

**MINUTES
CITY OF AMES
304 MARTIN DR. – AMES, TEXAS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 12, 2024
6:00 p.m.**

The City Council for the City of Ames, Texas held a meeting at the Ames City Hall at 6:02 p.m. Mayor Barbara Domain called the meeting to order at that time. Councilman Eddie White led the prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Domain conducted the roll call, at this time the members of the City Council who were present were: Mayor Barbara Domain, Michael Trahan II, Elizabeth (Liz) Hardy, Eddie White, Alfred Freeman Jr., and Audrey Harrison.

CITIZEN APPREARANCE

Mayor Domain thanked the citizens for being present, asked them to silence their phones, and if any of the citizens would like to take three (3) minutes to speak to the council. A list of attending citizens is attached.

- Janice Holt stood to speak about running for State Representative. She provided a brief background about herself and her work history. She also discussed her platform and passed out her business cards and encouraged everyone to call if they had questions about anything.
- Isacc stood to discuss the Small Home Community that he and the other investors were considering building in the city. He provided a presentation containing detailed information about the community. To conclude the presentation Junior with Empire Homes stood to speak about his company and how long they have been in business. The small home community would consist of at least 70 homes. One Bedrooms (400 sq. feet), two bedrooms (600 sq. feet), and 3 bedrooms (850 sq. feet) would sale ranging from \$100,000 to \$150,000) with in house financing available for those that cannot obtain traditional financing.
- Moises Villareal stood to discuss his concerns with the condition of Organ Road and with the water in the ditches. He stated that he was disappointed with that more has not been done and that he has been asking for things to be done for 5 years. Mayor Domain spoke, and she explained that she is doing the best she can to address all his concerns. The plan that she had for repairing the road completely changed due to the changes from the contractors working on Donatto Street. She stated that the city did bring in some dirt to fill in the holes on Organ Road to provide a temporary fix until we could get a more suitable fix.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 09, 2024 REGULAR MEETING AND
JANUARY 29, 2024 WORKSHOP MEETING.**

The council took a few minutes to look over the minutes. There was no discussion. A motion was made. All were in favor. Passed unanimously.

Motion made by: Councilman Michael Trahan II

Seconded by: Councilman Eddie White

All in favor: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

Councilwoman Harrison suggested that we move on to the remaining agenda items in consideration of time for our guest and come back to this item later.

At this time Marivious advised that the council members should separate each of the ordinances listed below and provide discussion as appropriate and then take an action. He stated that if we conducted a consent vote and one of the ordinances doesn't get approved, we could run into an issue when looking back for reference when writing the minutes.

CONSIDER AND IF APPROPRIATE, TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2024-004, ORDINANCE NO. 2024-005, ORDINANCE NO. 2024-006, ORDINANCE NO. 2024-007, AND ORDINANCE NO. 2024-008.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-004

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AMES, TEXAS, REGULATING PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR: PURPOSE AND FINDINGS, DEFINITIONS, PARKING RESTRICTIONS, VERIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP, ENFORCEMENT, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Domain motioned to table this ordinance until a later date, and it was Seconded by Councilwoman Audrey Harrison.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-005

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AMES, TEXAS, REGULATING DOGS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES AND VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERANCE CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion made by: Councilwoman Elizabeth "Liz" Hardy
Seconded by: Councilman Michael Trahan II

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-006

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AMES, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING AN INCREASE TO WASTEWATER RATES AND CHARGES; PROVIDING FOR: FINDINGS OF FACT, ENACTMENT, REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Domain motioned to table this ordinance until a later date, and it was Seconded by Councilwoman Audrey Harrison.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-007

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AMES, TEXAS, AMENDING THE CITY OF AMES BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1, 2024, TO DECEMBER 31, 2024; AND PROVIDING SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion made by: Councilwoman Elizabeth "Liz" Hardy
Seconded by: Councilman Eddie White

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-008

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AMES, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR MINIATURE, TRANSPORT- ABLE HOUSING (TINY HOMES); PROVIDING FOR A CON- FLICTS RESOLUTION CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY OF FINE NOT TO EXCEED TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,000) FOR EACH OFFENSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Domain motioned to table this ordinance until a later date, and it was Seconded by Councilman Alfred Freeman Jr.

2. CONSIDER AND IF APPROPRIATE TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE THE MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT).

Mayor Domain explained that the Department of Transportation (TXDOT) sent over an agreement for the City of Ames to approve. Each year we must approve the Municipal Maintenance Agreement for them to maintain the state roads and streets. There was a map attached that detailed the roads that would be maintained by TXDOT. Mayor Domain also explained that TXDOT does a good job of responding. She contacted them about the stop sign that was down and they came out and repaired it, also she will contact them about a tree about to fall over on Hwy 160 N so that they can have it removed before it falls. Councilman Trahan asked if this agreement would cost the city anything and Mayor Domain explained that it did not cost us anything. There was no further discussion. A motion was made. All were in favor. Passed unanimously.

Motion made by: Councilwoman Audrey Harrison

Seconded by: Councilman Alfred Freeman Jr.

