

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL
May 26, 2020

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Alamo Heights, Texas was held via teleconference on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, due to pandemic, COVID-19, also known as coronavirus, at 5:30 p.m.

Composing a quorum via roll call were:

Mayor Bobby Rosenthal
Mayor Pro Tempore John Savage
Councilmember Lawson Jessee
Councilmember Wes Sharples
Councilmember Blake M. Bonner
Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke

Also attending were:

City Manager Buddy Kuhn
City Attorney Frank Garza
Assistant to City Manager/City Secretary Jennifer Reyna
Finance Director Robert Galindo
Public Works Director Pat Sullivan
Human Resources Manager Lori Harris
Police Chief Rick Pruitt
Fire Chief Michael Gdovin

Absent was:

Assistant City Manager/Community Development Services Director Nina Shealey

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

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Assistant to City Manager/City Secretary Jennifer Reyna announced the process for today's meeting via teleconference. She explained information was available at www.alamoheightstx.gov. Ms. Reyna announced if interested listeners desired to speak on a particular item, she instructed to them to press *5 so they will be cued to express their comments. An alarm will also inform speaker when time has expired. She reminded listeners when addressing Council, please state your name and address for the record.

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Item # 1 Approval of Minutes

Mayor Rosenthal asked City Council for any revisions to the minutes of the May 11, 2020 Council Meeting. A motion was made by Councilmember Blake Bonner to approve the minutes of May 11, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke and passed by unanimous vote via roll call.

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Item # 2 Announcements

a. Strategic Action Plan Work Session, June 24, 2020

Assistant to City Manager/City Secretary Jennifer Reyna announced the Strategic Action Plan Work Session is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, 2020 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

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Item # 3 Citizens to be heard

Catherine Robins, Estate Sales, LLC, inquiring on issuance of estate sale permits and stated all COVID-19 requirements will be practiced. She stated her company is a special business.

City Manager Buddy Kuhn provided Ms. Robins his contact information so she may follow up with him.

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Items for Individual Consideration

Item # 4 Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

Resolution No. 2020R - 121

A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an interlocal agreement for designation of health authority and authorizing the Mayor to execute a certificate of appointment for the local health authority

Fire Chief Michael Gdovin made a PowerPoint presentation that included background information.

Fire Chief Gdovin explained the history of the interlocal agreement with the City of San Antonio to ensure the City of Alamo Heights have the resources and support to control events of a man-made or naturally occurring disaster. He stated Dr. Thomas Schlenker recently retired which necessitates a new interlocal agreement with his successor, Dr. Chichi Junda Woo.

Designating Dr. Chichi Junda Woo is necessary for local control and faster response in lieu of action by the State which is consistent with prior actions by the City of Alamo Heights and Health and Safety Code Chapter 121. This is also consistent with other municipalities in Bexar County.

There is no fiscal impact unless Dr. Woo's services are used in accordance with Local Government Code Chapter 791.011c in conjunction with a large scale event. This is effective upon Mayor's signature and would renew automatically every two years.

Councilmember Jessee asked what is the role of local authority related to Alamo Heights and their authority. He expressed concern on limiting the City's authority with quarantine rules without lack of coordination with the City of Alamo Heights.

Fire Chief Gdovin responded to Councilmember Jessee the local health authority designee can make recommendations, set guidelines and make decisions on behalf of Alamo Heights that fits within the framework of continuity so that all jurisdictions are responding the same way for a pandemic. Citations would be issued outside of incorporated cities.

Mr. Garza stated the City would adhere to the same restriction within the city limits if the City provides an ordinance supporting the decision made by local health authority. For the past 25 years; Bexar County has entered an interlocal agreement with the City of San Antonio to serve as a local health authority for coordinating purposes. He stated if there are any issues the City of Alamo Heights would like to enforce the City would need to do on their own.

Mayor Rosenthal asked if Olmos Park was the only city that did not commit to an interlocal agreement.

