

The Board of Commissioners for the City of Alamo, Texas met for the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 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  
Roel Leon Moreno Jr., Commissioner  
Arturo "AJ" Garcia, Commissioner

**COMMISSION ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Robert L. Salinas, City Manager	Alexandra Rangel, Assistant City Manager
Rick Palacios, City Attorney	Lori Solis, Library Director
Yvette Mendoza, Finance Director	Lya Yllades, Public Information Director
Alicia Cano, HR Director	Julio Villareal, Public Works Director
Roy Contreras, Fire Chief	Juan Ornelas, Assistant Public Works Director
Isauro Trevino AEDC Director	Sandra Chavez, Park and Rec. Director
Saul Solis, Police Chief	Ana Garza, Executive Secretary

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

*Mayor J.R. Garza called the regular meeting held on Tuesday December 19, 2023, 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**

- *Mayor Pro-Tem, Okie Salinas announced the Fire Department Push-In Ceremony on Thursday December 21, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at 415 N. Tower Rd. Alamo TX 78516*
- *City Manager Robert L. Salinas announced that the Nebraska Drainage Project should be completed in 3 about weeks.*
- *Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Wishing to continue success to the upcoming year 2024.*
- *Commissioner, AJ Garcia announced that the Theater and Dazzlers at PSJA Memorial Highschool will be having a play called "Nine to Five" December 21, 22, and 23 starting at 7p.m.*
- *Mayor J.R. Garza announced and welcome RGV Urgent Care to the City of Alamo*
- *Commissioner Pete Morales announced that the Alamo Fire Department is seeking volunteers. If anyone is interested, please contact Robert Chavez for further information.*
- *Commissioner Roel Leon Moreno Jr. announced that the Alamo Police Department will be having a Toy Drive with our Blue Santa this upcoming December 23, 2023 starting at 10 a.m. for all the community.*
- *Assistant City Manager Alexandra Rangel announced that the City of Alamo will be closed Friday December 22 and Monday December 25 in observance for the Christmas Holiday and Friday December 29 and Monday January 1<sup>st</sup> in observance to the New Year Holiday.*

**D. Consideration and Action to Approve the minutes for a regular meeting on December 5, 2023.**

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

**E. Consideration and Action to Approve the reappointment memebers of the AEDC Board.**

*Commissioner Pete Morales motioned to re-appoint Mr. Raul Medina, Mrs. Criselda Moncayo, and Mr. Ricardo Salazar, Commissioner AJ Garcia seconded. Motion carried.*

**F. Consideration and Action to approve a job description for an Events Coordinator**

Assistant City Manager Alexandra Rangel stated that under general supervision from the Public Information Director the Events Coordinator will plan, market, organize and conduct all duties and responsibilities related to the City events. This position plays a vital role on enhancing the city's public image, engaging residents, and fostering community pride through various media channels.

Commissioner Roel Leon Moreno Jr. motioned to approve, Commissioner AJ Garcia seconded. Motion carried.

**G. Consideration and Action to Approve to allocate funding for the remodel of Fire Station No. 1**

City Manger Robert Salinas stated that the City has some discretionary funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 that may be designated for future projects, needed repairs, and/or new equipment. He presented two proposed options for the remodel of Fire Station No. 1, staff is wanting to allocate \$500,000 to proceed with Option 2. Option 2 will allow for growth in staff and increase in square footage. Architect Charlie Garcia is in the audience if any questions in regard to the design.

Commissioner Pete Morales asked if we have outgrown the fire station # 1?

Fire Department Chief Roy Contreras answered Yes. We need more offices as well as dormitories for our fire fighters.

Mayor J.R. Garza invited Architect Charlie Garcia to the podium to further explain the fire station current conditions as well as explain what has been designed and proposed.

Architect Charlie Garcia explain that the designs proposed considered the ADA, Code Compliance and regulatory compliances as well as the cost for this remodel. He further explained both proposed options with Option Number 1 estimated about \$250,000 dollars and option number 2 estimated about \$500,000. The cost per square footage will be approximately \$95 dollars.

Mayor J.R. Garza asked the time frame for such remodeling.

Architect Charlie Garcia estimated about 11 months.

There was further discussion at this point reaching the decision to further discuss the layout of the design to better accommodate the fire fighters as well as the administrative personnel.

Mayor J.R. Garza motioned to approve option # 1, Commissioner AJ Garcia seconded. Motion carried.

