

The Board of Commissioners for the City of Alamo, Texas met for the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, January 7th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., at the City of Alamo Municipal Building.

COMMISSION PRESENT:

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

COMMISSION ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert L. Salinas, City Manager
Rick Palacios, City Attorney
Sergio Zavala, Planning Director
Saul Solis, Police Chief
Alex Oyoque, Museum Director
Jose Tamez, Library Director
Jessica Garcia, Assistant Library Dir.
Arturo Aguirre, HR Director
Michael Torres, IT Director
Melissa Leal, Water Billing Supervisor
Ronnie Cruz, City Engineer

Alexandra Rangel, Assistant City Manager
Ana Garza, City Secretary
RC Flores, Fire Chief
Yvette Mendoza, Finance Director
Sandra Chavez, Parks & Rec Director
Miguel Cavazos, Assistant Parks & Rec Director
Isauro Trevino, AEDC Consultant
Adela Perez, Purchasing Agent
Juan Ornelas, Assistant Public Works Dir.
Nina Chavez, Creative Producer

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor J.R. Garza called the regular meeting held on Tuesday, January 7th, 2025 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.

Presentation and Announcements

- *City Manager Robert L. Salinas announced that, in anticipation of inclement weather, the City of Alamo will share updates on shelters, and weather conditions through our social media channels. Residents are encouraged to check these platforms for the latest information.*
- *Assistant City Manager Alexandra Rangel invited everyone to the Alaniz-Villagomez Park ground breaking this upcoming January 10th, 2025 at 10 a.m.*
- *Mayor J.R. Garza announced the retirement of Ms. Gracie Pequeno, honoring 35 years of dedicated service to the City of Alamo at the Parks and Recreation Department.*
- *Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas thanked Ms. Gracie Pequeno for her hard work and dedication noting that he has known her since childhood. He also assured her that if she ever wishes to return, the City of Alamo will always welcome her with open arms.*
- *Commissioner Pete Morales thanked Ms. Gracie Pequeno for her all her years of service for the City of Alamo and wished her the best.*
- *Commissioner Roel Leon Moreno Jr. thanked Ms. Gracie Pequeno and wished her the best.*
- *Commissioner AJ Garcia assured Ms. Gracie Pequeno that the City of Alamo would always welcome her back with open arms, emphasizing that there are plenty of opportunities in our city.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

- *No public comments*

II CONSENT AGENDA

All consent agenda items are considered routine by the City Commission and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember requests an item be removed and considered separately. The City Commission May Take Various Actions; Included But Not Limited To Rescheduling An Item In Its Entirety For A

Future Date Or Time. The City Commission May Elect To Go Into Executive Session Item At Any Time During The Meeting When Authorized By The Provision Of The Open Meetings Act.

1. *Consideration and Action to Approve the minutes for a regular meeting on December 17th, 2024.*
2. *Presentation of the Traffic Safety Committee's (TSC's) 2024 Annual Report*
3. *Consideration and Possible Action on an Ordinance to amend Title 8 'Public Utilities', Chapter 1 'Water Use and Service', and Chapter 5 'Utility and Sanitation Rates and Charges.*
4. *City Manager's Annual Report for 2024; pursuant to Section 7-1-4 (A)(3) 'Right of-Way Conveyance Process and Policy'*
5. *Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the 2024 Population Estimate for the City of Alamo as it relates to title 6 'Motor Vehicles & Traffic', Chapter 6 'Wreckers', Section 6-6-15(8) of Alamo's Code of Ordinances to determine whether to increase Wrecker Services (Rotation).*

Commissioner Pete Morales motioned to approve all items under Consent Agenda, Mayor J.R. Garza seconded. Motion carried.

III. Regular Agenda

D. Presentation by Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott LLP of the Collection Report October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024.

Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott LLP partner, Janelle V. Casso presented Rio Grande Valley Office Manager, Mr. Hiram A. Gutierrez, Communication Manager, Mr. Romeo Cantu and Governmental Affairs Liaison, Joel Quintanilla. She proceeded by presenting the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Collection Report that included the following;

- *Activities October 2023-September 2024*
 - *Phone calls 3,271*
 - *Letter mailed 12,190*
 - *Address Updates 5,032*
- *Court Collections - total liquidated: \$188,335*
 - *Cases Resolved \$124,073*
 - *Total cash collected \$64,262*

She concluded by emphasizing the importance of research to identify accurate addresses for our defendants, as knowing their locations – whether locally or across the United States- is crucial successfully collecting any funds from them.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas thanked Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott LLP for their hard work and dedication. He has received calls from residents asking why they have been contacted to collect funds if the debt had been over 20 years ago.

Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott LLP partner, Janelle V. Casso stated that the City of Alamo has defendants that range up to 20 years in collection status.

Mayor J.R. Garza thanked Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott LLP for the presentation updating the residents and staff with important information.

E. Consideration and Action to approve an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Alamo and County Hidalgo for the Development of the Precinct 1 Hike & Bike Trail.

