

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL
January 23, 2017

A regular 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 Monday, January 23, 2017.

Present and composing a quorum were:

Mayor Louis Cooper
Mayor Pro Tempore Fred Prassel
Councilmember Lawson Jessee
Councilmember Bobby Rosenthal
Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke
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
City Attorney Mike Brenan
Community Development Services Department Director Jason Lutz
Finance Director Robert Galindo
Human Resource Manager Lori Harris
City Secretary Jennifer Reyna
Lieutenant Cindy Pruitt
Public Works Director Pat Sullivan

Absent was:

Police Chief Rick Pruitt

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Mayor Cooper opened the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

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Item # 1 Approval of Minutes

Mayor Cooper asked City Council for any revisions to the minutes of the December 12, 2016 Council Meeting and December 14, 2016 Work Session Minutes. A motion was made by Councilmember Lawson Jessee to approve the minutes of December 12, 2016 Council Meeting and December 14, 2016 Work Session Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke and passed by unanimous vote.

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addressed by the applicant. Mr. Lutz reported the applicant met the conditions related to the location of the FDC and vegetation along the eastern property line. He stated one additional tree had been incorporated and one tree still lacks. Mr. Lutz commented an updated landscape plan was submitted; however, was too late to include for today's meeting. Staff received no postcards in support or in opposition of the request. However, he did inform Council that one neighbor expressed concern of the impervious cover.

Councilmember Lawson Jessee commented that limestone runs along the street when it rains and received concern from the neighbors.

Mr. Lutz responded to Councilmember Jessee that he will research regulations to determine if any action needs to be taken during permitting.

Neil Guzman, architect, responded they are hiring an engineer company to address the loose limestone and stated there would not be any loose limestone.

A motion for approval was made by Councilmember Lawson Jessee subject to meeting ARB's recommendations. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke and passed by unanimous vote.

Item # 5 Mayor Cooper read the following caption.

**Discussion and possible action for the replacement purchase of
10 Self-Contained Breathing Units Apparatus for the Fire
Department**

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

Fire Chief Kuhn stated the current units of the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) are ten years old and in need of replacement. He stated the breathing equipment are used for respiratory protection against firefighting, carbon monoxide incidents, and Haz-Mat incidents.

The cost is budgeted in the FY 2017 capital replacement fund. He stated the SCBAs would be purchased through Municipal Emergency Services (MES) reflected in the Houston-Galveston Area Cooperative pre-bid state contract. The SCBAs will be lease purchased through Frost Bank for a period of three years in arrears at an interest rate of 2.60% over 3 years with annual payments of \$27,292.28. Fire Chief Kuhn stated there is an anticipated trade-in allowance amount yet to be determined.

Councilmember Bobby Rosenthal asked if there are pre-penalty fees.

Fire Chief Kuhn stated he will further explore about any pre-penalty fees. Finance Director Robert Galindo added that payments will be made in arrears and noted the lease purchase is through Frost Bank for three years.

Further research determined there would be no penalty for pre-payment.

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

Item # 6 Mayor Cooper read the following caption.

ORDINANCE NO. 2067

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH BARCOM TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGED SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT FOR SUCH SERVICES

Assistant to the City Manager Marian Mendoza made a PowerPoint presentation that included background information and the evaluation process.

Ms. Mendoza informed Council that the City advertised request for proposals (RFP) for Information Technology (IT) Managed Services on November 9, 2016. The City received four proposals on December 9, 2016. Submittals received were from Barcom Technology Solutions, Computer Solutions, Premier Logitech, and Tagle Rock Technologies. The proposals were reviewed and evaluated by the committee comprised of the Police Chief, City Secretary, and Assistant to the City Manager. Evaluation was based on the following criteria: qualifications and relative experience, staff and services, cost of service, and response time. Ms. Mendoza stated the committee recommended Barcom Technology Solutions and briefly highlighted the company on their experience and services. She informed Council of the cost savings in contracting with Barcom Technology Solutions.

Phillip Garza, Senior Solutions Engineer, and Adrian Valdez, Vice President of Sales, were present representing Barcom Technology Solutions.

Council asked questions on the new IT managed services vendor. They asked why information technology services are through a vendor and who are their clients.

Ms. Mendoza responded the purpose of having a vendor perform these services is related to public safety, software updates, security, anti-virus, and providing on-site support. She briefly listed the other governmental entities that Barcom Technology

Solutions provides service to. They included the Cities of Live Oak, Balcones Heights, Fair Oaks Ranch, and Castle Hills.

