

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

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 6th day of May A.D., 2024 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
Mildred Jefferson, Councilmember
Nora Hodges, Councilmember
Karon E. Neal, 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.

None.

4. Consideration and action on a Proclamation for the 2024 Economic Development Week.

Economic Development Director Ramiro Baustista stated to council that the Proclamation is geared to recognize and give thanks to all the economic professionals. Next year they will have a week of planned events in the city. Councilmember Nora Hodges made a motion to approve the Proclamation. Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

5. Presentation, consideration, and action on a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Hempstead approving the participation of the City of Hempstead in the TexPool Investment Pools (TexPool/TexPool Prime) and designating authorized representatives of the city pursuant to the Texas Public Funds Investment Act.

Colby Anthony with TexPool presented to council information on the organization. TexPool is the oldest and largest local government investment pool in the State of Texas. They preserve

principal, liquidity, and yield of capital investment consistent with the Texas Public Funds Investment. The rates are 5.47% with TexPool and 5.32% with TexPool Prime. Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield asked what are the average rates? Mr. Colby Anthony stated they usually follow the federal rate. The pool also provides Public Funds training to the entities. Councilmember Cindy Pearce asked Alan Younts to give his opinion on this item. He stated that he did support the investment pool. Councilmember Mildred Jefferson made a motion to table, no second motion, motion failed. Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield made a motion to approve the Resolution. Councilmember Cindy Pearce seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

6. Consideration and action on a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Hempstead to approve and authorize the City of Hempstead, Texas to participate in the Texas Cooperative Liquid Assets securities system trust pursuant to the provisions of the Public Funds Investment Act, Texas Government Code, Section 2256.001 Et Seq; appointing the Mayor as the Investment Officer and making other provisions related to the subject.

Economic Development Director Ramiro Baustista stated to council this is another investment, to apply there are no current funds to move, it was presented to the EDC Board last month. The city received sales tax dollars and instead of them sitting, it would be to invest. Councilmember Nora Hodges made a motion to approve the Resolution. Councilmember Mildred Jefferson seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

7. Consideration and action of the City Council of the City of Hempstead, amending Resolution 23-035, which approved the Hempstead Economic Development Corporation Budget for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year for the purpose of revising specific line-item expenditures therein; and making other provisions related to the subject.

Economic Development Director Ramiro Baustista stated to council that this is not an amendment to the budget but a line-item transfer to salaries and vehicle allowance. This will update the Economic Development 2023-2024 budget with the correct amounts. Councilmember Nora Hodges asked if she thought this item was tabled in a previous meeting because the director's salary was not approved for the increase, and she does not understand why it is being moved. Economic Development Director Ramiro Baustista stated that this was not salary compensation. Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield made a motion to approve the line-item transfers. Councilmember Mildred Jefferson seconded the motion. AYES-Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield, Councilmember Karon Neal, Councilmember Mildred Jefferson, Councilmember Cindy Pearce. NO's-Councilmember Nora Hodges. Motion carried.

8. Consideration and action on a Parade Permit from Hempstead Commerce & Civic Association to be held Saturday, July 20, 2024.

Cheryl Hardwick stated that all paperwork was submitted, and the fee was paid within the sixty-day period. She added that due to the high traffic, the Police Department wants the parade to go down 11th Street. Mayor Pro -Tem Lonnie Garfield thanked Mrs. Hardwick for all the hard work. Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield made a motion to approve the parade permit. Councilmember Cindy Pearce seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

9. Consideration and action on a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Hempstead for street closures for 2024 Watermelon Festival.

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

10. Consideration and action on request from the Hempstead Commerce and Civic Association for Hotel/Motel funds for the Watermelon Festival in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield stated this is something the city gives to the association every year and he is ok with it. Councilmember Mildred Jefferson asked what does the city get from the Hotel/Motel Tax? Mrs. Cheryl Hardwick stated that money goes for advertising which brings people in to stay at our local hotels, eat at restaurants, buy fuel, etc. Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield made a motion to approve the request. Councilmember Nora Hodges seconded the motion. AYES-Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield, Councilmember Nora Hodges, Councilmember Cindy Pearce, Councilmember Karon Neal. NO's- Councilmember Mildred Jefferson,

11. Consideration and action on final replat of Bam Group Subdivision 25.452 acres in the Issac Donoho Survey A-121.

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

12. Mayor's Reports

None.

13. Councilmembers Reports-

1. Mildred Jefferson-We are sending our deepest condolences to Theodore Hyden's family for their loss.
2. Nora Hodges- Thank you to Jay Lewis Brooks and the Becoming Better Organization for such a great event on April 21, 2024, at the city park to support unity in the community. It was very well attended and even had left over funds for future events. Also, thank you to the voters and candidates for their participation and attendance in the candidate forum held on April 20,2024. Thank you to Progressive Baptist Church, Frazier's, and Granny's Homestyle Cooking for sponsoring.

CLOSED SESSION

Specifically, City Council will meet in executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney regarding the following:

14. Updates to be considered on City of Hempstead Utilities Policy and Procedures.

Executive Session opened at 6:25 P.M.

Executive Session ended at 7:00 P.M.

No action in Executive Session

OPEN SESSION

Council may act in Open Session on any item listed for Executive Session.

15. Consideration and action on updates on the City of Hempstead Utilities Policy and Procedures.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield made a motion to direct administration to draft up an Ordinance with the proposed changes and bring it back to council. Councilmember Nora Hodges seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

16. Adjourn City Council Meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield made a motion to end the meeting at 7:03 P.M Councilmember Karon Neal seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 20th day of May, A.D., 2024.

APPROVED:

/s/: Katherine Ragston Ward, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/: Sabrina Alvarez, City Secretary