

The Board of Commissioners for the City of Alamo, Texas met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., at the City of Alamo Municipal Building.

COMMISSION PRESENT:

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

COMMISSION ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert L. Salinas, City Manager	Alicia Cano, HR Director
Rick Palacios, City Attorney	Adela Perez, Purchasing
Alexandra Rangel, City Secretary	Ronnie Cruz, City Engineer
Richard Ozuna, Police Chief	Melisa Gonzales, Special Projects Director
Roy Contreras, Fire Chief	Yvette Mendoza, Finance Director
Rafael Tapia, AEDC Director	Sergio Zavala, Planning Director

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Diana Martinez called the regular meeting held on Tuesday September 07, 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

Special Projects Director Melisa Gonzales announced on October 6th we will be having a Fire Prevention Event at Peter Piper Pizza from 6-8pm.

D. Consideration and Action to approve the minutes for the first regular meeting of September 7, 2021.

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

E. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance to Adopt the City of Alamo Fiscal Year 2021-2022 City Budgets for the General Fund, Debt Service Fund, Water and Sewer Fund and Hotel/Motel Tax Fund.

City Manager Robert Salinas asked to enter executive session under consultation with the city attorney.

Mayor Diana Martinez motioned to enter an executive session at 6:01PM

Mayor Diana Martinez motioned to enter an open session at 6:12PM

Commissioner Robert De La Garza motioned to approve, as discussed in Executive Session and Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas seconded. Motion carried.

F. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Adopting the Tax Rate and Levy for the City of Alamo for the Tax Year 2021 and Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.

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

G. Consideration and action to extend the depository contract with Frost Bank.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated currently we have a contract with Frost Bank is about to expire on the 30th of this month and we will do a 6 month extension and a 60 day notice to cancel the agreement. This will allow to us to transfer any information and accounts with enough time.

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

H. Consideration and Action on a Request for the use of the Alamo Youth Center facility, for Market Day Fiesta & Loteria, by the Alamo Chamber of Commerce.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated the Alamo Chamber of Commerce Board, is requesting the use of the Alamo Parks and Recreation Department and Youth Center facility on Saturday October 16, 2021 from 10am-7pm to host Market Day Fiesta & Loteria.

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

I. Consideration and Action to approve the 2021 RGVSHOWOFF Christmas Toy Drive event at Downtown Central Park.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated he was approached by Mr. Eric Perales to host "Littmas" by RGVShowoff to conduct a Christmas Toy Drive event at Downtown Central Park for December.

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

J. Consideration and action to approve a Resolution to nominate a candidate(s) to the Hidalgo County Appraisal District Board of Directors.

*Commissioner Robert De La nominated Pete Garcia
Mayor Diana Martinez nominated Pete Garcia*

*Commissioner Pete Morales nominated Albert Cardenas
Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas nominated Albert Cardenas
Commissioner Pilar Garza nominated Albert Cardenas*

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

K. Consideration and Action to Approve the American Rescue Plan Act Budget for the City of Alamo.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated this the proposed budget that was discussed in the last workshop. We discussed various projects and purchases using the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Commissioner Pete Morales asked if we can table this item and have a workshop to discuss further?

Mayor Diana Martinez stated we did have 3 workshops

Commissioner Pete Morales stated he believes we should have another to discuss the additional projects listed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas stated he thinks another workshop should be done, now that projects have numbers for example a million dollars for pipe bursting, we also have issues on Alamo and Duranta. We have to discuss.

Commissioner Pete Morales stated like Royal Palms and all those areas

City Manager Robert Salinas responded we can set up a workshop before our next meeting or sometime next week.

Commissioner Robert De La Garza stated we all came to the meetings and selected the projects

Commissioner Pete Morales stated if we look at this, we do have other areas to address. We would hate to lose a business-like Walgreens because of the issues we have on Duranta and Alamo Rd.

Commissioner Robert De La Garza responded you should have come to the meetings

Commissioner Pete Morales responded you have been here for a long time and nothing has been done.

Commissioner Robert De La Garza responded the same engineer developed the same project

Commissioner Pete Morales responded that is not what we are talking about, we need address different areas in our city, we need to address the issues, if you don't want too that's your opinion.

Commissioner Robert De La Garza responded we addressed them, you had the projects and had the selection but failed to show up.

Mayor Diana Martinez addressed the community by stating we did have 3 budget workshops, Commissioner Pete Morales did not show up to 2, Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas did attend all 3, Commissioner Pilar Garza did attend all 3.

Commissioner Pete Morales responded Mayor, if you do not want to address the issues we are having on Alamo Rd. that is your opinion. Now that we do have numbers, we did not have numbers on the last meeting.

Commissioner Robert De La Garza responded yes, we did

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas responded no, but for the record now we have numbers for projects and I am not in disagreement with the projects on this page, but now we have a million dollars for pipe bursting and we are not addressing Alamo Rd. and Duranta, those numbers where not brought to any of the budget meetings. We should table it and have a workshop.

Commissioners Pete Morales motioned to table, and Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor Diana Martinez and Commissioner Robert De la Garza in dissent

L. Consideration and Action to approve a Depository Contract with Freedom Bank

Commissioner Pete Morales motioned to approve, and Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas seconded. Motion carried.

M. Consideration and Action to approve the Alamo Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) Budget for FY 2021-2022.

