

**City of Alton City Commission
Regular Meeting 7:30 pm
August 13, 2019 Minutes**



Members Present

Mayor Salvador Vela
Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr
Commissioner Ricardo Garza
Commissioner Emilio Cantu Jr

Members Absent

Commissioner Richard Arevalo

City Staff Present

Jeff Underwood
Baudelia Rojas
Austin Oxford
Steve Pena
Janie Gaytan
Jesse Pena

Others present

Jesus Mendoza via telephone
Rosie Olivarez
Joann Ortiz
Lisa Lerma

- I. **CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCE A QUORUM IS PRESENT:**
With a quorum of the Alton City Commission present, Mayor Salvador Vela called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
- II. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG**
Mayor Salvador Vela led the group in prayer. Commissioner Ricardo Garza led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **CERTIFICATION OF POSTING:**
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
Via telephone: Jesus Mendoza briefed the Commission on individuals with electromagnetic sensitivities and what this disability entails.

Rosie Olivarez, Joann Ortiz and Lisa Lerma with Paws for a Cause briefed the Commission on issues with cruelty to animals and pets being sold at flea markets.
- V. **CONSENT AGENDA**
Approve the minutes of the City Commission meeting of July 9 and July 23, 2019. Motion to approve the minutes was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 4-0.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider and approve memorandum of understanding between Region I Education Service Center Office of Adult Education and the City of Alton.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager stated memorandum of understanding was a renewal. Its purpose is to establish an adult education and literacy program at the recreation center. The period for the MOU is from July 2019 thru June 2020. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve the minutes was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Discuss and consider request from Hidalgo County Elections Department to utilize city facility for the Constitutional Amendment, local elections and 2020 elections.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager stated Hidalgo County Elections Department requested the use of a city facility for the upcoming constitutional amendment as well as 2020 elections. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve Arturo Galvan Jr as Mayor Pro tem was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and seconded by Commissioner Emilio Cantu Jr. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Consider and approve Resolution 2019-13, a resolution finding that AEP Texas Inc's requested increase to its electric transmission and distribution rates and charges within the city should be denied; finding that the City's reasonable rate case expenses shall be reimbursed by the company.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager stated resolution is in support of denying the increase in its rates. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve Arturo Galvan Jr as Mayor Pro tem was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and seconded by Commissioner Emilio Cantu Jr. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Consider and approve an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Alton and the County of Hidalgo, Texas for the inspection and permitting of on-site sewage disposal systems.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager stated the agreement was for the inspection and permitting of onsite sewage disposal system. An agreement had already been in place in this is just to reaffirm the agreement. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve Arturo Galvan Jr as Mayor Pro tem was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Consider and approve award acceptance for the Step Comprehensive Grant FY 2019/2020 through TXDOT.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager stated the grant was a state funded grant through TXDOT which provides overtime for offices to conduct traffic enforcement. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve Arturo Galvan Jr as Mayor Pro tem was

moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 4-0.

6. Discussion and possible action on approving Resolution 2019-14 and Resolution 2019-15 approving a re-rate on a current loan through the Texas Leverage Fund Program.

Steve Pena, CADC CEO stated that the loan rate was currently at 5.50% and Government Capital is giving them a re-rate of 4.63% for the remaining of the 9 years of the loan. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve Arturo Galvan Jr as Mayor Pro tem was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and seconded by Commissioner Emilio Cantu Jr. Motion carried 4-0.

7. Discuss and consider the approval of Ordinance 2019-12, an ordinance amending and adopting standard building codes and fees, waiving second and third reading.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager stated the some fees needed to be updated. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve Arturo Galvan Jr as Mayor Pro tem was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and seconded by Commissioner Emilio Cantu Jr. Motion carried 4-0.

8. Discussion on the 2019 effective tax rate, rollback tax rate and last year's tax rate for proposing the adoption of the new tax rate.

Julio Espinosa with the tax office briefed the Commission on the effective tax rate, rollback tax rate and last year's tax rate. If the Commission decides to go with last year's tax rate, two public hearings will need to be held. Motion to approve last year's tax rate of \$0.4440 was moved Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and seconded by Commissioner Emilio Cantu Jr. Motion carried 4 to 0.

9. Presentation of the City of Alton proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

Presentation was made by City Manager on proposed preliminary numbers for the budget. Public hearing will be held in accordance with City's charter guidelines September 10th.

10. Discuss and consider the approval of a contract with Halff Associates for the design of improvements to Josefa Garcia Park.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager stated Halff Associates is an engineering firm in the City's approved pool of engineers. Halff developed the Master Parks Plan and assisted with grant writing for the Josefa Garcia Park improvements. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve Arturo Galvan Jr as Mayor Pro tem was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and seconded by Commissioner Emilio Cantu Jr. Motion carried 4-0.

11. Consider and approve Ordinance 2019-13 amending the Personnel Policy Ordinance.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager stated the personnel ordinance last revision was in 2011. Updates have been included in the presented ordinance. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve Arturo Galvan Jr as Mayor Pro tem was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and seconded by Commissioner Emilio Cantu Jr. Motion carried 4-0.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to Government Code Section 551.071 & 551.072
None

VIII. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:

IX. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Ms. Rosie Tello received the GFOA budget presentation award. This would be the fourth year in a row.

X. ADJOURNMENT:


Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 pm was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and second by Commissioner Emilio Cantu Jr. Motion carried 4-0.

CITY OF ALTON



Salvador Vela, Mayor

ATTEST:



Baudelia Rojas CPM, TRMC|CMC
City Secretary



Approved by City Commission 08/27/19