

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS  
CITY COUNCIL  
February 23, 2026

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Alamo Heights, Texas was held at the Council Chamber, located at 6116 Broadway, San Antonio, Texas, at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026. Staff and meeting attendees were welcomed in the Council Chamber.

Composing a quorum were:

Mayor Albert Honigblum  
Mayor Pro Tem Trey Jacobson  
Councilmember Karl P. Baker  
Councilmember Blake M. Bonner  
Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke

Also attending were:

City Manager Buddy Kuhn  
Assistant City Manager Phillip Laney  
City Attorneys Jessie Lopez & Justin Nail  
Assistant to City Manager Jennifer Reyna  
City Secretary Elsa T. Robles  
Finance Director Kristine Horton  
Police Chief Rick Pruitt  
Deputy Police Chief Cindy Pruitt  
Fire Chief Allen Ottmers  
Public Works Director Frank Orta  
Community Development Services Director Lety Hernandez

Not attending:

Councilmember Lawson Jessee

\* \* \*

Mayor Albert Honigblum opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

\* \* \*

*Item # 1      Approval of Minutes*

Mayor Honigblum asked the City Council for a motion on the February 09, 2026 City Council meeting minutes. Councilmember Blake M. Bonner moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke and passed by a 4-0 vote.

\* \* \*

*Item # 2      Announcements*

Mayor Honigblum read the following caption.

- a. **36th Annual Alamo Heights High School Band Run to the Beat 5K on 02/28/2026**

Community Development Services Department Director Lety Hernandez announced the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Run to the Beat event by the Alamo Heights High School Band scheduled for Saturday, February 28th. She shared they will follow the same route as in prior years with setup starting at 6:30 a.m. and run from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.

\* \* \*

*Item # 3      Citizens to be Heard*

Ms. Patricia Celis, resident, stated she experienced a fall into a 96-gallon trash can while trimming her grapevine. She wanted Council to be aware how dangerous trash cans can be and requested the City to put warning stickers on the cans to prevent additional accidents among residents.

\* \* \*

*Items for Individual Consideration*

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026R - 233**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS, TEXAS, AWARDED A CONTRACT TO SIDDONS MARTIN EMERGENCY GROUP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,925,671 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A LADDER TRUCK AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Fire Chief Allen Ottmers stated staff was requesting approval of a Resolution authorizing the purchase of a new ladder truck from Siddons Martin Emergency Group to replace the City's current ladder truck manufactured in 2008. He stated the proposed purchase will be funded by the General Capital Replacement fund. Staff is requesting an early approval from Council in anticipation of the delivery time for a fire apparatus of approximately 4 years.

Fire Chief Ottmers noted the policy is consistent with Texas Local Government Code and Council action is consistent with updating equipment that has exceeded its life span. Ladder 4 will be traded in with proceeds returning to the General Capital Replacement Fund. He added the proposed request was coordinated with the City Manager, City Attorney, and Finance Director.

Finance Director Kristine Horton stated the total cost for the ladder truck is \$1.9M with delivery time approximately 4 years. Staff is seeking to do a reserve balance plan by setting aside about \$200K per year, accumulating a total reserve balance of \$600K to \$1M. The remaining amount will be leased. She stated the first payment will be a year from signing the contract.

Ms. Horton reviewed a comparison chart between the last time a ladder truck was purchased and the current proposed purchase. In 2008, the cost was \$862,020 and was purchased through a Certificate of Obligation (CO) with a 3.99% interest rate which was later refinanced in 2016 with an interest rate of 2%. The estimated annual payment at that time was about \$79,576, with total interest paid of \$252K. The total cost was \$1,114,000 at a 14-year payment plan. She continued and noted the proposed plan is to lease for 5 years for a total cost of \$1.9M. Current

interest rates are at 3.8%, but projections are they may go down by the time the City is ready to lease. The estimated annual payment would be about \$255K, with an estimated interest of \$132K for a total cost of just over \$2M including issuance cost of 1.35% financing or \$15,255.

Ms. Horton reiterated the proposed request to authorize a resolution to purchase the ladder truck from Siddons Martin Emergency Group is not to exceed the amount of \$1,925,671. A separate resolution authorizing financing will be forthcoming 4 years from now. By committing to reserving funds annually and applying those reserves in the delivery year, the department positions itself to reduce the financed debt to possibly just under \$1 million and leverage a 12-month payment deferral all while maintaining essential emergency response capability.

Council briefly discussed the proposed “lease to purchase” option staff is requesting. City Manager Buddy Kuhn stated staff had explored different options but decided to utilize the City’s Capital Replacement Fund. He added by setting aside \$200K over the next 4 years, it would facilitate a lease to purchase plan.

