

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL
November 8, 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, November 8, 2021. A teleconference was held via Zoom; staff and meeting attendees were welcomed in the Council Chambers.

Composing a quorum were:
Mayor Bobby Rosenthal
Mayor Pro Tempore Lynda Billa Burke
Councilmember Lawson Jessee
Councilmember Wes Sharples
Councilmember Blake M. Bonner
Councilmember John Savage

Also attending were:
City Manager Buddy Kuhn
Assistant City Manager Phil Laney
Community Development Services Director Lety Hernandez – Via Zoom
City Attorney Frank Garza
Assistant to City Manager Jennifer Reyna
City Secretary Elsa T. Robles
Director of Finance Robert Galindo
Police Chief Rick Pruitt
Human Resources Manager Brenda Jimenez
Fire Chief Michael Gdovin
Deputy Police Chief Cindy Pruitt
Public Works Director Pat Sullivan – Via Zoom

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Mayor Bobby Rosenthal opened the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

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Item # 1 Approval of Minutes

Mayor Bobby Rosenthal asked City Council for a motion to approve the October 25, 2021 City Council Meeting minutes. Councilmember John Savage 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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Mr. Laney reviewed other significant proposed amendments to the current code of ordinances. Wood shingles/wood shake would be permitted with additional fireproofing codes, fireworks displays for city-organized events will be allowed, other non-aerial, non-explosive fireworks such as “sparklers” will also be permitted with an issued permit for commercial or residential special events or large gatherings. The adoption of these codes will formally establish and clarify inspection requirements for pools and building foundations in our Code of Ordinances.

Mr. Laney advised these amendments were coordinated with the City’s contracted building inspectors, Bruce Bealor and BJ Bealor of BB Inspection Services, the City Attorney, City Manager, Councilmember Jessee, Community Development Services Director Lety Hernandez, Fire Chief Michael Gdovin, and Fire Marshal Allen Ottmers.

Mayor Pro Tem Billa Burke moved to approve Ordinance No. 2181 effective January 1, 2022 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Savage and passed by unanimous vote.

Item # 7 Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

Approving and accepting the renewal contracts for Blue Cross-Blue Shield held for employee health insurance, MetLife for employee dental insurance and Davis Insurance for employee vision insurance and authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary agreements for the provision of such insurance

City Manager Buddy Kuhn presented the renewal contracts for employee health, vision, and dental insurance. Insurance renewals were obtained from Catto & Catto for 2022. Catto & Catto Representative Benjamin Halbach was also present to answer questions. Mr. Kuhn stated the renewals were below the projected budgeted increase of 15% with Blue Cross Blue Shield proposing a 3.5% increase for the HSA base plan and noted MetLife dental benefits will have no increase in premium for 2022. There is no increase for Vision, Basic Life with AD&D or LTD coverage.

Mr. Kuhn stated the proposed renewal contracts were consistent with the City’s efforts to provide quality but affordable insurance benefits to its employees and relieve the impact of increased dependent coverage costs to the employees. The contracts were reviewed by Catto & Catto, the City Attorney, and coordinated with Councilmember John Savage.

Financially, the City’s medical coverage budgeted savings is approximately \$69,907. All other City benefits, including the Health Reimbursement Account (HRA), continue to be covered by savings. Employees will continue to receive the annual maximum contribution of \$1,250 per employee deposited in to a Health Savings Account (HSA).

After some discussion regarding insurance pricing, Councilmember Lawson Jessee moved to approve the renewal contracts for employee health insurance as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wes Sharples and passed by unanimous vote.

Item # 8 Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021R-142

**A RESOLUTION GRANTING CERTAIN CITY OFFICIALS
SIGNATORY AUTHORITY FOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS**

Finance Director Robert Galindo stated the proposed resolution is to update the current list of City officials signing on current bank accounts due to personnel changes. The City maintains one (1) operating account, one (1) zero balance payroll account, one (1) savings account, and two (2) investment CDs, six (6) investment pool accounts.

The resolution authorizes at least one City official to execute checks, drafts, transfers, payroll, and two signers are required for wire transfer withdrawals or other withdrawals from the operating bank account.

The resolution designates the following City officials as authorized signers:

Robert Galindo	Richard Pruitt
Buddy Kuhn	Michael Gdovin
Phillip Laney	Elsa T. Robles
Jennifer Reyna	Bobby Rosenthal

Mr. Galindo advised it is appropriate and necessary to authorize City officials to sign financial transactions in order to process prompt payment on behalf of the City. Additionally, there is no negative fiscal impact on the City in reference to this resolution.

