

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ALVIN, TEXAS  
216 W. SEALY STREET  
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023  
6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

BE IT REMEMBERED that, on the above date, the City Council of the City of Alvin, Texas, met in Workshop Session at 6:00 PM in the First Floor Conference Room at City Hall, with the following members present: Mayor Gabe Adame; Mayor Pro-Tem Chris Vaughn; Councilmembers: Martin Vela, Keko Moore, Joel Castro, Glenn Starkey, Richard Garivey and Meagan DeKeyzer.

Staff members present: Junru Roland, City Manager; Suzanne Hanneman, City Attorney; Dixie Roberts, Assistant City Manager/City Secretary; Michael Higgins, Director of Administrative Services; Dan Kelinske, Parks and Recreation Director; Michelle Segovia, City Engineer; Brandon Moody, Director of Public Services and Robert E. Lee, Police Chief.

**WORKSHOP BUSINESS**

**Discuss the FY2023-2024 Budget.**

Mr. Roland highlighted the adjustments to the proposed budget since the last workshop. Increasing the tax rate proposed by the city manager to the proposed rate of .06850 requested by members of council, along with increasing the EMS fee from \$6.00 to \$7.00 per month as discussed in the last budget workshop will increase the general fund by approximately \$153,000 and the operating fund by approximately \$37,000. By including these changes in the proposed FY 23-24 budget, staff was able to incorporate City Councils' request that employees annual pay increases be amended to a 2% step, 3% cost of living, and 2% merit. The proposed budget is set for consideration for final approval at the September 7, 2023 meeting.

**Presentation from the VFW regarding the prospective acquisition of the former Alvin EMS Station located at 709 E. House St.**

Members of the local VFW Post 5237, Kyler Swager, Commander, Tyler Ratliff, and Trey Bennett, Chaplain, presented this item before City Council with explanation. Mr. Swager began by defining the Mission Statement of VFW, which is to provide the Veterans of Brazoria County and surrounding areas with a centralized resource center that excels in providing quality customer service and resources to our nation's veterans. As a part of possibly utilizing the former Alvin EMS building on House Street, they hope to provide future services including a gym, counseling and mental health, employment and education, benefits and resources assistance, veteran connections and veteran after-care services. To that end, Alvin VFW is endeavoring to partner with Warriors Refuge, a homeless veterans' shelter located in the southern part of the county. Their organization provides licensed counselors for mental health services and educational employment services. Other organizations that have expressed interest in partnering with Alvin VFW include the Texas Workforce Commission, the PTSD Foundation and the Hero Program. There are 93,000 veterans within 30 miles of Alvin and the hope is that by utilizing this facility and partnering with these organizations, they can expand services to ultimately benefit not just Alvin but surrounding communities as well. This will be the first facility in the nation of its kind. Discussion was had on how the space will be utilized for gym and fitness use, which will be open to the public to generate revenue for operating costs. Planet Fitness will be donating equipment to set up the gym amenities. Further discussion was had on renting out portions of the building for office/meeting spaces. The options of leasing the building to the VFW, or selling it were discussed, and the realities of the renovations that will be required. The target date for commencing operations with Planet Fitness is October 15th. Staff was asked to followup with Alvin ISD to discuss the terms of the contract currently in place for use of the building to store and auction off AISD items. An executive session with City Council will be held in the near future.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Adame adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

PASSED and APPROVED the 7th of September, 2023.

ATTEST:

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Gabe Adame, Mayor

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Dixie Roberts, City Secretary

