

The Board of Commissioners for the City of Alamo, Texas met for the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 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  
Okie Salinas, Commissioner  
Pilar Garza, Commissioner

**COMMISSION ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Robert L. Salinas, City Manager  
Alexandra Rangel, City Secretary  
Rick Palacios, City Attorney  
Richard Ozuna, Police Chief  
Roy Contreras, Fire Chief  
Rafael Tapia, AEDC Director  
Lori Solis, Library Director  
Michael Torres, IT Director

Sergio Zavala, Planning Director  
Adela Perez, Purchasing Agent  
Alex Oyoque, Museum Director  
Ronnie Cruz, City Engineer  
Julio Villareal, Public Works Director  
Yvette Mendoza, Finance Director  
Melisa Gonzales, Special Projects Director  
Melissa Leal, Water Billing Supervisor

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

*Mayor Diana Martinez called the regular meeting held on Tuesday August 16, 2022 to order at 6:00 p.m. at the City of Alamo Municipal Building. Mayor Diana Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance and Bobby Salinas led the Invocation.*

**C. Presentations and Announcements**

*Library Director Lori Solis announced the National Night Out Friday August 19<sup>th</sup> at 6PM and our Final Music in the Park featuring Texas Storm at 7:30PM. In addition, a benefit at Peter Piper Pizza for Gris Gomez will take place all day Wednesday.*

*Mayor Diana Martinez mentioned you have to mention you are there for Gris Gomez*

*Commissioner Okie Salinas any updates?*

*City Manager Robert Salinas responded only what Parks and Rec. mention and that is she is doing good but not out of the woods.*

*Mayor Diana Martinez congratulated PSJA Memorial HS for getting a B in the National Outstanding Award*

*Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Morales congratulated the girls 14U Softball Team*

**D. Consideration and Action to approve the minutes for the first regular meeting of August 2, 2022.**

*Commissioner Okie Salinas motioned to approve, and Commissioner J.R. Garza seconded. Motion carried.*

**E. Consideration and Action to approve a Resolution for Temporary Street Closures of FM 907 and Business 83 on Saturday October 1, 2022 from 4 pm to 8pm to hold the Pink Belles Breast Cancer Foundation 5k Run/Walk.**

*City Manager Robert Salinas stated a resolution is needed for TXDoT to proceed on the road closure.*

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

**F. Consideration and Action to approve the 2022 RGVSHOWOFF "Littmas Toy Drive" event at Downtown Central Park.**

*City Manager Robert Salinas stated this is the second year the RGVSHOWOFF is requesting the use of Downtown Central Park and stage.*

*Commissioner J.R. Garza motioned to approve, and Commissioner Okie Salinas seconded. Motion carried.*

**G. Consideration and action on an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Weslaco for animal control operations and impoundment.**

*City Manager Robert Salinas stated this is our 3<sup>rd</sup> year in going into an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Weslaco for animal control operations and impoundment when it used to cost the city \$140K and now it is less than a awarded thousand.*

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

**H. Consideration and Action on a contract to lease 1,250 acre-feet of water from Hidalgo County Irrigation District #2.**

*City Manager Robert Salinas stated a few months ago we purchased half of the amount and we are now proposing to purchase the other half towards the end of the year. In the latest report I did see we have 700-acre feet of water left. In your packet you do see the existing contract, this will be the exact number in the new contract.*

*Commissioner J.R. Garza motioned to approve, and Commissioner Pilar Garza seconded. Motion carried.*

**I. Consideration and Action to approve the renewal for TML Health Insurance.**

*City Manager Robert Salinas stated on the renewal we did have a presentation not too long ago, but when the numbers came back from the TML underwriters there was an increase because there we dual options. Once we sent the plans to TML, the plans increased to 33% and the lower plan to 1.58%. To avoid any increase, we are moving forward only with the GAP plan.*

*Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Morales asked the current rate is \$1,422.46 and the new rate is \$1,273.18.*

*City Manager Robert Salinas responded yes*

*Commissioner Okie Salinas motioned to approve, and Commissioner J.R. Garza seconded. Motion carried.*

**J. Discuss and Consider Proposed Tax Rate for the City of Alamo for Fiscal year beginning October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023 and Setting Public Hearings.**

*City Manager Robert Salinas stated the new 2022 tax rates, last year tax's rate is at \$0.5817 the proposed is to stay the same. This does require a record vote for recommendations.*

*Commissioner Okie Salinas asked how long it been since the last change?*

*City Manager Robert Salinas stated the about 5 years ago, he went on to compare other city tax rates. Stating the city's tax rate being the lowest compared to our neighboring cities.*

*The Commission unanimously voted of 5-0 for \$0.5817*

*Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Morales asked as we grow as a city can we reduce taxes? Is this something we can look at in the future?*

*City Manager Robert Salinas responded yes. Also in your packet, we are approving meeting dates and public hearings*

**K. Consideration and action on Ordinance to Update title 9 'Building Regulations' by adopting more current construction and property maintenance codes to include the Building Code, the Residential Code, Fire Code, Mechanical Code, Plumbing Code, Fuel Gas Code, Energy Conservation Code, Electrical Code, Property Maintenance Code; and amending Section 9-1-3 (N)(l) regarding required registration fees for certain occupations (plumbers, electricians, AC contractors)**

