

**MINUTES
CITY OF AMES, TEXAS
304 MARTIN DR. – AMES, TEXAS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

The City Council for the City of Ames, Texas met in a regular meeting in council chambers at the Ames City Hall at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Cornelius Gilmore call the meeting to order at that time. Mayor Gilmore led the prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Gilmore did the roll call, at that time the members of the City Council who were present were: Mayor Cornelius Gilmore, Michael Trahan, Liz Hardy, Eddie White, and Alfred Freeman. Absent: Audrey Harrison.

CITIZEN APPREARANCE

Mayor Gilmore thanked the citizens for being here and to please silence their phones. A list of attending citizens is attached.

MOISES VILLAREAL – REGARDING PAVEMENT OF ORGAN RD.

Mr. Villareal wanted to know when Organ Rd. was going to fixed. He informed the council that he has used his own money to fill the holes and that his neighbors would constantly ride there four wheelers through there and mess up the roads more. He also brought to the council attention about dogs running around freely and that he almost hit a few of them when he goes down that road to get to his home. Another concern of his was the price of the water tap and the sewer tap. He said the water department wants to charge him \$1500 for water and the city wants to charge him \$800 for the sewer tap and that he feels that it should not cost that much. Councilwoman Hardy informed Mr. Villareal that the water department is separate from the city and that they would have to provide him that price on paper. Mayor Gilmore let Mr. Villareal know that the City has a grant coming in and it is to fix Donatto and Martin Street and that hopefully after those two (2) roads are done then the City can see where they are financially to get additional roads paved. Councilwoman Hardy also let him know to give us time to get through our audit. Mr. Villareal wanted to the city to purchase the material for the road and that he would use his own equipment to spread it but the Council informed him that it could not happen. Citizen John Stewart told Mr. Villareal that it is \$800.00 because \$300 is for the sewer tap, \$500 is towards the USDA loan the city has, and \$1500 is towards the insured contractor that the city use. Mr. Villareal wants to use his own contractor, but the Council told him that he has to use the City's contractor.

APPROVE MINUTES FOR JANUARY 09, 2022, REGULAR MEETING

The council agreed to approve the minutes for January 09, 2022, regular meeting.

Motion made by: Councilman Michael Trahan
Seconded by: Councilman Eddie White
All in favor: 4 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

APPROVE MINUTES FOR JANUARY 30, 2023, WORKSHOP

The council agreed to approve the minutes for January 30, 2023, workshop.

Motion made by: Councilman Michael Trahan
Seconded by: Councilman Eddie White
All in favor: 4 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Agenda Items

1. DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 2023 ELECTION SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICER.

City Attorney, Melody Carrier, informed the council that it is the Election Service Contract that is signed every time there is an election and that the Ames City Hall was added to be a voting location and that the early voting location will be at the Jack Hartel Building located in Liberty.

Motioned was made by: Councilman Michael Trahan
Seconded by: Councilwoman Liz Hardy
All in favor: 4 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

2. DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION TO HAVE JOHN STEWART REMOVE TWO DYING TREES ON HIS PROPERTY LOCATED AT 635 N. MLK.

The Mayor told the council that two (2) citizens complained about the way the tree is over 160 North and that it could be a potential problem later. Councilman Trahan stated that if the branches were to fall then that would be between Mr. Stewart and TxDOT and that it was a private matter.

No motion was made, and the Council moved on to the next line item.

3. DISCUSS AND APPROVE BRUNO & TERVALON LLP. AUDITOR ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

City Attorney, Melody Carrier, informed the Council that this agreement that the city hired for auditing services and it was put back on the agenda to talk about when the company could get started. Mrs. Carrier also let the Council know that the company is fully aware of everything

and is ready to get started and they will not be overlapping with the City's bookkeeper. The council approved the Bruno & Tervalon LLP. Auditor Engagement Agreement.

Motioned was made by: Councilwoman Liz Hardy

Seconded by: Councilman Alfred Freeman, Jr.

All in favor: 4 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

4. DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION GETTING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE CITY OF LIBERTY POLICE DEPARTMENT, ANIMAL CONTROL, EMERGENCY SERVICES, AND ALSO FOLLOW UP ABOUT THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF LIBERTY FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Mayor informed the Council that we have a yearly interlocal agreement with the City of Liberty Fire Department and that we do not need an agreement with the Police Department because it is provided to us through the County. Councilwoman Hardy pointed out that sometimes it takes longer for law enforcement to come to Ames and that she wondered if that was because there was no interlocal agreement with the City of Liberty Police Department. She also pointed out that Animal Control will not come out to Ames and that there have been several complaints about dogs. Attorney Melody Carrier let everyone know that the Fire Department does not cover EMS and Councilwoman Hardy would like for interlocal agreements with Animal Control, EMS, and City of Liberty Police Department to be looked into.

No motion was made, and the Council moved on to the next line item.

5. DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF INVOICE FROM CARRIER & ALLISON LAW GROUP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,082.50

The Council approved to pay Carrier & Allison Law Group \$6,082.50.

Motioned was made by: Councilman Michael Trahan

Seconded by: Councilman Eddie White

All in favor: 4 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

9. MAYOR'S REPORT.

He informed the Council that the Rollins property located at the corner of Donatto and Martin is becoming an eye sore and citizens from the Country Club are starting to complain. The citizen that lives on that property is allowing his family members to dump trash on the property and the house is not livable.

10. DISCUSSION/REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

11. With no further business, meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.



Cornelius Gilmore
Mayor



Kaylan Morris
Acting City Secretary