

The Board of Commissioners for the City of Alamo, Texas met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday October 01, 2019 at 7:00 p.m, at the City of Alamo Municipal Building.

COMMISSION PRESENT:

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

COMMISSION ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert L. Salinas, Interim City Manager
Rick Palacios, City Attorney
Alexandra Rangel, City Secretary
Roy Contreras, Fire Chief
Melisa Gonzales, Special Projects Director
Julio Villarreal, Public Works Director
Ronnie Cruz, City Engineer
Arnold Robles, Parks & Rec. Director

Michael Torres, IT Director
Rogelio Alaniz, Interim Police Chief
Adela Perez, Purchasing Agent
Alicia Cano, HR Director
Julio Villareal, Public Works

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Diana Martinez called the regular meeting held on Tuesday, October 01, 2019 to order at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Alamo Municipal Building. Mayor Diana Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance and Melisa Gonzales led the Invocation.

C. Presentations and Announcements

Melisa Gonzales announced the Fire Department will host a fire prevention rally on Wednesday from 6pm-8pm at Peter Piper Pizza in Alamo.

Commissioner Pete Morales announced the Parks and Rec Department will now have registration for tackle football for 4th and 5th graders and all 6th grade. He also thanked the department for these programs that will help the children prepare for middle school and high school level.

Mayor Diana Martinez thanked the volunteers for The National Night Out event.

D. Consideration and Action to approve the minutes for the second meeting of September 17, 2019.

Commissioner Pilar Garza motioned to approve, and Mayor Pro-Tem Robert De La Garza seconded. Motion Carried.

E. Consideration and Action to approve the minutes for the special meeting of September 24, 2019.

Mayor Pro-Tem Robert De La Garza motioned to approve, and Commissioner Pete Morales seconded. Motion Carried

F. Presentation to recognize Alamo Middle School as the Most Favorite Middle School in the 2019 Monitor Readers' Choice Awards.

Mayor Diana Martinez stated items F, G, H, I and J will be announced together for photos opportunities.

Mayor Diana Martinez recognized Mrs. Cristina L. Esparza for Alamo Middle School, Ms. Suzanna Arrerondo for John McKeever Elementary, Sylvia Mendez from Hess Air, Inc. and Linda Duval from Alamo Country Club. She also thanked the schools and the resorts for showing the positive in Alamo.

Commissioner Trino Medina thanked and congratulated all the recipients for this year's awards.

Commissioner Pete Morales congratulated Ms. Esparza and Ms. Arrerondo, and the Directors of the Alamo Country Club

- G. Presentation to recognize Mrs. Cristina L. Esparza as the Most Favorite Principal in the 2019 Monitor Readers' Choice Awards.**
- H. Presentation to recognize John McKeever Elementary as the Most Favorite Elementary School in the 2019 Monitor Readers' Choice Awards.**
- I. Presentation to recognize Hess Air, Inc. as the Most Favorite AC/Heating Service in the 2019 Monitor Readers' Choice Awards.**
- J. Presentation to recognize Alamo Country Club as the Most Favorite Retirement Community in the 2019 Monitor Readers' Choice Awards.**
- K. Consideration and Action to proclaim October 2019 as Career and Technology Manufacturing Month**

Special Projects Director Melissa Gonzales read the proclamation for Career and Technical Manufacturing Month

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education is a huge endeavor in the United States. In Texas 81% of all high school students take at least one CTE course, and one in four students takes three or more courses in a pathway. In brief, CTE programs serve many students in Texas.

WHEREAS, the Pharr – San Juan – Alamo ISD Career and Technical Education program strives to fill the gap of high demand industries in the workforce such as manufacturing, healthcare, automotive, computer support, electrical, construction, and welding.

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education courses provide marketable skills that prepare students to succeed in college and in the workforce.

WHEREAS, Career and Technical Education Month is an annual event implemented at the national, state, and local level supported by hundreds of school districts across the nation.

WHEREAS, manufacturing in Texas constitutes 13.3 percent of the total output in the state, totaling approximately \$247 billion in exports of manufactured goods in 2018; and

WHEREAS, manufacturers in Texas employ 7.1 percent of the workforce, an estimated 910,000 manufacturing employees, including 7,500 in Hidalgo County; and

WHEREAS, the community is encouraged to support the work of the Pharr – San Juan – Alamo ISD Career and Technical Education program.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Diana Martinez, Mayor of the City of Alamo, Texas by virtue of the authority vested in me and on behalf of the Mayor and the City Commission, do hereby proclaim October as:

“Career and Technical Manufacturing Month”

Commissioner Pete Morales motioned to approve, and Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded. Motion Carried.

