

The Board of Commissioners for the City of Alamo, Texas met for the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., at the City of Alamo Municipal Building.

COMMISSION PRESENT:

Mayor Diana Martinez
Pete Morales, Mayor Pro-Tem
J.R. Garza, Commissioner
Pilar Garza, Commissioner

COMMISSION ABSENT:

Okie Salinas, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert L. Salinas, City Manager	Sergio Zavala, Planning Director
Alexandra Rangel, Assistant City Manager	Melissa Leal, Water Billing Supervisor
Rick Palacios, City Attorney	Yvette Mendoza, Finance Director
Richard Ozuna, Police Chief	Ronnie Cruz, City Engineer
Roy Contreras, Fire Chief	Julio Villareal, Public Works Director
Rafael Tapia, AEDC Director	Sandra Chavez, Parks and Rec. Director
Lori Solis, Library Director	

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Diana Martinez called the regular meeting held on Tuesday March 21, 2023 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. Presentation and Announcements

Library Director Lori Solis announced the watermelon 5K run on May 13th.

D. Consideration and Action to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of March 07, 2023.

Commissioner J.R. Garza motioned to approve, and Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Morales seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMING THE GENERAL PUBLIC REGARDING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION/RECONSTRUCTION OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS AND/OR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated the City of Alamo, Texas, is informing the general public regarding the submission of an application to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Community Facilities program for the construction/reconstruction of municipal buildings and/or infrastructure projects. The purpose of this public hearing is to give the citizens an opportunity to become acquainted with the proposed project and to comment on such items as economic and environmental impact, service areas, and alternatives to the project

No citizen participation

E. Consideration and Action to select an engineer for the Tower Road Re-surfacing Project

City Manager Robert Salinas stated as you know, Tower Rd. is in poor condition primarily between Business 83 and a little north of Hackberry Ave. Tower Rd. is not to the point where a full reconstruction is needed, however we do need to remove the old asphalt and overlay the road. We would like to select an engineer to begin designs for the rehabilitation of Tower Rd. as well as including any additional drainage, water, or sewer components that may be required in the area in order to better market the area more as a commercial corridor. The City of Alamo will be partnering with both the Alamo EDC and the TIRZ Board in order to fund this project. Cruz-Hogan had previously worked on some calculations and preliminary sketches for this project and is well aware of the City's proposal for this area. He recommended the approval Cruz-Hogan.

Commissioner J.R. Garza motioned to approve, and Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Morales seconded. Motion carried

F. Consideration and Action on an Emergency sewer manhole and sewer line repair at Royal Palm Subdivision.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated there as a collapsed sewer manhole and sewer line. The manhole was a total of 14ft deep and was replaced with a new fiberglass manhole and section of pipe at the intersection of Fan Palm and Needle Palm at Royal Palm Sub.

Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Morales motioned to approve, and Commissioner J.R. Garza seconded. Motion carried.

G. Consideration and Action on a Request by the Garza Family to Abandon a Portion of a recorded Fifteen Foot (15') electrical and utility easement on Lot 21, Vida Royal Subdivision

Commissioner J.R. Garza abstained from this item since he was the person requesting the abandonment.

Planning Director Sergio Zavala stated the City of Alamo received a written request by the Garza family to consider vacating and abandoning a portion of a recorded 15' electrical and utility easement in order to construct a swimming pool. As you are aware, easements are typically found in the rear most part of recorded lots. The specific lot is Lot 21 of the Vida Royal Subdivision. This plat was recorded in 2006 and, as may be surmised, service utilities for this entire row of lots has long been installed. It has come to my attention that the northernmost 7.5' of said easement contains NO utilities at all whatsoever. It is entirely dormant. The electrical service line is in the southern portion of the 15' easement. I also note that abutting the 15' electrical & utility easement is another 15' irrigation easement. Combined, easements encumber the southern 30' of the lot(s). Since there are no utilities in the northern 7.5' of the easements, Planning has no objection to the specific request.

Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Morales motioned to approve, and Mayor Diana Martinez seconded. Motion carried.

H. Consideration and Action to purchase new laptops for the Alamo Police Department using Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds.

Police Chief Richard Ozuna stated he is requesting 5 -13' laptops for CID investigators and 1-15' laptop for the public relations officer, along with 6 laptop bags to be purchased with forfeiture funds.

Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Morales motioned to approve, and Commissioner J.R. Garza seconded. Motion carried.

I. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance Amending Title 6 'Motor Vehicles and Traffic', Chapter 5 'Abandoned, Wrecked Vehicles' regarding what a 'Junked Vehicle' may be; the City Officials to enforce said Code when on Public Property or on Private premises; various Notificaiton Updates.

Planning Director Sergio Zavala stated he was alerted by Staff that there was a need to update and reconcile our Junked Vehicle Code. In reading it this morning, I noticed that the 1993 code needed some updating. In this regard, the attached ordinance does the following:

- Enhances what a junked vehicle (JV) includes, e.g., watercraft, aircraft, motorcycles, motorized farm equipment, etc.*
- If consecutively parked for 72 hours on public ROW, then it's a JV violation*
- If consecutively parked for 45 days on private property, then it's a JV violation*
- If it is inoperable AND has no current license plate AND has no current inspection sticker, then it's a JV violation*

- *The Chief of Police is currently designated to enforce all aspects of the JV Code. The ordinance has the PD Chief responsible for JVs only on public ROWs/public properties.*
- *The Code Enforcement Officer is now designated to be the lead enforcing party when a JV violation is confirmed on private properties.*
- *Notification procedures and protocol has been outlined as to reasonable forms of communication to the responsible parties.*

Staff recommended approval

Commissioner J.R. Garza motioned to approve, and Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Morales seconded. Motion carried.

J. Consideration and Action to approve a Professional Services contract for South Texas Grant Research Center.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated the City of Alamo and Isauro Trevino (South Texas Grant Research Center) have been working together on trying to obtain various grants and legislative riders for the City as well as working with USDA for funding our new Police/Municipal Court Building. Mr. Trevino provides these services on an as needed basis and not on a retainer. The City of Alamo would like to have a contract approved for record purposes.

Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner J.R. Garza motioned to approve, and Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Morales seconded. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:18 PM

The City Commission will convene in Executive Session, in accordance with Texas Open Meetings Act, Vernon's Texas Statutes and Codes Annotated, Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, Exceptions To Requirement That Meetings Be Open. The City Commission reserves the right to go into executive session on any item listed in the Agenda Notice whether or not such item is posted as an Executive Session Item at any time during the meeting when authorized by the provisions of the Open Meetings Act. Subject to the foregoing reservation, the following are to items to be discussed in executive session:

- 1. Pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.074 Personnel Matters and §551.071 Consultation with Attorney:**
 - a. Discuss Pending Litigation Pertaining to Cause No. C-4524-17-A, Celia Garcia v. City of Alamo, In the 92nd Judicial District Court of Hidalgo County, Texas.**

OPEN SESSION: 7:36PM

The City Commission will convene in Open Session to take necessary action, if any, in accordance with Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Open Meetings, Subchapter E, Procedures Relating to Closed Meeting, § 551.102, Requirement To Vote Or Take Final Action In Open Meeting.

K. Consideration and action on Pending Litigation Pertaining to Cause No. C-4524-17-A, Celia Garcia v. City of Alamo, In the 92nd Judicial District Court of Hidalgo County, Texas.

Mayor Diana Martinez motioned to approve, and Commissioner J.R. 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.

Taylor Cramer voiced his concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event
Jim Barnes voiced his concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event
Fern McLaugherty voiced his concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event
Laura Gutierrez voiced their concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event
Tony Torres voiced his concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event
Janie Melendez voiced their concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event
Stephanie Villarreal voiced their concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event
Rolando Rodriguez voiced their concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event
Miguel Escobar voiced their concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event
Oscar Martinez voiced their concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event
Hector Ruiz voiced their concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event
Gabriel Sanchez voiced their concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event
Vianey Reciado voiced their concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event
Tiffany Gonzalez voiced their concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event
Abigail Avila voiced their concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event
Jaqueline Paez Lugo voiced their concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event
Emanuel Martinez voiced their concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event
Sylvia Valdez voiced their concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event
Nora Molina voiced their concern regarding an LGBTQ+ event

I. ADJOURNMENT

Citizens are encouraged to sign the attendance sheet.

There being no further business, Mayor Diana Martinez adjourned the meeting at 7:36PM



Mayor Diana Martinez

ATTEST:


Alexandra Rangel, Assistant City Manager

