

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL
February 11, 2019

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, February 11, 2019.

Present and composing a quorum were:

Mayor Bobby Rosenthal
Councilmember Lawson Jessee
Councilmember Wes Sharples
Councilmember Fred Prassel
Councilmember John Savage

Also attending were:

City Manager Buddy Kuhn
Assistant to the City Manager Marian V. Mendoza
City Attorney Mike Brennan
Finance Director Robert Galindo
Community Development Services Department Director Nina Shealey
Human Resources Manager Lori Harris
City Secretary Jennifer Reyna
Chief Police Rick Pruitt
Public Works Director Pat Sullivan
Fire Chief Michael Gdovin

Absent was:

Mayor Pro Tempore Lynda Billa Burke

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Mayor Bobby Rosenthal opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

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Item # 1 Approval of Minutes

Mayor Rosenthal asked City Council for any revisions to the minutes of the January 28, 2019, Council Meeting. A motion was made by Councilmember Fred Prassel to approve the minutes of January 28, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilmember John Savage and passed by unanimous vote.

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Item # 2 Announcements

a. AH5K Fun Run, April 13, 2019

Assistant to the City Manager Marian V. Mendoza announced the City of Alamo Heights will host their 3rd annual AH '09 5K Fun Run on Saturday, April 13, 2019. She stated additional information is available at www.alamoheightstx.gov.

b. Fiesta Medals

Ms. Mendoza presented the 2019 Fiesta Medal to Council and explained the theme highlighted the City's logo and first responders' seals. She announced fiesta medals will be available to the residents on April 8th.

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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Closed Session

At 5:32 p.m., Mayor Rosenthal adjourned the regular City Council meeting to conduct a closed meeting as authorized by Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code to deliberate the appointment, employment, and duties of a new Fire Chief.

Mayor Rosenthal reconvened the regular meeting at 5:37 p.m. There was no action taken during the closed session.

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Items for Individual Consideration

Item # 5 Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

The City Council will consider the appointment, employment, and duties of a new Fire Chief

City Manager Buddy Kuhn highlighted Deputy Fire Chief Michael Gdovin's experience and leadership. He has served the City of Alamo Heights for over 25 years in different capacities and recommended for the position of Fire Chief.

There was a ceremonial exchange of the Fire Chief badge. As former Fire Chief, City Manager Kuhn relinquished his badge and Deputy Fire Chief Gdovin accepted the responsibilities as Fire Chief. Mayor Rosenthal announced his new position is effective immediately.

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

Item # 6 Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

ORDINANCE NO. 2120

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING EXEMPTION OF SALES TAX FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Finance Director Robert Galindo made a PowerPoint presentation that included background information.

Mr. Galindo provided background information on Telecommunications Exemption Texas Tax Code 321.210. He explained telecommunication companies are exempt of this sales tax unless the municipality repeals the application under this section. The proposed ordinance repeals the exemption and allows collection of local and sales use tax on receipts from the sale of telecommunication services within the city as allowed under Texas Tax Code 321.210.

Mr. Galindo explained according to the Texas Comptroller's Office, the process takes at least one quarter for the exemption to be repealed with a collection start date effective July 1, 2019. The Texas Comptroller's Office will inform the telecommunication companies of the repealed ordinance. Over 100 cities had implemented the repealed ordinance. Alamo Heights' current sales tax is 8.25%, which is not the maximum, and the proposed ordinance would not make an impact to the sales tax rate. Mr. Galindo estimated an additional \$30,000 - \$40,000 could be collected every fiscal year from the proposed repeal ordinance.

Councilmember Savage thanked Mr. Galindo for researching this item.

Mr. Galindo reported surrounding cities such as Balcones Heights, Castle Hills, Live Oak, and San Antonio had taken part of this exemption dating back as the late 1980s.

Councilmember Lawson Jessee asked if there was a clawback.

Mr. Galindo stated until the ordinance is repealed, the City may receive collection of telecommunication sales and use taxes.

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

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Staff Reports

Item # 7 Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

Presentation of Financial and Investment Report for the first quarter ending December 31, 2018

Finance Director Robert Galindo 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.