Mr. Garza confirmed the City of Olmos Park did not designate a local health authority or engage in the interlocal agreement with the City of San Antonio. He stated if a municipality does not designate a local health authority then the Regional Director (Region 8) for the San Antonio area which consists of 25 counties would have control. Mr. Garza explained the designee is to provide guidance and commented under a declared local state of disaster, Bexar County can confiscate local Police and Fire Departments but not the health authority.

Fire Chief Gdovin provided a summary of what the local health authority provides and stated Medical Director Dr. Mark Ogden provides insight for the community. He stated if there is a mandate from the local authority and there is a conflict, the medical director would be the City of Alamo Heights' voice.

Councilmember Sharples asked if the City desires a local authority or a regional director.

Fire Chief Gdovin commented a local health authority provides immediate assistance that is local versus a representative that serves 25 counties. Designating a local health authority provides continuity with all the municipalities within Bexar County.

Dr. Mark Ogden, Medical Director, stated an interlocal agreement is a long lasting relationship that will support staff and provide state resources. He commented real time data has been shared on the current pandemic and is a tremendous resource. Dr. Ogden stated he is happy to serve as a liaison to the local health authority and Alamo Heights.

Additional questions were asked how is the City involved with contact tracing within Alamo Heights and how it is performed.

Dr. Ogden stated the City is not integrated in the contact tracing process and address data had been received for positive traces which is done independently with the health department. Dr. Ogden further explained when someone tests positive for COVID-19, it is traced who their recent contacts had been with and a representative from the health department contacts those individuals.

Mr. Kuhn shared the process on how information is shared and the benefits engaging in a local interlocal agreement. He stated Dr. Ogden has been involved.

A motion was made by Councilmember Billa Burke to designate Dr. Chichi Junda Woo as the local health authority for the City of Alamo Heights. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Savage and passed by unanimous vote via roll call.

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Staff Reports

Item # 5 Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

Update and discussion regarding Jack Judson Nature Trails and the Friends of Hondondo Creek

City Manager Buddy Kuhn made a PowerPoint presentation that provided background information on the Jack Judson Nature Trails and Friends of the Hondondo Creek (FOHC).

Jack Judson Nature Trails is a 50-acre parcel of land approximately 3,600 feet long developed in 1965. FOHC is a 503(c) 3 non-profit organization that has upgraded, maintained and cares for the nature trails. There is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Alamo Heights and the FOHC through 2033 which requires General Liability Insurance. FOHC have dedicated volunteers and raised over \$400,000 in private donations to upkeep the nature trails. The City of Alamo Heights provides assistance and support.

Mr. Kuhn reported due to recent COVID-19 pandemic, children have constructed bicycle jumps along the trail and have caused damage to several areas of the trail system. He stated the Alamo Heights Police Department and FOHC board members had made repeated attempts to mediate activity since early March 2020. There were lumber and pallets used in areas to create jumps. The City of Alamo Heights erected temporary signs on trailheads that were removed. Signage has clearly been posted adjacent to restrooms.

Code of Ordinances Section 12-1 was referenced to state definitions of *Operate Wheeled Vehicle* and *Remove, Mutilate or Damage Park Property* which both referenced unlawful acts within the park. Texas Transportation Code Subchapter C Section 541.201 Vehicles was another resource providing definition of bicycle or wheeled vehicles.

The City has coordinated with City Attorney Frank Garza and the Texas Municipal League (TML) for their legal opinions.

Mr. Kuhn stated there may be other options to consider for a bicycle area for children. He stated the parents may form a 501(c)3 organization to construct and maintain a bicycle park similar to Bark Park and Jack Judson Trails. He shared he walked the area and had studied the area in which properties may be identified to be considered.

The following citizens spoke on this item.

Robert Cane, 340 Lilac Lane, expressed support for a cycling venue. He stated he is a coach for the athletes that utilizes the ramps and jumps in the area. He stated the greatest amenity is a mechanism to have a safe place to ride and ride to.

Robert Jones, 630 Lamont Ave., resident, thanked Mr. Kuhn for his presentation and Mayor Rosenthal for his time. He asked Council to determine the best way to proceed as he shared he is eager for the kids to return jumping.

