

The Board of Commissioners for the City of Alamo, Texas met for the First Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 07, 2020 at 7:00 p.m, at the City of Alamo Municipal Building.

COMMISSION PRESENT:

Mayor Diana Martinez
Robert De La Garza, Mayor Pro-Tem via video conference
Okie Salinas, Commissioner via video conference
Pilar Garza, Commissioner
Pete Morales, Commissioner

COMMISSION ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert L. Salinas, City Manager
Cris Palacios, City Attorney via video conference
Alexandra Rangel, City Secretary
Richard Ozuna, Police Chief
Michael Torres, IT Director

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Diana Martinez called the regular meeting held on Tuesday, April, 2020 to order at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Alamo Municipal Building. Mayor Diana Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance and Robert Salinas led the Invocation.

C. Presentation and Announcements

Mayor Diana Martinez announced we received news of our first death in the county, on behalf of the city we send our condolences and prayers to the family at this time.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated Vanguard Academy has partnered with the City of Alamo and will provide disinfecting services for City Hall and the Library tomorrow as well as our other facilities.

Mayor Diana Martinez asked if there is a charge to the city

City Manager Robert Salinas stated no, since it's a partnership Vanguard stated there would be no charge.

Commissioner Pete Morales thanked the city staff for their work during this hard time.

D. Consideration and action to approve the minutes for the second regular meeting of March 17, 2020.

Commissioner Pilar Garza motioned to approve, and Commissioner Okie Salinas seconded. Motion carried.

E. Consideration and action to approve the minutes for the emergency meeting of March 20, 2020.

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

F. Consideration and action to approve the minutes for the emergency meeting of March 26, 2020

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

G. Updated Mayoral Declaration of Local State of Disaster Due to Public Health Emergency
City Manager Robert Salinas updated the commission with the latest additions to the Mayoral Declarations, starting with Section vi. In an effort to help prevent the spread of the virus, the City

of Alamo is limiting the number of people to enter into an essential business to no more than two individuals per household at one time. This is not about how many per vehicle, but the amount of people allowed in a business, per household.

Mayor Diana Martinez asked what about the larger stores like Walmart, does it matter the square footage? How will they control that?

City Manager Robert Salinas for example if it is my son, wife and myself it will be myself and my son entering. He stated, this wording is how the City of Weslaco has it on their declaration.

He continued, for Section ix Work Safe Plan:

c) Provide sanitation supplies accessible and available to all employees such as disinfectants, hand sanitizer comprised of at least 60% alcohol, and soap. h) All employees, especially in the food service industry, must wear a facial covering which shall cover both the nose and mouth. The covering does not have to be a medical grade mask, so long as it covers both the nose and mouth. Examples are a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief. The reasoning for this is because, I went to a restaurant and I noticed none of the employees had any covering. This will further protect the customers and employees.

Mayor Diana Martinez stated she received a call from Cesar from Walmart questioning the masks. Once signed, can I send him the declaration in order for Walmart to comply with the new rules?

City Manager Robert Salinas responded yes

Commissioner Pete Morales asked if this will go into effect, until the 24th?

City Manager Robert Salinas responded it would go into effect tomorrow.

Mr. Salinas also stated, he wanted to add a Temporary Suspension of Section 6.03 Sick Leave Requirements in the City's Personnel Policy: The City of Alamo will allow, for the duration of this declaration the use of sick leave for more than 1 working day, but not more than 5 working days for personal use as needed. The use of sick leave hours must be authorized by the Department Head prior to taking any sick leave time off unless a doctor's excuse is submitted and where the physician has requested that the employee cannot return to work until the time allowed by the physician. This will help with our employees to utilize their sick leave without a doctor's excuse to allow them to take some time off and be home with their family. I have checked with our City Attorney, they stated if it is included within the declaration it can be utilized.

Commissioner Pilar Garza asked he will notify all employees

City Manager Robert Salinas responded yes

The last portion is Section Q) NOSE AND MOUTH COVER All persons three years and older must wear some form of covering over their nose and mouth when entering into or inside of any building that is not their dwelling, in business parking lots, and when pumping gas. Examples of facial covering include items such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief. This section does not apply to a person engaged in permissible outdoor activity; riding in a personal vehicle; alone in an enclosed space; or when eating or drinking. For clarity, medical grade coverings, such as N95 and surgical masks, are NOT REQUIRED and the public is encouraged to use other forms of coverings so as not to disrupt the supply of medical grade coverings for health care facilities and professionals and first responders. A covering may be factory-made or sewn by hand, or can be improvised household items such as scarfs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, towels, etc. He stated, he spoke with the Chief of Police and the county just implemented a new 24-hour curfew for anyone under the age of 17. He asked Cris Palacios if the county has this curfew, can the city enforce it without adding it to the declaration?

City Attorney Cris Palacios stated that is correct, we can enforce it without adding it to our declarations.

Commissioner Pete Morales asked how will it affect the teens doing essential activities like working out

City Manager Robert Salinas responded that is something we need to clarify with the county tomorrow

Chief of Police stated if the teen is an essential employee then they are allowed out, if they are accompanied by an adult they can conduct essential shopping. In addition, a curfew for adults from 11pm-5am the exclusion are essential employees.

Commissioner Pete Morales asked if there is a curfew in place for minors correct

Chief of Police Richard Ozuna responded yes according to the city ordinance it's at 10:00 pm

Commissioner Pilar Garza asked whatever the county added we can enforce it, correct?

City Manager Robert Salinas responded yes

Mayor Diana Martinez asked how many people have they stopped

Chief of Police Richard Ozuna responded within the last 3-4 days roughly 30-35 written warnings have been issued.

