

**MINUTES
CITY OF AMES
304 MARTIN DR. – AMES, TEXAS
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 20, 2024
6:00 p.m.**

The City Council for the City of Ames, Texas held a meeting at the Ames City Hall at 6:04 p.m. Mayor 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, and Alfred Freeman Jr. Audrey Harrison was absent.

CITIZEN APPEARANCE

No citizens were present at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 12, 2024, REGULAR 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 Eddie White
Seconded by: Councilwoman Elizabeth “Liz” Hardy
All in favor: 4 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

1. CONSIDER AND IF APPROPRIATE, TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE 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.

The council members took a moment to look over the ordinance. Councilman Trahan asked if the ordinance referred to business or private property. Mayor Domain stated that it would be private property because the ordinance does not state whether it is residential or commercial. Mayor Domain called on Marivious Allen for clarification at this time. Marivious explained that in Section 1, the purpose of the bindings is to regulate the buildup of vehicles on private residential land. It also applies to all private property in Section 2. The ordinance reads, either owned by an individual or entity and the entity can be a commercial business. Therefore, the ordinance would apply both for commercial and residential. Mayor Domain stated that the only exception to that rule would be if the business is labeled as a car dealership. Marivious stated yes because that would be their purpose as a business. Councilwoman Hardy asked if this ordinance is separate from the junk car ordinance that the city has in place. Mayor Domain explained that the junk car ordinance is already in place and that Ordinance NO. 2024-004 is a

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

Motion made by: Councilman Michael Trahan II

Seconded by: Councilman Alfred Freeman Jr.

All in favor: 4 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

2. CONSIDER AND IF APPROPRIATE, TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE 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 explained that based on previous discussions, it was decided that the sewer rate would increase to \$44.00 for the first 4000 gallons and \$3.75 for every 1000 gallons that are over the 4000 gallons. She brought their attention to Exhibit A, which would provide a 10% discount for qualifying senior citizens 65 and older or anybody with a disability that can provide documentation to us. The discounted rates will be \$39.60 for the first 0 to 4000 gallons and \$3.40 for every 1000 gallons that are over 4000 gallons. Councilman Trahan stated that the budget is based on the rate of \$44.00 and wanted to know where the money would come from to make up for the discounted rate. Mayor Domain explained that we have money coming in from other things that we did not include in the budget and that would help to cover the difference. Marivious also added that the budget reflects just the monthly charge. The usage of greater than 4000 gallons was not included in the budget so that will fill in for the discounted rate. He also stated that with the senior discount and the disability discount, he is not sure how many people would qualify, but the way it's written with the \$44.00 monthly charge plus the volumetric charge of 4001 gallons or greater, he believes the city should be able to recoup the difference and stay within budget. Councilman Trahan asked how one proves a disability. Mayor Domain explained that the individual would have to supply their documentation from the Social Security Administration. Mayor Domain explained that if the VA documentation stated that the individual is disabled, then they would qualify for the discount. At this time Marivious explained that he looked at a few other city's websites that offered senior and disabled person discounts. He also stated that he understands that there may be a multitude of people here in the city who may or may not qualify for the discount, but in terms of where the wastewater rate charge is now and where it's going to be, the discount could provide some type of relief at the end of the day. Councilman Trahan asked if the discount applied to the trash as well. Mayor Domain stated that the discount only applied to the wastewater. At this time Marivious explained that for the ordinance purposes, it states that the resident will provide documentation that they are eligible or qualify as a disabled person and those terms can be pulled from the code. Being that the City of Ames is a Type A municipality, they can implement, enforce, and regulate the ordinances of the city so long as it's permitted under the laws of the State of Texas. There was no further discussion. A motion was made. All were in favor. Passed unanimously.

Motion made by: Councilwoman Elizabeth "Liz" Hardy

Seconded by: Councilman Michael Trahan II

All in favor: 4 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

4. CONSIDER AND IF APPROPRIATE, TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE DECLARING MARCH 16TH OF EACH YEAR AS WENDELL LAWRENCE MORRIS DAY.

Mayor Domain explained that she was approached by a citizen to request that we honor Lawrence Morris because of the impact that he had in the community and surrounding communities as well. 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: 4 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

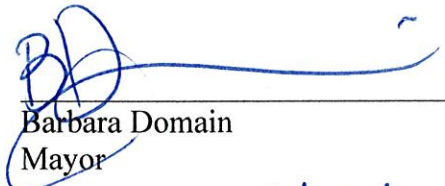
5. MAYOR'S REPORT

- The contractors will start paving Donatto Street tomorrow (February 21, 2024). The oil was put down today and the 400 feet of road passed inspection.
- We have received most of the supplies and materials that we need to begin the work on the manhole repairs. She is waiting for New Plank to provide a quote on eh cost of equipment. The supplies that we are waiting for are the gas monitors, an extension ladder, and the two-way radios. They have already scoped out which manholes are worse and that will be the starting point. We received the line camera, and we are going to use it to try to find the leak at the one property that we had difficulty with. We could hear the leak, but we couldn't see where it was coming from.
- We were approved for the lawnmower, it should be delivered one day this week, if not next week and we will start out with the maintenance of the grass in the city.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Motion made by: Councilman Michael Trahan II
Seconded by: Councilman Eddie White



Barbara Domain
Mayor



Wellona Godfrey
City Secretary