

The Board of Commissioners for the City of Alamo, Texas met for the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., at the City of Alamo Municipal Building.

COMMISSION PRESENT:

Mayor J.R. Garza
Okie Salinas, Mayor Pro-Tem
Pete Moreles, Commissioner (Via Zoom)
Roel Leon Moreno Jr., Commissioner
Arturo "AJ" Garcia, Commissioner

COMMISSION ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert L. Salinas, City Manager
Sergio Zavala, Planning Director
Alicia Cano, HR Director
Julio Villareal, Public Works Director
Roy Contreras, Fire Chief
Adela Perez, Purchasing Agent
Yvette Mendoza, Finance Director
Lori Solis, Library Director
Alejandro Oyoque, Museum Director

Alexandra Rangel, Assistant City Manager
Rick Palacios, City Attorney
Lya Yllades, Public Information Director
Saul Solis, Interim Police Chief
Sandra Chavez, Parks and Rec Director
Michael Torres, IT Director
Ronnie Cruz, City Engineer
Isauro Trevino, AEDC Director
Melissa Leal, Utilities Billing Supervisor

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor J.R. Garza called the regular meeting held on Tuesday January 16, 2024 to order at 6:00 p.m. at the City of Alamo Municipal Building. City Manager Robert L. Salinas led the Pledge of Allegiance and Pastor Tuttle led the Invocation.

C. Presentation and Announcements

Commissioner AJ Garcia announced that PSJA will have a Miss Alamo Scholarship Pageant at PSJA Memorial High School this upcoming February.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas announced that this Thursday January 18, 2024 starting at 7 p.m. Palazzo Event Center will be hosting "The Taste of Alamo" tickets are still available.

D. Consideration and Action to Approve the minutes for a regular meeting on January 2, 2024.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas motioned to approve, Commissioner AJ Garcia seconded. Motion carried.

E. Consideration and Action to Approve a Proclamation Honoring of Alamo's Centennial Celebration Year.

City Manger Robert L. Salinas announced a video presentation of our Mayor J.R. Garza inviting everyone to be part of our Centennial Celebrations.

Mayor J.R. Garza read the Proclamation Honoring City of Alamo's Centennial Celebration Year.

City Manger Robert L. Salinas stated that the crowing for Mrs. Wanda Boush will have to be put on hold due to Ms. Boush being ill. She will be crowned once she feels better.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas recognized the Centennial Committee that were present.

Commissioner AJ Garcia motioned to approve, Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas seconded. Motioned carried.

F. Consideration and Action to Appoint Alamo Police Chief.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas stated that he would like to seek some legal council and for the item to go to Executive Session.

Commissioner Roel Leon Moreno motioned to Appoint Saul Solis for Alamo Police Chief, compensation to be decided by City Administration, Commissioner AJ Garcia seconded. Motioned carried.

Mayor J.R. Garza congratulated our new Alamo Police Chief, Saul Solis

City Manager Robert L. Salinas announced that we will be having a Swearing in Ceremony this Thursday January 18, 2024 at 10 a.m. in Alamo City Hall.

G. Consideration and Action to Appoint members to the Keep Alamo Beautiful Committee Board.

Planning Director Sergio Zavala stated that January 2, 2024, the Board of Commissioners approved a new committee to be incorporated into Title 2 of the City's Code of Ordinances, i.e., 'Boards, Commissions and Committees'. At this time, the Commission is to appoint the KABC. At their first meeting, the KABC will review the draft Bylaws.

Mayor J.R. Garza motioned to appoint Janie Morales

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas motioned to appoint Tom Moncivais

Commissioner Roel Leon Moreno Jr. motioned to appoint Gloria Alvarez

Commissioner AJ Garcia motioned to appoint Kristina Espinoza

Commissioner Pete Morales motioned to appoint Leo Alvarado

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

H. Consideration and Action to Appoint members to the Traffic Safety Committee Board.

Planning Director Sergio Zavala stated that On January 2, 2024, the Board of Commissioners approved a new committee to be incorporated into Title 2 of the City's Code of Ordinances, i.e., 'Boards, Commissions and Committees'. At this time, the Commission is to appoint the Traffic Safet Committee (TSC). At their first meeting, the TSC will review the draft Bylaws.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas motioned to appoint Rick Write

Commissioner Roel Leon Moreno Jr motioned to appoint Armando Cano

Mayor J.R. Garza motioned to appoint Gloria Espinoza

Commissioner AJ Garcia motioned to appoint Eric Gibson

Commissioner Pete Morales motioned to Appoint Maritza Gutierrez

Commissioner AJ Garcia motioned to approve, Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas seconded. Motioned carried.

I. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance to Amend Title 2 “Board Commission and Committees Replacing the ‘Advisory Committee Board’ in Chapter 7 with the ‘Festival, Arts, Recreation and Entertainment (FARE) Committee, providing the following sections regarding the FARE.

Planning Director Sergio Zavala stated that as requested on 1-12-24, to create an ordinance that creates the Festival, Arts, Recreation & Entertainment (FARE) Committee which includes policies to provide its intent and structure. Be advised that in 1995, an Advisory Committee Board was established by the City Commission; however, viewing their lack of structure, this committee is being replaced by FARE. Regarding FARE, please see my comments below:

- Deletes the dormant Advisory Committee Board
- 5 members appointed for 3-year terms; requires residency & to be a 'qualified elector.
- Duties include discussing, assessing and recommending various cultural arts events, recreational activities, festivals, etc. to enhance the overall quality of life for all facets of Alamo's population.
- Staff liaison will be the Public Information Department and any assigned designee as staff support
- FARE to review and adopt Bylaws to provide administrative structure.
- Attached is a DRAFT set of Bylaws that FARE will entertain at their first meeting after their appointment

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas motioned to approve, Commissioner AJ Garcia seconded, Motioned carried.

J. Consideration and Action to rename Ridge Rd. between Alamo Rd. and Tower Rd.

City Manager Robert L. Salinas stated that we had a request submitted to change the Ridge Rd. name between Alamo Rd and Tower Rd to Wolverine Way. He is requesting that if the request is approved to change the road name in an honorary state. It will still be name Ridge Road or use Wolverine Way. The street signs will have the name 'Ridge Road' and above that street sign will be 'Wolverine Way'. This change will not affect the residents and or businesses in that road.

Commissioner AJ Garcia motioned to approve, Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas seconded. Motion carried.

K. Consideration and Action to update the Emergency Management Director/ Coordinator for Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)

City Manager Robert L. Salinas stated that the Texas Department of Emergency Management Form 147 updates. Updates on City Emergency Contacts for State Emergency Management Personnel to make contact with the city for major weather events such as State disasters.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas stated that he would like for this upcoming year to be a 'preparation year' for Assistant City Manager Alexandra Rangel and then take over next year 2025 as the new Emergency Management Director/ Coordinator.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas motioned to approve, Commissioner AJ Garcia seconded. Motion carried.

L. Consideration and Action to Approve the Purchase of a Breathing Air Compressor with a Fill Station and Cascade for the Alamo Fire Department on Collaboration with Fire District No. 4

City Manager Robert L. Salinas stated that The City of Alamo Fire Department was granted a total of \$30,000 by the Hidalgo County Fire District No. 4. The only cities that are funded through this district are San Juan, Alamo, and Donna. The district chose to give each city \$30,000 for Fire equipment. The Alamo Fire Department needs a new breathing air compressor w/fill station and cascade which comes to a total of \$58,084.58. This is a request for the remaining balance to be paid using City funds. The remaining balance is \$28,084.58

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas asked where the Compressor will be located?

Fire Chief Roy Contreras answered that in Fire Station #1

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas motion to approve, Commissioner Roel Leon Moreno Jr. seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing Public Hearing to receive input regarding the application to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Community Facilities Program for the construction/renovation of New Police Station/Fire Stations

AEDC Director Isauro Trevino stated that as per Mayor's instructions and working closely with the City Manager's Office, we are commencing the preparation and creation of a Congressional Report via the Community Grants Program for District 15 on the construction/renovation of New Police Station/Fire Stations. Our project is eligible under the USDA Community Facilities Program and its guidelines requires a public hearing to be held for public input. Public hearing notice was published on JANUARY 5TH

Police Chief Saul Solis stated that the Police Department has outgrown the existing building and that they need more office space for staff, storage space as well as renovations to name a few needs. He is hoping that this new construction/ renovation becomes a reality blessing for our beloved City of Alamo.

Commissioner AJ Garcia stated that AEDC Director Isauro Trevino is trying to save the city money and help our community.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing to receive input regarding the application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) for Flood Mitigation Assistance for drainage improvements purposes.

