

The Board of Commissioners for the City of Alamo, Texas met for the First Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 7:00 p.m, at the City of Alamo Municipal Building.

COMMISSION PRESENT:

Mayor Diana Martinez
Pete Morales, Mayor Pro-tem
Trino Medina, Commissioner
Robert De La Garza, Commissioner

COMMISSION ABSENT:

Pilar Garza, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

Luciano Ozuna, City Manager
Rick Palacios, City Attorney
Margot Salas, City Secretary
Bobby Salinas, CPD Director
Yvette Mendoza, Finance Director

Arnold Robles, Parks & Recreation Director
Rafael Tapia, AEDC Director
Acting Fire Chief Roy Contreras
Ronnie Cruz, City Engineer
Lieutenant Albert Caballero

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Diana Martinez called the first regular meeting held on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 to order at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Alamo Municipal Building. Mayor Diana Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance and Father Rene Angel led the Invocation.

C. Presentation and Announcements.

D. Consideration and action to approve the minutes for the First Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017.

Commissioner Robert de la Garza stated that he had a couple of corrections. On Item F, 3rd sentence, it says “*every*” it probably means “*ever*”. Item G, the 4th sentence from the bottom, it says “to move in a “*portable*” not a “*potable*”, Item I, about 2/3 of the way down, it says, “Mr. Ozuna asked whether any “*restriction*” probably meant “*restriction(s)*”, on the last page 3rd sentence, it says, “Commissioner de la Garza asked in regards to the storm “*drain*”, and on the bottom of the page it says “Juan Ortiz stated that he was a student with the VIDA program and wanted to “*thanked*” the City Commission for their support. He stated that was it.

Commissioner Robert de la Garza motioned to approve the minutes for the First Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017. Mayor Pro-tem Pete Morales seconded the motion. Motion carried. Commissioner Trino Medina abstained.

E. Consideration and action to select the honoree for the 2018 Rio Grande Valley Walk of Fame to represent the City of Alamo.

Mayor Pro-tem Pete Morales motioned to select Socorro Medina for the 2018 Rio Grande Valley Walk of Fame to represent the City of Alamo. Commissioner Trino Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried.

F. Consideration and action on an ordinance to amend the 2017-2018 General Fund General Administration Budget to provide additional funding to the Boys and Girls Club.

Mr. Luciano Ozuna, City Manager, stated that two weeks ago they had a budget workshop in regards to the Boys & Girls Club and their request to transfer the monies that are being awarded to them from the Urban County Program and take them out of the General Fund. He stated that there was a discussion regarding this and the consensus that he gather was that the Commission wanted to do that amendment to the budget so that they could support them out of the General Fund with an additional \$30,000.00.

Mayor Diana Martinez asked whether that was the cost to cover the Baseball.

Mr. Ozuna answered no, he stated that was the cost to cover the, in order words, go through the Urban County, not go through the Urban County, go through the General Fund, the \$30,000.00 will then be placed under the Public Improvements such water, sewer, streets and drain.

Mayor Pro-tem Pete Morales motioned to approve the ordinance to amend the 2017-2018 General Fund General Administration Budget to provide additional funding to the Boys and Girls Club. Commissioner Robert de la Garza seconded the motion. Motion carried.

G. Consideration and action on an ordinance to amend the 2017-2018 General Fund Parks & Recreation Budget to provide funding for the baseball program.

Mr. Ozuna stated that this was another item of discussion during the workshop. He stated that Arnold Robles, Parks & Recreation Director, stated that there is approximately \$50,000.00 that was needed in order for the city to run the baseball program and that of course the city is taking it over under the Parks & Recreation Department. It will no longer be run by the Boys & Girls Club and in order for the city to do that they need to, (1) is to hire a person for approximately six months out of the years. They should have a breakdown that they provided to them in the packet which is Parks & Recreation for the baseball assistant will be approximately nine months of a rate of \$9.00 an hour including the FICA it will be \$9,446.00 and then there will be a \$4,337.00 increase to the Parks & Recreation Director to run that program. He stated that there will be baseball equipment and supplies in the amount of \$36,000.00. He stated that this is a budget, it's an estimate, they don't know if that's the actual cost. Right now, Mr. Robles is going through the equipment that the Boys & Girls Club have left over from the baseball program, to see if any of that equipment can be utilize thus saving the city some money from this amount. He stated that is what he is going through right now. He asked whether that was correct.

Arnold Robles stated that is what he is going through.

Mayor Diana Martinez asked whether they could combine Item G & H to vote on them together since he was already giving them the salary increase for the director and the baseball assistant.

Mr. Ozuna stated that he would prefer for them to be separate.

Mayor Pro-tem Pete Morales motioned to approve the ordinance to amend the 2017-2018 General Fund Parks & Recreation Budget to provide funding for the baseball program. Mayor Diana Martinez seconded the motion. Motion carried.

H. Consideration and action to set the salary for an assistant to implement the baseball program and to increase the salary of the Parks and Recreation Director.

Commissioner Trino Medina motioned to approve the salary for an assistant to implement the baseball program and to increase the salary of the Parks & Recreation Director. Mayor Diana Martinez seconded the motion. Motion carried.

I. Consideration and action regarding the designation/appointment of an acting Police Chief or Interim Police Chief and set the salary for that position.

