

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

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 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 6:01 P.M. and Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield gave the invocation.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

**3. Public Comments.**

No Public Comments.

**4. Consideration and action on rebidding the East Feeder.**

Building Official Kollye Kilpatrick stated that the city went out for bids, and the city did not get any bids. The city will post it in the local papers and rebid out the job a second time. Our city engineer will be reaching out to companies to see if they would like to bid for the job.

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

**5. Consideration and action on a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Hempstead granting a permit to Mr. B Fireworks to have supervised public fireworks display on July 4, 2023, at the Hempstead City Park.**

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

**6. Discussion and action on a Travel Policy for the City of Hempstead.**

Mary Ann Drawl spoke and stated for council not to take action and urged the council to go onto the State Comptroller website and print out the guidelines for a travel policy. She also stated a per diem would be good as well. Councilmember Cindy Pearce stated that in the budget there is a line item that is allocated for travel and training for all departments. Councilmember Raul Villarreal asked if the city ever had anything at all that the city went by. He stated that the city must address what is best for the city, bring it back to table. He agreed that the city needs to have a per diem. Mayor Erica Gillum stated when anyone from the city goes to travel for a seminar or classes, the hotel rate is at a discount if the individual stays where the conference is being held. Attorney Bridgette Begle stated that the city needs to produce a plan of action in the future for the policy. Councilmember Cindy Pearce asked if the council could hold a workshop soon.

**7. Consideration and action on a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Hempstead supporting the application to the Texas Department of Transportation 2023 Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TA) call for projects.**

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

**8. Consideration and action on the creation of a new position in the Utility Department: Managing Director of Operations.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield stated that we are a diverse community and the growth that is coming we will need the position to immediately address the concerns. Councilmember Cindy Pearce asked the question what the difference between the Public Works Director position and the Managing Director of Operations were. Mayor Erica Gillum stated that we needed someone at the table to be able to talk to future developers and investors with the knowledge of what is needed for the city.

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

**9. The council will convene in closed session pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Government Code to deliberate the appointment, employment, reassignment, and duties of a public officer or employee. (Managing Director of Operations) at 6: 25 P.M.**

**Executive Session closed at 6:49 P.M.**

**10. Consideration and action to hire a Managing Director of Operations of the Utility Department.**

Three candidates applied for this position. All three gave a small introduction about themselves, their work history, their accomplishments, and achievements.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield made a motion to hire Kollye Kilpatrick as the Managing Director of Operations. Councilmember Mildred Jefferson seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

## **11. Mayor's Report:**

- a. Introduction of New Hires-** Mayor Erica Gillum announced all the new hires and the departments they will be working in.
- b. Junior/Senior students to apply for Air Force Academy-** City Secretary Sabrina Alvarez stated that Senator Michael McCaul Chief of Staff and Office Manager came by City Hall and left a flyer with governmental programs. One of them is the ROTC program that is offered to all Junior and Senior's in High School all over Texas. There is an application process. If the students are chosen, they will pay in full the cost of the academy. Also, if any Veteran is having trouble from not being approved for disability or having trouble with the VA, the office of Michael McCaul can help you with that.
- c. Remarks on upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations-** Mayor Erica Gillum stated that there will be a bowling tournament on May 3, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. in the Prairie View Blowing Alley.
- d. Hospital District Briefing (Mr. Landry)-**Mayor Erica Gillum and EDC Director Clarence Landry traveled to Austin to meet with our State Representative and State Senator to talk more about the Hospital District that is needed in Hempstead. The representatives stated that they would talk about it in the legislative session.
- e. D R Horton extending invitation to City Council and Citizens for a tour of local DR Horton Community –** DR Horton is extending an invitation to Council and staff to see their latest development, which is a subdivision. Mayor Erica Gillum urged Council to get with the City Secretary to start preparing a list of who all would like to come.
- f. Briefing on Mayor Association Conference in Washington –** Mayor Erica Gillum traveled to Washington to attend a seminar. She met with governors and mayors of various states. The seminar gave updates on what the current administration has in store for the municipalities.
- g. Register for SBDC (Creating Content using ChatGPT-AL) attached flyer to print for Citizens and Council. (Liliana Rodriguez or Mr. Clarence Landry) –** Mayor Erica Gillum said if any local businesses need help starting up, they can reach out the organization on the flyer.
- h. Neon Cloud Production Update-Website Graphics-**Neon Cloud came to Hempstead today and began to shoot videos with drones, for the EDC website.

## **B. Councilmember's Report**

- 1. Chase Murray-** Councilmember Chase Murray expressed his gratitude for working with the city and the citizens. It has been a humbling experience. He will remain very much involved. He wishes the new administration coming in the best of luck and put their best foot forward.
- 2. Mildred Jefferson –** We are sending our heartfelt condolences to the family of Audrey Zientek. Please keep them in your prayers. Also, she wanted to thank the citizens for coming to the city council meeting.

## **12. Adjourn City Council Meeting.**

There being no further business. Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 P.M. Councilmember Raul Villarreal seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, A.D., 2023.

**APPROVED:**

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

**ATTEST:**

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