

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020
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 Session at 7:00 P.M. by telephone/video conference, in accordance with order of the Office of the Governor issued March 16, 2020 in order to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings (also called “social distancing”) to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) The following members were present: Mayor Paul A. Horn; Mayor Pro-Tem Glenn Starkey; Councilmembers: Gabe Adame, Adam Arendell, Joel Castro, Brad Richards, Keith Thompson and Martin Vela.

Staff members present: Junru Roland, City Manager; Suzanne Hanneman, City Attorney; Dixie Roberts, City Secretary; Michael Higgins, Chief Financial Officer; and Robert E. Lee, Police Chief.

The public was provided a login link and telephone number to participate in this meeting.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council member Martin Vela gave the invocation.

Council member Joel Castro led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, and Council member Keith Thompson led the Pledge to the Texas Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CONSENT AGENDA

Consider approval of the May 7, 2020 City Council meeting minutes.

Consider Resolution 20-R-15, finding that Texas-New Mexico Power Company’s application for a distribution cost recovery factor to increase distribution rates within the city should be denied; authorizing participation with TNMP cities; authorizing the hiring of legal counsel and consulting services; finding that the city’s reasonable rate case expenses shall be reimbursed by the company; finding that the meeting at which this resolution is passed is open to the public as required by law; requiring notice of this resolution to the company and legal counsel.

The City is an electric utility customer and local regulator of Texas-New Mexico Power Company (“TNMP” or “Company”). The Cities served by TNMP (“TNMP Cities”) is a coalition of similarly situated cities served by TNMP that have joined together to efficiently and cost effectively review and respond to electric issues affecting rates charged in TNMP’s service area in matters before the Public Utility Commission (“PUC” or “Commission”) and the courts. On April 6, 2020, TNMP filed an application for a Distribution Cost Recovery Factor (“DCRF”) with each of the cities retaining original jurisdiction and with the Commission in Docket No. 50731. In the filing, the Company sought to increase distribution rates by \$14.7 million annually (an approximately \$2.79 increase to the average residential customer’s bill from the Company’s most recent rate case). This is TNMP’s first filing under a law adopted in 2011 allowing electric utilities to file limited issue, limited review cases. This resolution authorizes the City to join with the other TNMP Cities to evaluate the filing, determine whether the filing complies with law, and if lawful, to determine what further strategy, including settlement, to pursue. Cities Served by TNMP (TNMP Cities) have engaged the services of a consultant, Mr. Karl Nalepa, to review the Company’s filing. Mr. Nalepa will review the filing and identify adjustments that should be made to the Company’s request.

The coalition is recommending that cities retaining original jurisdiction deny the requested relief. Staff recommends approval of Resolution 20-R-15.

Consider Resolution 20-R-16, adopting the City of Alvin Investment Policy for FY2020; providing for an effective date; and setting forth other related matters.

Pursuant to Chapter 2256.005 of the Texas Public Funds Investment Act (PFIA), the governing body of an investing entity shall review its investment policy and strategies not less than annually. The City's current Investment Policy was certified by the Government Treasurers' Organization of Texas (GTOT) as meeting the requirements of the Public Funds Investment Act on March 31, 2019 and the certification remains effective through March 31, 2021. As part of the investment policy review process, the investment policy requires that the investment officer (CFO) conduct an annual review of all financial institutions and broker/dealers who are qualified to invest City funds. In addition, the policy requires that a list of those qualified financial institutions and brokers/dealers be maintained pursuant to the investment policy. Staff has one update to the broker/dealer list, which is to reflect the merger of Southwest Securities and First Southwest into Hilltop Securities. Southwest Securities and First Southwest were previously included on the City's broker/dealer list. As a result of the merge, these two firms will be removed from the broker/dealer list and Hilltop Securities will be added (see Exhibit B). Other than the update to the broker/dealer list for fiscal year 2020, staff is not recommending any revisions to the City's current investment policy.

Council member Castro moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Council member Adame; motion carried on a vote of 7 Ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Consider the Mayor's appointment of Joel Castro as Mayor Pro-tem.

Council member Thompson moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Council member Joel Castro to serve as the Mayor Pro-tem. Seconded by Council member Arendell; motion carried on a vote of 7 Ayes.

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 urged residents to complete the 2020 Census. He also asked those interested in serving on the next Charter Review Commission to submit applications by June 14, 2020. Mr. Roland congratulated the Alvin Police Department for receiving "Re-Recognition Status" on behalf of the Texas Police Chief's Association Foundation, for compliance with the Texas Law Enforcement Agency Best Practices Recognition Program.

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 Thompson thanked all of the men and women who serve in the Public Works Department for the services they provide the City day in and day out.

Council member Martin Vela thanked Public Works employees and reminded everyone to be safe and practice the COVID-19 recommendations in place.

Council member Joel Castro thanked EMS and Public Works employees. He stated that the new Police Department SUV is very nice, and would also like for staff to review the homeless situation once again.

Council member Glenn Starkey thanked Public Works Department for the work they do each day, and wished everyone a safe holiday weekend.

Mayor Horn stated that the Brazoria County Health Department is now reporting probable cases in their daily counts of COVID-19 cases, which has an effect on the numbers reported. He also thanked local businesses for their continued efforts in following the COVID-19 state guidelines currently in place.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Horn adjourned the meeting at 7:17 PM

PASSED and APPROVED the 4th day of June 2020.

Paul A. Horn, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Dixie Roberts, City Secretary