

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

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 2nd day of October 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
Mildred Jefferson, Councilmember
Nora Hodges, Councilmember
Karon E. Neal, Councilmember

Bridgette Begle, City Attorney
Sabrina Alvarez, City Secretary

1. Call to order and invocation.

Mayor Erica Gillum called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. and Pastor Charles Tompkins gave the invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

3. Public Comments.

In Public Comments Jay Lewis a youth minister to Become Better Ministry wanted to thank Mayor Erica Gillum for all her support. He urges all citizens, council, and mayor to come together. LinMarie Garsee spoke and presented to the council on behalf of the citizens a petition of signatures with 9% of the registered voters to change the form of government from the mayor council to city administrator council. Juan Venegas spoke and asked the cost of the splashpad at the park, he stated it would be a better idea to construct a pool and charge a monthly fee for the use. Quinn Navaree spoke about the animal ordinance to have the council look at it and amend and revise about the horses. He asked to be grandfathered in. Kim Hargrave spoke and thanked everyone who signed the petition. She stated that was blocked from the Mayor's Facebook page. She asked the city attorney to speak to the mayor about it. Lawrence Foster stated about his trash not being picked up regularly. He also stated about his zoning on his property.

4. Administer Oath of Office to Municipal Court Judge.

No action taken.

5. Consideration and action on a recommendation from HEDC on a Project for the revitalization of the Hempstead City Park Splash Pad. (HEDC approved on September 15, 2023)

The council asked how much the cost was. Mayor Erica Gillum stated that EDC had a bid for \$20,000. Attorney Bridgette Begle stated that Hempstead Economic Development Board has Type B projects that a public hearing has to be held and also a public hearing for city council. The waiting period is sixty days. Councilmember Cindy Pearce asked about the bathrooms, fencing and the drainage. Councilmember Nora Hodges that there are pros and cons to having the splashpad. She mentioned two cities who have been sued for safety measures. The city will have to keep it safe and clean and have someone working 24/7 to keep it sanitized.

Councilmember Mildred Jefferson made a motion to approve the project. Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield seconded the motion. **AYES-Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield, Councilmember Mildred Jefferson, Councilmember Karon Neal. NO'S-Councilmember Cindy Pearce and Councilmember Nora Hodges. Motion carried.**

6. Presentation from Shaquez Wilder on her proposed business coming to the City of Hempstead.

Mrs. Wilder did not show up for her presentation.

7. Consideration and action on a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Hempstead nominating a candidate for a position on the board of directors of the Waller County Appraisal District.

City Secretary Sabrina Alvarez stated that the candidate that has always been chosen is Royce Rape. He has been a lifelong resident of Waller County. He is the President for Prosperity Bank in Waller, TX . He has served on the Appraisal District as President for years.

Councilmember Cindy Pearce made a motion to approve the Resolution. Councilmember Nora Hodges seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

8. Consideration and action on a Resolution from the City Council of the City of Hempstead appointing persons to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Allen Garfield gave a little background of himself. Councilmember Nora Hodges made a motion to approve the Resolution. Councilmember Karon Neal seconded the motion and carried.

9. Presentations.

A. Councilmember's Report-

1. Nora Hodges- For homeowners needing help paying their mortgage, property taxes, insurance, or utility bills, the Texas Homeowner Assistance Program is still taking applications, but funds are limited. Call center phone is 1-833-651-3874.

Also, I will be attending TML Conference in Dallas October 4-7, 2023. She will be visiting booths and report back to the council.

2. Lonnie Garfield-Update from the School Facility Committee. Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield stated that the final report was presented to the board. The school is headed in the right direction. Partnership with Blinn College, improve their test scores.

**The City Council convened in Executive Session at 6:35 P.M.
Executive Session closed at 6:59 P.M.
No action was taken in the Executive Session.**

12. Adjourn City Council Meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lonnie Garfield made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 P.M.
Councilmember Karon Neal seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 23rd day of October, A.D., 2023.

APPROVED:

/s/: Erica Gillum, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/: Sabrina Alvarez, City Secretary