

The Board of Commissioners for the City of Alamo, Texas met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday September 17, 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  
Alicia Cano, Human Resources  
Julio Villarreal, Public Works Director  
Melissa Leal, Utilities Supervisor

Michael Torres, IT Director  
Rogelio Alaniz, Interim Police Chief  
Adela Perez, Purchasing Agent  
Melisa Gonzales, Special Projects  
Rosie Rodriguez, Accountant

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

*Mayor Diana Martinez called the first regular meeting held on Tuesday, September 17, 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, Special Projects Director announced the unveiling of the renaming for the Police and Fire Department. In addition, National Night Out on September 28 from 5pm-8pm at the PSJA Memorial High School and the Fire Prevention Rally on October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6pm-8pm at Peter Piper Pizza. Just a reminder our Census 2020 information will be out soon, and we ask for businesses and the community to spread the word.*

*Commissioner Pete Morales invited the public to the Alamo Chamber network night on Thursday from 6pm-8pm at the Zion Lutheran Church.*

**D. Consideration and action to approve the minutes for the first meeting of September 03, 2019.**

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

*At this time, Mayor Diana Martinez addressed item O. Presentation by Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Commissioner David Fuentes on drainage projects from 2018 Drainage Bond.*

**E. Consideration and action to extend the TML-IRP Insurance for Property, Liability and Workers Comp. Insurance for FY 2019-2020.**

*Interim City Manager Robert Salinas stated that the TML-IRP Insurance has increased by 5% from last year due to additional vehicles.*

*Mayor Pro-Tem De La Garza to approve, and Commissioner Pilar Garza motioned*

**G. Consideration and action on a request from the Alamo Chamber to utilize the Central Park area for a BBQ event on Thursday October 10, 2019.**

*Mayor Diana Martinez stated no action on this item since the Alamo Chamber decided to host their event on Thursday October 17, 2019, which was previously approved.*

**H. Consideration and action on an ordinance amending the code of ordinances of the City of Alamo, Title 5 Police Regulations, Chapter 6 Animals; by creating section 5-6-10 Regulation of Sale Of Animals and section 5-6-11 Cruelty to Animals Prohibited.**

*Mimi Reyes spoke on the continuous problem of the selling of animals at the Mercadome.*

*Interim City Manager Robert Salinas stated this ordinance will prohibit the sale of animals within flea markets and along roads.*

*Mayor Pro-Tem Robert De La Garza asked will there be time to notify the owner.*

*Interim City Manager Robert Salinas responded that he will talk to the owner of the flea market to notify his tenant regarding the new ordinance.*

*Commissioner Pete Morales asked how will this be policed.*

*Interim City Manager Robert Salinas responded citizens can call the police department*

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

**I. Consideration and action on an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Weslaco for animal control operations and impoundment.**

*Interim City Manager Robert Salinas stated the City of Alamo currently has a contract with Palm Valley that will expire at the end of the month. Both the City of Weslaco and Palm Valley have submitted contracts, Palm Valley has submitted a cost of \$125,000 for the year. If the contract is proceeded with the City of Weslaco, the city will save \$45,000.*

*Commissioner Pete Morales asked how much has the city spent to date*

*Interim City Manager Robert Salinas responded over \$125,000, the city has gone over by 36 animals and each animal is \$105.*

*Commissioner Pete Morales asked are the possums still been released and if so, where*

*Interim City Manager Robert Salinas responded yes and released to rural areas*

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

**J. Consideration and action to approve the City Manager's appointment of a new City**

*Interim City Manager Robert Salinas responded no, there were only two applicants and he was the only, one with the required licenses. The other was Ernesto Solis, who currently works with the city and we are looking to train him.*

*Mayor Pro-Tem Robert De La Garza motioned to approve, and Mayor Diana Martinez seconded. Motion carried.*

**K. Consideration and action to award the depository bank contract proposal.**

*Interim City Manager Robert Salinas stated because we have always had a bank in the city of Alamo, the City has never had to go out to contract a bank. The city asked IBC, however IBC responded that they are unable to work with the city. Due to that, the City had to go out for bids.*

*Frost bank currently offered a 25% discount to bank related fees and 3 months of fees were waived. No maximum and no minimum floor and cap.*

*Lone Star National Bank offers a floor interest rate of .25% and cap interest of 2.00%*

*Plaines Capital Bank offers a competitive rate of 1.80% with a floor rate of .80%*

*Rio bank did not offer rates nor did Texas National Bank*

*Based on the fees, and even though Texas National Bank waived their fees, Texas National Banks nearest location is in Mercedes. Overall, it will be cheaper cost through Frost Bank. Besides the charges the banks offered, the distance was also looked for daily deposits. Mr. Salinas stated based on the numbers his recommendation is Frost Bank.*

*Commissioner Pilar Garza asked what did Plains Capital charge*

*Interim City Manager Robert Salinas responded, their fees were \$14,040 vs. Frost Bank \$10,507.*

*Mayor Pro-Tem Robert De La Garza asked if any of the banks showed interest in developing a bank in Alamo*

*Interim City Manager Robert Salinas responded no*

*Commissioner Trino Medina motioned to approve to go with Frost Bank, and Commissioner Pete Morales seconded. Motion carried.*

