

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL
March 11, 2019

A regular meetings 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, March 11, 2019.

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 Buddy Kuhn
Assistant to the City Manager Marian V. Mendoza
City Attorney Mike Brenan
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 Marshal Allen Ottmers

Absent was:

Fire Chief Michael Gdovin

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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 February 25, 2019, Council Meeting. A motion was made by Councilmember Lawson Jessee to approve the minutes of February 25, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wes Sharples 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 Rosenthal read the following caption.

Resolution No. 2019R - 109

A Resolution granting signatory authority for City accounts

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

Mr. Galindo stated the list of City officials signing on current bank accounts due to personnel changes was updated. He noted the City maintains one operating account, one zero balance payroll account, one savings account and an investment CD and investment pools. He presented the new list of authorized users to include adding Fire Chief Michael Gdovin as an authorized signer.

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

Item # 6 Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

ORDINANCE NO. 2123

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 18 OF THE CITY CODES BY CREATING NEW RESTRICTED PARKING ZONES IN THE 200 BLOCK OF WEST FAIR OAKS PLACE, THE 200 BLOCK OF WEST ELMVIEW PLACE, AND COLUMBINE STREET BETWEEN TUXEDO AVENUE AND WEST ELMVIEW PLACE

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

Police Chief Pruitt informed Council that over 40 residents wrote letters expressing their concern for on-street parking along the curb lines in the 200 blocks of West Fair Oaks Place and West Elmview Place and Columbine Street between Tuxedo Avenue and West Elmview Place. He stated staff had monitored the area and confirmed the density of parked vehicles and their proximity to residential driveways does not allow clear visibility of on-coming traffic and difficulty backing out of driveways parking. Police Chief Pruitt stated pedestrians are pushed onto streets. He provided several reasons of the new presence of vehicles driven by high school students.

On February 20, 2019, temporary restricted parking zone signs “2 hour parking, 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday – Friday” were posted on Columbine Street between Tuxedo Avenue and West Fair Oaks. On March 1, 2019, the same temporary parking restrictions were added in the 200 blocks of West Fair Oaks Place and the 200 block of West Elmview Place.

Police Chief Pruitt commented the parking situation will worsen as the high school construction projects proceed to the next phase and as the end of the school year approaches. He referenced a map that displayed parking restrictions. He explained there were 28 parking spaces that were eliminated since the beginning of construction. As construction progresses, Alamo Heights Independent School District’s (AHISD) contractor, Joeris, reported 20 parking spaces will be reduced prior to the end of the school year and 93 parking spaces will be lost by the beginning of the school year. Police Chief Pruitt identified the general parking area in where anticipated parking spaces will be removed. He commented the need to build a stronger partnership with AHISD to seek solutions for a long-term shortfall of available student parking. He stated staff met with AHISD Superintendent and Board of Commissioners. He reported AHISD expressed desire to work with the City to locate off-campus parking such as the high school fields and Little League baseball fields to transport students to the high school.

An ordinance adding parking restrictions was proposed, “No longer than 2 hours, from 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., on any school day” on West Fair Oaks Place, West Elmview Place, north and south sides, between their intersections with Columbine Street and Nacogdoches Road, and by adding Columbine Street, east and west sides, between its intersection with Tuxedo Avenue and West Elmview Place. Police Chief Pruitt stated parking restrictions may be lifted as the high school campus’ construction progresses.

Mayor Pro Tem Billa Burke asked if AHISD send notices out to parents and students regarding parking restrictions.

City Manager Buddy Kuhn responded to Mayor Pro Tem Billa Burke that AHISD informed students, posted flyers on vehicle windshields, and reminders will be provided again after students return from spring break. He shared the dialogue with AHISD School Board was productive and reported they had been engaged with students seeking their feedback and recommendations. He stated when construction is complete, a total of 4 parking spaces will be gained instead of 50 as originally planned noting that programming had changed. Ideas were shared among the Board and City staff to include consideration to change parking from diagonally to head-in parking on Fair Oaks Place and Vanderhoeven to gain 26 parking spaces, as an example. He shared AHISD is interested in purchasing property along Broadway to accommodate additional student parking.

Mayor Rosenthal commented the parking issue had elevated and expressed appreciation to AHISD for their support. He asked when will additional parking spaces be available and the amount of parking gained for head-in parking.

Police Chief Pruitt stated 32 parking spaces are anticipated when the Commons Building is finished this summer which will provide minimal relief, depending construction staying on schedule.

Mr. Kuhn stated 26 parking spaces would be gained if head-in parking would be on the south side of Vanderhoeven, a traffic engineer would need to be consulted and stated parking on both sides of Vanderhoeven is an idea that needs to be further explored as well as widening Fair Oaks Place. An estimated net of 52 parking spaces may be produced with parking on both sides of 100 block of East Fair Oaks Place if spaces were marked at 90 degree angles instead of 60 degree angles.

Councilmember Jessee asked if the curb may be painted instead of erecting signs.

Police Chief Pruitt stated there are parameters for erecting signs or pavement markings. He recommended placement of two 30 degree angle poles for each block for a total placement of eight poles. He reminded Council of the inconvenience to residents of parking restrictions. He stated Police Officers will be flexible with service trucks. Parking permits are available for home healthcare workers or home service personnel so it is easily recognized.

Councilmember Sharples asked if the issue is how and where they are parking as he commented congested parking is also found elsewhere within the community. He asked where the displaced drivers are parking at.

Police Chief Pruitt stated both factors: close proximity of parked vehicles/parking behind the driveways and the amount of parked vehicles during the day contribute to the residents' concerns. He stated the displaced drivers are parking along the 100 block of E. Edgewood and 100 block of Lamont Avenue. They also parked briefly at the 100 and 200 blocks of W. Castano and parking restrictions were enforced due to narrow streets and irregular driveways.

Mr. Kuhn stated the parking restrictions may be revisited after construction is completed. He noted the Alamo Heights Baptist Church has rented parking spaces to the City when the new facility was being built and currently renting to Joeris. He shared the information with AHISD Board.

A motion for approval was made by Councilmember Jessee. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sharples. Mayor Rosenthal asked if there were citizens signed up to speak prior to a vote.

The following citizens spoke on this matter:

Deborah Hepburn, resident, thanked Council revisiting parking restrictions and have made a positive difference. She noted the concerns are related to safety. She observed Mr. Dunn, resident, returned walking within the neighborhood. She commented the

parking restrictions provide a safe passage for emergency vehicles. Ms. Hepburn commented there are solutions that need to be further explored.

Byron Hepburn, resident, encouraged the City to empower students to think as young adults about their health. He stated carpooling is an idea as well as considering a parking garage for the long term.

Mayor Rosenthal thanked residents and staff.

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

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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 Rosenthal adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.


Jennifer Reyna
City Secretary



Bobby Rosenthal
Mayor