

The Board of Commissioners for the City of Alamo, Texas met for the second regular meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the City of Alamo Municipal Building.

COMMISSION PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Luciano Ozuna, Jr., City Manager	Rosie Rodriguez, Accountant
Rick Palacios, City Attorney	Baudelio Castillo, Police Chief
Alexandra Rangel, City Secretary	Michael Torres, IT Director
Bobby Salinas, CPD Director	Rafael Tapia, AEDC Director
Melissa Rodriguez, Purchasing Agent	Alex Oyoque, Museum Curator
Ronnie Cruz, City Engineer	
Julio Villarreal, Public Works Director	
Roy Contreras, Fire Chief	

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Diana Martinez called the first regular meeting held on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 to order at 7:00 pm at the City of Alamo Municipal Building. Mayor Diana Martinez led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Herb Moring led with prayer.

C. Presentation and Announcements.

Bobby Salinas presented on in Celebration of Our 9th Annual Lighted Christmas Parade and Lighting of the Downtown Tree on December 8, 2018. Parade begins at 6:30pm at HEB to Central Park. Tree Lighting Ceremony at 7:00pm, entries to show up by 5:30pm for float judging.

Commissioner Trino Medina sent out condolences from the City of Alamo to our 41st President George H. W. Bush and prayers for Mark Sandoval and Ms. Rosario Coplea.

Mayor Pro- tem Pete Morales announced on the South Texas Health System ER Alamo Community Open House on Saturday, December 15, from 2 pm-4 pm.

D. Consideration and action to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of July 17, 2018

Luciano Ozuna, City Manager explained the lack of details on the minutes in due to minimal notes found within the previous administrator packet. Consultations between Mr. Ozuna and Ms. Alexandra Rangel, City Secretary occurred to gain as much details as possible since the original recording, the CD was not found. Commissioner Robert De La Garza motioned and Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of July 17, 2018 as presented. Motioned Carried.

E. Consideration and action to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of Nov. 20, 2018. *Commissioner Robert De La Garza made a motion to approve and Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of November 20, 2018 as presented. Motion carried.*

F. Consideration and action on a request by Safe Haven for Kids, a non-Profit corporation, for a donation.

Luciano Ozuna, City Manager stated based on the last meeting on November 20, 2018 Safe Haven to be included within this week's agenda by the board. The money requested in not part of the regular budget of the city, therefore funding is not possible this years. With instruction to look into the urban county funding for next year, he checked with urban county to change the work plan and urban county confirmed the changes. Funding is possible for next year. Commissioner Trino Medina motioned to approve, Mayor Diana Martinez seconded. Motion Carried.

G. Consideration and action regarding consultation to employ a Finance Director.

Luciano Ozuna, City Manager introduced the application of Orlando Lucio. Only two applicants during the two week opening, the application was published in the monitor and in the advanced. Both applicants were interviewed, references were checked.

Commissioner Pilar Garza motioned to approve, Mayor Diana Martinez seconded. Motion Carried.

Mayor Pro- tem Pete Morales invites Mr. Orlando Lucio to introduce himself.

Mr. Orlando Lucio introduced himself and his experience in finance of 8-10 years.

Luciano Ozuna, City Manager announced the setting of the salary of \$60,000 a year.

H. Consideration and action on Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of Alamo with Hidalgo County for rural fire.

Chief Roy Contreras presented on the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of Alamo with Hidalgo County for rural fire, and mentioned everything has been cleared by Hidalgo County. Luciano Ozuna, City Manager stated City attorneys have reviewed the agreements. The question of giving up the south end since the city of Pharr took over, Chief Contreras mentioned since most calls are placed to the east and north it will not be feasible to serve the south area.

Mayor Diana Martinez motioned to approve, Mayor Pro- tem Pete Morales seconded. Motion Carried.

I. Consideration and action on an update regarding the N. Alamo Road water and sewer lines relocation Project and field change orders.

Mr. Ronnie Cruz, City Engineer presented on update on the N. Alamo Road water and sewer lines relocation Project and field change orders. As of today December 4, 2018 all construction is done, all that needs to be done is clean up and paving. The motion to Proceed was on August 6th, 60 calendar days. Not including rain days and additional construction. Mayor Diana Martinez motioned to approve, Mayor Pro- tem Pete Morales seconded. Motion Carried

J. Consideration and action on a request by the Alamo Police Department for a budget amendment to increase the travel and training line item.