**Public Hearing**

**Second Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Rate of \$0.5817/\$100.00 Valuation for the City of Alamo for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020 and Schedule a meeting to adopt the 2019-2020 Tax Rate.**

*No public comments were made during the public hearing at this time*

**L. Consideration and action for the use of the parking area at the Sgt. Fernando De La Rosa Memorial Library by South Texas ISD.**

*Interim City Manager Robert Salinas stated at the moment South Texas ISD uses the parking lot for pick-up and drop-off. South Texas ISD is requesting the usage for their Edinburg and Mercedes Campus as well. Mr. Salinas stated there has not been an official approval, which is why he decided to bring it to the commission for approval.*



*Mayor Diana Martinez motioned to approve, and Mayor Pro-Tem Robert De La Garza seconded. Motion carried.*

- N. Consideration and action to approve an ordinance authorizing the issuance, sale and delivery of City of Alamo, Texas General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2019; delegating certain authority to the Mayor and City Manager pursuant to the provisions of Texas Government Code, Sections 1207.007 and 1207.008; levying a continuing direct annual ad valorem tax; authorizing the refunding of certain outstanding obligations; approving an official statement, execution of an escrow agreement, the subscription and purchase of certain escrowed securities, and making other provisions regarding such bonds and matters incident thereto**

*Mr. Jesus Ramirez stated this is the first time the city uses this option as a delegating authority. If the market produces the right parameters and those parameters are developed by the financial advisers. It allows for the city to check the market numbers and it allow to authorize refunding.*

*Commissioner Trino Medina asked why isn't the council deciding on this?*

*Mr. Jesus Ramirez stated you are not deciding, what is happening is that you are allowing the Mayor to go into the market and approving on an interest. Which allows to continue to check the market and not having to present it to the council.*

*Mayor Pro-Tem Robert De La Garza motioned to approve, and Mayor Diana Martinez seconded. Motion carried.*

- O. Presentation by Hidalgo County Precinct 1 Commissioner David Fuentes on drainage projects from 2018 Drainage Bond.**

*Precinct 1 Commissioner David Fuentes presented on how the June 2018 rain caused flooding issues for Hidalgo County and prompted a drainage bond. He stated one goal of Precinct 1 is to have engagement within the first 3 years. He states at the moment all projects have an engineer assigned and continue to be active.*

*Raul Sesin HCDD #1 General Manager presented on current projects. First project is the Alamo Expressway Drain Extension is being expanded. From South I2 to Old business 83 and from I2 North to the Alamo Country Club. Second, Alamo Expressway Drain consist of a new reinforced structure and should be done by the end of the year. Third, Crockett Road and Drainage Improvements. This project is being designed to make improvements from Tower Road to Border Road, from a 2-lane to a 3-lane. Fourth, is the excavation of the detention facilities at Santos Livas and Zeferino Farias Elementary Schools.*

*Commissioner Pete Morales thanked County Commissioner David Fuentes and District General Manager Raul Sesin for their work and efforts.*

*Commissioner Pete Morales asked where are they with the interlocals with the school district*

*Interim City Manager Robert Salinas responded all interlocals have been signed.*

*seek additional grant funding to help for construction to help cities develop preventable flooding. He also stated, proposition 8 will be up for vote in November and seeking support from the community.*

*Commissioner Pete Morales asked if this will be in Mr. Fuentes website  
Mr. Sesin responded it can be, he also stated as reminder this is not a new tax*

*Precinct 1 Commissioner David Fuentes confirmed this not a new tax, this funding is from a rainy-day fund from the state of Texas*

*Commissioner Trino Medina stated this was helpful because he was unaware if this proposition was a new tax.*

*Mayor Pro-Tem De La Garza to approve, Mayor Diana Martinez motioned seconded.  
Motion carried.*

#### **Q. Presentation of AEDC Monthly Report.**

*Rafael Tapia AEDC Director presented on the program, the program made a total of 10 loans totaling \$1,405,000 and obligated \$1,162,500 in initial funds. The program has 4 active loans. All current loans fall under the IRP.*

*As of September 3, 2019, City of Alamo Finance Department reports:*

- IRP Balance: \$855,942.75*
- RBEG Balance: \$184,917.54*
- Total RLF Balance: \$1,040,860.29*
- Balance Owed: \$212,215.02 (as of September 5, 2019)*

*As of the September 1, 2019, all accounts were considered current.*

*He stated the following activity is for the period covering August 1, 2019 to August 30, 2019. For the reporting period, the program had 1 new contact and 1 reinitiated contact. He stated there will be a new social media campaign to give out T-shirts and to promote the city.*

*Commissioner Pete Morales asked Mr. Arpan Bhakta from La Quinta asked what else can be done to help promote.*

*Rafael Tapia AEDC Director responded he will reach out to Mr. Bhakta and will provide contacts to help him develop the area.*

#### **R. Presentation of Departmental Reports.**

*Departmental Report presentations were included in the commissioners packet, no comments from the City Commission.*

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

*Eddie Vega spoke regarding City Ordinances*

*Martha Vega spoke regarding City Ordinances*

#### **I. ADJOURNMENT**

  
Alexandra Rangel, City Secretary