Councilmember Jessee moved to approve Resolution No. 2021R-142 as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sharples and passed by unanimous vote.

Item # 9 Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021R-143

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A GRANT
APPLICATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION, FOR AN EQUIPMENT
GRANT TO PURCHASE BODY WORN CAMERA STORAGE
FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE
CHIEF OF POLICE TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF
ALAMO HEIGHTS IN ALL MATTERS RELATED TO THE
APPLICATION; AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

Police Chief Rick Pruitt stated staff is seeking approval of a resolution to authorize a grant application with the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division to purchase additional body worn camera data storage technology. The proposed resolution authorizes the Chief of Police to act on behalf of the City of Alamo Heights in matters pertaining to the grant.

Police Chief Pruitt provided background information regarding this request. Two House Bills were passed in the regular session of the 87th Legislature in 2021 regarding body worn camera data.

1. House Bill No. 929 increased the retention period requirements for body worn camera recordings where an arrest is made or citations are issued. The new retention periods vary from six (6) months to fifty (50) years.
2. House Bill No. 1938 provides relief to data storage cost to police agencies that provide body worn cameras to its officers. The grant program is offered to cover costs for body worn camera recording data storage.

Police Chief Pruitt noted current video and audio recording storage space was recently upgraded to 30 terabytes. In consulting with Information Technology (IT) professionals, they recommended acquiring an additional 20 terabytes of data storage. Deputy Police Chief Cindy Pruitt has satisfied all pre-requisites and prepared the application.

In order to qualify for the grant, a resolution from the COAH governing body addressing four (4) provisions is required. These include: authorization for submission of the grant; commitment to provide all applicable matching funds; designation of an authorized official having the authority to apply for, accept, reject, alter or terminate a grant; and, written assurance that, in the event of loss or misuse of the grant funds, the governing body will return all funds. The City Council has the authority to pass resolutions authorizing grant applications in the name of the City of Alamo Heights and designate an authorized official to act on its behalf.

Deputy Chief Pruitt met the pre-requisite grant requirements by serving on the Bexar County Criminal Justice Planning Committee. The City Manager was briefed on the grant application and the City Attorney prepared the resolution being presented for consideration.

The requested amount is \$29,963 with the grant requirement of 25% in matching funds of \$7,491. This is a positive impact of \$22,472 for the City and reduces the fiscal impact of future IT upgrades.

Councilmember Jessee moved to approve Resolution No. 2021R-143 as requested. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Billa Burke and passed by unanimous vote.

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Item # 10 Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

**Discussion regarding the Opioid settlement as set forth in the State of Texas
Opioid Abatement Fund and Settlement Allocation Term Sheet**

City Attorney Frank Garza stated this was a brief discussion regarding the Opioid settlement which the State of Texas and four counties (Bexar, Tarrant, Harris, and Dallas) have sued opioid manufactures. All cities and counties are welcome to join in the settlement. The deadline for cities to act is January 1, 2022; however, Mr. Garza wanted to

share some information to help Council decide. He stated the settlement could be discussed in open session because it is public knowledge and many cities are joining the suit.

Mr. Garza advised the State is offering the City of Alamo Heights \$28,198 of the first allocation in which 15% of the settlement goes to all the cities and counties in Texas if they choose to participate in the settlement. A second allocation of 15% goes back to the Attorney General's office and third allocation of 70% is available to cities and counties as grants.

Mr. Garza shared the State is being very lenient in the use of the initial funds. The City can use the \$28,198 for anything that qualifies as public safety, such as installing lights in a basketball court. However; the State has set very strict guidelines on how the 70% grant funds can be spent. The City can decide if they want to apply for a grant in the future.

In order to join the settlement and accept the \$28,198, the City must adopt a resolution and agree it will not turn around and sue the manufactures. Mayor Rosenthal asked Mr. Garza to prepare and bringing forth a resolution at the next Council meeting to join the settlement and accept the initial 15% allocation.

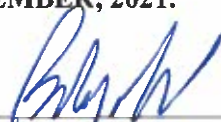
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With no further business to consider, Councilmember Bonner moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Billa Burke and passed by unanimous vote.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2021.



Elisa T. Robles, TRMC
City Secretary



Bobby Rosenthal
Mayor