AEDC Director Isauro Trevino stated that as per Mayor's instructions and working closely with the City Manager's Office, we are commencing the preparation and creation of a Congressional Report via the Community Grants Program for District 34 for Flood Mitigation Assistance for drainage improvements purposes. Our project is eligible under the FEMA's Programs and its guidelines requires a public hearing to be held for public input. Public hearing notice was published on JANUARY 5TH

City Engineer Ronnie Cruz further explain the proposed project.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas stated how this issue has been going on for a long time as well as his approval for this project.

Commissioner AJ Garcia clarified to the public that we are trying to fix issues like this one for our beloved city.

M. Consideration and action on adopting written policies and procedures in alignment with 2CFR 200 Title 2 Subtitle A (Office of Management and Budget Guidance for Grants and Agreements) Chapter II for Hidalgo County compliance for ARPA Funded Street Overlay Projects including but not limited to the following: (1) Ethics/Professional Conduct; (2) Conflict of Interest Policy; (3) Purchasing/Procurement; (4) Segregation of Duties; and (5) Monitoring the use of grant funds.

AEDC Director Isauro Trevino stated that The City of Alamo has been working with Precinct 1 to assist our community with \$150,000 of Streets Overlay Project using ARPA Funds. In order to be compliant with Hidalgo County Community Service Agency, an ARPA Subrecipient Risk Assessment Tool questionnaire is required to be completed and submitted for their review and approval. Risk Assessment Tool recommends mentioned above policies be in place before approval of the project. In order to be compliant and maximize the \$150,000 funds that has been allocated for the City of Alamo, the City Manager's Office is recommending approval of this item.

Mayor J.R. Garza motioned to approve, Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas seconded. Motion carried.

N. Presentation of the 2023 Annual Report regarding the City's Right-of-Way Conveyance Process and Policy as required by Section 7-1-4 (A)(3) of the City's Code of Ordinances

Planning Director Sergio Zavala stated that Alamo has a protocol when property owners request to buy (surplus) city ROW. After assessing if the proposed sale will not inhibit the city's use of it, then Management either approves or disapproves the request. The policy requires an annual report back to the Commission. Pursuant to Section 7-1-4 (A)(3) of the City's Surplus ROW Conveyance Process and Policy, "It is further ordained that on all conveyance applications, the City Manager's office shall submit an annual report to the Board of Commissioners with Staff's specified justifications to either approve or deny the request. The report, reflecting full transparency and accountability, shall be provided within the first quarter of each calendar year at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners. If there are no requests for partial ROW conveyance in the previous reporting year, then Management shall so indicate this in his/her annual report." In 2023, there were 2 applications from neighboring property owners. Both applications were approved by Management.

O. Discussion and Possible Action on an Ordinance to Amend Section 7-1-4 (A)(3) to allow the City Manager the option to appoint a 'Designee' to Prepare/Present the Annual Report on applications under the City's ROW Conveyance Process and Policy

Planning Director Sergio Zavala stated that in Planning's reflection of how to possibly improve this 2021 policy, we discerned that the City Manager's Office may be too occupied in other personnel or administrative matters; especially at the outset of each calendar year. To help in this time-sensitive reporting process, Planning determined that amending the code to allow the option to the City Manager to appoint a designee to help him/her prepare/present this annual report may be prudent.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas motioned to approve, Commissioner AJ Garcia seconded. Motion carried.

P. Presentation of Annual Report of Preceding Year's Events Authorized by the City Manager Utilizing City Facilities

City Manager Robert L. Salinas stated that as per our Civic Use of Public Facilities ordinance, the City Manager is required to give an annual report regarding the events that were permitted using the City's facilities. There were only 3 events of which one of them was canceled due to weather issues. There were no issues and or concerns with the other two events that took place in The Central Park.

Commissioner Pete Morales Stated to make sure that business get notify when events are scheduled.

Q. Consideration and Action Regarding the Approval of an Entertainment Contract for the 2024 Watermelon Festival.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas stated that he would like to seek legal council for this item.

Mayor J.R. Garza stated that at 6:40 they will go to executive session

Mayor J. R. Garza announced that at 7:17 they have returned from Executive session.

Commissioner AJ Garcia motioned to approve the entertainment contract and for the City Manager Robert L. Salinas to start the negotiation with Bobby Pulido's representatives, Commissioner Pete Morales seconded. Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas motioned to dissent. Motion carried.

R. Presentation of Departmental Reports

No comments or concerns.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: 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 J.R. Garza adjourned the meeting at 7:21PM



Mayor J.R. Garza

ATTEST:



Alexandra Rangel, Assistant City Manager