**H. Presentation on current/proposed Capital Projects seeking grant funding via State and Federal Agencies.**

AEDC Director Isauro Trevino stated that he has been working closely with the Mayor's and City Manager's Office on strategically planning for funding on current and proposed capital projects for this fiscal year. The proposed projects are currently working on and proposing as follows:

- (1) Tower Road Lift Station Replacement/Upgrade (TWDB) \$5,000,000
- (2) Street Improvements Partnership with Pct. #1 (ARPA) \$ 150,000
- (3) Alamo Sports Park Tennis Court/Walking Trail (VBLF) \$ 635,000
- (4) New Police Station and Fire Stations Renovations (USDA) \$7,500,000
- (5) Drainage Project: Duranta Avenue Upgrade (FEMA) \$1,600,000  
(From 13th Street to Alamo Expressway Drain)

— AEDC Director Isauro Trevino will submit a detailed report on the proposed project further on January 2024.

Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas asked City Manager Robert L. Salinas for an update of the 13<sup>th</sup> street project with the General Land Office

City Manager Robert Salinas stated that we have summited everything that has been required and we are just waiting for the environmental clearance.

For the record, Mayor Pro-Tem Okie Salinas stated that the project has been designed and engineered and we are just waiting for the funding to start moving forward with this project.

Commissioner Pete Morales asked on an update in regard to Ridge Road, Border Road and Tower Road.

City Manager Robert L. Salinas stated that we will be having a pre-construction meeting mid-January 2024 to further discuss this matter.

— **I. Consideration and Action to Publish Notice for a 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 publish notice for a public hearing to be held for public input.

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

**J. Consideration and action to hold a 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 mentioned on previous item, our project is eligible under the USDA Community Facilities Program and its guidelines requires the City to hold public hearing for public input.

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

**K. Consideration and Action to Publish Notice for a 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 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. Drainage Project: Duranta Avenue Upgrade (FEMA) \$1,600,000 (From 13th Street to Alamo Expressway Drain) Our project is eligible under the FEMA's Programs and its guidelines requires a publish notice for a public hearing to be held for public input. Publish only.

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

***L. Consideration and Action to hold a 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. Drainage Project: Duranta Avenue Upgrade (FEMA) \$1,600,000 (From 13th Street to Alamo Expressway Drain) Our project is eligible under the FEMA's Programs and its guidelines requires a publish notice for a public hearing to be held for public input. Publish only once: 1st notice date: JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> Next City Council meeting for hold public meeting: Tuesday, January 16th

Commissioner Pete Morales motioned to approve, Commissioner AJ Garcia seconded. Motion carried.

***M. Consideration and Action on an Ordinance of the City of Alamo, Hidalgo County, Texas, Amending the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year General Fund Budget for October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024, to wit: Proving for the increase of expenditures and revenues; proving for severability; proving for publication; proving for an effective date; and ordaining other provisions relating to the subject matter thereof.***

City Manager Robert Salinas stated That the budget for the City of Alamo, Hidalgo County, Texas, for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 which was effective October 1, 2023 as set forth in ordinance heretofore adopted, is hereby amended in the following particulars:

- To amend the General Fund Budget Line Item 01-511-4099 to provide funding for Contracted Services, in the amount of \$337,500.
- To amend the General Fund Budget Line Item 01-511-8074 to provide funding for remodeling the City Commission, in the amount of \$15,000.
- To amend the General Fund Budget Line Item 01-520-1001 to provide additional funding to Public Information department, in the amount of \$22,600.
- The city of Alamo will be having our centennial year in 2024 and because of this we would like for the watermelon festival budget to be increased to \$50,000 dollars total.

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

***N. Consideration and Action to Approve an Ordinance Authorizing an Advance Funding Agreement for Voluntary Maintenance by the City of Alamo (Off-system) and Authorize City Manger to enter into such Agreement.***

City Manager Robert Salinas stated the City of Alamo was approached by TxDOT to see if we would be willing to help with the maintenance of pavement markings and signage on roadway approaches to highway rail-grade crossings. TxDOT will install appropriate signage and pavement markings at these rail-grade approaches. It'll be at no cost to the City; however, we would then have to maintain such pavement markings and approaches, hence the AFA agreement.

Commissioner AJ Garcia motioned to approve, Commissioner Roel Leon Moreno Jr seconded. Motion carried.

**O. Presentation of Departmental Reports**

Departmental report were included in the commissioner's packet, no comments from the City Commission

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 items to be discussed in Executive Session:

**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 6:44PM

  
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Mayor J.R. Garza

ATTEST:

  
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Alexandra Rangel, Assistant City Manager