

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS
CITY COUNCIL
June 15, 2023

A workshop 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 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 15, 2023. A teleconference was held via Zoom.

Present and composing a quorum were:

Mayor Bobby Rosenthal
Councilmember Lawson Jessee
Councilmember Karl P. Baker
Mayor Pro Tem Blake M. Bonner
Councilmember John Savage

Also attending were:

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

Absent was:

Councilmember Lynda Billa Burke

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Mayor Bobby Rosenthal opened the meeting 8:38 a.m.

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Item # 1 Mayor Rosenthal read the following caption.

Discuss the Strategic Action Plan for FY 24

City Manager Buddy Kuhn welcomed Council and stated he and the department directors would provide a summary of FY 2022-2023 accomplishments and Strategic Action Plan (SAP) goals for FY 2023-2024.

Community Development Services Department Director Lety Hernandez stated during the current fiscal year, the department completed the implementation of MyPermitsNow (MPN) through My Government Online (MGO). The software facilitates the development process for both citizens/customers and staff. Additionally, all new permits, plans, and inspections are processed through this website and are available to applicants and inspectors during inspections and from then on.

Ms. Hernandez noted goals for the upcoming fiscal year are to transition all permits/licensing applications to MGO, phase out use of Incode Community Development Module and implement MapLink map software that incorporates locations and its relevance to City ordinances and regulations.

Other department initiatives include establishing the Architectural Review Board's role in the development process, working on cleaning up regulations or areas of the code that may contradict each other for the city's business and multi-family districts. In addition, staff will conduct a periodic review of the current Schedule of Development Fees last updated in October 2019.

Ms. Hernandez informed Council the department is currently providing feedback for plan reviews within twenty-one (21) business days. Staff continues completion of requested inspections within one (1) working day unless specified. They provide support to boards and commission to facilitate review of cases and assist applicants with code compliant solutions to reduce board cases. She noted FY24 Goals are to reduce turnaround time for staff review and response and proactively identify and address code compliance and building related issues.

Mayor Rosenthal asked if customers could still come in for permits if they wanted to. Ms. Hernandez confirmed they could and added there are some customers that prefer to come in person.

Councilmember Lawson Jessee discussed the need for updating the city's residential guidelines and establishing a model going forward as soon as possible. He asked if the City Attorney advised if the bonus process through the ARB could be used or not.

Mr. Kuhn commented he didn't have a timeline for this initiative, but assured Council staff had been working with the City Attorney and hoped to have a plan by the end of summer. He asked Assistant City Manager Phil Laney to share the City Attorney's concerns with the process.

Assistant City Manager Phil Laney stated one thing is concerning "enforceability" of any bonuses that ARB may grant. Like, what legal mechanisms can the city employ if an applicant goes in a different direction after an approval has been granted by Council.

Councilmember Jessee commented that can happen today. An applicant might build a house bigger than they were approved for, so it would be the same issue. He urged staff to start developing a formula/process to help with residential guidelines.

Mr. Kuhn stated there has been a lot of dialogue between staff and legal; however, the process is very complicated since the city can't regulate building material, etc. He reiterated staff's goal was to try to have a plan by the end of summer.

Councilmember Karl P. Baker shared he was concerned with the legal analysis of developing new guidelines and stated it was difficult for Council to come up with a specific proposal without knowing the constraints of the law. He suggested staff get some general guidelines from the attorney in reference to parameters the city can set to avoid going in circles with this process.

Mr. Kuhn agreed, but reminded Council staff is waiting on the Legislative Session that is currently taking place in Austin. Many of the proposed bills will affect how and what the city is able to govern. He assured Council residential guidelines are a priority with staff.

Councilmember Jessee address historic homes or architectural significant homes in the city and the process going forward. He suggested developing a process to encourage home owners to elect to register in the National Register of Historic Places. The incentive would be benefits such as historic tax credits provided by the State of Texas. He added this would ensure future owners from demolishing these homes.

Mayor Pro Tem Blake M. Bonner stated the city should come up with a mechanism to address historic homes as long as it's the owner initiating or approving their home as historical or architecturally significant.

Councilmember Baker stated in his observation, residents are not opposed to new development, but more so in preserving the character of the street or neighborhood. He noted a simple solution would be to recouple demolition approval with design approval as the current ordinance allows. Mr. Kuhn answered staff could look into that; however, he preferred to amend the ordinance and not leave the discretion to the Community Development Director because it could create potential conflict among similar cases if one is approved and not the other.