AEDC Director Rafael Tapia stated the AEDC approved the budget for FY 2021-2022 at the regular meeting held September 8, 2021, The Board of Directors held a budget workshop on

August 11, 2021. A public notice for a public hearing was published August 25, 2021. The AEDC held a public hearing on the budget September 8, 2021.

*Total Revenue of \$1,000,000
Total Operating Expenditure \$1,000,000
Payroll \$107,783
Operating Expenses \$119,235
Maintenance \$9,000
Contract Services \$48,300
Program Expenses \$320,894
Debt Services \$30,847
Fixed Assets \$3,000
Transfers Out \$360,741*

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas motioned to approve, and Commissioner Pete Morales seconded. Motion carried.

N. Consideration and Action to approve new job descriptions for Human Resources Department.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated in their packets are the following job description that were approved in the budget earlier. We will be bringing one additional description to you later for approval.

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

O. Consideration and Action on Ordinance to Amend Title 3, Chapter 17, Section 3-17-2(D)(7), Section 3-17-3(8)12) (b), and Section 3-17-4(L) to Possibly Allow Mobile Food Vending Trailers older than 1 year in a Mobile Food Court setting.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated the City's current Code, via Ordinance# 14-03-21 (2/16/21), requires that in a Mobile Food Court setting, all food vending trailers must be no older than 1 year. However, in re-evaluating & pondering this criterion, there are many food trailers that are just as functional, safe, and attractive, but are a bit older than 1 year.

This proposed amendment will establish the following stair-step approach:

- It still reflects the city's 1st preference to have trailers less than 1 year.*
- The 2nd preference allows the city to consider trailers no older than 5 years; units in this category will require certain city officials (Bldg. Inspector, Fire Marshal, CP&D Director) to extra-examine the unit at a proposed service fee of \$50.*
- The 3rd alternative allows us to consider trailers older than 5 years; units in this category will require the above officials AND the City Manager to provide clearance; this ultra-examination service fee is proposed @ \$75.*
- The proposed ordinance also includes a 60-day tenure for any trailer to be replaced should the city determine that it has depreciated to an un-safe or un-healthy condition*

Overall, the proposed ordinance magnifies the opportunity for success for any mobile food court by being able to engage viable vendors in trailers a bit older than 1 year, but without sacrificing aesthetics nor structural integrity. This item is now before you.

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

P. Consideration and Action on Ordinance to Amend Title 1-Administration, Chapter 6 'City Officers and Employees' by Adding One Individual Holiday in Section 6.01 of the City's Personnel Policies.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated in the last meeting we approved 2 additional Holidays, December 31st and President's day. He was approached by Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas and brought this forth. The attached ordinance amends the Personnel Policies' Section 6.01 as it relates to the 'Individual Holiday'.

Currently, after one calendar year of working for the City, each city employee may take 1 personal day off subject to their Department Heads' approval.

The proposed amendment would add one more 'Individual Holiday', and upon approval will commence on January 1, 2022. It will still be subject to typical terms of (1 calendar year) tenure & Dept. Head approval.

If this amendment is approved, we believe it will result in enhanced customer service, and certainly inject an added measure of appreciation by Staff to the City; and in like manner, it will show appreciation by the City of Alamo to its employees - city employees being one of the city's most vibrant & vital assets/investments.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas motioned to approve, and Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded. Motion carried.

Q. Request by Courtesy Custom Homes to have the City of Alamo, Texas Waive Building Fees, as set forth by Section 9-1-3 (Building Code Permit Fees); and to Waive Water Fees as set forth by Section 8-5-1 (Water Rates & Charges), for a Mortgage-free Housing Project for Injured Military Veteran Jacob Sanchez Family.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated attached please find a 7-9-21 dated request by Courtesy Custom Homes for the City of Alamo to consider waiving the building permit fees and water tap fees for a new 5-bedroom home to be built, at no cost, for the Jacob Sanchez family. If not waived, then a discount is noted as an option for consideration.

As you may recall, Custom Courtesy Homes, HEB, McCoy's Building Supply and other entities are spearheading the charitable effort to 'provide a mortgage-free home to service members and their families who have become wounded, ill, or injured as a result of their service in the defense of our country.'

Attached is a brief news article with pictures of Jacob, his family, and the type of combat injury sustained when he was serving our country.

Staff's comments include:

- No objection to waive the building permit fees due to the unique circumstances of this project; also, a similar request was approved to another in the semi-recent past.*
- On the water tap fee request, the water tap/deposit was already paid (\$327) on June 23, 2021 & the water meter installed on July 1st. The eventual transition & cost to the newer smart meter will be borne by the City of Alamo. Staff considers this component of the request to be a moot issue.*

Commissioner Robert De la Garza motioned to approve, and Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas seconded. Motion carried.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: Five minutes per person with no response from the City

Pastor Tuttle spoke on the request to lower taxes

Alberto Cazares spoke on the unfairness the ACC is conducting their Town Hall meetings

Roel Landa spoke in regards to certain rules for mobile food trucks

I. ADJOURNMENT

Citizens are encouraged to sign the attendance sheet.

There being no further business, Mayor Diana Martinez adjourned the meeting at 6:32 pm



Mayor Diana Martinez

ATTEST:



Alexandra Rangel, City Secretary