Planning Director Sergio Zavala stated in assessing the current Codes that pertain to building construction and property maintenance, it was determined that it was in the city's best interest to update these regulations. As with all cities, our building-related codes must occasionally be updated to its newer/updated version. The ordinance was prepared to simplify intent and minimize the need to maintain so many copies of the Codes, i.e., currently, the City Secretary is required to maintain 3 sets of most of these codes in her office - this is deemed un-necessary since all of the Codes have been available on-line for many years. In summary, the changes are as follows:

Adopt the 2021 Building	Code replaces the 2012 edition
Adopt the 2018 Residential	Code replaces the 2012 edition
Adopt the 2018 Fire	Code replaces the 2012 edition
Adopt the 2021 Mechanical	Code replaces the 2003 edition
Adopt the 2021 Plumbing	Code replaces the 2012 edition
Adopt the 2018 Fuel Gas	Code replaces the 2012 edition
Adopt the 2021 Energy	Conservation Code replaces the 2015 edition
Adopt the 2020 Electrical	Code replaces the 2017 edition
Adopt the 2018 Property Maintenance	Code replaces the 2012 edition
Nullify the registration fees for plumbers, electricians, AC contractors pursuant to State legislation that prohibits or inhibits such registration fees.	

Commissioner Okie Salinas stated we need to let the contractors know

Planning Director Sergio Zavala responded yes, we will display this information to the public and won't be in effect until October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Okie Salinas motioned to approve, and Commissioner J.R. Garza seconded. Motion carried.

**L. Consideration and Action on Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances Title 1, Chapter 6' City Officers and Employees' as it relates to the Personnel Polies of the City of Alamo, adding a provision in the Alcohol and Drugs Policy to include 'Reading Below 0.5%'**

Planning Director Sergio Zavala stated Attached please find an ordinance intended to add a new provision, identified as "#7 Readings Below 0.5%". The current policy declares that anyone with an alcoholic reading of 0.5% is in violation of the city's Alcohol and Drugs Policy. However, the policy is silent on those employees whose readings are below 0.5%, i.e., there is no supervisory recourse to recapture confidence or performance of that employee during this post-reading tenure. A reading of below 0.5%, though not violating the threshold of policy, may still have an employee appear to be (slightly) disoriented; or their judgment may be impaired; or they may reflect various levels of unstable coordination. All these possible symptoms may have a detrimental effect on city services, or even risk that employees' welfare or the welfare of co-workers; and may even risk damage to expensive city equipment, of course. The ordinance is only enabled when official readings are legitimately gathered, and examined by a supervisor. Certainly, we want our city employees to be as healthy as possible for their valuable work, but also to take that higher measure of health home to their families. This ordinance takes the threshold of accountability to a higher level by hopefully having our employees behave more responsibly while away from work because what they consume while not working may affect their performance & judgment while at work. As with any other policy adjustment, we can re-visit the incidents this code change has been used for; thus, we can always consider refining the verbiage to the desired intent/result.

City Manager Robert Salinas stated this was created to make it clear to supervisors as to policy procedures.

*Commissioner Okie Salinas asked will there be training for supervisors to so they are aware on how to make a judgement.*

*City Manager Robert Salinas responded that is something we can look into.*

*Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Morales asked what is the current policy if they hit a vehicle?*

*City Manager Robert Salinas responded they get drug tested*

*Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Morales asked will they get terminated?*

*City Manager Robert Salinas responded it will depend on the situation, but most likely it will happen.*

*Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Morales asked on the policy does it say 0.5% or less?*

*City Manager Robert Salinas responded it doesn't say anything*

*Planning Director Sergio Zavala stated at the moment it only states the policy is silent on those employees whose readings are below 0.5%, i.e., there is no supervisory recourse to recapture confidence or performance of that employee during this post-reading tenure.*

*Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Morales asked this policy will be for fire and police as well?*

*Planning Director Sergio Zavala responded yes for everyone*

*Commissioner Okie Salinas stated for example the City of McAllen is a zero-tolerance policy*

*Mayor Diana Martinez asked will employees have a training and sign off that they understand the policy*

*City Manager Robert Salinas responded yes*

*Commissioner J.R. Garza asked what will be the safe parameters here?*

*City Manager Robert Salinas responded anything below 0.5%*

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

***M. Presentation of Departmental Reports.***

*Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Morales asked for Code Enforcement Report?*

*City Manager Robert Salinas responded they added a note they did not do inspections because they were out on vacation*

*Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Morales asked if someone else did the inspections?*

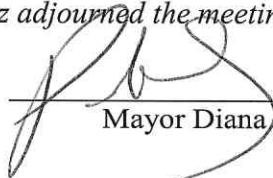
*City Manager Robert Salinas responded no, we only have one code enforcement officer*

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** Five minutes per person with no response from the City  
*No citizen participation*

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

Citizens are encouraged to sign the attendance sheet.

*There being no further business, Mayor Diana Martinez adjourned the meeting at 6:28PM*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Diana Martinez

ATTEST:

  
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Alexandra Rangel, City Secretary