Mr. Galindo presented a Budget to Actual graph for property tax collections for Maintenance & Operations (M&O) and Interest and Sinking (I&S), year to date since 2014. He stated majority of the property taxes are collected during the first quarter of the budget cycle. A graph of the total sales revenues dated 2018-2019 included the General fund and street maintenance tax collection. He commented the general fund and street maintenance tax collection remain strong.

General fund revenues and expenditures were reviewed. General Fund Revenues were at 42% which included property taxes, sales tax, permits/fees, fines and forfeitures, charges for services, intergovernmental, investment and other financing sources. General Fund expenditures were categorized by departments and are 20% 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. Water and sewer collection as revenues are at 20% and expenditures are at 12% of budget for the first quarter.

Mr. Galindo reviewed the capital projects fund. He stated city projects were earmarked such as beautification of Olmos Basin, improvements to the public areas at City Hall, swimming pool repairs, Nature Trails building, and Broadway Road TXDOT project. He noted architectural fees for the Nature Trails Building were expensed during the first quarter.

Mr. Galindo provided an investment portfolio update with a beginning value as of October 1, 2018. He noted funds from savings were moved into investment pools because they were not getting larger returns. He reported the city remains strong highlighting the general and enterprise funds. He summarized the city's financial position as strong and positive.

Item # 8 Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

Briefing on the 2018 Racial Profiling Annual Report prepared in compliance with the Texas Racial Profiling Law

Police Chief Rick Pruitt made a PowerPoint presentation on the 2018 Racial Profiling Annual Report.

Police Chief Pruitt informed Council the annual report contained information relevant to the policies of the Alamo Heights Police Department to include: prohibiting the practice of racial profiling by officers, providing for a system to address citizen complaints regarding racial profiling, addressing training and education mandates for officers regarding racial profiling, and requiring the use of video and voice recording on all officer initiated vehicle and pedestrian stops to include warnings. Senate Bill 1849 (Sandra Bland Act) was passed during the 85th Legislature in May 2017 and created new data collection requirements to include data collection to contacts resulting in warning citations and/or arrests and requires collection of new data: gender, reason for the contact, description of contraband discovered, offense description, roadway information, physical force resulting in bodily injury during the contact or arrest. He commented ticket writers has been helpful and stated the program presents the Police Officers to complete the reports. He stated the data compared statistical data to the 2010 U.S. Census concerning population demographics of the City of Alamo Heights and noted the demographics among City of San Antonio and Bexar County. He noted it is important to include San Antonio and Bexar County's demographics due to the amount of percentage of commuters that pass through Alamo Heights.

Police Chief Pruitt stated the report affirms the Alamo Heights Police Department's commitment to unbiased policing, reinforcement of procedures and to protect officers from unwarranted accusations of misconduct. He reported no formal citizen complaint regarding racial profiling or biased treatment by officers received during the reporting period, January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

Police Chief Pruitt stated this report had been accepted by the state and is available on the City's website. He stated the findings in the 2018 Police Contact Tier 1 Data Annual Report verified the Alamo Heights Police Department had complied with all the requirements set forth in the Texas Racial Profiling Law. He stated he is proud of the Police Department that focuses on necessary action rather than profiling.

Mayor Rosenthal asked if the activities with AHISD are included within this report.

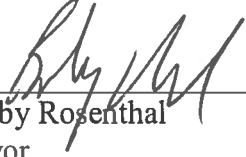
Police Chief Pruitt confirmed AHISD's activities are included in annual profiling report.

Mayor Rosenthal congratulated Police Chief Pruitt and the Police Department.

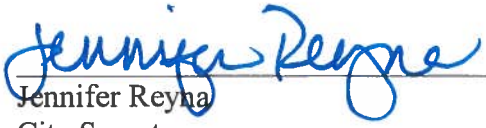
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There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilmember Prassel to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jessee and passed by unanimous vote. Mayor Rosenthal adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

February 11, 2019 City Council Meeting



Bobby Rosenthal
Mayor



Jennifer Reyna
City Secretary