Mayor Diana Martinez asked after the first warning and if they get stopped again will they get a citation

Chief of Police Richard Ozuna responded if they are stopped again, then yes.

Commissioner Okie Salinas asked what is the difference between the curfew and shelter at home

City Manager Robert Salinas responded stated the shelter at home means you should only be out during essential activities, and the curfew is for the younger generation.

Chief of Police Richard Ozuna responded it's an escalation of events posing a threat, then it escalates the restrictions.

Commissioner Pete Morales can we provide support to the PD

Mayor Pro-Tem Robert De La Garza asked if citations can be paid late May early June

Chief of Police Richard Ozuna responded this is something we can discuss with our municipal judge and ask for leniency.

Mayor Pro-Tem Robert De La Garza asked in order to bend the curve, to not have as many people come into the court

City Manager Robert Salinas responded the court does have online payment so it will help for people not to come into court

Mayor Diana Martinez stated it's up to the Judge and the citizen to make arrangements to pay for the citation.

Commissioner Pete Morales can we provide support to the PD and/or court to keep track on the warnings

Chief of Police Richard Ozuna responded the current ARS System is updated every morning by the Bailiff and will show the warnings, tickets and arrests.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated this is in effect until April 24, 2020

Commissioner Pete Morales asked how are we educating the employees on how to disinfecting their masks.

City Manager Robert Salinas responded he will get with Melisa Gonzales to “do a dos and don’ts” informational with the masks.

Mayor Diana Martinez asked can we extended this declaration?

City Manager Robert Salinas responded if the commission chooses to extend, we can.

Mayor Diana Martinez stated the county judge is looking for a way to open some businesses.

City Attorney Cris Palacios stated the county is through the 30th and the governor’s as well.

City Manager Robert Salinas asked is the commission is okay to extend it through the 30th?

All of the commission responded yes

Mayor Diana Martinez motioned to approve with the extension to April 30th, and Commissioner Pete Morales seconded. Motion carried.

H. Consideration and action on a variance request to move in a mobile home into an R-1 (Single Family Dwelling District), physically located at 909 Banyan St., legally described as Lot 15, Morningside South Subdivision for Christine Arista.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated the subject site is located approximately 245' South of Ridge Rd. on the West side of Banyan St. The lot is measures 100' X 135'. The applicant is proposing to move in a used mobile home. Mr. Rolando De La Rosa came into our office to get information for his brother in law who wanted to relocate his mobile home to the above lot. According to section 10-7-2 of the Alamo Zoning Code stated the permitted uses under the R-1 zone. A mobile home is not a permitted use in this zone. This subdivision was annexed into the City of Alamo in 2012; staff has found there have been no variances to allow the installation of a mobile home approved within this subdivision. Which means the 39 existing mobile homes where placed within the subdivision prior to being annexed into the City. Due to the large amount of mobile homes, staff can only assume that when this subdivision was annexed into the City Limits with an R-1 zone that a City initiated rezoning to R-MH never occurred. Due to the large disparity between single family homes and mobile homes, staff does not object to the variance proposed. The P&Z approved this on March 18, 2020.

Commissioner Pete Morales asked if it will be new mobile home

City Manager Robert Salinas responded no, but our City Inspector reviewed the mobile home and is in compliance with our minimum standards

Mayor Diana Martinez asked it there is an existing building

City Manager Robert Salinas responded yes, it’s a storage room

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

I. Consideration and action on a variance request to allow for a 2' front setback instead of the code required 10' front setback, physically located at 459 Cameo Circle, legally described as Lot 109, Sunshine Valley Estates for Javier Alonso.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated the site is located 780' north of Palm Harbor Dr. along the south side of Cameo Circle. Staff made a neighborhood inspection of Sunshine Valley Estates and found this carport was within the minimum front setback. A violation notice was left on the door and a notice was sent out to the resident. Upon receiving the notice, the applicant came into office to discuss the matter with staff. The applicant was unaware of the need for a permit and the 10' front setback requirement. From 2008 to now there have been approximately 45+ carport variances for front setbacks that have been approved throughout the City. Of those 45+ this would be the first one within this subdivision. Based on previous approvals by the Board of Commissioners, Staff does not object to the variance to the front setback, subject to the carport remaining perpetually open. The P&Z approved this on March 18, 2020.

Commissioner Pete Morales motioned to approve, and Mayor Diana Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

J. Consideration and action on a conditional use permit renewal for the sale and onsite consumption or alcohol at "Palazzo Event Center", physically located at 503 E. SH 495, legally described as Lot 65, Tower Landing Phase I for George A. Garza.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated the subject site is located on the Southwest corner of Tower Rd. and SH 495, the Palazzo Event Center has been in operation since 8/29/2014. Staff asked Alamo PD for a report of any calls for this business and there were no incidents within the past year. Staff recommends approval for 1-year subject to:

- 1. Must obtain annual Fire Department Inspection and Liquor License with the City Secretary.*
- 2. Waiver of the 300' separation requirement.*

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

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: The city will be accepting public comments from 8am-5pm on the day of the meeting to be announced during the meeting. Email comments to arangel@alamotexas.org. Five minutes per person with no response from the City Commission. Residents must sign up prior to the city meeting.

Commissioner Pete Morales asked are we letting the public know, and where are we posting this.

City Manager Robert Salinas yes, on our website.

No citizen participation

I. ADJOURNMENT

Citizens are encouraged to sign the attendance sheet.

There being no further business, Mayor Diana Martinez adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm



Mayor Diana Martinez

ATTEST:


Alexandra Rangel, City Secretary



