

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS  
CITY COUNCIL  
February 22, 2021

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Alamo Heights, Texas was held at the Council Chambers, located at 6116 Broadway, San Antonio, Texas, at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 22, 2021. A teleconference was held via Zoom; staff and meeting attendees were welcomed in the Council Chambers entering City Hall via one entrance (rear of City Hall), answering health questions, health screening, wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.

Composing a quorum were:

Mayor Bobby Rosenthal  
Mayor Pro Tempore John Savage  
Councilmember Lawson Jessee  
Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke – Via Zoom

Also attending were:

City Manager Buddy Kuhn  
Assistant City Manager/Community Development Services Director Nina Shealey  
City Attorney Richard Lindner  
Assistant to City Manager Jennifer Reyna  
City Secretary Elsa T. Robles  
Director of Finance Robert Galindo  
Human Resources Manager Lori Harris  
Police Chief Rick Pruitt  
Fire Chief Michael Gdovin – Via Zoom  
Public Works Director Pat Sullivan – Via Zoom  
Deputy Police Chief Cindy Pruitt

Absent were:

Councilmember Wes Sharples  
Councilmember Blake M. Bonner

\* \* \*

Mayor Bobby Rosenthal opened the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

\* \* \*

*Item # 1      Approval of Minutes*

Mayor Rosenthal asked City Council for a motion to approve the January 28, 2021 Council Workshop minutes. Councilmember Lawson Jessee moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem John Savage and passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Rosenthal asked for a motion to approve the February 8, 2021 Council Meeting minutes. Councilmember Jessee moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Savage and passed by unanimous vote.

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*Item # 2      Citizens to be heard*

No comments made.

\* \* \*

Assistant to City Manager Jennifer Reyna asked citizens wishing to participate in the meeting via zoom, to press \*9. She stated they would be acknowledged to speak for 3 minutes and asked them to state their name and address to record in the meeting minutes.

Mayor Rosenthal took the opportunity to thank management and city staff for their hard working during last week’s unprecedented weather event. He recognized dispatch for communicating to citizens and keeping everyone informed.

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*Items for Individual Consideration*

*Item # 3      Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2169**

**AN ORDINANCE DECLARING UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICES OF MAYOR, CITY COUNCILMEMBER PLACE #1 AND COUNCILMEMBER PLACE #2 IN THE MAY 1, 2021 GENERAL ELECTION ELECTED TO OFFICE; CANCELING THE ELECTION; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

City Secretary Elsa T. Robles stated she was presenting an ordinance to cancel the May 1, 2021 General Election. The candidate filing period was January 13, 2021 – February 12, 2021. She informed Council only three applications were received, one for each of the open positions. With no other applications received, she congratulated and declared the unopposed candidates as follows:

- Bobby Rosenthal – Mayor
- Lawson Jessee – Councilmember, Place 1
- Wes Sharples – Councilmember, Place 2

As City Secretary, Ms. Robles certified there were no write-in candidates and no applications were withdrawn. As required by the Election Code, a copy of the ordinance canceling the general election would be posted at City Hall and other polling sites on Election Day, May 1, 2021.

Ms. Robles noted the City would not incur costs for canceling the general election; however, she reminded Council the City would hold a special election on May 1<sup>st</sup> for the purpose of reauthorizing local sales and use tax at the rate of one-half of one percent to continue providing revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets.

Mayor Rosenthal encouraged everyone to go out and vote for the special election.

Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke moved to approve Ordinance No. 2169 declaring unopposed candidates for the offices of Mayor, Councilmember Place 1 and Councilmember Place 2 and canceling the May 1, 2021 General Election. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Savage and passed by unanimous vote.

Staff Reports

*Item # 4* Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

**Briefing on the 2020 Racial Profiling Annual Report prepared in compliance to the Texas Racial Profiling Law**

Police Chief Rick Pruitt stated the Texas Racial Profiling Law had been in effect since 2001 and had created new Article 2.134 in Code of Criminal Procedure (CCP). It has been modified on two occasions, most recently in May 2017 as Senate Bill 1849 (Sandra Bland Act). It requires Council receive a report each year before March 1<sup>st</sup> regarding racial profiling.

Police Chief Pruitt briefly explained Senate Bill 1849 had expanded data collection requirements. The annual report contains information relevant to AHPD polices including prohibiting racial profiling and addressing citizen complaints. Each officer is mandated to meet training and educational requirements. Police Chief Pruitt suspects a law mandating body cameras could be passed in the next Legislature and noted AHPD is ahead of the curve since the body camera program was established in 2013.

Police Chief Pruitt stated COAH statistical data is compared to the City of San Antonio and Bexar County. He reviewed the 2020 Racial Profiling Audit report listing these comparisons. He noted the impact of commuter traffic. In 2020 total contacts for AHPD were 1,998 with 7.0% being African-American and 22.7% being Hispanic/Latino. He stated AHPD dealt more with traffic/commuters more so than with residents.

