

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL
September 8, 2014

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Alamo Heights, Texas was held in the temporary facilities, located at 1248 Austin Highway Suite 220, San Antonio, Texas, at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 8, 2014.

Present and composing a quorum were:

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

Also attending were:

City Manager J. Mark Browne
Finance Director Cynthia Barr
Community Development Services Department Interim Director David Harris
Information Services Manager Marian Vargas
Human Resource Manager Lori Harris
City Secretary Jennifer Reyna
Fire Chief Buddy Kuhn
Chief Police Rick Pruitt
Public Works Director Pat Sullivan

Absent was:

Councilmember Bobby Hasslocher
City Attorney Mike Brenan

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Mayor Louis Cooper opened the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

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Item # 1 Approval of Minutes

Mayor Cooper asked City Council for any revisions to the minutes of the August 19, 2014, Work Session. A motion was made by Councilmember Fred Prassel to approve the minutes of August 19, 2014. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke and passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Cooper asked City Council for any revisions to the minutes of the August 25, 2014, Council Meeting. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bobby Rosenthal to

approve the amended minutes of August 25, 2014. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke and passed by unanimous vote.

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Citizens To Be Heard Concerning Non-Agenda Items

Item # 2 Citizens to be heard concerning items not on the agenda

Roland Hinojosa, CPS Energy Local Government Relations Office, observed at the last Council meeting there were constituents concerned with the Smart Meter Initiative. He stated he is available to meet with individuals (residential or commercial) regarding questions and concerns regarding smart meters. He stated there are community meetings as well. Mr. Hinojosa welcomed resident contact information forwarded to him so he may contact. He shared his contact information email address: rhinojosa@cpsenergy.com or at 210-353-2747.

Susan Straus, resident, requested a 12-month moratorium on smart meters and the opportunity to bring an expert to speak at the next Council meeting to share information on electromagnetic frequencies. She stated CPS Energy had not disclosed the risks to residents and noted CPS Energy's reports are not medical studies. She referenced the City of Sacramento installed smart meters and now facing concerns; however, residents now have an option to opt out due to rising number of concerns. She informed Council of Larry Nikkel's death, a resident in Vacaville, CA, that died due to a smart meter's ignited fire.

Pruyn Hildebrand, resident, shared that the City of Portland, Oregon, recalled 75,000 smart meters and commented there is sufficient concern to further look into. She expressed concern on the accumulative effect a mass of meters have such as in a neighborhood. She shared the amount CPS Energy will charge for an offsite meter reader and an additional \$20.00 a month to opt out. She noted the City of Austin charges a lower fee on the option to opt out. Ms. Hildebrand expressed concern for her neighbors that can not afford the option to opt out.

Marcia Weser, resident, expressed concern on fire explosions, privacy/health issues. She stated precise studies had been conducted that are credible and noted that electromagnetic frequency in a neighborhood is harmful and dangerous. She shared that the American Academy of Environmental Medicine, comprised of physicians of 15 countries, had gone on record that the installation of smart meters in homes or schools should not be allowed based on scientific assessment. She requested Council consider the entire City of Alamo Heights opting out. Ms. Weser encouraged Council to consider moratorium to allow a thorough research.

Debbi Mason, resident, expressed fear on the installation of smart meters. She commented cities experienced fires and illnesses with the installation of smart meters.

She asked Council to reconsider this and the personal affect that will also be upon their families as well.

Julie Stacy, Friends of the Hondondo Creek, provided an update on the Hondondo Trails. She stated there is a sample trail that is a caliche-based covered by sta-lok material promoting a natural appearance. She shared that the Eagle Scouts will also conduct a project to provide rock on the edges of the sample trail.

John Joseph, resident, referenced the 2014 Texas GOP page 25 which stated the opposition of smart meters based on security, property damage, energy, efficiency, and privacy. He also referenced a letter by Texas State Representative Dennis Bowman to the Chairman of the Public Utility Commission stating that he authorized House Bill 2129; however, the intent was not to create a mandate for installation of smart meters. He distributed supporting information he referenced to Council. He asked Council to place the discussion of smart meters on a future Council meeting to allow experts from both sides to speak and the public to attend. He asked Council to consider a moratorium.

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Consent Agenda

Item # 3 Mayor Cooper read the following caption.

