

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL
May 26, 2015

A regular rescheduled meeting of the City Council of the City of Alamo Heights, Texas was held at Council Chambers, located at 6116 Broadway, San Antonio, Texas, at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2015.

Present and composing a quorum were:

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

Also attending were:

City Manager J. Mark Browne
Fire Chief/Assistant City Manager Buddy Kuhn
Assistant to the City Manager Marian V. Mendoza
Finance Director Cynthia Barr
Community Development Services Department Director Jason Lutz
Human Resource Manager Lori Harris
City Secretary Jennifer Reyna
Chief Police Rick Pruitt
Public Works Director Pat Sullivan

Absent was:

City Attorney Mike Brennan

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Mayor Louis Cooper opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

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Item # 1 Presentation of Certificates of Election and administration of Oaths of Office to newly elected officials: Mayor – Louis R. Cooper; Councilmember, Place 1 – Lawson Jessee; and Councilmember, Place 2 – Bobby Rosenthal

City Secretary Jennifer Reyna announced Mayor Louis Cooper, and Councilmembers Lawson Jessee and Bobby Rosenthal were declared elected. Ms. Reyna administered the oaths of office and congratulated them.

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Item # 2 Election of Mayor Pro Tempore

A motion was made by Councilmember Fred Prassel to elect Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke as the Mayor Pro Tempore. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bobby Rosenthal and passed by unanimous vote.

Item # 3 Recognition of Cynthia Barr for her 16 dedicated years of service as Finance Director

City Manager Mark Browne complimented Ms. Barr for her dedicated years of service and contributions. He briefly highlighted her achievements and congratulated her on her retirement. Mr. Browne read and presented Ms. Barr a plaque.

Mayor Cooper read a proclamation that highlighted her accomplishments. He complimented her on her level of expertise and the positive financial stance that the City has because of her diligence.

Ms. Barr stated during her tenure she had seen positive changes since the Council-Manager form of government had been incorporated. She briefly shared her experiences. She requested staff and Council provide the same support they provided to her replacement.

Councilmember Savage expressed his appreciation and shared he worked closely with her in preparation of budget and other financial matters.

Mr. Browne welcomed Council to her retirement reception scheduled for Friday, May 29th at the Council Chambers.

Item # 4 Interview with citizen expressing an interest to serve on a City of Alamo Heights board or commission

Mayor Cooper stated this item is tabled until further notice.

Item # 5 Approval of Minutes

Mayor Cooper asked City Council for any revisions to the minutes of the May 11, 2015, City Council meeting. A motion was made by Councilmember Bobby Rosenthal to approve the minutes of May 11, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lynda Billa Burke and passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Cooper asked City Council for any revisions to the minutes of the May 18, 2015, Special City Council meeting. A motion was made by Councilmember Fred Prassel to approve the minutes of May 18, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lynda Billa Burke and passed by unanimous vote.

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Item # 6 Announcement

Mayor Cooper read the following caption.

a. Police Department Employee Recognition

Police Chief Richard Pruitt shared a recent event that occurred in early May. He commented theft occurred among the community in vehicles, open garages and an unsecured outside building that resulted stolen property, electronics, cash and weapons. Detective Donnie Fonseca began his diligent work and included Sergeant Lyle Key, and Officer Jordan Hosey who assisted with the apprehension of the criminals. Detective Fonseca and Sergeant Key were presented with a Certificate of Police Commendation Award, Commendation Bar, and Chief Recognition Coin for Outstanding Service by Police Chief Pruitt. Officer Hosey was not present due to vacation. Additionally, Detective Rick De Rosa was recognized for identifying suspects of stolen property (heirlooms) and cash over \$170,000 dollars. Police Chief Pruitt presented Detective De Rosa a Commendation Bar and Chief Recognition Coin for Outstanding Service. The audience applauded providing a sense of pride and support.

Mayor Cooper thanked the Police Department employees and stated he was very proud of their accomplishments ensuring the City of Alamo Heights' safety.

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Item # 7 Citizens to be heard concerning items not on the agenda

Melinda Fagan, resident, shared information regarding Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and wanted to bring awareness to the community of a contributing member. She stated Linda Duffy, a retired teacher that served Alamo Heights had done a lot for her children and other children within the community. Ms. Fagan encouraged individuals to go to Facebook and look up Linda's League. She announced Frost Bank is accepting donations in her fund to take care of unforeseeable expenses.

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Items for Individual Consideration

Item # 8 Mayor Cooper read the following caption.

Consider a request of Samuel Van Horn, representing Ignition, Inc. and Special Olympics International, to hold a first time "Special Event" (Unified Relay Across America) to be held on June 22, 2015

Community Development Services Department Director Jason Lutz made a PowerPoint presentation that included background information.

Mr. Lutz stated the torch relay will go through all 50 states and will pass through Alamo Heights on June 22, 2015 between 10:06 a.m. through 10:33 a.m. He stated there is no amplified sound and the organization is not requesting to close the streets. He presented the route that will end in Austin, Texas.