Mr. Kuhn shared there is not a large resale market for the older ladder trucks which are normally sent to Mexico or other countries. He noted new ladder trucks generally only have one year of manufacturer’s warranty.

With no further discussion Councilmember Billa Burke moved to approve Resolution No. 2026 - 233 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Trey Jacobson and passed by a 4-0 vote.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2256**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS DECLARING UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICES OF CITY COUNCILMEMBER PLACE #3, COUNCILMEMBER PLACE #4, AND COUNCILMEMBER PLACE #5 IN THE MAY 2, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION ELECTED TO OFFICE; PROVIDING THAT THE MAY 2, 2026 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION SHALL NOT BE HELD; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

City Secretary Elsa T. Robles stated she was presenting an ordinance to cancel the May 2, 2026 General Election. The candidate filing period started January 14, 2026 and ended February 13, 2026. She informed Council three applications were received, one for each of the open positions from:

- Blake M. Bonner – Councilmember, Place 3
- Lynda Billa Burke – Councilmember, Place 4
- Trey Jacobson – Councilmember, Place 5

As City Secretary, Ms. Robles certified there were no write-in candidates, and each candidate was unopposed for election to office. As required by the Election Code, a copy of the ordinance canceling the general election and certificate certifying the cancellation will be posted at City Hall and the city's website. A copy of the ordinance will be forwarded to Elections Administrator for posting at Bexar County polling sites on Election Day, May 2, 2026. She noted the City would not incur costs for canceling the general election.

Ms. Robles congratulated the incumbents and stated she appreciated their decision to serve another two-year term. Ms. Robles added the Councilmembers will be instated and sworn in on May 11, 2026.

Councilmember Billa Burke moved to approve Ordinance No. 2256 canceling the General Election for May 2, 2026 and declaring unopposed candidates. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bonner and passed by a 4-0 vote.

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Staff Reports

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

**Presentation of Financial and Investment Report for the first quarter ending December 31, 2025.**

Finance Director Kristine Horton presented the first quarter financial and investment report ending December 31, 2025. The report focused on the General Fund Revenues & Expenditures, Utility Fund Revenues & Expenditures, Capital Projects Fund, Investment Portfolio Update, and Summary of City's Financial Position. The property tax revenues are currently at 50% of budgeted numbers. The city is in good standing overall. She noted the sales tax revenues are also doing very well a little over 25% over budget compared to last year at this time.

Ms. Horton stated the General Fund revenues are at 37% collected overall compared to budgeted numbers with total revenues to date of \$5,452,000. She reviewed a diagram breaking down incoming revenue amounts per each \$100; Property Tax - \$63.34, Franchise Fees - \$4.17, Sales Tax - \$8.28, Other Revenues - \$2.24, and Permit Fees & Fines - \$16.97.

Ms. Horton shared the General Fund Expenditures are doing well at 26% at about \$4M with net revenues over expenditures at \$1.5M. She reviewed a diagram breaking down expenditure amounts per each \$100; Administration & Finance - \$19.53, Community Development - \$3.82, Fire/EMS - \$25.03, Public Works - \$20.38, and Police/Dispatch - \$31.23.

The Utility Fund total revenues collected were about 41%. Revenues expenses are at 21%. Net revenues over expenditures is \$635,000. The Drought Surcharge collected is at \$85,000 for the first quarter, currently 107% over budgeted.

The Capital Projects Fund is healthy and has collected approximately \$162K in interest for the first quarter with minimal expenses with a balance of \$16,964,000.

Ms. Horton reviewed the investment portfolio which includes at total ending balance of \$36,702,480. The investment pools increased by \$973,000, and operating bank account increased by \$1.6 million with a total increase of \$2.6 million compared to last quarter's ending the first quarter balance at \$36.7M.

In closing, Ms. Horton stated the average yield for the investment portfolio was 4.02% and is in line with the 90-Day U.S. Treasury benchmark of 3.73%. She noted the U.S. Agency bonds are at 3.96%.

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Closed Session

Item # 8 Mayor Honigblum asked to discuss Item # 8 before Item# 7 and read the following captions.

**Executive Session as authorized by the Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney) to discuss potential claim against the city.**

Item # 7

**Executive Session as authorized by the Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney) to discuss water rights.**

The City Council of the City of Alamo Heights convened into Closed Executive Session at 5:54 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 7:29 p.m. in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, *Section §551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)*.

\* \* \*

Open Session

Item # 9 Mayor Honigblum read the following caption.

**Discussion and possible action resulting from Executive Session.**

No action taken.

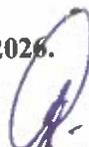
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With no further business to consider, Councilmember Bonner moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Billa Burke and passed by 4-0 vote.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2026.**

  
Elsa T. Robles, TRMC  
City Secretary



  
Alber Honigblum  
Mayor