

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS  
CITY COUNCIL  
March 7, 2016

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Alamo Heights, Texas was held in the Council Chambers, located at 6116 Broadway, San Antonio, Texas, at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, March 7, 2016.

Present and composing a quorum were:

Mayor Louis Cooper  
Mayor Pro-Tempore Lynda Billa Burke  
Councilmember Bobby Rosenthal  
Councilmember Fred Prassel  
Councilmember John Savage

Also attending was:

City Manager J. Mark Browne  
Assistant City Manager/Fire Chief Buddy Kuhn  
Assistant to the City Manager Marian Mendoza  
Community Development Services Department Director Jason Lutz  
Public Works Director Pat Sullivan

Absent were:

Councilmember Lawson Jessee  
City Secretary Jennifer Reyna

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Mayor Cooper called the meeting to order at 8:44 a.m.

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*Item No. 1* Mayor Cooper read the following caption.

**Architectural Review Board Case No. 617F, consider a request of Alamo Heights Optimist club, applicant, for the final design review of the proposed lighting upgrades at the property located at 250 Viesca Street**

Community Development Services Department Director Jason Lutz made a PowerPoint presentation that included background information on the proposed lighting upgrades.

Mr. Lutz informed Council that the City entered into an agreement with the Alamo Heights Optimist Club (AHOC) to provide lighting in the parking area located adjacent to the Little League ball fields and the applicant requested to install new lighting for the facility located at 250 Viesca. He explained the purpose for the lighting upgrades is to provide lighting in the parking area to deter criminal activity, provide a well-lit and safer environment for the citizens and guests, and

provide for adequate light and electrical sources for community events. Section 3-84 *Special parking regulations* within the Code of Ordinances was referenced.

Mr. Lutz provided details of the proposed poles and the new wiring that will be conducted underground. Photos of the proposed lighting upgrades were presented. He stated all electrical bills associated with the use and maintenance of the proposed lighting upgrades would be the sole responsibility of the applicant and not the City.

On February 23, 2016, the Architectural Review Board recommended approval of the final review of the proposed lighting upgrades as presented and made the following recommendations: 1) Council consider in the Comprehensive Plan a harmonious and continuous lighting design for all public service and 2) possible budgeting. Staff received three postcards in support of the request and four in opposition.

Mayor Cooper commented that the poles match the parking area and acknowledged lighting had been an issue. He stated he observed the parking lot was in poor condition.

Public Works Director Pat Sullivan acknowledged the parking lot was in poor condition.

Councilmember Bobby Rosenthal asked representatives from the AHOC leasing the meter to Little League when AHOC is not using them.

Wiley Mitchell, President, AHOC, responded to Councilmember Rosenthal that the lighting upgrades are donated as a gift to the community.

Council asked questions about the trenching location/depth, objections, and access to the power switches.

Mr. Lutz responded that the trenching will occur from the existing meter across the parking lot to the two islands and stated the depth of the wires are mandated by the National Electric Code. He shared objections were of light poles sought to be decorative, light pollution, and concern on the lack of dark sky standards.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the proposed lights are not intended to be on all night and shared that the individual poles will have a switch.

Phil Corcoran, AHOC member, stated that there will be coordination among community organizations or the Little League to turn off the lights and it will be accessible. He added that the breakers proposed on Viesca are lower illuminated lights and are adjustable. He stated ideally the lighting installation is sought to be completed prior to their annual Fiesta event.

The following citizen spoke on this matter:

Sally Ann Smith, Friends of the Hondondo Creek, stated all community organizations have worked hard to create a beautiful and functional area. She expressed concern on the type of lights

that are being proposed and poor coordination. She commented in her opinion that the pole lights are ugly and requested AHOC to seek a temporary solution for an attractive lighting solution.

Mayor Cooper thanked Ms. Smith for her comments and noted that in this circumstance the lighting upgrades are at a parking lot.

Mayor Pro Tem Lynda Burke stated this is a good progress to initiate lighting standards within the community. She highlighted safety is a priority for the community.

Mr. Mitchell stated this is the best solution that was reviewed respectively and will be available for the community to use.

A motion for approval was made by Mayor Pro Tem Billa Burke. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Prassel and passed by unanimous vote.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 a.m.



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Louis Cooper  
Mayor



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Jennifer Reyna  
City Secretary