

**CITY OF AMES
304 MARTIN DR. – AMES, TEXAS
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 11, 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, and Eddie White. Alfred Freeman Jr., and Audrey Harrison were absent for this meeting.

CITIZEN APPREARANCE

Mayor Domain asked if there were any citizens present who would wish to speak? There were no citizens present at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2024 SPECIAL 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: 3 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

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

Mayor Domain explained that this ordinance was previously approved; however, it was not approved the correct way. 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 Elizabeth Hardy

All in favor: 3 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

- 2. CONSIDER AND IF APPROPRIATE, TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE 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.**

Councilman Trahan asked where the copy of the Ordinance was in the packet. Mayor Domain explained that the ordinances were not printed because they were previously

approved; however, they were not approved the correct way. Mayor Domain asked if he would like a copy of the ordinance. A copy of the ordinance was provided. Mayor Domain also went into detail explaining the changes that were reflected in the updated ordinance that included an increase in the contract labor and adding a clerk and a code enforcer. Marivious added that we also added 2 employees to replace the previous employee. Councilman Trahan for clarification, asked if those updates were complete. Marivious explained that procedurally we had to go back and conduct the all-in favor part of the approval process for the ordinance to be effective. Councilman Trahan asked if the employees added were city employees or contract labor. Mayor Domain explained that they are city employees. Councilman Trahan then asked what the totally monthly payroll amount was for the 2 new employees. Mayor Domain asked for a copy of the entire budget so that she could provide the amount for salaries that is reflected on the budget. A copy of the budget was provided and the amount for salaries in the budget is \$164,000. Councilman Trahan then asked what the annual amount for salaries was now and how much did it increase buy. Mayor Domain then asked for a copy of the budget for last year so that she could provide the amount of the increase from last years budgeted salaries and the current years budgeted salaries. Mayor Domain explained that we have already approved these changes, we just did not do them the proper way, which is why we had to come back to them to do it correctly. Councilman Trahan stated that the negative number on balance sheet has him alarmed. Councilwoman Hardy inquired about the pay increase for the mayor. Marivious explained that the pay increase for the mayor could not be increased during their term, it would have to be increased in the following term. He also stated that instead of using the money to increase the salary, it would be disbursed to other parts of the budget. 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 Hardy

All in favor: 3 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

3. CONSIDER AND IF APPROPRIATE, TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE THE AMMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 2024-006.

Mayor Domain explained that this amendment was to approve the new sewer rate and the way we would define the discount for anyone that is a senior or has a disability, which is defined in exhibit A. Councilwoman Hardy asked if we could be more specific with the wording because anyone could get a doctor's note claiming disability. Mayor Domain stated that the documentation from the doctor would have to be the same information that the doctor would submit to the Social Security Administration for disability. Councilwoman Hardy stated that she thinks we should take out the doctor's note and once they get their award letter then they can get the discount. Councilwoman Hardy expressed her concern about the doctor's notes is that people will get a note stating that they can't work, and it may not be the truth. Mayor Domain explained that she is the kind of person that will call and verify that the note was legitimately written by the doctor. Mayor Domain asked Marivious if we could approve the ordinance with the amendment to take out the doctors note. Marivious stated that it would have to be

approved as revised. He also explained that he included these forms of proof to reflect what is required for the City of Beaumont. It was determined that we would remove the doctor's note as a form of proof for disability from the ordinance. There was no further discussion. A motion was made. All were in favor. Passed unanimously.

Motion made by: Councilwoman Elizabeth Hardy

Seconded by: Councilman Michael Trahan II

All in favor: 3 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

4. CONSIDER AND IF APPROPRIATE, TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE RENNOVATIONS TO THE AMES CITY HALL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4500.00 FOR LABOR AND \$298.39 FOR MATERIAL FOR A TOTAL OF \$4,798.39.

Mayor Domain provided details of the renovations that she is proposing: In the front lobby she would like to open up the windows, raise them up higher, and add a countertop. She would like to have the poles in the middle of the conference room, install a ½ sink in the area by the copy machine, install the attic ladder, and build a mobile judge's bench. Councilman Trahan asked if there is plumbing already in the area for the sink. Mayor Domain stated that the plan is to tie into the existing water line in the bathroom. Councilman Trahan stated that the if the poles were to be removed, we would have to go back in with a support beam in the ceiling because the existing poles are load bearing. He suggested that we should have an engineer come in and look at the project before moving forward to make sure that it is safe, and that ceiling does not fall down on a resident when they walk in. Mayor Domain explained that she would not do anything that could hurt a resident or the employees that work in the building every day. Councilwoman Hardy asked if we could get the contractor to come in and provide detailed information and the cost of what would be required to safely remove the poles before we approve it. Mayor Domain asked if she should remove the work for the beams and move forward with the other renovations. Councilman Trahan stated that he does have enough information to vote at this time. Mayor Domain asked the council to tell her what else they would need to be able to vote on this agenda item. Councilman Trahan stated that we need a more descriptive plan to include the materials list and the cost for labor. Councilwoman Hardy asked if we need to have 3 bids for this project. Mayor Domain explained that you only need 3 bids when the amount of money being spent is \$50,000 or more. It was confirmed by Marivious that unless there is another ordinance in place, the amount that would require 3 bids is \$50,000 or more. After further discussion it was decided that agenda item number 4 would be tabled until more information was available to bring to the council.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The mayor provided the state participation 21.2025 form for review. She explained that she met with a representative from TXDOT about our existing sewer lines that run parallel to Highway 90. We were told that we would have to move those lines at our expense because we were given access by permit and not by easement. The representative asked that we provide her with our plan to remove the lines as well as the engineers plans to install new lines by April 10, 2024. She asked if we could abandon the old sewer lines because due to the age and the condition of those lines and manholes, it is going to cost a lot of money. It would be much

cheaper for us to start fresh. Mayor Domain explained that the SP 21.2025 program is what is available to assist with this project. With this program, the city pays for everything up front and we would be reimbursed. She also stated that there are several options that we can consider to assist with this project. She plans to reach out to Monica Pierre to see if there are any grants or loans that we may be able to apply for to assist as well. If there is nothing else available to us, we may have to go back to USDA for assistance. Mayor Domain stated that as of now, we need to obtain an engineer as soon as possible to draw up the plans for the project. Mayor Domain explained that the speed bumps on Martin Street have been upgraded. She stated that she is planning to install planter boxes on the sides of the speed bumps to prevent the cars from driving around the speed bumps. Mayor Domain also stated that she received a quote for limestone to make repairs to Organ Street.


EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING:

At 6:53 PM, the Executive session meeting began. After the session, a motion was made to end the closed session at 8:10 PM. Motion was made. All were in favor. Passed unanimously.


7. ADJOURNMENT.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

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



Barbara Domain
Mayor



Wellona Godfrey
City Secretary