ORDINANCE NO. 2026-001

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AMES, TEXAS, PROVIDING FOR A GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE 2ND OF MAY 2026 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING A THREE (3) WARD COUNCILMEMBERS (WARDS I, II, AND IV) AND; PROVIDING THE FORM OF THE BALLOT AT SUCH ELECTION; DIRECTING THE GIVING OF NOTICE OF SUCH ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR A JOINT ELECTION WITH THE LIBERTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AND LIBERTY COUNTY; AND CONTAINING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SUBJECT AND APPROVING A RUNOFF ELECTION IF NECESSARY ON A SUBSEQUENT DATE AS DETERMINED BY THE COUNTY ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF AMES, TEXAS:

SECTION I

In accordance with the Constitution, and general laws of the State of Texas, a general municipal election is hereby called and ordered for the first Saturday in May 2026, the same being the 2nd day of said month, at which election all qualified voters residing within the corporate limits of the City of Ames may vote for the purpose of electing a three (3) Councilmembers to Position I, II and IV, for full terms.

SECTION II

No person's name shall be placed upon the official ballot as a candidate for any of the above-mentioned positions unless such person has filed his or her sworn application, as provided by Section 141.031, Section 143.004, and Section 143.007 of the Texas Election Code, with the City Secretary, not later than five o'clock (5:00) p.m. on the seventy-eighth (78th) day before the date of such election. The City Secretary shall note on the face of each such application the date and time of its filing. A declaration of write-in candidacy must be filed with the City Secretary as provided by Section 146.054 of the Texas Election Code, not later than five o'clock (5:00) p.m. of the seventy-fourth (74th) day before election.

SECTION III

Said election shall be held jointly with Liberty County in accordance with Chapter 271 of the Texas Election Code; the Liberty County Election Administrator will coordinate, supervise, and manage all aspects of administering said joint election in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code.

SECTION IV

Legally qualified voters residing within the corporate limits of the City of Ames shall be entitled to a vote at said election for the respective candidate(s) and other matters that may appear on the ballot.

SECTION V

The notice and order of said election shall be given by posting and publishing said notice and order as provided by the Texas Election Code.

SECTION VI

That an electronic voting system, as described by Title 8 of the Texas Election Code, shall be used for said election.

SECTION VII

That the Liberty County Commissioners shall appoint officers of said election to serve at the Central Counting Station.

SECTION VIII

Procuring, allocating, and disturbing election supplies shall be prepared in accordance with Title 5 of the Texas Election Code.

SECTION IX

Early voting by personal appearance shall be conducted each weekday at the Jack Hartel Community Center, Hardin City Hall, Santa Fe Administration Building, Cleveland Civic Center, and Dayton Community Center, between the hours of 9:00am to 6:00pm beginning April 20, 2026, and

ending April 24, 2026, and between the hours of 7:00am to 7:00pm beginning April 27, 2026 and ending April 28, 2026.

Early voting by personal appearance shall be conducted on the weekend at Jack Hartel Community Center, Hardin City Hall, Santa Fe Administration Building, Cleveland Civic Center, and Dayton Community Center, between the hours of 7:00am to 7:00pm on April 25, 2026, and between the hours of 1:00pm to 7:00pm on April 26, 2026.

Early voting ballot applicants and ballots voted by mail shall be sent to the Lee Haidusek Chambers, Liberty County Clerk, Liberty County Courthouse, 1923 Sam Houston Street, Liberty, Texas 77575. The Liberty County Election Administrator shall keep said office open for at least eight (8) hours between 8:00a.m. and 5:00 p.m., on each day for early voting or an official State Holiday beginning on the twelfth (12th) day through the fourth (4th) day preceding the date of such election; provided, however, except as authorized by Sections 85.005 (a) and (d), Texas Election Code, said County Elections Administrator shall not permit anyone to vote early by personal appearance on any day or time not designated herein or early voting and under no circumstances shall he permit anyone to vote early by personal appearance at any time when his office is not open to the public for early voting purposes.

Early Voting Dates and Times

Monday - April 20, 2026 (9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

Tuesday - April 21, 2026 (9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

Wednesday - April 22, 2026 (9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

Thursday - April 23, 2026 (9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

Friday - April 24, 2026 (9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

Saturday - April 25, 2026 (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

Sunday - April 26, 2026 (1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

Monday - April 27, 2026 (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

Tuesday - April 28, 2026 (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

SECTION X

That early votes by personal appearance and by mail shall be counted by an early voting ballot board consisting of a presiding judge and those individuals chosen by the Elections Administrator, as are deemed necessary. Early votes shall be canvassed and returned by the Early Voting Ballot Board to the Central Counting Station by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

SECTION XI

If any person or persons appointed herein do not appear, are unable to perform their duties, or fail to perform their duties, the County Elections Administrator shall have the discretion and authority to appoint any substitute personnel to fill the position(s).

SECTION XII

The order in which the names of the candidates are to be printed on the ballot shall be determined by a drawing by the City Secretary, as provided by Section 52.094 of the Texas Election Code. The City Secretary shall post a notice in the office of City Secretary, 304 Martin Dr., Ames, Texas, 77575 at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the date on which the drawing is to be held, of the time and place of the drawing, and shall also give personal notice to any candidate who makes written request for such notice and furnishes to the City Secretary a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Each candidate involved in the drawing, or a representative designated by the candidate, shall have a right to be present and observe the drawing.

SECTION XIII

That if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance, or the application of same to particular set of persons or circumstances, should for any reason be held to be invalid or adjudged unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions of this ordinance, and to such end the various portions and provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable; and the City Council of the City of Ames, Texas, declares it

would have passed each and every party of the same notwithstanding the omission of any such part thus declared to be invalid or unconstitutional, or whether there be one or more parts.

SECTION XIV

That all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such inconsistency or conflict, hereby repealed.

The meeting at which this ordinance was approved was in all things conducted in strict compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL of the City of Ames this the 9th day of February 2026.

CITY OF AMES:

Barbara Domain, Mayor

ATTEST:

Wellona Godfrey, City Secretary