Request for permission to refund overpayment of property taxes to the following taxpayers in the amounts listed

a. James W. & Amie Bunch, 115 Circle	\$1,539.98
b. John R. Chase, 230 E. Oakview	\$1,853.39
c. Ray M. & Patricia Keck, 118 Cloverleaf	\$583.99
d. Ricardo E. & Josefina Longoria, 311 Primrose	\$2,199.64
e. Wayne D. & Janie S. Marty, 401 Abiso	\$1,468.20
f. Todd J. Rosenquist, 130 E. Edgewood	\$1,288.06
g. Paula Schechter, 622 Jessamine	\$872.90
h. Natalie Bennett & Paul R. Sutto, 214 College	\$1,151.38
i. Hilda Baker, 322 Evans	\$1,494.53
j. Michael & Beverly Birnbaum, 200 Patterson Ave # 1004	<u>\$3,139.80</u>
Total	\$15,591.87

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

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Public Hearings

Item # 4 Mayor Cooper read the following caption.

Second public hearing on FY 2015 Ad Valorem Taxes

Mayor Cooper opened the public hearing at 5:50 p.m.

Mayor Cooper closed the public hearing at 5:51 p.m.

Item # 5 Mayor Cooper read the following caption.

Public Hearing on proposed Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Annual Operating Budget

Mayor Cooper opened the public hearing at 5:52 p.m.

Mayor Cooper closed the public hearing at 5:53 p.m.

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Items for Individual Consideration

Item # 6 Mayor Cooper read the following caption.

ORDINANCE NO. 2001

CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE RESTRICTIONS IN CHAPTER 5, BUILDING AND BUILDING REGULATIONS, CONCERNING THE USE OF WOODEN SHAKES AND WOODEN SHINGLES

Fire Chief Buddy Kuhn made a PowerPoint presentation that included background information.

Fire Chief Kuhn explained how the current ordinance came to question that only cited new construction and not remodels. Fire Chief Kuhn highlighted the factors to consider if amending the ordinance.

Fire Chief Kuhn provided a photo of a recent house fire at 101 Arcadia that started with a simple cigarette that was discarded and caused destruction on the deck's wooden shingles. He noted the proximity of properties and long-term affects with aging wooden shakes and/or shingles.

Coordination and review of this item was with Safer Building Solutions who had developed regulations for the treatment and testing of wooden shingles. Fire Chief Kuhn

expressed concern that the contact for Safer Building Solutions also served as a representative for the sale of the product. He referenced two separate tests had been conducted for fire safety ratings of wooden shingles with one being conducted in 1980 by Southwest Research Study (SWR) noting that it did not support the research of Safer Building Solutions. He stated the lack of verifiable data suggested further testing may be necessary. The Governance Committee reviewed the item on May 2, 2014.

Fire Chief Kuhn reviewed the fiscal impact and informed Council of the possible change in points to ISO. He shared that ISO recommended keeping the ordinance and commented that changing the ordinance may affect future scores. Review of ISO grades are every 10 years with a review conducted of the prior 3 years of data.

Fire Chief Kuhn stated options were considered at the August 25, 2014 Council meeting. Options were: a) to leave the current ordinance as is; b) revise the ordinance to prohibit wooden shakes/shingles in all construction including new and remodels but still allow existing residences to repair/replace; or c) or repeal the ordinance. At the August 25, 2014 Council meeting, Council agreed staff would present an ordinance for option B.

Councilmember Savage asked Fire Chief Kuhn about the ISO evaluation process and what other communities support anti-wooden shingles/shakes.

Fire Chief Buddy Kuhn responded the evaluation system is based upon 100 points with different classifications based on a range of the scoring system. Fire Chief Kuhn stated the Cities of Terrell Hills or Olmos Park do not have similar ordinances; however, the City of Austin does.

Mayor Pro Tem Rosenthal expressed concern on the proximity of the houses and asked Fire Chief Kuhn regarding the alternatives of house shingles.

Fire Chief Kuhn shared the alternatives of quality shingles. He referenced an ordinance that surfaced that dated in 1930, considered and passed by Mayor Robert O'Grady and respective Council prohibiting wooden shakes/shingles.

Mayor Pro Tem Rosenthal expressed support of Fire Chief Kuhn's recommendation.

A motion for approval was made by Councilmember Billa Burke to revise the current ordinance prohibiting wooden shakes/shingles in all construction including new and remodels but allow existing residences to repair or replace. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Prassel and passed by unanimous vote.

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Closed Session

At 6:02 p.m., Mayor Cooper adjourned the regular City Council meeting to conduct a closed meeting as authorized by Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code to discuss the Community Development Services Director position.

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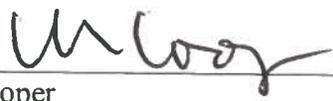
Mayor Cooper reconvened the regular meeting at 6:43 p.m. There was no action taken during the closed session.

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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 6:44 p.m.



Jennifer Reyna
City Secretary



Louis Cooper
Mayor