

The Board of Commissioners for the City of Alamo, Texas met for the Special Meeting held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 5:00 p.m., at the City of Alamo Municipal Building.

COMMISSION PRESENT:

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

COMMISSION ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert L. Salinas, City Manager	Alexandra Rangel, Assistant City Manager
Sergio Zavala, Planning Director	Criss Palacios, City Attorney
Lya Yllades, Public Information Director	Alejandro Oyoque, Museum Director
Julio Villareal, Public Works Director	Yvette Mendoza, Finance Director
Roy Contreras, Fire Chief	Sandra Chavez, Parks and Rec. Director
Adela Perez, Purchasing Agent	Michael Torres, IT Director

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor J.R. Garza called the special meeting held on Tuesday February 27, 2024 to order at 5:00 p.m. at the City of Alamo Municipal Building. City Manager Robert L. Salinas led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation.

C. Consideration and Action to Approve a Resolution for the Closure of Expressway 83 to Business 83 for the Annual Texas Independence Day Parade on Saturday, March 02, 2024

City Manager Robert L. Salinas stated that the City of Alamo is hosting the Chamber Texas Independence Parade on Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Chamber is requesting a Closure of FM 907 from Interstate 2 to Business 83 and Business 83 from FM 907 to 7th Street entrance to Central Park.

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

D. Discussion and Possible Action on an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 10 'Zoning Regulations', Chapter 8 'Light Commercial District', Section 10-8-3 'Conditional Uses', to include 'Neighborhood Bars' as a new Conditional Use within said district.

Planning Director Sergio Zavala stated that it's come to the attention of the Planning Department that an existing bar, zoned C-1, desires to continue but under new ownership. As you know, any new ownership, requires that person to secure their own city business license. When the business license request is reviewed by Staff, all prevailing ordinances must be imposed. As I understand it, this mom & pop bar has existed for many years; and seems well-assimilated in the mixed-use neighborhood. In the C-1 district, 'bars' are NOT permitted at all nor is it an option for any such consideration. Instead of attempting an upgrade to a Commercial (C) zone which may cause more harm to the mixed-use neighborhood, a better alternative is to amend the C-1 district to include 'Neighborhood Bars' as a new conditional use. If amended, then the new owner may apply for their CUP. In this way, the City may alert the public of the new ownership's change; and also allow the City to impose reasonable safety restrictions (hydrants, sidewalks, street lighting, etc.) to improve the 'bar' site within its neighborhood. A feature of this new conditional use, any proposed 'Neighborhood Bar' in C-1 must have existed a minimum of 5 years to be eligible to even apply for a CUP. Thus, NO new bar may be considered in C-1 if not already existing. Of course, if this ordinance is adopted, the new owner will apply and then the public hearing process will be activated to discuss the merits of continuing it and, if so, under what restrictions.

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

E. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance to Amend Code of Ordinances Title 1 'Administration', Chapter 6 'City Officers and Employees', Section 1-6-4 'Personnel Policy Guidelines', Section 6.01 of said Policies to Recognize MLK Day as a Holiday.

Planning Director Sergio Zavala stated that this proposal is to add one final holiday into Alamo's personnel policies. The matter of adding MLK Day as a recognized holiday should not stir controversy, but invite harmony as Alamo would finally stand in unison with thousands of communities/cities, all 50 American States, & all federal agencies in doing so. It was over 40 years ago (1983) that legislation was passed making MLK Day a federal holiday. The Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act of the mid-60's passed after much struggle and stress. The basic privilege to not be discriminated in public accommodations, facilities, and employment was legally secured. All minorities, & our future generations, now consider this as a rightful expectation. Dr. Martin Luther King was the central leader working to simply secure basic rights to all minorities during perilous times. Of course, a massive amount of work using peaceful & nonviolent methods were performed by many other civil rights & sympathetic political leaders. We also know that more than a few sacrificed their own lives for the cause of simple fairness & inclusivity for (all) minorities. Planning's Recommendation: This Planning Director believes that it is a fair and just to include MLK Day into Alamo's Personnel Policies for reasons cited above. On the Option 2 concept to remove a personal holiday-Planning merely states that the employees of all departments work hard and, as attested in the employees' December 2024 Xmas luncheon, they are the backbone of the city that makes the machine work continually at all hours of the day by the sweat of their brow; and if needed, during weekends and holidays, too. The 2 personal days currently in policy should remain intact to be used by employees pursuant to their personal discretion in consideration for their loyalty and hard work ethic.

As instructed by Management, the following options are provided for your consideration:

OPTION 1: Approve MLK Day as a city holiday.

OPTION 2: Approve MLK Day as a city holiday but remove 1 personal day from employees use.

OPTION 3: Deny MLK Day as a city holiday.

Board of Commissioners: Meeting-February 27, 2024; vote was to sustain option.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas asked what are we lacking on Federal Holidays for the City.

Planning Director Sergio Zavala stated that Marthin Luther King is the only Federal Holiday the City is missing.

Commissioner Roel Leon Moreno thanked Planning Director Sergio Zavala for putting all this together and he also thanked all the city employees for their hard work and dedication.

Commissioner Roel Leon Moreno Jr motion to approve Option #1, Commissioner Pete Morales seconded. Motioned carried.

All commission thanked all the City of Alamo employees for their hard work and dedication.

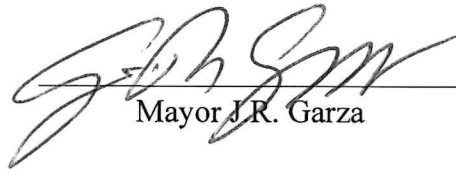
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: Five minutes per person with no response from the City Commission. Residents must sign up prior to the city meeting.

Resident Ms. Dariela Pargas stated her concerns about the roads.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Citizens are encouraged to sign the attendance sheet.

There being no further business, Mayor J.R. Garza adjourned the meeting at 5:26 p.m.



Mayor J.R. Garza

ATTEST:



Alexandra Rangel, Assistant City Manager