Councilmember Jessee noted, per Council recommendation, the demolition approval and design approval processes were separated. The reasoning was to avoid an applicant having to pay upfront for design plans before a demolition.

Mr. Kuhn agreed and said he wanted to clarify a misconception on the historic designation of homes. Per the City Attorney, the historic registration of a home does not convey to the next owner.

Councilmember Jessee addressed the city's Multi-Family District (MFD). He stated the density requirement did not make sense. The unit per acre density as enforced by ordinance does not seem sensible. He suggested the use of height and lot coverage restrictions to make up the "density" requirement.

After some discussion Mayor Rosenthal suggested Councilmember Jessee and Councilmember Baker meet with staff separately and brainstorm on how to move forward with these initiatives. Mr. Kuhn stated staff would be happy to meet and discuss.

Police Chief Rick Pruitt presented a summary of the Police Department's FY 2022-2023 initiatives. He stated the department purchased an Alarm Permit Software Package to help with permit status and automated billing. The City website permit application allows staff to track permit status, offer automated billing. Customers can request a permit and/or change any contact information.

Police Chief Pruitt stated staff considered amending City Code Chapter 10, Section 10-8 Noise Nuisance. This was presented to City Council on February 27, 2023; however, no action was taken.

AHPD established strategies for recruiting police officers. Police Chief Pruitt shared the department successfully sponsored one cadet for the final two months of his police academy training. AHPD is working on sponsoring another cadet who is in his final two months of training. An offer will be made once he completes his training. Police Chief Pruitt stated both cadets were outstanding applicants. The cadets are paid for hours spent in academy training. Per the City Attorney, no other agreements are necessary.

Another initiative implemented was updating policy handguns with optic aiming systems. All pistols are now equipped with optic aiming systems. The officers are more confident with their handguns. The department issued Level III safety holsters for protection. Seizure funds were used to upgrade the handguns allowing for no budget impact.

Police Chief Pruitt stated the AHISD requested the addition of four (4) SRO officers to have police presence on selected campuses. After discussions, the amount was reduced to two (2). One officer will be at the Alamo Heights Junior High and one will travel between Woodridge Elementary, Howard Elementary and Cambridge Elementary. He stated the officer roving between the elementary schools is paid via SRO 75-25% cost share of salary & benefits (\$91,502) and the other officer is paid by ISD 100% salary & benefits plus equipment. Additionally, AHISD pays the differential cost of the SRO Program supervisor/admin officer.

Police Chief Pruitt clarified, in total there will be three (3) SROs, one (1) at the Alamo Heights High School, one (1) at the Alamo Heights Junior High, and one (1) that will cover Woodridge Elementary, Howard Elementary and Cambridge Elementary. Mr. Kuhn added AHISD desired five (5) SROs in total; however, both parties agreed, any additional officers, would be covered 100% by the AHISD.

Police Chief Pruitt advised the department recently signed a memorandum of understanding with SAPD outlining each department's responsibilities during emergency events. Currently SRO positions have been filled. No further discussion for alternative SRO resources are being discussed with AHISD.

Police Chief Pruitt discussed SAP initiatives for FY 2023-2024. The department is preparing for their fourth Accreditation Inspection. This will require an audit of all mandated records, policies, and reports. He noted there were 80 best practices when the department started accreditation, now there are 173 best practices recognized through Legislative action.

To help AHPD with opioid overdoses in the city, police officers will train in using Naloxone Treatments. This training will help prepare them to combat stronger concentrations of fentanyl being found in a variety of illegal narcotics (marijuana, heroin, cocaine, meth, etc.). Naloxone Treatments will also assist with prescription opioid overdoses and potential police officer exposure out on the field.

Police Chief Pruitt spoke about the AHPD Community Engagement Program. This initiative will be in collaboration with Cambridge Elementary where they will participate in school family events at any AHISD campus. The goal is to later expand to community based projects (citizens/family police academy, AHHS student police academy, neighborhood officer program etc.) in the future.

Police Chief Pruitt stated the department had recently discontinued their membership with the Alamo Area Metro SWAT Team for active threat response support. In its place AHPD will enter into a response agreement with SAPD Tactical who have unlimited resources available for emergency situations. Additionally, SAPD has a traffic division team that can block off streets as needed. Police Chief Pruitt clarified the SAPD tactical team will be in command during these situations and AHPD will take their lead. The new SAPD agreement will have no impact on the budget.