Councilmember Fred Prassel shared of the moving experience as a Special Olympics host.

A motion for approval was made by Councilmember Fred Prassel. The motion was seconded by Councilmember John Savage and passed by unanimous vote.

Item # 9 Mayor Cooper read the following caption.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020

Public hearing, consideration, and action concerning the following amendments to the zoning code: 1.) Amendment to Sec. 3-2 of the Zoning Code “Definitions” to delete the definition “Retail shops and stores other than listed”; 2.) Amendment to Sec. 3-2 of the Zoning Code “Definitions” to add the definitions “Retail General”; 3.) Amendment to Sec. 3-2 of the Zoning Code “Definitions” to add the definition “Stores Other Than Listed”; 4.) Amendment to Sec. 3-8 of the Zoning code “Use of land and buildings” to delete from the Land Use Chart “Retail shops and stores other than listed”; 5.) Amendment to Sec. 3-8 of the Zoning Code “Use of land and buildings” to add the land use category “Retail General” to the Land Use Chart and to permit the land use, by right, in the B-1, B-2, and B-3 Districts; 6.) Amendment to Sec. 3-8 of the Zoning Code “Use of land and buildings” to add the land use category “Stores Other Than Listed” to the Land Use Chart and to permit the land use, by Specific Use Permit (SUP), in the B-1, B-2, and B-3 Districts

Mr. Lutz made a PowerPoint presentation that included background information.

Mr. Lutz stated this is a request made by the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission regarding proposed amendments to B1, B2, and B3 zoning districts. He stated that currently the City’s land use chart requires any land use defined as “Retail Shops and Stores Other than Listed” obtain an Specific-Use Permit (SUP) in B1, B2 and B3 zoning districts. Staff conducted a survey of existing businesses and discovered that 42 out of 310 commercial businesses would require an SUP, if they were to change locations within the City.

Mr. Lutz informed Council that P&Z recommended that the definition for “Retail Shops and Stores Other Than Listed” be broken into two separate land use definitions: 1)

Retail General and 2) Stores other than listed. Mr. Lutz explained the commercial land uses for "Retail General" to be permitted "By Right" in the "B Districts" and commercial land uses for "Stores other than listed" to obtain a SUP. He reviewed the current and proposed definition for "Retail General" and "Stores other than listed".

Staff received no responses in support or in opposition of the proposed amendments.

Mayor Cooper opened the public hearing at 6:03 p.m. No one signed up to speak. Mayor Cooper closed the public hearing at 6:04 p.m.

A motion for approval was made by Councilmember Prassel. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Savage and passed by unanimous vote.

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District Attorney Nicholas La Hood congratulated Mayor Cooper on his re-election.

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Staff Report

Item # 10 Mayor Cooper read the following caption.

Presentation of Financial and Investment Report for the second quarter ending March 31, 2015

Finance Director Cynthia Barr made a PowerPoint presentation that summarized the City's financial position. The Financial and Investment Report included General Fund Revenues/Expenditures, Utility Fund Revenues/Expenditures, Capital Projects Fund and an Investment Portfolio Update.

Ms. Barr presented a Budget to Actual graph for property tax collections for the Maintenance & Operations (M&O) and Interest and Sinking (I&S), year to date since 2010. A graph of the total sales revenues dated 2014-2015 was presented that included street maintenance tax collection. Another graph displayed the increase in sales tax collections compared to 2014.

General fund expenditures were categorized by departments and noted at 46% year to date which is within budget. A graph of general fund expenditures was displayed for actual and budget for the fiscal year. Utility fund revenues & expenditures were presented. Ms. Barr stated currently the City is in stage 1 water restriction that reflected a decrease on revenue collection.

Ms. Barr reviewed the capital projects fund that included revenue and expenditure balances for the 2012 General Obligation (GO) bonds, and Community Infrastructure and Economic Development (CIED) fund, and transfers from the General Fund.

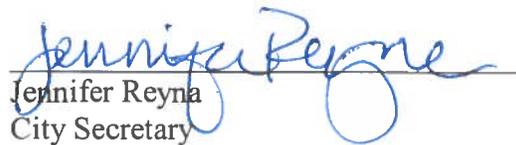
Ms. Barr provided an investment portfolio update with a beginning value as of January 1, 2015. She shared the purchase of three Federal Home Loan Bank Notes at Frost Bank. She summarized the city's financial position as strong and positive.

Councilmember Rosenthal asked the difference between 2014 and 2015 tax collections.

Ms. Barr responded that values have increased significantly. She stated that as of May 15th, 91% of tax assessments are certified and were part of the preliminary report.

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There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilmember Prassel to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Savage and passed by unanimous vote. Mayor Cooper adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.


Jennifer Reyna
City Secretary


Louis Cooper
Mayor