- L. Consideration and Action on a resolution to nominate a candidate(s) for the Board of Directors of the Hidalgo County Appraisal District for 2020-2021.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Robert De La Garza motioned to nominate Pete Garcia, and Mayor Diana Martinez seconded. Motion Carried

- M. Consideration and Action to Approve RFQ/RFP for selecting underwriter for the City's issuance of debt obligations**

Interim City Manager Robert Salinas, stated within their packets is the Request for Qualifications/Proposals to provide Underwriting Services which is part of the process to refinance the bonds. These will go out tomorrow and will be due on the 11th for selection to be on the 15th.

Mayor Pro-Tem Robert De La Garza motioned to approve, and Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded. Motion Carried

N. Consideration and Action on an Emergency Manhole repair - Rancho Blanco Rd.

Interim City Manager Robert Salinas stated back in June there was major flooding at Rancho Blanco Rd. At first it appeared to be a broken seal on a sewer force main, then it was discovered that there was an old deteriorating manhole near the road. He stated since it's over the \$15,000 it is brought before the commission.

Commissioner Pete Morales motioned to approve, and Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded. Motion carried.

O. Consideration and action on a variance to allow for an 8.5' front setback instead of the code minimum required 25' front setback, physically located at 723 N. 9th Place, legally described as .42 ac. out of Lot "U", Resub. of the S. ½ of Lot 4, Block. 36 and of Lots 1 & 2, Block 37, Alamo Land & Sugar Co. for Tony Avila.

Interim City Manager Robert Salinas stated Mr. Avila came in to the office to obtain a building permit to his existing carport. Mr. Avila was granted a variance back in 2016 for a carport that already had an 8.5' front setback. He is now requesting to continue with the same 8.5' front setback alignment and add to his existing carport. There have been approximately 40 carport variances for front setbacks that have been approved throughout the City. The existing street ROW in this area is about 65' Even with the 8.5' front setback, the carport would still be approx. 27' from the actual paved street. He stated, based on previous approvals by the Board of Commissioners, staff does not object to the variance to the front setback. The Planning and Zoning Commission met on Wednesday September 18, 2019 and recommended approval of the variance request.

Mayor Pro-Tem Robert De La Garza motioned to approve, and Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded. Motion carried.

P. Consideration and action on a variance to Title 3 - Business and License Regulations; Chapter 5 - Junk Yards' Section 3-5-3 (B) Conditions of License, physically located at 107 N. Whalen Rd., legally described as being a subdivision of 10.003 acres out of Lot 7, The Engleman Subdivision No. 2 for RTE Investments LLC.

Interim City Manager Robert Salinas stated this property is located between Border and Whalen Rd. along the north side of the railroad track. This property came through City Commission for approval of a new junk yard for semi-trucks. The applicant is still currently going through the subdivision process, and he is proposing a metal panel fence. Based on Section 3-5-3 (B), The property and premises on which such business is conducted shall be enclosed by a tight board fence at least ten feet (10') high and said fence shall be kept in a neatly painted condition, and no junk of any character or parts or machinery of any kind shall be allowed to remain outside such fence; provided, however, that any existing business of this character now being operated and maintained in the City shall be allowed thirty (30) days within which to construct a fence of the kind and character required hereby. (Ord. 112, 3-1-40). He stated, he interprets tight board fence as a wooden fence.

Mr. Salinas mentioned the applicant is proposing to construct a new metal panel fence, and the city commission must decide whether the applicant has provided enough evidence that this variance will demonstrate hardship and relief thereof or if it merely serves as a

convenience to the applicant. He also stated, the Planning and Zoning Commission met on Wednesday September 18, 2019 and approved the variance request.

City Attorney Rick Palacios asked if it's the recommendation for the variance included the height of fence.

Interim City Manager Robert Salinas responded only the type of fence, they should meet the height requirement..

Mayor Pro-Tem Robert De La Garza motioned to approve, and Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded. Motion carried.

Q. Consideration and action on a single lot variance on property physically located at 1205 Elm St., legally described as the West One-half (W ½) of Lot Four (4), Block (6), Johnson Subdivision for Jesus Aleman Ruiz.

Interim City Manager Robert Salinas stated his property is located 195' west of 12th St. along the south side of Elm St. in 2014 they sold their half lot, on the other half lot a 800' square foot home exist and wanting an independent electrical meter. Since all services are currently available, and the tract follows minimum subdivision standards, Staff recommends approval.

He also stated, the Planning and Zoning Commission met on Wednesday September 18, 2019 and approved the variance request.

Mayor Diana Martinez motioned to approve, and Commissioner Pilar Garza 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.

Carol Long spoke in regards to water damage

Eddie Vega spoke in regards to the Alamo Code

Martha Vega city spoke in regards to the Alamo Code

LJ Geoni spoke in regards to an introduction herself to the community.

Jazmine Lopez spoke in regards to concerns from the Alamo Police Department

Omar Guerra spoke in regards to a candidate complaint

I. ADJOURNMENT

Citizens are encouraged to sign the attendance sheet.

There being no further business, Mayor Diana Martinez adjourned the meeting at 7:50pm


Mayor Diana Martinez

ATTEST:


Alexandra Rangel, City Secretary