Kirstin Silberschlag, 222 Lamont Ave., resident, expressed support in a win-win situation. She stated the "No wheeled" ordinance is misleading and there are different interpretations. She referenced FOHC members' letter states their trails are for multi-use. Ms. Silberschlag is hopeful for a positive solution and expressed support in Mr. Jones' comments.

Councilmembers asked questions and commented. Councilmember Jessee suggested bringing FOHC to make sure that everyone is working on the same page is proactive, possibly create a committee, and count him in to assist. Councilmember Jessee stated a deterrent for crime is people and commented it would be nice to the neighborhood. Councilmember Billa Burke stated Bark Park expressed interest and had a plan. She requested a preliminary plan/sketch to provide the City an idea of what they need or looking for. Councilmember Sharples stated this is positive and may be an amenity to the community and asked the interested to provide guidance what works best. He noted an ordinance may need to be revisited, to allow function of the park. Mayor Pro Tem Savage asked to seek options on these great two pursuits and how big is the property that may be considered as a site.

Mr. Kuhn stated the City of San Antonio owns property within the Olmos Basin area and an interlocal agreement may be considered working with the City Attorney and San Antonio Parks Department. He commented the Bark Park is on one lot and identified a large parcel of land that goes up to Jones Maltsberger is 27,180 square feet is located directly north of the dog park, if Normandy would continue. Another parcel for consideration is located to the west of Bark Park, located at 232 Jones Maltsberger Road that is 314,000 square feet, estimated at 7.20 acres.

Mayor Rosenthal stated if adjacent residents are not in support, he suggested an area that surrounds Corona, Ciruela, Alamo Heights Blvd. and possibly the driveway entrance in front of the Bark Park may be considered. He stated he will continue to work with Mr. Kuhn.

Item # 6 Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

Update on COVID-19

Mayor Rosenthal announced the community will be informed if the June 24th SAP work session will occur in the Council Chambers or via teleconference. He suggested perhaps consider a hybrid of hosting the work session and allowing teleconference.

There was a brief discussion among Council regarding hosting Council meetings. Councilmembers Bonner and Jessee stated it is important to get back into normal cycle while practicing social distancing. Councilmember Sharples asked if there may be an alternative since there are multiple departmental presentations. Mayor Rosenthal stated all opportunities will be explored for the options to host the SAP work session and future Council meetings.

Mayor Rosenthal stated there are no new updates from the State or Bexar County and asked City Attorney Frank Garza if there was any additional information he wanted to share.

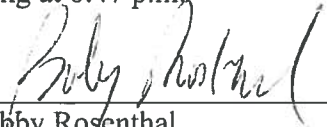
Mr. Garza stated cities are doing a combination of teleconference and live meetings that allows officials to conduct meetings in person and teleconference.

Mr. Kuhn shared Dr. Ogden has provided information on what a reopening will be to include: 1) continue use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); 2) continue telework; 3) temperature scan for employees; and 4) clean facilities. Garbage pickup will resume normal schedule beginning next week. He reminded everyone the City is vulnerable if only one person gets sick. Mr. Kuhn stated the reopening of City Hall may be conducted as phases and/or modified schedule. He shared Municipal Court is being explored how it will be conducted and Judges/Prosecutors are not in a hurry to return due to pandemic. Mr. Kuhn stated he will continue to consider all things seriously to provide essential services.

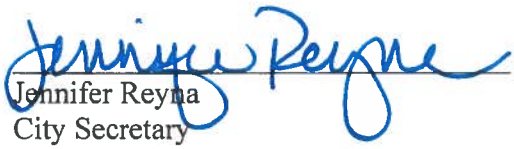
Mayor Rosenthal thanked Fire Chief Michael Gdovin, Police Chief Rick Pruitt and Public Works Director Pat Sullivan for their work and what their department continues to do.

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There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilmember Bonner to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Savage and passed by unanimous vote. Mayor Rosenthal adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.



Bobby Rosenthal
Mayor



Jennifer Reyna
City Secretary