

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS  
CITY COUNCIL  
October 22, 2018

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, October 22, 2018.

Present and composing a quorum were:

Mayor Bobby Rosenthal  
Mayor Pro Tempore Lynda Billa Burke  
Councilmember Lawson Jessee  
Councilmember Wes Sharples  
Councilmember Fred Prassel  
Councilmember John Savage

Also attending were:

City Manager Mark Browne  
Assistant to the City Manager Marian V. Mendoza  
City Attorney Mike Brenan  
Finance Director Robert Galindo  
Human Resources Manager Lori Harris  
Community Development Services Department Director Ken Roberts  
City Secretary Jennifer Reyna  
Police Chief Rick Pruitt  
Public Works Director Pat Sullivan  
Deputy Chief John Massey

Absent was:

Fire Chief/Assistant City Manager Buddy Kuhn

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Mayor Bobby Rosenthal opened the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

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*Item # 1      Approval of Minutes*

Mayor Rosenthal asked City Council for any revisions to the minutes of the October 8, 2018, Council Meeting. A motion was made by Councilmember Fred Prassel to approve the minutes of October 8, 2018 Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lynda Billa Burke and passed by unanimous vote.

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*Item # 2      Announcements*

Mayor Rosenthal read the following captions.

**a. National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, October 27, 2018**

Police Chief Rick Pruitt announced that any expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs will be taken on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at City Hall beginning at 10:00 am. – 2:00 p.m. Police Officers will be present to take unwanted prescription drugs. Police Chief Pruitt stated syringes, intravenous solutions, or injectables will not be accepted due to blood borne pathogen threats. Police Chief Pruitt stated he will send information via email blast to remind the community of this opportunity. He stated this is a successful program to safely rid of unused prescription drugs.

**b. Bexar County Election, November 6, 2018**

City Secretary Jennifer Reyna announced City Hall will be the Election Day Polling Site for Bexar County’s election for Alamo Heights residents in precincts 3025 and 3026. Residents in precinct 3020 will vote at Lion’s Field on Election Day. Election Day hours are 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Early voting will begin on Monday, October 22, 2018 through Friday, November 2, 2018 with three nearby sites being Lion’s Field, Tobin Library at Oakwell, and Olmos Park City Hall. She emphasized the election is conducted by Bexar County for the federal/state and county elections and the City of Alamo Heights is educating residents where to vote during the election process. A map of the respective precincts were displayed.

Assistant to the City Manager Marian Mendoza shared information was on the City’s website. An email blast reminding residents that early voting started was sent.

Mayor Rosenthal suggested notices to be posted on the entrances within City Hall to inform residents of the respective Election Day polling sites and send an email blast reminding residents of the Election Day polling sites on the day prior Election Day.

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*Item # 3      Citizens to be heard concerning items not on the agenda*

There were no citizens that signed up to speak.

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Items for Individual Consideration

*Item # 4      Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2113**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 19 – WATER AND SEWERS OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY INCREASING THE WATER RATES AND SEWER RATES BY 5% AND A PASS THROUGH SEWER INCREASE FOR THREE YEARS EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2019**

Council reflected on the previous work sessions and public hearing to consider the proposed water and wastewater rate increases.

Mr. Jackson made a PowerPoint presentation that included background information on Alamo Heights' water and wastewater rates explaining water is a valuable commodity.

Mr. Jackson stated the City of Alamo Heights had not increased water and wastewater rates with the exception of pass through costs for the San Antonio Water System (SAWS). A chart displayed how the City of Alamo Heights is competitive in the San Antonio area. He noted other municipalities are rising and Alamo Heights will still be competitive.

Mr. Jackson presented a forecast cost of service for fiscal years, FY2018 – FY2027 displaying the increasing trend for cost of service. He explained the current cost is \$4M and by 2027, the estimated cost is \$6M. He stated 5% for water and 5% plus SAWS increases.

A chart displayed the financial impact the proposed rate charges may have to an average consumer. Mr. Jackson stated the average consumer in Alamo Heights consumes 12,000 gallons. The proposed monthly impact is \$3 - \$8 a year for an average consumer. The proposed rate plan will provide benefits such as a financially healthy utility, allow the City to fund increasing SAWS and operating costs, and allow the City to invest \$5.7M in capital improvements.

Mr. Jackson expressed his appreciation in working with Council and staff. He encouraged Council to adopt the proposed water and wastewater rates.

Mayor Rosenthal asked specifically what was contained in the \$5.7M capital improvements required in the future of the water and sewer system and the benefit in owning your own water system.

Mr. Jackson referenced slide 9 and stated the \$5.7M consists of TCEQ mandated costs, repairs, and supports a capital outlay plan. He responded businesses make a profit with water meanwhile municipalities sell to the customer to solely provide the service.

Councilmember Prassel referenced the City of Floresville and stated they pay \$500,000 for their sewer system. He encouraged staff to explore options for the City of Alamo Heights to have their own sewer system to realize cost of savings.

Council thanked Mr. Jackson for his assistance during this process.

City Manager Mark Browne stated water and wastewater rates will increase for three years, and thereafter, be re-evaluated.

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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Mayor Pro Tem Billa Burke encouraged Council to explore what the City of San Antonio is doing regarding scooters.

Mayor Rosenthal stated it will need to be considered at a future meeting.

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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 Wes Sharples and passed by unanimous vote. Mayor Rosenthal adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

  
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Jennifer Reyna  
City Secretary

  
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Bobby Rosenthal  
Mayor