For FY2023-2024 SAP Capital Improvements, AHPD requests to replace 23 body worn cameras and redaction software. The current vendor company was recently bought out by Motorola. Motorola announced the current equipment will no longer be available in 2025 and request new equipment be purchased from them. To avoid this, AHPD will seek Requests for Proposals (RFPs). Axon and Motorola are the major vendors in the market and are on government purchasing. The estimated cost for the new equipment is \$129,082 which includes cloud storage and product renewal program. The vendor also offers a five year pay-out program of \$25,816.

Police Chief Pruitt reviewed the 5 Year SAP Priorities which include on-going police reforms, needed adjustments to operations/policies/training as mandated to maintain accreditation standards; developing a progressive approach to resolving current and anticipated on-street parking issues and addressing the high school on-street parking increase. In addition, establish a progressive approach to citizen concerns for speeding vehicles and running stop signs on neighborhood streets. He noted the portable electronic speed signs (a total of six) are collecting data to help determine if drivers are being receptive or if the signs need to be moved to another location. The department will also work on improving AHPD police preparedness for response to critical, life-threatening situations.

Mayor Rosenthal agreed body cameras are important and added cost is not an issue as long as AHPD selects the best product for the department. He addressed the AHPD Community Engagement Program and encouraged both the Police Chief and Fire Chief join together at community events to promote interaction with residents and their families. He briefly discussed opioid exposure and drug overdose responses from police and fire. Police Chief Pruitt advised police officers would be first to respond followed by fire/EMS.

Mayor Rosenthal shared he liked the portable electronic signs and was interested to see the data being collected. He also addressed the noise ordinance and questioned if this was related to events at the Argyle or overall noise complaints in the city. Police Chief Pruitt noted it was overall noise and could be difficult to enforce because the city does not have "entertainment" or "business" districts such as the City of San Antonio (COSA) where there are different decibel levels of tolerance allowed.

Mr. Kuhn added the passage of H.B. 2127 may preempt certain city ordinances. The bill addresses noise/graffiti and will become law on September 1, 2023. The city can have a noise ordinance but it cannot be stricter than state law. He noted staff doesn't know exactly how this bill will affect city codes at this time, but wanted to point that out.

Councilmember Baker asked what the process was for establishing stop signs. Police Chief Pruitt stated the process starts with AHPD. Officers will assess the area and determine if a stop sign is needed. Councilmember Baker suggested the process be changed to be more

neighborhood friendly and not be so hard to justify requests for 4-way stops. Police Chief Pruitt stated the department follows the process as outlined by the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD) and engineering studies on how to approach regulating intersections.

Mr. Kuhn assured Council the process to request a stop sign is not difficult, but is time consuming. Staff never tells anyone “no”, but they must study the area and ensure a stop sign is necessary. He added ultimately it is Council’s decision.

Councilmember Jessee stated he liked the portable electronic signs and suggested AHPD purchase two more to use around the elementary schools. He also addressed police response to the private schools in the area. Police Chief Pruitt advised St. Luke’s has a SAPD officer on campus who is there for all their events. Should there be an incident or crime at any of these facilities, AHPD would respond.

Fire Chief Michael Gdovin reported on the Fire Department’s FY 2022-2023 SAP initiatives summary. He stated the department continued tree trimming in the right-of-way, received the Texas Fire Chiefs Association Best Practices recognition this year, the department continued Smoke Detector Awareness on their website, promoted the “Civilian Response to Active Shooter/Active Attack Events”, and continued CPR training as part of the Junior and High School curriculum.

Other FY 2022-2023 initiatives included upgrading fire data software, updating Emergency Management Annexes (7 of 23) in Texas All Hazards Planning Systems Program, updating Bexar County Office of Emergency Management Hazard Plan and implementing an Emergency Medical Services Standard Medical Operations Protocols Application for cell phone access (APP).

The AHFD integrated Emergency Medical Services with Alamo Area Metro Special Weapons and Tactics Rescue Task Force. They integrated Bexar County Mental Health with Emergency Medical Services system to assist those dealing with mental health issues. Each medic unit obtained ultrasound technology. They drafted a new Emergency Medical Services contract and new Medical Director contract. The department renewed the Texas Department of State Health Services Continuing Education Program and now have in-house instructors that teach the department. AHFD also renewed the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) Program.