All in favor: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

3. CONSIDER AND IF APPROPRIATE TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE THE BUY BOARD RESOLUTION.

Mayor Domain explained that for us to purchase things on buy board, we need to approve and sign the resolution. She explained that she would like to use by board to purchase items at a cheaper rate for governmental entities. She also explained that we need a new city truck, any other items that we may need in the future. Councilman Trahan asked if they had hot water heaters. Mayor Domain explained that she would not be able to browse the site until the resolution is approved and signed. There was no further discussion. A motion was made. All were in favor. Passed unanimously.

Motion made by: Councilman Eddie White

Seconded by: Councilwoman Elizabeth "Liz" Hardy

All in favor: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

4. CONSIDER AND IF APPROPRIATE TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE THE ECONOMIC BOARD MEMBERS.

Mayor Domain explained that last year it was approved to create an Economic Development Board for the city. Emmett Albro has worked diligently to get the board together and to make sure that we were within guidelines. Mayor Domain presented the following individuals for approval. *Mr. Eddie White, Mr. Jerry Reescano, Ms. Giovanni Stewart, Mr. John Bennett, Mr. Reggie Rollins, Mrs. Barbara Lange, and Mr. Emmett Albro.*

Marivious explained that Councilman White could not vote on this agenda item because he is being considered for a position on the Economic Development Board.

There was no further discussion. A motion was made. All were in favor. Passed unanimously.

Motion made by: Councilman Michael Trahan II

Seconded by: Councilwoman Hardy

All in favor: 4 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

5. CONSIDER AND IF APPROPRIATE TAKE ACTION TO PURCHASE AN AD IN OUR MOTHER OF MERCY EASTER RODEO BROCHURE FOR \$300.00.

Mayor Domain was contacted by Mr. Walters regarding placing a full-page ad in the brochure for this year. It was determined that we did approve the ad for last year and would like to move forward this year as well. Councilwoman Harrison and Councilwoman Hardy both asked if this was something that we okay legally to do. Marivious explained that if we are not endorsing a particular religion that it is legal to purchase the ad. There was no further discussion. A motion was made. All were in favor. Passed unanimously.

Motion made by: Councilman Eddie White
Seconded by: Councilman Alfred Freeman Jr.
All in favor: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

6. CONSIDER AND IF APPROPRIATE TAKE ACTION TO PURCHASE JOHN DEERE ZERO TURN LAWN MOWER FOR \$13,890 TO BE PAID OUT MONTHLY OVER THREE (3) YEARS.

Mayor Domain explained that currently we pay \$500 a month to a third-party lawn care service to cut the city lot, the lift stations, and the old fire pad that we own. She explained that with this zero-turn lawn mower we would be able to maintain the aforementioned areas in addition to maintaining the grass along the streets in between the times when the county does their cutting. Councilman Trahan asked if buying this lawn mower would cancel out the contract with the third-party contractor. Mayor Domain stated that yes, it would cancel out that contract and that we would then use that \$6,000 a year to pay for the zero-turn lawn mower. Councilwoman Hardy asked if we received 3 bids before moving forward. Mayor Domain stated that she did not get three bids because she wanted to go with John Deere because right now, they are offering a 60 month no interest promotion with an additional \$1250 rebate. We would also get a 10% municipality discount. There was no further discussion. A motion was made. All were in favor. Passed unanimously.

Motion made by: Councilman Eddie White
Seconded by: Councilman Alfred Freeman Jr.
All in favor: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

7. CONSIDER AND IF APPROPRIATE TAKE ACTION TO PURCHASE A HOTWATER HEATER FOR THE CITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$429.00.

Mayor Domain explained that the hot water heater has not worked in the nine months that she has been here. She also explained that the current hot water heater that we have in the back is gas and it has not worked. A picture and price of the hot water heater that we are considering purchasing was provided. Mayor Domain explained that we need to have hot water for us to wash our hands, to clean the kitchen, and for the cleaning crew to be able to mop the floors and keep the building clean. Councilman Trahan asked if we are replacing the hot water heater with another gas model. Mayor Domain explained that due to the issues with proper ventilation she is opting to replace the hot water heater with an electric one. A motion was made. All were in favor. Passed unanimously.

Motion made by: Councilman Michael Trahan
Seconded by: Councilwoman Audrey Harrison
All in favor: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING:

At 7:08 PM, the Executive session meeting began. After the session, a motion was made to end the closed session at 8:42 PM. Motion was made. All were in favor. Passed unanimously.

Motion made by: Councilwoman Audrey Harrison

Seconded by: Councilman Michael Trahan II

All in favor: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

***After the executive session meeting, we revisited the first item on the agenda.*

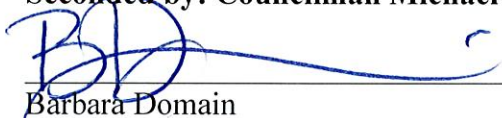
MAYOR'S REPORT.

7. ADJOURNMENT.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Motion made by: Councilwoman Audrey Harrison

Seconded by: Councilman Michael Trahan II



Barbara Domain
Mayor



Wellona Godfrey
City Secretary