Trino Medina: I have something to read real quick before we start discussion on that, this is from the chief and I asked him for permission to give me some stats and information on what he has done so far. (The following statement in the attachment)

Trino Medina: The purpose of all of this is because I had a question. Why as we as a commission specifically Mayor Diana Martinez and Commissioner Robert De La Garza are targeting a police officer, a police chief an putting him on the agenda for minor things like a budget item. Which normally is approved by the city manager. Why are we targeting him, is it because they have arrested your friends or what, we want to know, the community wants to know because 100% of us are with the police department and we want to know if you are with the criminals or with the Alamo Police department. But with you Mayor Diana Martinez and you Commissioner Robert De La Garza, now I know a lot of this targeting can lead to lawsuits, and so I warn you stop targeting Chief Castillo because it will lead to a lawsuit to the city, it will lead to a lawsuit to you personally. So please stop targeting him by putting him on the agenda every single meeting. Chief Castillo I am proud to call our chief...

Mayor Diana Martinez: My respect

Trino Medina: and I have only heard good things about you. I do not know why Mayor Diana Martinez and Commissioner Robert De La Garza are targeting you and putting you on the agenda. When these are items that can easily be approved but the city manager. I just don't understand it. I hope they can give us a reason; at this point I support Chief Castillo, I support the Alamo Police department and I move to remove, to approve this item the change the chief wants to do. It's not an increase in money its change in his budget that can easily be done by the city manager and I have talked to others city managers and other cities they do it themselves and does not come to city commission unless they are been targeted by a commissioner, which in this case is the case. So I move to approve and I know commissioner Garza to my left, I know her mom has thanked us to arrested drug dealers that where right behind her house that was because of Chief Castillo here, that did that and several of her neighbors came out on TV and said "we thank chief Castillo, we thank the commission for having him on our city and attacking these

drug dealers who were controlling our city in the past.” And commissioner to my left over here, Pilar can attest to that her mom was very happy and her family was very happy we were able to arrest these drug dealers that were dealing drugs right behind their house. So with that said, again I move to approve to I am hoping this is the last time this kind of item comes to the agenda when the budget, his budget has already been approved these are things that can be taken care of by our City Manager not micromanaged by the commission. So I move to approve.

— Mayor Diana Martinez: let me clarify something, as far of the budget. We have a budget, I remember asking the chief do you need this much money for maintenance, he said “yes”. I said “Ok”. In the past two months he has budget for training, in the past two months he has spent that money already for training. Now if he needs money for maintenance throughout the year, this is only the part of December. We still have the whole year to go, he’s going to come back to the city and ask for more money. I mean that money should have been looked at very carefully in training and done the training like monthly or six month you can see, you have the listing of all the training in the last two months.

Commissioner Trino Medina: he’s not asking for an increase he’s only asking for a change in his budget.

Commissioner Robert De La Garza: she gave you the right to talk, please allow us the same courtesy.

Commissioner Trino Medina: Go ahead talk

Mayor Diana Martinez: and how can we approve something that has already been approved in the budget, I don’t agree with that and once again I questioned you. Do you need this much money for maintenance, and you said yes. And now you are telling us, you don’t need this money for maintenance that you want it to training.

Chief Castillo: Mayor let me respond, to your comment...

— Mayor Pro- tem Pete Morales: Chief, Chief, can I just say something to the respond to the Mayor. Sorry. Part of my challenge that I have for the chief is to look into the trainings of a lot of our police officers. If you really think, throughout the years that these gentlemen and ladies did not have the Proper trainings that they have since Chief Castillo came on board. So I challenged him to look at all of our training that all of our police officers have in our town. Yes, he has already gone through a quiet bit of his money through training, but this is training that if you look at the training that they need to do their job. The last thing you want to do, if for an officer who is not trained in certain field goes out and tempers with crime scene that does not know what to do, you know especially when there is people are involved then you have lawsuits that happen. That is my...when I challenged the chief on this, not only also the training of the employee the police department but their involvement community wise. I have seen a lot of these police officers go on their own time, free time and donate their time to our community now. There are not charging the city to be out there been involved in the explorer Pro-gram they are there because they are volunteering their time because they want to give back to the community and to also follow the chief. You are talking about the monies that we have here, this is money that has been invested to our police officers that they need it’s not something that they have not had in the past, they have not have it in the past. So they need this training.

Commissioner Robert De La Garza: when the chief came in, at the beginning and he got interviewed he also said, “He would bring free training to the officers at no cost to the city.”

