield made a motion to approve the agreement. Councilmember Raul Villarreal seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**14. Discussion and action on proposal from IDS Engineering to perform Professional Engineering Services for an Asphalt Roadway Pavement Assessment for the City of Hempstead. (Scott Duncan)**

Street Supervisor Scott Duncan stated he spoke to Travis Sellars from IDS Engineering and the company would come in to perform an assessment of every street. They would be fixed correctly, IDS would perform a five year plan with traffic patterns and load hazards.

Councilmember Mildred Jefferson made a motion to approve the engineering services by IDS. Councilmember Raul Villarreal seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

**15. Consideration and action on allocation of Hotel/Motel Funds in the amount of \$10,000 to the Hempstead Commerce and Civic Association for the Watermelon Festival to be used for advertising, signage, and T-Shirts.**

Councilmember Raul Villarreal stated that the city set a cap a couple of years back to only give \$5,000 from Hotel/Motel funds. Mayor Erica Gillum stated that HCCA was established in 2021 and the prior administration was gracious to give them \$10,000 when HCCA took over sponsoring the Watermelon Festival.

Councilmember Mildred Jefferson made a motion to use funds from the Hotel/Motel funds in the amount of \$5,000 to the HCCA for the Watermelon Festival. Mayor Pro-Tem seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

**16. Consideration and action on Parade Permit for Juneteenth Celebration hosted by St. Peter's Missionary Baptist Church.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield made a motion to approve the permit. Councilmember Chase Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**17. Consideration and action on a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Hempstead on a Resolution for Street Closures for 2023 Cinco De Mayo Celebration hosted by the Hempstead Commerce and Civic Association and St. Katherine Drexel Catholic Church.**

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

**18. Consideration and action Parade Permit on the Watermelon Festival Parade hosted by the Hempstead Commerce and Civic Association.**

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

**19. Consideration and action on a Resolution from the City Council of the City of Hempstead on a Resolution for Street Closures for 2023 Watermelon Festival.**

Councilmember Chase Murray made a motion to approve the Resolution. Councilmember Mildred Jefferson 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 Chase Murray seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

**22. Council will convene in closed session pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Government Code to hear a complaint or charge against Economic Development Corporation, Type B Director, Phil Richey on recommendation by Economic Development Corporation, Type B Board.**

Executive Session was cancelled.

**23. Consideration and action on removal of Economic Development Corporation, Type B Board Director, Phil Richey.**

Mr. Phil Richey resigning at the beginning of the meeting.

**24. Presentations.**

**Mayor's Reports-**

Mayor Erica Gillum stated that sales tax is down -.61% for the month of March 2023

Mayor Erica Gillum gave an update on the Sesquicentennial Parade, the city will have two floats, and stated if anyone knew of a graduating senior to please let them know the county has applications for the Queen, and they are online.

Mayor Gillum stated on the Zydeco Festival would be April 29, 2023, from 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. with activities.

**Councilmember Reports:**

Councilmember Mildred Jefferson stated, “We are sending our most heartfelt condolences to the families of Mrs. Dorothy Toler and her son Justin Harold. Let us keep them in our prayers”.

**25. Adjourn City Council Meeting.**

There being no further business, Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 P.M. Councilmember Raul Villarreal seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

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

**APPROVED:**

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

**ATTEST:**

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