Fire Chief Gdovin shared FY2023-2024 Fire Department initiatives. Staff will continue working with code enforcement for on-going tree trimming. There will be continued progress with Texas Fire Chief’s Association Best Practices recognition program. Public education will focus on “Civilian Response to Active Shooter/Active Attack Events” training. The department will conduct a City staff Emergency Management Drill and work on developing a Behavioral Health Unit to respond to mental health patients.

Other FY 2023-2024 initiatives are to continue specifications for the new fire apparatus, to update Emergency Management Annexes (16 of 23) in Texas All Hazards Planning Systems Program, implement the Tactical Emergency Casualty Care training for paramedics, implement an EMS Behavioral Health Unit, and develop additional Critical Incident Stress Management (C.I.S.M) team members.

Fire Chief Gdovin reviewed the 5-Year Fire Capital Replacement plan to fund the purchase of an F250 crew cab 4x4, 10 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), and a Quint 105' ladder truck. The 5-Year EMS Capital Replacement plan includes funding for 1 medic unit and stretcher, 4 cardiac monitors, 9 Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and an additional medic unit and stretcher.

Council briefly discussed the cost of the ladder truck and benefits of having one. Mayor Rosenthal reiterated Council's desire for AHFD community interaction and educate on safety.

****Mayor Pro Tem Bonner left the meeting at 10:31 a.m.****

Assistant City Manager Phillip Laney presented on the Public Works Department FY 2022-2023 initiatives including Utilities. He identified the streets that are on target for the Street Maintenance Program (SMP) this fiscal year, those are: Broadway, Austin Hwy to Blue Bonnet and E. Fair Oaks, and Broadway to N. New Braunfels. The anticipated start date is July 10th.

Public Works is working on pedestrian improvements in the city. They are currently finishing a project on the 6000-blk of Broadway by installing/improving sidewalks and enhancing the crossing signal at Broadway & Albany. Additional pedestrian improvements under contract include sidewalk and other pedestrian improvements to be added to western side of N. New Braunfels from Castano to Claywell. This is in part through an Interlocal agreement with COSA to perform work and splitting the cost 50-50 for the project.

Currently under contract is the Utilities Department FY 2022-2023 initiative to install 6" water mains along Wildrose, Cloverleaf & Rosemary. This is Phase 1 of 3 addressing TCEQ Compliance for 4' X 2' requirement. The project is anticipated to start on July 10th. Each street will take approximately 6 weeks and will be completed by November 2023.

Mr. Laney reviewed additional FY 2022-2023 Utility initiatives. Sewer upgrades on Ogden west to Olmos Basin were completed through pipe-bursting and open-cut trenching. The SCADA software system upgrade for water utility management was also completed. Mr. Laney stated water system resiliency was completed through the installation of backup motors; natural gas motors at Well #4 (AHHS) & motor on Well #6 (City Hall) to ensure water supply continues during a power outage emergency. The backup motors will enable the City to maintain enough volume to meet or exceed peak demand under normal conditions.

Lastly, Public Works replaced two pickups – one in Public Works & one in Utilities and replaced a garbage truck with a new chassis and packer as requested through the Capital Improvement plan for FY2022-2023 and funded with Council approved ARPA funds.

Mr. Laney stated the FY 2023-2024 SAP initiatives for Public Works include the continuance of the FY 2024 Street Maintenance Program targeting Broadway, Blue Bonnet to Claywell. Public Works will focus on pedestrian improvements by installing a solar powered pedestrian crosswalk on Broadway at Circle to Cambridge Elementary. The crosswalk will be push button activated to notify motorists and will include the installation of three stands (northbound, southbound, & center island) & signage. The project will cost \$20,000.

Utilities FY 2023-2024 SAP initiatives will focus on Phase 2 of the TCEQ Compliance for 4' X 2' requirement with the installation of service connection from water mains to edge of right-of-way using City forces. Phase 3 to meet TCEQ Compliance for 4 X 2 requirement in project area will include 183 homes on Wildrose, Cloverleaf and Rosemary. The cost is \$225,000 for piping materials. Meters will be purchased in the future.

Additional TCEQ Compliance for 4 X 2 requirement and water main relocation – install 6 inch water mains (Phase 1) along Claywell, E Oakview, E Edgewood and half of Elmview is forthcoming. The method for this project has not been determine. The estimated cost will be \$1.5M for Phase 1.

