

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL
May 10, 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, May 10, 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 Lynda Billa Burke
Councilmember Lawson Jessee
Councilmember Wes Sharples
Councilmember John Savage

Also attending were:

Assistant City Manager/Community Development Services Director Nina Shealey
City Attorney Frank Garza
City Secretary Elsa T. Robles
Director of Finance Robert Galindo
Human Resources Manager Lori Harris
Fire Chief Michael Gdovin
Public Works Director Pat Sullivan – Via Zoom
Deputy Police Chief Cindy Pruitt

Absent were:

Councilmember Blake M. Bonner
City Manager Buddy Kuhn
Assistant to the City Manager Jennifer Reyna
Police Chief Rick Pruitt

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

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Item # 1 Presentation of \$2.00 each to the Mayor and Council members for Compensation as per City Charter, Article IV, Section 13

Finance Director Robert Galindo thanked Council for serving the community and presented them two dollars for their service. Council receives one dollar per year of service. Mr. Galindo noted he was not able to compensate them last year due to COVID-19.

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Item # 2 Presentation of Certificates of Election and administration of Oaths of Office to newly elected officials: Mayor, Bobby Rosenthal, Councilmember, Place 1 – Lawson Jessee, and Councilmember, Place 2 – Wes Sharples

City Secretary Elsa T. Robles stated on February 22, 2021, the General Election for the City of Alamo Heights was cancelled due to unopposed candidates. She congratulated Bobby Rosenthal – Mayor, Lawson Jessee – Councilmember, Place 1, and Wes Sharples – Councilmember, Place 2 and administered the Oath of Office to the incumbents.

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Item # 3 Election of Mayor Pro Tempore

Councilmember Lawson Jessee moved to nominate Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke as Mayor Pro Tempore. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wes Sharples and passed by unanimous vote.

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Item # 4 Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Rosenthal asked City Council for a motion to approve the April 26, 2021 Council Workshop minutes. Councilmember Sharples moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lynda Billa Burke and passed by unanimous vote.

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Item # 5 Announcements

Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

a. Special Council Meeting, Wednesday, May 12th

Ms. Robles announced the City of Alamo Heights will hold a special Council meeting on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. to declare the official results from the May 1, 2021 Special Election. The citizens voted and passed the reauthorization of the street maintenance sales and use tax at the rate of one-half of one percent.

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Item # 6 Citizens to be heard

No comments made.

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Items for Individual Consideration

Item # 7 Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

Architectural Review Board Case No. 838F, request of Myles Caudill of Caudill Homes, applicant, representing La Pita Ventures LLC, owner, for the significance review of the existing main structure located at 533 Normandy in order to demolish 100% of the existing single-family residence with detached accessory structure

Assistant City Manager/Community Development Services Department Director, Nina Shealey stated the property is zoned SF-A and is located at 533 Normandy near the intersection of Alamo Heights Blvd. The request is a significance review for 100% demolition of the existing structure. Currently, new construction plans are not ready for consideration. She reviewed the slides of the current structure.

Ms. Shealey stated staff found no historical or architectural significance. The Architectural Review Board (ARB) had reviewed the case on April 20, 2021 and found no significance. The ARB recommended approval of the demolition.

Public notifications were mailed to property owners within a 200-foot radius. Notices were posted on the City's website, mailed and posted on the property. Staff received two responses in support, and no other responses on this case.

Councilmember Sharples moved to approve ARB Case No. 838F as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Billa Burke and passed by unanimous vote.

Item # 8 Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

Architectural Review Board Case No. 839F, of Collier Bashara of Collier Custom Homes, applicant, representing Duane & Karen Westerman, owner, for the significance review of the existing main structure and compatibility review of the proposed design located at 203 Edgewood E in order to demolish 100% of the existing single-family residence with detached accessory structure(s) and construct a new 2-story single-family residence with detached garage

Ms. Shealey stated the SF-A property is located at 203 Edgewood E. between Vanderhoeven and N. New Braunfels. The significance request is for 100% demolition of the existing residence and compatibility request to construct a new 2-story single-family residence with detached garage. She reviewed the existing and proposed site plans.

In terms of policy analysis, the existing total lot coverage is 23% and the proposed is 40% which is the maximum allowed. Floor area ratio is currently at 22% and the proposed is 40%, under the maximum 45% allowed.

Staff reviewed the request and found no historical or architectural significance. The Architectural Review Board (ARB) also reviewed this case on April 20, 2021 where they found no significance and recommended approval of the demolition. The ARB also approved the compatibility request as submitted.

Public notifications were mailed to property owners within a 200-foot radius. Notices were posted on the City's website, mailed and posted on the property. Staff received six responses in support, and no other responses on this case. The applicant was present for questions.

With no one to speak on the item, Mayor Pro Tem Billa Burke moved to approve ARB Case No. 839F as requested. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Savage and passed by unanimous vote.

Item # 9 Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

Discussion and possible action concerning fees for Emergency Medical Services

Fire Chief Michael Gdovin stated the presentation was a staff evaluation of the Emergency Medical Services provider rates in the area. The last fee increase was March 14, 2016 where mileage was increased from \$14/mile to \$15/mile for transports, BLS to \$800 and ALS 1 to \$900. All other fees had remained unchanged.

In February 2021, Deputy Fire Chief John Massey conducted a fee comparison between several area EMS transport services including San Antonio, Schertz, Shavano Park, Leon Valley, and Kendall County.

Fire Chief Gdovin reviewed the rate comparison charts and noted AHEMS current billing rates are below the area averages, increases to the current fee structure may be considered to bring AHEMS current billing rates more in line with the average fees charged area wide.

Staff also evaluated EMS responses by billable call type, transport mileage, billable amounts and collections. Data included FY15-16 through the first six months of FY20-21. The second half of FY20-21 was projected to provide six years of data for analysis.

Fire Chief Gdovin noted these numbers could change due to trends. During the COVID-19 pandemic there was a decrease in calls because people did not want to call EMS or go to a hospital. This trend is dissipating and call volume will increase.

The proposed changes would generate an additional billable total of \$36,577.00 annually based on six-year averages. It will help offset budget costs for tri-city partners. Consumable costs continue to escalate. Currently, the budget is about 83% spent due to additional medical supplies that were purchased due to the pandemic. Fire Chief Gdovin added that AHEMS is well supplied and has not experienced a shortage of medical supplies.

Mayor Rosenthal requested billing information on the percentage of non-collectibles that are residents vs. non-residents. Fire Chief Gdovin stated he would request the information from Schertz.

After some discussion, Councilmember Savage moved to increase Emergency Medical Services rates as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sharples and passed by unanimous vote.

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With no further business to consider, Councilmember Jesse moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Savage and passed by unanimous vote.


Elsa T. Robles, TRMC
City Secretary


Bobby Rosenthal
Mayor

