

**MINUTES
CITY OF ALVIN, TEXAS
216 W. SEALY STREET
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY AUGUST 19, 2021
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

BE IT REMEMBERED that, on the above date, the City Council of the City of Alvin, Texas, met in Regular at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, with the following members present: Mayor Paul A. Horn; Mayor Pro-Tem Martin Vela; Councilmembers: Gabe Adame, Joel Castro, Glenn Starkey, Richard Garivey, and Chris Vaughn.

Staff members present: Junru Roland, City Manager; Suzanne Hanneman, City Attorney; Dixie Roberts, City Secretary; Michael Higgins, Chief Financial Officer; Dan Kelinske, Parks and Recreation Director; Ron Schmitz, EMS Director/EM Coordinator; and Robert E. Lee, Police Chief.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chad Bertrand from South Park Baptist Church gave the invocation.
Council member Vaughn led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.
Council member Garivey led the Pledge to the Texas Flag.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing to receive comment on the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 Annual Budget. This proposed budget is estimated to raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$501,433 which is a 4.21% increase from last year's budget. The estimated property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$369,353. Mayor opened at 7:03 p.m., no comments were made, Mayor closed at 7:03 p.m.

Public hearing to receive comment on the proposed tax rate of \$0.7680 per \$100 of valuation for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (2021 tax year), which is a tax increase of 1.65% above the No New Revenue Rate for the City of Alvin Fiscal Year 2021-22. Mayor opened at 7:04 p.m., no comments were made, Mayor closed at 7:04 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made at this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA: CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Consider approval of the August 5, 2021, City Council Workshop meeting minutes.

Consider approval of the August 5, 2021, City Council Regular meeting minutes.

Consider Approval of the August 10, 2021, City Council Workshop meeting minutes.

Council member Adame moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Council member Starkey; motion to approve carried by all members present voting Aye.

OTHER BUSINESS

Consider adopting a Mental Health Leave policy for City of Alvin First Responders who experience a traumatic event in the scope of employment with the City of Alvin.

During the regular session of the 87th Legislature, S.B. 1359 was passed and becomes effective September 1, 2021. S.B. 1359 creates 614.015 of the Texas Government Code, Mental Health Leave for Peace Officers, which requires:

- 1) that each law enforcement agency develop and adopt a policy (as soon as practical after the effective date of the act) allowing the use of mental health leave by peace officers;*
- 2) that the policy provide clear guidelines for granting mental health leave;*
- 3) that the mental health leave be granted without deduction of salary or other compensation;*
- 4) that the policy enumerates the number of days available; and*
- 5) details a level of anonymity for a peace officer who takes mental health leave.*

After consideration that other departments (other than peace officers) are likely to also experience trauma during the scope of their service to the City of Alvin, it is the recommendation of staff to include mental health leave to emergency medical services personnel, firefighters, emergency management personnel, communication officers and detention officers.

While meeting the specifics required in S.B. 1359, this policy allows for up to 40 hours of leave time available for use during a fiscal year. This time will not be deducted from the employee's accrued benefits (sick, vacation, compensatory time) or salary, and may be taken incrementally in full shift (one workday) blocks as needed for the employee to seek assistance as needed.

Should council approve this policy, it will be incorporated into the City's Personnel Policy.

Council member Castro moved to adopt a Mental Health Leave policy for City of Alvin First Responders who experience a traumatic event in the scope of employment with the City of Alvin. Seconded by Council member Adame; motion carried by all members present voting Aye.

Consider additional funding for Engineering Services with Alpha Testing, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$9,905 for Construction Materials Testing services for the EMS/Fire Station Project; and authorize the City Manager to approve the added costs up to \$89,868 and final payment.

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for engineering design services was advertised 2019. The Engineering Services Agreement provides geotechnical and construction materials testing for the EMS and Fire Station project. Following staff's review of the submitted RFQs, Alpha Testing, Inc. was selected and subsequently began geotechnical testing related to the Fire/EMS station.

The Engineering Services Agreement was originally for \$49,956. In August of 2020, council approved additional funding of \$14,018 as an alternate scope outlined in the contract, totaling \$63,974. Change order #1 was subsequently submitted in September 2020 for an amount of \$15,989, for a grand total of \$79,963. Due to unexpected delays and

field conditions for project inspections, Alpha Testing has submitted additional costs totaling \$9,905, which will bring the project total to \$89,868. This will complete the contract and close this project.

Staff recommended approval of the additional funding request of \$25,894 which represents the initial amount approved plus change order #1 and all remaining invoices.

Council member Starkey moved to approve the additional funding for Engineering Services with Alpha Testing, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$25,894 for Construction Materials Testing services for the new EMS/Fire Station Project; and authorize the City Manager to approve the added costs up to \$89,868. Seconded by Council member Garivey; motion carried by all members present voting Aye.

Consider, if any, requests from individual council members for an item or items to be placed on the upcoming agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER

Items of Community Interest and review preliminary list of items for next Council meeting.

Mr. Junru Roland announced items of community interest; and he reviewed the preliminary list for the September 2, 2021, City Council Meeting

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

Hear announcements concerning items of community interest from the Mayor, Council members, and City staff, for which no action will be discussed or taken.

Council member Garivey Thanked Dan Kelinske, Director of Parks and Recreation Department, for addressing safety issues at Pearson Park quickly and effectively.

Council member Starkey reminded everyone to slow down while driving and be safe.

Mayor Horn commented that TXDOT is moving ahead with the widening of FM 517 to 4 lanes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Horn adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

PASSED and APPROVED the 2nd day of September 2021.

Paul A. Horn, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Dixie Roberts, City Secretary