

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL
June 10, 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, June 10, 2019.

Present and composing a quorum were:

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

Also attending were:

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

Absent was:

City Secretary Jennifer Reyna

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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 May 16, 2019, Strategic Action Plan Work Session. A motion was made by Councilmember Lawson Jessee to approve the minutes of May 16, 2019. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fred Prassel and passed by unanimous vote.

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

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ORDINANCE NO. 2131

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 5-12 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES AND THE CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS SCHEDULE OF PERMIT FEES IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH HOUSE BILL 852

Councilmember Jessee recused himself on this item due to a potential conflict of interest due to his occupation.

Ms. Shealey made a PowerPoint presentation that included background information.

Ms. Shealey announced House Bill 852 was passed this legislative session, effective immediately. It prohibits assessing residential building permits on project value. Residential and commercial permit fees are both based on the value of the project.

In October 2017, Chapter 5 – Building and Building Regulations were amended and included a schedule of permit fees. HB 852 was signed on May 21st which required amendments to the City's current permit fee schedule.

Amendments to Chapter 5 include removing subsection (d) that referenced the calculation of the permit fees based on the value of project. Subsection (a) is proposed to be amended which references the frequency of Council's review of permit fees to reflect as needed rather than an annual basis. A revised schedule is proposed to assess residential projects based on footage of project and allows Council to review and adopt as needed rather than an annual basis as stated in Subsection (a).

Ms. Shealey reviewed the revised fee schedule for residential projects. She noted for interior remodels, specifically, only the square footage that requires inspection will be applicable to the revised permit fee schedule. She stated an amendment to the plan review fee will be \$250 rather than 50% of the building permit. General repair permits were noted at a flat fee rather than the value of the project. She provided examples of costs for a kitchen remodel, addition, or new construction.

In summary, the average decrease of permit fees is estimated at 10% reduction with an estimated loss of revenue annually in the amount of \$19,000.

Mayor Rosenthal asked why the swimming pool repair permit was costly compared to other general repair permits and how other municipalities were making permit fee changes.

Ms. Shealey explained the swimming pool repair permit entails a more intense inspection process.

Interim City Attorney Frank Garza stated vast majority of municipalities were changing their ordinances similar to what Alamo Heights has proposed.

Mayor Pro Tem Wes Sharples asked if square footage was viable.

City Manager Buddy Kuhn stated only two options were provided in which square footage was an option. He stated Ms. Shealey worked with Finance Director Robert Galindo, different models, and inquired with Councilmember Jessee items related to his expertise.

Mayor Rosenthal recommended Ms. Shealey to touch base with Mr. Garza to maintain updated on what other municipalities are doing.

Ms. Shealey shared she reached out to the Cities of San Antonio, Schertz, and Terrell Hills which are utilizing permit fee calculations based on square footage. She commented reduction of permit fees was considered during this process.

Mr. Garza stated the permit fees are changes to residential projects; however, the next legislative session may consider changes to commercial permit fees.

A motion was made by Councilmember Savage. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Billa Burke. The following Councilmembers voted in favor: Mayor Pro Tem Lynda Billa Burke, Councilmembers Wes Sharples, Fred Prassel, and John Savage. Councilmember Lawson Jessee abstained. The motion carried and passed.

Item # 5 Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

ORDINANCE NO. 2132

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2122, SECTION 4(C)(1), REDUCING LIABILITY INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS AND SECTION 6 TO INCLUDE A NEW SUBSECTION (G) ESTABLISHING ALLOWED HOURS OF OPERATIONS FOR DOCKLESS VEHICLES

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

Police Chief Pruitt reminded Council of the recent presentation made on May 28, 2019 to inform them of San Antonio's dockless vehicle program and consideration of the Alamo Heights' liability insurance requirement amendment request. Based on Council's discussion, a few amendments are proposed.

The proposed ordinance would amend Ordinance No. 2122 to reduce the required liability coverage amount to \$1 million per occurrence and \$2 million annual aggregate

and restrict dockless vehicle hours of operation to 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Police Chief Pruitt noted the ordinance has applicable section of the Texas Transportation Code.

Councilmember Jessee requested this item to be revisited in six months.

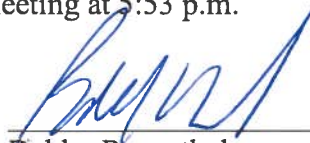
Councilmember Prassel asked why the operating hours are until 11:00 p.m.

Police Chief Pruitt stated the operating hours are mirroring San Antonio's so the operator will not be confused when they enter the City of Alamo Heights. He stated staff will continue to monitor the City of San Antonio's dockless vehicle program.

A motion for approval was made by Councilmember Jessee. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem 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 Jessee and passed by unanimous vote. Mayor Rosenthal adjourned the meeting at 5:53 p.m.



Bobby Rosenthal
Mayor


Jennifer Reyna
City Secretary