

The Board of Commissioners for the City of Alamo, Texas met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m, at the City of Alamo Municipal Building.

COMMISSION PRESENT:

Mayor Diana Martinez
Okie Salinas, Mayor Pro-Tem (Via Video-Conference)
Pete Morales, Commissioner
Pilar Garza, Commissioner
Robert De La Garza, Commissioner

COMMISSION ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert L. Salinas, City Manager
Rick Palacios, City Attorney
Alexandra Rangel, City Secretary
Richard Ozuna, Police Chief
Roy Contreras, Fire Chief
Ronnie Cruz, City Engineer

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Diana Martinez called the regular meeting held on Tuesday April 20, 2021 to order at 6:00 p.m. at the City of Alamo Municipal Building. Mayor Diana Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Tuttle led the Invocation.

C. Presentations and Announcements.

Fire Chief Roy Contreras announced they will be getting the F550 tomorrow and will be going to the shop to have its equipment installed.

Commissioner Pete Morales asked is this for the fire suits

Fire Chief Roy Contreras responded its for the brush truck

Commissioner Pete Morales asked any news on the grant regarding the suits

Fire Chief Roy Contreras responded not yet, hopefully by May.

Commissioner Pete Morales announced Wolverines Softball Team made the playoffs and wishes them luck.

D. Consideration and Action to approve the minutes for the first regular meeting of April 6, 2021.

Mayor Diana Martinez stated Ms. Evangeline Ortega led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

E. Consideration and Action on a Resolution to support Hidalgo County for funding for the expansion of the Hidalgo County Master Drainage System.

Commissioner David Fuentes stated as far as for the resolution they have been advocating for drainage before 2018, we have been successful and obtained 2 different GLO awards of 10 million dollars each to improve the main drain from essentially a mile 1 which is just North of La Villa all the way to mile 6, this is roughly of 7 miles of drainage of improvements widening, platforms we have plenty of ROW and we do not have to buy land. This will be strictly construction dollars we can do about 3 ½ miles for 10 million dollars each. This is 100% grant and there is no pay back, we were successful with the Texas Water Development Board and obtained another 10 million

dollars grant and 22 million dollars of 0% loans. This is to improve the drainage throughout Hidalgo County. What this resolution is about, is the Federal Government is considering a major infrastructure plan that they are looking to do this summer, this is an opportunity to go for a big ask. We are asking for over \$100 million dollars of improvements along the main trunk line for the main drain, this will impact from western Hidalgo County; Mission-Alamo and some connection points from North to East. We are asking \$120-125 million dollars in an infrastructure request and this impacts everyone in Hidalgo we are asking for a resolution to continue this request.

Mayor Diana Martinez asked the drainage problem along the expressway, will that be a project?

Commissioner David Fuentes responded he believes so, anything that travels north will be touching the line. As long as we improve capacity on the main trunk line all of the laterals that feed into it will have a more capacity and ability to move water. The flooding we are experiencing along the highway is more of a TXDOT issue, the other day we filed a motion asking for \$70 million dollars for improvements for along the expressway.

Commissioner Pete Morales thanked the Commissioner for having an event for the citizens of Donna for COVID vaccine.

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

F. Consideration and Action to Request use of Downtown Central Park for 9th Annual Watermelon Festival and BBQ Cook Off. Request road closures of Main St. and Business Hwy 83.

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

G. Consideration and Action on a Resolution of the City of Alamo authorizing intervention in AEP Texas Inc.'s requested rate change proceeding before the commission; approving cooperation with the cities served by AEP Texas; hiring Lloyd Gosselink attorneys and consulting services to negotiate with the company and direct any necessary litigation and appeals; requiring reimbursement of cities' rate case expenses.

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

H. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance to create a new Chapter 5A, in Title 1- Administration, to Establish Reasonable Electioneering Policy Guidelines within certain areas to include the City of Alamo's Sergeant Fernando De La Rosa Memorial Library.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated after discussion with our City Attorney it seems we will take no action; however, he did want to take the opportunity and take some talking points. such as no electioneering on Tower's sidewalks, what this means is the prevention of people with signs walking along the sidewalks.

Commissioner Pete Morales asked regarding Los Alamos? He also stated last year it was all chaos with the school board elections and he believes to keep everyone away from the library. He states in San Juan they moved everyone out of the area.

City Attorney Rick Palacios stated what was done it wasn't that they moved out of the area but they changed the ordinances and under the law its permissible to change the parking spaces

because you still have on going business, you can enact an ordinance that says no electioneering because we need these parking spaces for voters and employees and under that request you can use as a reasonable request.

Mayor Diana Martinez stated the state allows 100 feet that you can walk along the sidewalk just not stand. Is that state mandated?

City Attorney Rick Palacios responded no, it was a case in a different area. They were trying to do regulations and a federal judge came up with what is reasonable.

Mayor Diana Martinez asked the 100 feet is not state mandated?

City Attorney Rick Palacios responded no, the 100 feet is but anything above state mandated can only be done by limit with a reasonable request.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated at the moment the ordinance states no electioneering on the side walk, if the commission chooses we can permit with limitations.

City Attorney Rick Palacios responded today is the day to establish a draft and then leave the drafting to myself and city manager to review.

Mayor Diana Martinez stated the last time we had the school board elections everyone had tents everywhere and left a mess.

City Manager Robert Salinas responded that is a problem and it shouldn't be happening

City Attorney Rick Palacios stated that creates issues, in San Juan the Librarian was unable to see and had an accident exiting the location.

City Manager Robert Salinas responded this ordinance will limit the signage, tents and people. He did state the only issue is the area designated for signage is 30ft on Los Alamos, we can reduce to 15-20 ft.; we must want to protect the corner.