Mr. Laney continued to review FY24 SAP Initiatives for Utilities. To promote water resiliency efforts, staff proposes a well overhaul at Well #5 at Evans & Penny. This includes replacing column pipe, pump drive motor, electrical soft start, and replacing well house/repaint. The estimated cost is \$160,000.00.

For 5-Year SAP Public Works priorities, Mr. Laney advised staff will be focusing on maintenance priorities such as pedestrian enhancements by adding a sidewalk along 5700 Broadway, Paloma Blanca to Ellwood. Staff will target alley reconstruction, the portion south of Wildrose Cloverleaf & Rosemary (3 block sections total) for an estimated cost of \$30,000 per section, a combination of contract and City forces. Public Works will also continue the Street Maintenance Program (SMP).

The 5-Year SAP Utilities priorities include continued efforts to address TCEQ non-compliance issues, mandated separation of sanitary sewer & potable water (4 x 2 compliance), required to be completed by January 2030. The total estimated cost is \$3.3M and includes proposed \$1.5M in FY 2024.

Other Utilities 5-Year priorities are to replace outdated manual meters with accurate digital meters per study conducted in FY 2023 on revenue capture and replacement approach. Additionally, staff continues to look at water tower maintenance. To ensure it is structurally sound, reconditioning of the water towers a City Hall (2) and Evans is being prioritized. The estimated cost is \$1.3M.

Finally, Mr. Laney reviewed 5-Year Utilities proposed capital purchases. Staff proposed to replace a Nine-Yard Dump Truck - \$140,000 (Utility Fund) and replace a 12-Yard Dump Truck - \$140,000 (shared by General Fund & Utility Fund).

Mayor Rosenthal discussed restriping of crosswalks around the high school before school starts. He asked staff to look into calibrating the crosswalk system should the school move portable classrooms across the street.

Council discussed leak detection in the metering system. Public Works Director Patrick Sullivan advised the city doesn't currently have a leak detection system in place; however, there are new meters to consider that have the technology to measure consumption outside normal consumption in a residence or business and alert staff of water loss.

Mr. Kuhn spoke briefly on the water meter and rate study by Willdan Financial. They will provide data on estimated water loss based on the meters they test. Staff will bring the results on the study and recommendations to Council when finished.

Councilmember Jessee suggested the City take out a short term loan to complete the TCEQ Compliance for 4 X 2 requirement to avoid yearly increased cost in construction, materials and labor. Mr. Kuhn stated staff would explore that possibility.

Councilmember Jessee asked if Willdan could look at private water wells as part of the study. He stated if City water rates continue to rise, it would incentivize private water wells and the City could lose customers. Mr. Kuhn advised current water rates are substantially cheaper than surrounding cities, but noted staff will study the legality of private water wells.

Councilmember Jessee commented on pedestrian crosswalks. He mentioned a new park was being built in the City of San Antonio. The park is located on Brees Blvd. across from N. New Braunfels. He suggested working with Terrell Hills to establish a better pedestrian crosswalk across N. New Braunfels. This would connect and benefit residents from both cities. Councilmember Jessee shared concerns on the pedestrian crosswalk at Circle Street. He liked the idea of the proposed update; however, noted the location is an odd, potentially dangerous intersection and preferred staff study it further. Mr. Kuhn stated staff would study this as requested.

Council discussed the potential for mosquito abatement. Councilmember Jessee stated he had spoken to Texas A&M who offered their help with this free of charge. They would provide information on the best abatement methods for the City. Mr. Kuhn agreed working with Texas A&M would help and reminded Council this issue was addressed a few years ago, but was not well received by some residents.

Councilmember Jessee requested staff look at covering or disguising the sewer pipe located at the Hondondo Creek Nature Trail. Mr. Kuhn stated this was a sewer ventilation as required by TCEQ; however, staff would explore some ideas to make it less visible.

Councilmember Baker asked how staff assessed streets for repair. Mr. Kuhn stated Public Works uses a 20-year Street Replacement Program. Public Works evaluates the streets to determine their need for repair within their 20-year life cycle. Mr. Kuhn assured Council staff evaluates city streets carefully and do not spend funds unnecessarily.