Mr. Ozuna stated that at this time he would like to recommend Lieutenant Caballero as Acting Police Chief. He stated that the Police Chief is ill and his information that he gave him a week ago was that he would not be able to return during the month of January. He stated resigned and it stated the end of January to be his last date however because of his illness he will not be able to return. So in the mean time they need to appoint an authority, need to appoint leadership, somebody with responsibility. He stated that the Lieutenant, he's work for the police department and for Chief Arturo Espinosa for more than 26 years and as a Lieutenant 20 years. He stated that he does not see any other alternative as this time to appoint anybody else as far as he is concern to appoint him.

Commissioner Pete Morales motioned to approve Chief Lieutenant Caballero as interim Chief. Mayor Diana Martinez seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Ozuna stated that there is another item, or there's also to set the salary. He stated that the salary would be, he is recommending after discussing it with Lieutenant Caballero in the amount of \$58,509.00.

Mayor Diana Martinez motioned to set the salary for the new acting police chief at \$58,509.00. Commissioner Trino Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lieutenant Albert Caballero stated that he has been with the department for a long time and he was going to retire, things happen, he decided, he gave himself a commitment to Mr. Ozuna saying that he would stay with the department. The city has always been good to him, the department has been good to him. He didn't want to leave the department in a predicament without having anybody with leadership. He thanked the Commission for giving him the opportunity to lead the department and stay with the city.

J. Consideration and action to remove and/or appoint members to the Alamo Planning and Zoning Commission.

Commissioner Robert de la Garza motioned to remove all existing members and appoint members Gilbert Flores, Janie Solis, Albert Rodriguez, Estela Solis, Arturo Perez, Omar

Guerra and George Castillo, Sr. to the Alamo Planning & Zoning Commission. Commissioner Trino Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried.

K. Consideration and action to select the Geo-technical engineers for the subdivisions and City project for compaction testing, soil testing, etc.

Bobby Salinas, Community Planning and Development Director, stated that they recently passed the subdivision amendment that included the use of Geo-technical engineering consultants for the use of all city subdivision so that the engineers will be working for the city and not be consultant to the actual project engineer, it makes it a little bit more clean, it give the city the authority and they are having to answer to the city when the city goes out for the testing for geo-tec. He stated that they went through RFQ and received three, Millennium Engineering Group, Terracon, and Raba Kistner. He stated that staff is recommending the rotation of all three, utilize based on their ranking which would be Millennium, Terracon and Raba Kistner. So that way, whenever there's a city project they will go down the rotation, if there's a subdivision that comes through a project engineer, they would go on to the next one, and so on and so forth.

Commissioner Robert de la Garza stated that they graded them so they are basically suggesting that Millennium is the top.

Bobby Salinas stated that Millennium is on the top. He stated that the way they are shown on the memo is the way they graded by ranking and it's Millennium, Terracon and Raba Kistner.

Commissioner Robert de la Garza asked whether they could only use Millennium as the only one.

Bobby Salinas stated that it's up to the wishes of the Commission.

Commissioner Trino Medina asked the City Engineer Ronnie Cruz whether he knew all these firms and whether they were reputable.

Mr. Ronnie Cruz, City Engineer, stated that they all were.

Mayor Diana Martinez asked Ronnie Cruz what was his recommendation. Was it to use a rotation or just go with one.

Mr. Ronnie Cruz stated that he has seen it both ways, it depends on the city, all three firms are reputable firms. He stated that they are good firms, how they do it, it doesn't matter. He stated that he doesn't know how many projects that the city has in a year or what the rotation would entail. He stated that just to be cleared the developers of the subdivision are the ones that would be paying the fee for the engineers.

Commissioner Robert de la Garza stated, so then it will not be the city actually paying.

Mr. Cruz stated that it will not be coming out of the city unless it's a city project like a street project or whatever so then the city will pay for that but if it's a subdivision where a developer comes in then the developer would be responsible to pay that, it's normally 3% of the total

project cost.

Mr. Ozuna stated that they have a city project going on at Plena Vista Subdivision, they have done most of the work, they've done all the back field on the lines and the compression, they are will for the city to select a company so that the company can go out there and make sure that the compression on the laying of the pipe is correct before they pave. He stated that then there's subdivisions that come up and they do have quite a bit of work for these companies. He stated that it's always, for example, if you choose Millennium Engineers, now if they were to choose Millennium Engineer tonight, they would be the one for the rest of year or is this just specifically for this project.

Bobby Salinas stated that it would be for two years. He stated that it would be a single firm for two years if the Commission wishes to do it that way.

Commissioner Robert de la Garza motioned to select Millennium Engineering Group the city projects and a rotation for the subdivision. Mayor Pro-tem Pete Morales seconded the motion. Motion carried.

L. Consideration and action to extend the inter-local agreement with the Hidalgo County Head Start Program for the use of the land.

Mr. Ozuna stated that for many years the Head Start Program has use the city's land there by the tennis courts at the Lions Park and every year they have the option to extend their contract by two years however it needs approval by the city commission.

Commissioner Robert de la Garza motioned to approve to extend the inter-local agreement with the Hidalgo County Head Start Program for the use of the land. Mayor Diana Martinez seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: Five minutes per person with no response from the City Commission. Residents must sign up prior to the city meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Diana Martinez adjourned the meeting.

Mayor Diana Martinez

ATTEST:

Margot Salas, City Secretary