Precinct 1 Commissioner David L. Fuentes presented Director of Operations Oscar Gonzalez and thanked him for the improvements of all the roads and right-a-ways maintenances. He stated that the Hike and Bike trail is a project that they initiated that will help connect the city park in Weslaco, TX all the way to San Juan, TX. The main goal is to connect all the communities together and in doing so they will need the help of the neighboring cities, irrigation district and drainage districts. He continued by giving details about the proposed trail that will be build at no cost to the City of Alamo. He did mention that the only thing they will need help on would be lighting along the trail.

Commissioner AJ Garcia thanked Commissioner David Fuentes for the presentation and looks forward for future projects in collaboration with Precinct 1.

Mayor J.R. Garza asked what is the timeline for this project.

Director of Operations Oscar Gonzalez answered that unfortunately, they cannot provide a definite timeline for the project completion or arrival, as it depends on various factors including partnerships, weather conditions and unforeseen circumstances.

Commissioner David Fuentes stated that sometimes their partners have a lot of requirements and or restrictions, like how they would like for them to improve their property, and in doing so it adds time to conclude the project or proceed with it. Meetings like this will help with any questions and not delay the construction.

Further questions and concerns were addressed.

Mayor J. R. Garza motioned to approve, Commissioner Pete Morales seconded. Motion carried.

F. Consideration and Action to Appoint a Mayor Pro-Tem for the Alamo Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner AJ Garcia motioned to appoint Roel Leon Moreno Jr as the new Mayor Pro-Tem, Commissioner Pete Morales seconded. Motion carried.

G. Consideration and Action to approve a Resolution to Select a firm for Grant Program Administration Services for the Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program Allocated Through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

City Manager Robert L. Salinas stated that the City of Alamo advertised and requested RFQs for the selection of a grant program administration services for the City of Alamo GLO DRRP projects. The qualifications were received, reviewed, and graded by City staff. The results are as follows:

1. Grantworks
2. Border Affairs
3. Ricardo Gomez & Associates

Staff used various criteria in determining the scores of the firms, including experience of the firm, prior work performance, capacity to perform, and proposed costs.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the selection of Grantworks to serve as the grant program administrator for all GLO DRRP projects. This item is now before you.

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

H. Consideration and Action to approve a Resolution to Select an Engineer(s) for the Disaster Recovery Reallocation Program Allocated Through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

City Manager Robert L. Salinas stated that the The City of Alamo advertised and requested RFQs for the selection of an Engineer(s) for the City of Alamo GLO DRRP projects. The qualifications were received, reviewed, and graded by city staff. The results are as follows:

1. Cruz Hogan
2. Melden & Hunt
3. Javier Hinojosa
4. Rio Delta Engineering
5. LeFevre Engineering
6. Alvarado Architects & Associates

Staff used various criteria in determining the scores of the firms, including experience of the firm, prior work performance, and capacity to perform. The GLO DRRP only allows the City of Alamo to submit 3 projects for review under the DRRP. Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the top 3 engineers in order to ensure all projects are being worked on at the same time. This item is now before you.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas asked if this item was different than the engineers that were chosen last month.

City Manager Robert L. Salinas answered yes. Last month the engineers that were chosen were for city project and this is for GLO DRRP Projects.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas motioned to approve the top 4 engineers which are Cruz Hogan, Melden & Hunt, Javier Hinojosa and Rio Delata Engineering, Commissioner Pete Morales seconded. Motion carried.

I. Consideration and Action to select a firm for collection services on delinquent tax collection.

Mayor J.R. Garza stated that they had legal questions in regards to this item, they will move this item to Executive Session.

J. Consideration and Action to select a firm for collection services on municipal court fines and fees.

Mayor J.R. Garza stated that they had legal questions in regards to this item, they will move this item to Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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:

Mayor J.R. Garza called to executive session at 6:36 p.m.

1. Pursuant to Texas Government Code §551.071 Consultations with Attorney:
 - a. Item I-Regular Agenda- Consideration and Action to select a firm for connection services on delinquent tax collection.
 - b. Item J-Regular Agenda Consideration and Action to select a firm for collection services on municipal court fines and fees.

OPEN SESSION:

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.

Mayor J.R. Garza open session at 7:04 p.m.

- 1. Item I-Regular Agenda- Consideration and Action to select a firm for connection services on delinquent tax collection.**

City Manager Robert L. Salinas stated that on December 26, 2024 a notice of non-renewal was sent out to our current provider and they will be having to bring back this item for proper allocate.

No action.

- 2. Item J- Regular Agenda - Consideration and Action to select a firm for collection services on municipal court fines and fees**

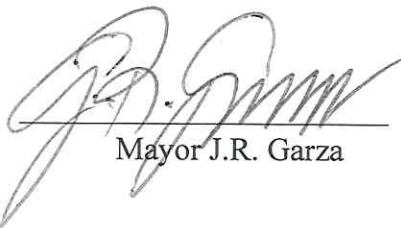
No action.

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

I. ADJOURNMENT

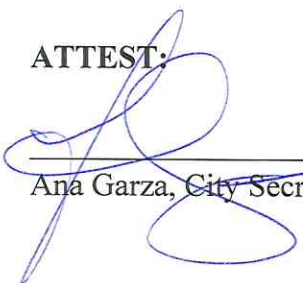
Citizens are encouraged to sign the attendance sheet.

There being no further business, Mayor J.R. Garza adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.



Mayor J.R. Garza

ATTEST:



Ana Garza, City Secretary