Mayor Diana Martinez: that is right

— Commissioner Robert De La Garza: now the crime scene investigation course it was just offered November the 13th -16th in Hidalgo Police Department for free, yet we choose to spend about \$3,000 for it. In Harlingen they offered the same course August the 6th -9th for free, they offered it in October 22nd - 25th and I remember the chief specially saying he had friends in the FBI in the County also in DPS and stuff that he could get the course for his officers for free. But yet right now in a month in a half, he has spent \$28,000 so if we are looking in a year, we are looking at a year we are looking about at \$ 224,000 in training. I think it’s a bit excessive, and I think if he wanted to spend that much money he should have presented that figure when we did the budget.

Mayor Pro- tem Pete Morales: With all due respect commissioner, if you think about the price we are talking about money and what our community is worth. I think the money we have spent right now on our officers are well invested to our community. Community that has been so happy with what has been going on and I think not money just spent but its money invested to our community and public safety of our community.

Commissioner Robert De La Garza: I think the community has really elected us to be the caretakers of the money not for us just to spend as we chose fit. We have too, basically if you want to run the city to the ground when I guess...

Mayor Pro- tem Pete Morales: It's not that commissioner

Commissioner Trino Medina: First of all Commissioner De La Garza, you did not have enough money to go to Vegas for a training and you asked me for money from my travel account.

Mayor Diana Martinez: that enough, that's already get away from the item we are presenting

Commissioner Trino Medina: I am just saying, he's talking about, this relates from the item

Mayor Diana Martinez: If you want to discuss this, then place in on the next agenda

Commissioner Trino Medina: De la Garza also wanted more money for training but he didn't have enough I don't know where it came from we will find out but he's only asking for money to be changed not even increase in the budget like you did. You increased the budget that's misusing tax payer money he did not. Ok. All he's asking is for us to change the budget to help these officers become better officers. Because you know what, we are getting the best officers now because of him and the training we are offering.

Mayor Pro- tem Pete Morales seconded Commissioner Trino Medina's motion and motion was denied as follows:

For: Mayor Pro- tem Pete Morales and Commissioner Trino Medina

Against: Mayor Diana Martinez, Commissioner Robert De La Garza and Commissioner Pilar Garza

Motion denied.

Commissioner Trino Medina: Mayor this is very disappointing that the, you will do this for our community just that I want that on record.

K. Consideration and action on a variance request to allow for a 23' rear setback instead of the 30' rear setback required by plat, physically located at 1310 Deluxe St., legally described as Lot 48, Palazzo Vegas Ranches Subdivision for Saul Chavez. (Tabled on November 20, 2018 regular meeting).

Mayor Diana Martinez motioned to be removed from tabled. Mayor Pro- tem Pete Morales seconded. Motion carried.

Bobby Salinas presented on the variance request on the site located on Alamo Rd and El Dora. Met with Valley Magic electric for the lines to be adjusted, spoke with Jason Lozano and will adjusting them however by the cost of the builder. Recommending approval for the relocation of utilities by Valley Magic Electric and be paid for by builder and a partial abandonment of the 15 ft. utility easement. Met with the planning and zoning commission on November 14 variance was approved.

Mayor Pro- tem Pete Morales motioned to approve, Mayor Diana Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

L. Consideration and action on a variance request to allow for a 5' side corner setback instead of the 10' side corner setback required by code, physically located at 202 Laura Dr., legally described as Lot 20, Alamo Trails Subdivision for Edward Delgado. (Tabled on November 20, 2018 regular meeting).

Mayor Diana Martinez motioned to be removed from tabled. Mayor Pro- tem Pete Morales seconded. Motion carried.

Bobby Salinas presented on variance request on the lot located on Acacia and Laura. Staff was recommending denial based on the future home can still be modified to meet all the setbacks.

Presence can have a negative impact on future variances. Met with the planning and zoning commission on November 14 variance was approved. Motioned carried 5 to 2.

Mayor Diana Martinez motioned to approve. Mayor Pro- tem Pete Morales seconded. Motion carried.

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

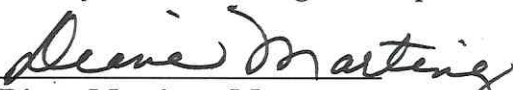
Ms. Mayra Benedetti requested on the addition of Christmas decoration throughout the city

Mr. Edward Delgado, thanked commissioners and mayor and addressed his new residency to the City of Alamo.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Citizens are encouraged to sign the attendance sheet.

There being no further business, Mayor Diana Martinez adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm.


Diana Martinez, Mayor

ATTEST:


Alexandra Rangel, City Secretary