

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

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September A.D., 2023 at 4:00 P.M. the City Council met in a Special 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  
Karon Neal, Councilmember  
Nora Hodges, Councilmember  
Mildred Jefferson, Councilmember (Absent)

Bridgette Begle, City Attorney  
Sabrina Alvarez, City Secretary

**1. Call to order and invocation.**

Mayor Erica Gillum called the meeting to order at 4:06 P.M. and Public Works Director Fredrick Alexander gave the invocation.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

**3. Public Comments.**

Judith Richey stated she was not in favor of the approval of the budget. Veta Brown stated that changing the city charter is a long and tedious process. Public Works Director Fredrick Alexander stated the time and date for electrical lineman Chris Mitchell funeral services. Letisha Brown was not in favor of the approval of the budget or the tax rate. Malcolm Brown was also not in favor of the budget or the tax rate.

**4. 2023-2024 BUDGET**

A. Public Hearing on an Ordinance of the City of Hempstead, Texas, approving and adopting the City of Hempstead General Budget for the year 2023-2024; making appropriations for the City for such year as reflected in said Budget; establishing the procedure for intra-budget transfers; and containing other provisions relating to the subject.

**Public Hearing Opened @ 4:19 P.M.**

Malcolm Brown stated that the city needs more businesses to support the budget. Kimberly Hargrave stated that she is against the proposed budget and tax rate. She asked about evaluations within the city. Latisha Taylor is against the budget and the tax increase. Judith Richey did research in other neighboring cities and council and the mayor makes less than \$80,000. Jimmy Economou stated that we needed a city administrator by January 1, 2024. Veda Brown stated that a city administrator starting salary is \$125,000, any

amendment to the charter there must be a review committee, meet with attorney, it's a long and tedious process. She stated to the citizens get information and consult TML.

**Public Hearing Closed at 4:32 P.M.**

B. Consideration and action on an Ordinance of the City of Hempstead, Texas approving and adopting the City of Hempstead General Budget for the year 2023-2024; making appropriations for City for such year as reflected in said Budget; establishing the procedure for intra-budget transfers; and containing other provisions relating to the subject. (Record Vote)

Alan Younts, the city's financial consultant stated that the capital equipment added up to one million dollars. Expenditure needs to be cut. He stated that he recommended tax notes for the capital equipment. Ben Rosenberg, our financial advisor, was via zoom and explained to the council how the tax notes would work for the city. Tax notes are secured by property taxes, it would raise the I&S one to two pennies more, next budget year. The City has made great financial progress from 2018. The city has adopted a fund balance policy. The city just must keep moving forward and have good audits. Overall, a 2% increase overall in the budget. No increase in the utility fund. Attorney Bridgette Begle explained to the council between the voter approval rate and proposed tax rate. Councilmember Cindy Pearce asked about the Hempstead Economic Development Budget, City Secretary Sabrina Alvarez made copies for council. She is against the budget. Councilmember Nora Hodges asked Managing Director of Operations Kollye Kilpatrick where the cuts were taken out of. Manager of Operations Kollye Kilpatrick stated the police step program was removed, all capital equipment, eliminate part time positions in the water department, technology department, and equipment operator, he also eliminated the finance director and building inspector. Councilmember Nora Hodges is against salaries and the budget. Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield is for the salaries and budget. Councilmember Mildred Jefferson made a motion to approve and adopt the 2023-2024 City of Hempstead General Budget. Councilmember Karon Neal seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

**RECORD VOTE: AYE'S-Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield, Councilmember Karon Neal, Councilmember Mildred Jefferson. NO'S-Councilmember Nora Hodges, Councilmember Cindy Pearce. Motion carried.**

Councilmember Mildred Jefferson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 P.M. Councilmember Nora Hodges seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October, A.D., 2023.

**APPROVED:**

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

**ATTEST:**

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