Mr. Kuhn presented a recap of FY23 SAP Initiatives for the Austin Hwy/Lower Broadway Project. The \$13.250 million in taxable G.O. Bonds are earning interest in the bank pending continued coordination with TxDOT. He stated he and Assistant City Manager Phil Laney continue to coordinate with TxDOT, Bexar County, S.A.R.A., COSA and MPO on the project. WGI began evaluation of the replacement of water and sewer lines for the project; however, all efforts are in limbo at this time. Mr. Kuhn stated staff successfully submitted application for a \$25M grant for this project, recipients will be notified by October 2023. TxDOT did acquire a new engineer for the project, but start date is still undetermined.

Mr. Kuhn advised staff continues to evaluate legislation for impact on the city's existing operations, expenses and revenues, home rule city status and city owned utilities transfers. Staff is currently working on the water and sewer assessment which will be presented to Council

during a regular meeting or special session. Mr. Kuhn noted \$200,000 is currently reserved for the Centennial Commemorative Art as requested by Council.

Mr. Kuhn discussed \$2,136,537 the City received in federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). He reminded Council there are restrictions on how the money can be spent. Council previously authorized use of ARPA funds for premium pay for employees, the purchase of a police vehicle, a garbage truck and IT servers (still in progress). He stated as of March 2023, the remaining ARPA Funds including interest is \$1,556,444. The funds must be obligated on eligible projects by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026. Mr. Kuhn warned Council, there is a possibility federal legislation will claw back unspent funds.

Mr. Kuhn advised a COLA for all employees is being evaluated based on market conditions and inflation. He will work with Councilmember John Savage very soon to determine a feasible amount based on projections and budget availability. Employee insurance proposals will be available by September 2023. He shared the first Juneteenth Federal Holiday will be observed this year on June 19, 2023 as approved by Council in 2022.

Mr. Kuhn updated Council on FY23 SAP initiatives. The Centennial Celebration 2022 held October 1-12, 2022 was a great success. It included a variety of family-oriented celebratory events highlighting the City of Alamo Heights and the community. Staff worked with CE Group, Inc. and collaborated with many local businesses/organizations and sponsors on this important milestone. The overall budget was \$175,000. The celebration expenses were \$166,812. Several organizations signed up as sponsors in support of the celebration. Donations totaled in excess of \$90,000 that were used to offset the overall cost.

Additional FY23 SAP initiatives were City server upgrades. The project included the upgrade of 3 server hosts and storage capacity expansion. Staff is working with Tyler Technology & Barcom on Incode migration, scheduled for June 22nd. Microsoft Office Migration is complete. This enables the use of iCloud for email and Microsoft programs through Microsoft Office.

Mr. Kuhn stated he asked Councilmembers for new initiatives and ideas for FY2023-2024. One suggestion was to address curb replacement in different areas of the city. Another idea was a City Master Plan – Beautification project. Staff engaged TBG Partners to talk about potential beautification target areas in the City. TBG Partners developed a scope on that idea with some deliverables at the cost of \$55,400. If additional areas are identified/desired, the cost will increase. The cost does not include construction documents, etc. Additional initiatives are triangles upgrades at Crescent/Claiborne and Corona/Devine and crosswalk upgrade at Cambridge. Council also suggested to explore beautification at the AH Pool parking lot.

Mr. Kuhn continued reviewing ideas for FY24 initiatives. Council suggested a landscape buffer at Austin Highway to Cambridge on the west side of street, irrigation at Judson trails field, adding benches at La Jara at Alamo Heights Blvd., add a pocket park at Broadway and Ogden, establish pedestrian crossing at the 6500 blk. of Broadway, and add upgrades in front of city hall. Other suggestions were adding a crosswalk at Austin Hwy. at Broadway, a crosswalk at Cloverleaf/N. New Braunfels, add a pedestrian/bike path at Alamo Heights Blvd., four sided crosswalks at existing two way, increased grant funds for community organizations, hire a consultant for development of park system connectivity, branding/beauty, hire a consultant to

assist in revitalization of business district and adjacent Multi-Family district, designate funds for additional stop signs when requested by residents and for new officer body worn cameras.

Staff proposed additional initiatives for next fiscal year. These were to upgrade Wi-Fi equipment at city hall, purchase additional electronic speed signs, continue partnering with Grace/McEwan, host a volunteer appreciation dinner for board & commission members, and explore the use of ARPA funds for the 4X2 water rate increase offset.