Mayor Diana Martinez stated we need to protect the people who are leaving the post office.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas asked can we do 20' East and 20feet south?

City Manager Robert Salinas responded 20 feet will be fine, to east and 20 feet south and from that point we can open it up.

City Attorney Rick Palacios stated other cities regulated the size of the sign and currently signs are permitted but not the size. What other cities are doing is allowing one 4x8 per party or per candidate. As well the quantity of yard signs per candidate/party.

City Manager Robert Salinas responded at the moment we have it open

Mayor Diana Martinez stated the City of San Juan had two 4x8 signs they can place but no 4x8 signs can be placed on city property and they allowed 25-yard signs. Which is better because there is no clutter.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas stated the 25 yard signs were allowed on the library/city property, and we are on the proposal it's completely taking off from the city, so it will be only 25 signs on the allowed area.

City Manager Robert Salinas responded so they are trying to keep them short?

City Attorney Rick Palacios responded no, the question is on everywhere it is outlined in red does that mean there are no signs in that area?

City Manager Robert Salinas responded the way we have it we have no signs in that area.

City Attorney Rick Palacios responded if we can come up with a reasonable reason on why not to allow signs in the red area, obviously we will be challenged in court. In San Juan they limited the number and signs. He states he believes a limitation of signs and size is a more appropriate route, than no signs at all.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated in the past people just walked up and down the sidewalk at the most, in this past election is when we had tents. We hope once this is in order then people will respect it.

Commissioner Robert De La Garza stated he does not want to see it on city property because it got really bad, and even when everyone left all the signs were left behind.

Commissioner Pete Morales stated he agrees, we have city events and these signs take away from the actual event.

Commissioner Robert De La Garza asked on the northeast of Duranta, no signs there?

City Manager Robert Salinas responded at the moment it is marked that way

Commissioner Robert De La Garza stated to put 20-30 feet corner clip on the corner, for it not to block the view of the motorist.

City Attorney Rick Palacios asked is this council open to limiting the number signage, weather you put them on across street or in front of the street or a limit on each boundary? Unless, there is an aesthetic look than a safety concern.

City Manager Robert Salinas responded based on the political signs, based on our ordinance they are not permitted on ROW. We will be opening up a little if we allow it on certain areas, mainly around the polling location.

City Attorney Rick Palacios stated the ordinance doesn't even allow on the ROW

City Manager Robert Salinas responded correct, which is why you see them on fences but on electioneering areas we have regulations.

Commissioner Pete Morales stated for the most part it's not only the two parties, sometimes there are other elections happening which is why it seems like a lot. For the most part it is the other state wide and school boards.

City Manager Robert Salinas responded we also have is the removal of tents 60 minutes after pre-election day period ends. The same with election day, it has to be removed 3 hours after voting.

Mayor Diana Martinez responded it is usually the people running for state who leave their signs up there, not local.

Commissioner Pete Morales stated they take their stuff and the state leaves their stuff.

City Manager Robert Salinas responded we also included to be responsible for debris pickup, no use of loud speakers.

Mayor Diana Martinez responded they don't

City Attorney Rick Palacios stated there is already some regulation on that, we can look into the state code and include it.

City Manager Robert Salinas responded he has the notes for the corners to be reduced to 20 feet and opening it up for electioneering along those lines and on the north side of city hall. As for the walking up and down with the signage, is that a yes or no.

Commissioner Pete Morales stated as long they don't stop, and one thing he noticed is although PD is supervising, maybe they can train someone as far what are the rules that are permissible.

Mayor Diana Martinez responded isn't that the judge?

City Attorney Rick Palacios responded the judge can only take care within 100 feet, anything past the 100 feet that will be code enforcement, PD etc.

Commissioner Pete Morales stated we need someone out there who is trained, because the judge is busy inside.

City Attorney Rick Palacios stated he understand the concern, once the ordinance is done he can sit with both the election judge, code enforcement, and PD to go over the changes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas asked if there was a sign limit?

City Manager Robert Salinas responded no, at the moment it is open. San Juan is doing 25 yard signs

Commissioner Robert De La Garza stated that is on the ROW

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas asked if that would be inside the side property of the library

City Attorney Rick Palacios responded they can only regulate their ROW and city property they have 25 minimum signs outside the 100 feet.

Mayor Diana Martinez asked the city attorney if they created the ordinance for the City of San Juan?

City Attorney Rick Palacios responded yes

Mayor Diana Martinez motioned no action.

I. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Amending Title 10, Chapter 7 R-MH Mobile Home and Modular Home District to include a conditional use being a "Site-Built Single Family Residential Structure."

City Manager Robert Salinas stated the attached ordinance will make a 'Site-built SF residential structure' a conditional use for mobile home lots (only); thus, providing an option to the applicant to file for the CUP and activate the public hearing process. It is during this process that we can assess the type and size of home, its building setbacks, its driveway access, and to see how it acclimates to the mobile home development via neighborhood reaction, too. In addition, On the wrecker amendment, staff is deleting the "within the specific boundaries just cited" and, as such, would afford having several VSFs in one single fenced-in containment area for CUP applicants in other areas of the City, too. If you recall, this multiple VSFs was only afforded to wrecker CUP applicants east of Tower, south of the EXPWY and north of Bus. HWY 83. The amendment will fairly consider CUPs in other Alamo areas, too.

Commissioner Pete Morales motioned to approve, and Commissioner Pilar Garza 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.

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 7:46 pm


Mayor Diana Martinez

ATTEST:


Alexandra Rangel, City Secretary