The content of the racial profiling annual report reaffirms AHPD's commitment to unbiased policing, reinforces public trust and protects officers from unwarranted accusations of misconduct. Police Chief Pruitt shared there hadn't been a racial profiling incident involving a police officer since 2013. He added the report verifies AHPD has complied with all requirements, no public or internal reports were made suggesting biased treatment by any office, and analysis of all data collected verifies AHPD officers do not participate in racial profiling.

This information has been entered in the State database for public viewing and will be posted on the City's website.

Police Chief Pruitt shared the majority of traffic contacts are on Broadway and Austin Hwy. Neighborhood complaints are usually from Broadway Avenue up to New Braunfels Avenue north of the high school.

*Item # 5* Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

**Briefing on the proposed process for the review and potential update of the Chapter 3 Residential Design Standards**

Assistant City Manager/Community Development Services Director Nina Shealey provided Council background information on the current COAH design standards. The first set of design standards were implemented in 2006 and updated in January 2012. Councilmember Jessee requested a review and update of designs standards in January 2021.

Ms. Shealey reviewed the current residential design standards in accordance to the COAH Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3, Zoning which outlines design requirements for all residential projects. These included: lot size/dimensions, setbacks, articulation/projections, height/looming, lot coverage, floor area ratio, and parking.

To address this request, staff suggested establishing a Residential Design Standard (RDS) Committee consisting of five members to include one (1) member from each of the boards; Architectural Review Board, Board of Adjustment, the Planning & Zoning Commission; and two (2) community volunteers. Staff liaison will be COAH Planner Lety Hernandez, who will provide her professional opinion to the committee.

Ms. Shealey provided tentative scheduled committee meeting dates with a kick-off meeting during the week of April 5<sup>th</sup> and suggested Councilmember Jessee be present. The COAH boards will review any proposed updates during their respective meetings in June and July. City Council will review on July 26<sup>th</sup>. She recognized this was an aggressive timeline; however, unlike the first review in 2012, this review will not be as in-depth and will focus on fine-tuning current standards.

In closing, Ms. Shealey asked Council for their recommendations on the process, and suggestions on appointments of the RDS Committee members. Councilmember Jessee stated he was interested in attending all of the meetings. Mayor Rosenthal agreed on the timeline and stated Council would make recommendations on committee members.

*Item # 6* Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

**Update on the City of Alamo Heights Centennial Celebration**

Assistant to the City Manager Jennifer Reyna stated the presentation was regarding the upcoming centennial anniversary for the City of Alamo Heights. The City will turn 100 years old on June 20, 2022.

Ms. Reyna provided background information on the Golden Anniversary. In January 1971, with a budget of \$27,000, the City hired Rogers company of Fostoria, OH to plan the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. The celebration lasted eight (8) days, October 14 – 21, 1972. She highlighted several activities that included: Coronation Day, Faith of Father's Day, Old Fashioned Bargain Days, Pioneer Day, Ladies' Day, Youth Day, and Good Neighbor Day. To plan the events, eight (8) committees and several sub-committees were created.

Currently, there are photos and documents on the Bibliotech website ([www.library.biblioboard.com](http://www.library.biblioboard.com)) and Ms. Reyna will add historical Alamo Heights information for the upcoming Centennial Celebration. She reached out to the community through 78209 Magazine and City newsletters and asked them to provide any additional items of interest.

Ms. Reyna stated she was excited to be part of the event planning and asked Council for guidance and feedback on the City's vision. She noted \$20,000 had been budgeted this fiscal year for the planning of the celebration.

City Manager Buddy Kuhn shared Ms. Reyna had been working hard on this project for several years and she is truly excited. He clarified \$20,000 had been budgeted to start the planning process; however, depending on Council's vision, the event may cost a lot more. Additional funding could be addressed during budget planning for FY2022. Mr. Kuhn stated it was best to start planning early before the year flies by and asked Council for direction. He suggested hiring a professional company to help with the planning and incorporating the community swimming pool into the celebration.

Mayor Rosenthal stated the centennial celebration was one of the reasons he had elected to run for another term. He envisioned doing something special, but realizes the City has budget constraints. He suggested reaching out for donations from local businesses/organizations and involving a group of citizens in the planning process.


Councilmember Jessee agreed hiring a company such as Janet Holliday, the CE Group, to assist with the event planning. Mr. Kuhn added having a professional company spearhead the celebration would be best and suggested requesting cost estimates for budgeting.

After some discussion, Mayor Rosenthal stated he and Councilmember Jessee would make some calls to get other parties involved in the planning to help Ms. Reyna.

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With no further business to consider, Mayor Pro Tem Savage moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jessee and passed by unanimous vote.

  
Elsa T. Robles, TRMC  
City Secretary

  
Bobby Rosenthal  
Mayor