Mr. Kuhn reviewed the City's 5-Year SAP priorities, City hall completed in late 2014 and will need to make plans for ongoing maintenance as needed. He identified expenses paid in recent years for air conditioning repairs. TxDOT will retain ownership of Broadway and future roadway maintenance costs. The Street Maintenance Plan goal of \$1,000,000/year will continue. The dedicated sales tax is renewed by voter approval every 4 years. The next sales tax election is May 2025. He noted there would be limited Council projects in future years due to the pending Austin Hwy/Lower Broadway Project; however, some feasible projects ideas for neighborhood project are pocket parks and pedestrian lighting. Additionally, staff is exploring a project to enhance the city's website to incorporate ADA Accessibility enhancements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Other staff goals are to keep property tax rate as low as possible. Mr. Kuhn stated information on the certified property values will be available on July 25th. Last year the debt service rate was reduced to 6.8 cents, original voter approved rate 7 cents. Staff agrees the debt service can be lowered even more. Staff will continue with maximum transfers to the Capital Replacement Fund for capital equipment and strive to maintain S&P AAA Bond Rating.

Mr. Kuhn announced that was the end of the Administration Presentation and ask Council for comments or questions.

Mayor Rosenthal like the idea of adding firefly lights at the Corona and Devine circle island. He also agreed with the branding initiative throughout the city. Councilmember Jessee stated this was attempted a few years ago; however, was not well received and encouraged staff not to go overboard and keep it simple. Councilmember Baker stated this was his suggestion, but the idea was to enhance certain areas of the city with simple signage, etc.

Mayor Rosenthal asked staff to look at restriping and redoing red curbing around the city. Mr. Kuhn advised striping is very expensive, but staff would explore the idea. He reviewed available fund amounts for projects: an estimated \$332,847.00 in fund balances, \$1.5M in ARPA funds to appropriate for qualified projects, and an additional \$800,000 to \$1M in transfers.

Council reviewed suggested projects. They stated curb replacement should be done along with SMP. They agreed to focus on beautification efforts in the city by engaging with TBG Partners to establish a City Master Plan and include AHISD to address upcoming improvements at the high school. Council suggested to upgrade "triangle" locations around the city. They desired to work on improving pedestrian crosswalks and asked staff to explore different avenues. Council agreed to include AH Pool parking lot beautification into the master plan. They asked staff to move forward with irrigation efforts at the Judson trails field, add benches a La Jara, study options for a pedestrian crossing at 6500 blk. of Broadway and study options for landscaping in front of City Hall.

Council requested staff to study the possibility of a landscape buffer from Austin Highway to Cambridge on the west side of street and add it to the City's 5-Year SAP priorities. Additionally, they asked staff to study adding a crosswalk on Austin Hwy. and Broadway, a crosswalk at Cloverleaf at N. New Braunfels, and a pedestrian/bike path at Alamo Heights Blvd. Mr. Kuhn stated staff would have suggestions/costs at the July 12th budget workshop.

Council asked to increase community organization grant funds to \$50,000 and agreed staff engage in hiring a consultant for development of park system connectivity, branding and beauty.

****Mayor Rosenthal left the meeting at 12:22 p.m.****

Council discussed the idea of hiring a consultant to assist in the revitalization of the business district and adjacent multi-family district. Councilmember Baker suggested staff tackle this in house rather than hiring a consultant. Mr. Kuhn stated the Community Development Department is currently short staffed and have a lot on their plate already, but understood his concerns.

Other items discussed were additional stop signs as requested by residents. Mr. Kuhn advised stop sign funding was ongoing and is available as needed. He spoke on request for new officer body worn cameras and noted these could be purchased with ARPA funds.

Mr. Kuhn continued to poll Council on other "wish list" items. Wi-Fi equipment upgrades to City Hall is included. Councilmember Jessee requested staff purchase two additional electronic speed signs and to continue to contract with Grace/McEwan for lobbying TxDOT on the city's behalf. Council gave a thumbs up on hosting a volunteer appreciation dinner for boards and commission members.

Council discussed options to fund the 4X2 – Water Rate Increase offset. Councilmember Jessee suggested acquiring a loan to fund the project instead of using part of the \$1.5 million in Covid relief funds. Mr. Kuhn stated staff would review this option.

In closing, Mr. Kuhn thanked Council for their input and reiterated staff would gather information on cost for suggested projects for FY2023-2024.

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With no further business to consider, Councilmember Jessee moved to adjourned the meeting at 12:36 a.m. Councilmember Baker seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 24TH DAY OF JULY, 2023.


Elsa T. Robles, FRMC
City Secretary





Bobby Rosenthal
Mayor