The following citizen spoke on this matter:

Debra Nason, resident, asked explanation of onsite support and if services included remote support.

Ms. Mendoza responded to Ms. Nason that the fees do include a technician that will be available to support the City and shared Barcom Technology Solutions will be coming on a weekly basis to assist or resolve concerns.

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

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Staff Report

Item # 7 Mayor Cooper read the following caption.

Considering a Special Election on May 6, 2017, for the purpose of voting on increasing the Local Sales and Use Tax for Street Improvements

Ms. Mendoza made a PowerPoint presentation that included background information.

Ms. Mendoza highlighted House Bill 157 which became effective September 2015. She informed Council that it allows cities to hold an election to reallocate sales tax revenue within the two percent local sales tax cap. It also authorizes a city to hold an election to increase or decrease the dedicated sales tax in any increment of one-eighth of one percent.

The current total sales tax rate is 8.25%. The City of Alamo Heights is 8.00%, of which 6.25% is for the State, 1.25% is for the City (1.00% City General Fund and .25% Street Maintenance) and .50% for VIA Metropolitan. If one-fourth of one percent increase is approved by the voters at the May 2017 election, the City would collect its statutory limit of two percent of the total sales tax rate.

Ms. Mendoza reminded Council that the street maintenance sales tax was renewed by approval of the voters at the November 8, 2016 Special Election.

Ms. Mendoza provided two options for the allocation of the proposed additional sales tax revenue. The first option is to provide funding for, not limited to, street improvements, new and improved sidewalks, landscaping and new trees, new and

improved signage, beautification of public facilities and funding for economic development. This money would go directly into the General Fund. The second option is solely for maintenance and repair of municipal streets. This is also known as the Street Maintenance Sales Tax which is required to go back to the voters every four years for approval.

Ms. Mendoza provided the amount of revenues that had been collected as of 2012. She stated the projected amount for FY 2016-2017 is \$248,000.

Mayor Cooper recommended conducting an election for an increase to the local sales and use tax as the City previously had considered a large bond election specifically for street repair and maintenance. He stated there is a need to maintain and repair city streets. He recommended these additional funds also be allocated to the Street Maintenance Fund as an excellent way to ensure revenue.

Councilmember John Savage suggested the general fund still provides an opportunity to pay for street maintenance. There was a brief discussion among Council regarding the perception of the voters in support of a general fund allocation, validation of street maintenance expenses, and how it may be changed in the future.

City Attorney Mike Brenan stated he would need to check into the Comptroller's office about having two separate street maintenance fund designations.

Ms. Mendoza responded that staff did speak with the Comptroller's office and their representative said it would be fine and then merge as one when it is time to reauthorize.

Councilmember Jessee asked if there is a priority list that identifies streets that are in need of repair and may we explore repairing four or five streets at a time.

Public Works Director Pat Sullivan responded to Councilmember Jessee that streets are identified; however, a priority list may be changed because utility needs change the priority order when problems surface. He noted that expensive items are going to consume the majority of the monies covering less square yards. Mr. Sullivan reported that arterial (residential) streets are being considered and work had been conducted in (on arterial streets) residential areas. He noted that cracking is apparent on Broadway and observed stress on a few streets within the City (which received upgrades at the beginning of the maintenance program in 2008). City Manager Mark Browne added that street repairs are subject to change depending upon existing conditions.

The following citizens spoke on this matter:

Joan Cunningham, resident, expressed concern on the decrease of sales tax and property tax exemptions. She commented if large trucks are restricted from residential streets, there is less damage to the streets.

Debra Nason, resident, asked questions related to the amount of proposed street maintenance sales tax and the total amount of street maintenance sales tax if dedicated to street maintenance. She stated there does need to be a resolution to address street repair.

Councilmember Rosenthal responded to Ms. Nason that the proposed increase would not be directly to the taxpayer; however, applicable to sales tax within the City.

Mr. Browne asked Council for direction.


Mayor Cooper recommended staff prepare an election order aligned with the second option - consideration of a local sales and use tax dedicated for street maintenance to be allocated in the Street Maintenance Sales Tax Fund.

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There being no further business, a motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Prassel to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jessee and passed by unanimous vote. Mayor Cooper adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.



Jennifer Reyna
City Secretary



Louis Cooper
Mayor