

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL
December 12, 2016

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, December 12, 2016.

Present and composing a quorum were:

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

Also attending were:

City Manager J. Mark Browne
Assistant to the City Manager Marian V. Mendoza
Finance Director Robert Galindo
Community Development Services Department Director Jason Lutz
Human Resource Manager Lori Harris
City Secretary Jennifer Reyna
Chief Police Rick Pruitt
Deputy Chief Mike Gdovin
Public Works Director Pat Sullivan

Absent were:

City Attorney Mike Brennan
Fire Chief/Assistant City Manager Buddy Kuhn

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Mayor Louis Cooper opened the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

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Item # 1 Approval of Minutes

Mayor Cooper asked City Council for any revisions to the minutes of the November 14, 2016 City Council meeting and November 16, 2016 Special Council meeting. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Fred Prassel to approve the minutes of November 14, 2016 City Council meeting and November 16, 2016 Special Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke and passed by unanimous vote.

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Item # 2 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 # 3 Mayor Cooper read the following caption.

ORDINANCE NO. 2065

Planning and Zoning Case # 385, public hearing, consideration, and action regarding proposed amendments to Chapter 3, Article I (In General), Section 3-2(A) (Definitions), Chapter 3, Article II (Land Use), Section 3-8 (Use of Land and Buildings), and Chapter 3, Article X (Special Regulations), Section 3-84(1)(e) (Special Parking Regulations) concerning “Clinics” to include “Veterinary Clinics”

Community Development Services Director Jason Lutz made a PowerPoint presentation that included background information and proposed amendments.

Mr. Lutz informed Council that the proposed amendments are to include veterinary clinics to operate within the Business and Office Districts within the City. He stated the proposed amendments are to provide definition, permit, and establish parking requirements as well as to amend Chapter Three. He referenced the recommended language suggested by Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission to include “small animal veterinarians” and “accompanied by staff at all times” within the definition of clinics. He noted a fencing requirement for the relief area was not mentioned; however, may be added.

On December 5, 2016, the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission reviewed the request and approved amendments to include definition of small animals and provide a stricter language that clearly defines “while attended by staff”.

Councilmember Bobby Rosenthal recommended the relief area for the small animals should be fenced in.

A motion for approval was made by Councilmember Billa Burke to include P&Z’s recommendations and add a fencing requirement for the designated relief area. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rosenthal and passed by unanimous vote.

Item # 4 Mayor Cooper read the following caption.

Resolution No. 2016R – 088

A Resolution reducing the quorum for meetings of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee addressing multi-family and commercial structures in the City

Mr. Lutz made a PowerPoint presentation that included background information on the proposed amendment.

Mr. Lutz requested to reduce the quorum requirement for the ad-hoc committee that is reviewing the zoning code. He explained that due to the holiday season and committee members' travel schedules multiple meetings had been cancelled due to lack of quorum. The proposed amendment reduces the quorum requirement from four members to three members.

Councilmember Lawson Jessee asked if the committee had a concern with proposed reduced quorum.

Mr. Lutz responded the committee had no concerns regarding reduced quorum.

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

Item # 5 Mayor Cooper read the following caption.

ORDINANCE NO. 2066

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE *SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS* AS THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

City Secretary Jennifer Reyna made a PowerPoint presentation that included background information.

Ms. Reyna stated the *San Antonio Express-News* had been designated as the official newspaper since 2014 and continued to provide information and access to the community. She referenced the website www.mysanantonio.com to access classified information for free or obtain the weekday newspaper for \$2.00. She stated the *San Antonio Express-News* offers a reduced community rate on Wednesdays and city publications will be made on Wednesdays for savings. She referenced Local Government Code 51.013 in designation of a local newspaper.

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

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Staff Report

Item # 6 Mayor Cooper read the following caption.

Staff report on large transport trucks using residential streets between Broadway and N. New Braunfels

Police Chief Rick Pruitt made a PowerPoint presentation that included background information.

Police Chief Pruitt stated resident Joan Cunningham brought this concern to the department's attention regarding the high volume of large transport trucks going through the residential areas. He shared that resident Pruyne Hildebrand was concerned as well.

Police Chief Pruitt ordered a traffic survey that revealed the classification of vehicles and a speed survey on Burr Road, Katherine Court, Harrigan Court, Terrell Road, Elizabeth Road, Barilla Road and Primrose Place. The surveys were conducted on October 13, 2016 through October 15, 2016. He referenced a chart that provided the collective information. He explained the different categories of vehicles and speed range. He summarized that there was a substantial amount of large vehicle traffic on residential streets and the speed survey recorded the highest 85 percentile speed of 30.8 miles per hour (mph) on Burr Road and all other recorded speed were less than 30 mph.

Police Chief Pruitt shared his research via Municode and stated six cities including the City of San Antonio have ordinances regulating large truck travel. Within the City of Alamo Heights, the following streets currently restrict truck tractors and semi-trailers from travel on Claywell Drive, Nacogdoches Road, Patterson Avenue and Tuxedo Avenue. He proposed the following changes: 1) restrict medium and heavy duty trucks with manufacturers' gross vehicle weight exceeding 10,000 pounds and trucks or truck trailer combos having a total of more than three axles, 2) exclusion for school buses, commercial passenger buses, city service and emergency vehicles and large trucks and equipment contracted by the City; 3) add Katherine Court, Harrigan Court, Terrell Road, Elizabeth Road, Barrilla Place and Primrose Place to Section 18-155 Schedule J "No Thru Trucks". He commented streets needs to be safe and maintained.

Council asked why residential streets were not all restricted and if HEB Central Market had been contacted about the issue.

Police Chief Pruitt explained that Burr Road was excluded from restrictions because he noted both sides of Burr Road have parking restrictions in place and stated Burr Road is designed for large trucks to pass through. Police Chief Pruitt responded that he had not spoken to HEB Central Market.

The following citizen spoke on this matter:

Joan Cunningham, resident, shared that she approached HEB Central Market regarding the issue and personnel in receiving commented that he would inform the drivers; however, shared that the drivers change on a daily basis. She expressed in her opinion the traffic survey may be higher than when the count was conducted as it is the holidays. Ms. Cunningham encouraged all large trucks banned from all residential streets as she commented there are different types of large vehicles that pass through on residential streets. She suggested placement of signs to read "No pass through unless otherwise designated" similar for speed limit signs.

Councilmember Rosenthal asked how drivers would be informed of the proposed changes.

Police Chief Pruitt stated he would begin with HEB Central Market providing them a map and flyers among other vendors. He stated there are six signs to post within the City.

There was a brief discussion among City Council regarding location, signage requirements, and the notion of adding signage within the City. Police Chief Pruitt informed Council that signage requirements depend on the location and noted affected residential streets between arterial streets will require signage. Mayor Cooper expressed concern providing additional signs within the City and requested a sign survey. Mayor Cooper stated there needs to be a plan and suggested Mr. Bradford Lawton to assist with signage. Mr. Browne agreed that a sign survey may be conducted.

Councilmember Billa Burke asked Police Chief Pruitt to explore regulations regarding this from the City of Shavano Park.

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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 Savage and passed by unanimous vote. Mayor Cooper adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.


Jennifer Reyna
City Secretary


Louis Cooper
Mayor