

**City of Alton City Commission
Regular Meeting 7:30 pm
September 28, 2021 Minutes**



Members Present

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

City Staff Present

Jeff Underwood
Ricardo Gonzalez
Baudelia Rojas
Janie Flores
Cristina Garcia
Mauro Sandoval
Samm Mercado
John Salinas
Rosie Tello

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 7:36 pm.

II. CERTIFICATION OF POSTING

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Solicit input from the public on the City of Alton Storm Water Program.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that this item was a TCEQ requirement for the MS4 permit. The City follows all regulations when issuing permits for new housing in areas that have potential issues for flooding. Advertisement is done for the public regarding information on how to keep drains clean so water going up to the Arroyo is kept as clean as possible, which is all part of the MS4 permit. This item is to solicit input from the public. No one was present for public input.

Mayor Salvador Vela closed the public hearing at 7:37 pm.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the minutes of the City Commission meeting of September 14, 2021.

Discuss and consider the request by Izaguirre Engineering Group LLC on behalf of Ramiro and Adriana Loya - owners, preliminary plat approval for the proposed Cavazos Subdivision.

Discuss and consider the approval of a Development Agreement between the City of Alton and Curl Family Legacy, LTD.

Discuss and consider the approval of a Development Agreement between the City of Alton and Hollywood Development and Construction.

Motion to approve the consent agenda was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 5-0.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss and consider approving Ordinance 2021-15, as amended, concerning solid waste rates and related matters.

Baudelia Rojas, Assistant City Manager, stated that Ordinance 2021-15 regulates the collection and disposal of solid waste inside Alton city limits. The change reflected in this ordinance is an increase of 5% to the base rate for both residential and commercial accounts. Staff recommends approval, waiving second and third reading. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Richard Arevalo. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Discuss and consider approving Resolution 2021-22, nominating Appraisal District Directors for 2022-2023 of the Hidalgo County Appraisal District Board of Directors.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that his recommendation is to nominate Mr. Olivarez and Mr. Requenez again. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Discuss and consider approving Resolution 2021-23, supporting the negotiation group Texas Opioid Abatement Fund Council and adopting the allocation method for opioids settlement proceeds.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that the opioid crisis here in the United States has been a nightmare and numerous states have taken the big pharmaceutical companies to court and a settlement has been reached. For Texas the settlement amounts to 1.5 billion dollars over eighteen years and for local entities this means that the more entities sign on, the more money comes to the states and to the local entities. The recommendation is for Alton to sign on with the state. It is unknown how much would come to the City. Out of the 85% allocated to entities, 15% will go directly to the entity and 70% will go to entities that develop opioid programs. Staff recommends approval of the resolution to sign on with the State. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and seconded by Commission Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 5-0.

4. **Discuss and consider approving Ordinance 2021-16, fixing the rate and tax levy for the City of Alton, Texas for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022, upon all taxable property in said City of Alton, Texas in conformity with the laws of the State of Texas and the Ordinances of said City; and providing for a waiver of second and third reading; and repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith.**

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that essential what is being asked is to adopt the same rate that the City has had which is .4367 which is the third lowest in Hidalgo County. Staff recommends approval. Commissioner Ricardo Garza stated his motion as “This year’s proposed tax rate exceeds the no-new revenue tax rate” “I move that the the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of 0.4367, which is effectively a 6.15 percent increase in the tax rate.” Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. Motion carried 5-0.

5. **Consider and approve the third budget amendment of the City of Alton General Fund for fiscal year 2020-2021.**

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that this was the third and final budget amendment. The projected total revenue is \$7,953,401 for the General Fund which is a \$170,818 increase over the projected amount. The total expenditures are expected to be at \$7,275,005 which is an increase of \$595,820 over. The City is partnering up with Precinct 3 in the purchase of a new fire truck which is included in this fiscal year’s budget and a total of \$220,000 in debt has been retired which is all part of the expenditures of this budget. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Richard Arevalo. Motion carried 5-0.

6. **Discuss and consider approving the City of Alton Organizational Chart 2021-2022.**

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, pointed out two changes. Jonathan Flores would become the Assistant City Manager and Mr. Underwood stated that his recommendation would be to move Public Works under his supervision along with Police and Fire Department. These three departments respond to emergencies and the idea is to have someone coordinating these efforts prior to emergencies and handling any emergencies along with Steve Pena the Emergency Management Coordinator. With Jonathan Flores’ change, the recommendation is to change Baudelia Rojas the current Assistant City Manger to Deputy City Manager. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 5-0.

7. **Consider and approve Memorandum of Understanding between Region One Education Services Center and the City of Alton.**

Samm Mercado, Community Services Director, stated this agreement was between Region One Education Service Center’s Adult Education Program and the City of Alton. This collaboration is to conduct Adult Education and Literacy Programs for eligible participants at the Alton Recreation Center and the citizens of Alton. ESL

and GED classes will be provided as well. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Discuss and consider awarding contract of Municipal Audit Services for Fiscal Year ending 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Rosie Tello, Finance Director, stated that staff advertised a request for proposals for audit services and received four proposals on September 10th. These four proposals from Cascos & Associates from Brownsville, TX, Adrian Webb CPA, from Edinburg, TX, Beasley Mitchell & Co. from Las Cruces, NM and Park Fowler & Co. from Corpus Christi, TX were scored by four staff members based on different criteria. Staff recommends awarding Cascos & Associates a three year worth \$23,900 per year with the option to extend one more two year contract. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Discuss and consider approving an agreement with Halff Associates Inc related to the design of the North Stewart Road Drainage Project.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that Halff Associates was selected in 2019 for this project and the application for funding was successful and the loan closing will be done on October 12th which will allow them to get started on the project. To ensure all the documentation has been taken care of, the design contract needs to be approved. Staff recommends approval. Their total fees will be in the neighborhood of \$600, 000 for this major project which includes environmental, engineering, construction and management services. Construction completion date is projected to be in July 2024. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Richard Arevalo. Motion carried 5-0.

10. Discuss and consider approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Alton and Life Care Education Inc.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that the next three items were related and Ms. Marisa Yvette Utley is the grant writer and was present to talk about the following items. Ms. Utley stated that in a previous meeting with staff, they had proposed applying for the USDA Emergency Rural Health Care Grants which are two different grants. The first has a cap of one million dollars that would help with any outstanding medical expenses due to Covid-19, a new ambulance, any medical supplies or equipment. The second grant has a cap of 10 million dollars which would be to provide services along with life care education for future EMT's and paramedics working collaboratively with the City of Alton to have classes and to provide scholarships for the citizens of Alton to participate in these programs. Ms. Utley stated that her fees would be taken care of by Medicare to write these grants so there was no fee to the City of Alton. If awarded the grant for ten million, Medicare will provide the match 20 which would be the 250,000, therefore no money is coming from the City at this point. The ten million dollar grant has an administrator fee written in the grant and is not guaranteed to Medicare and anything over 50,000

would go up for RP's. Ms. Utley stated that she is aware that the 3 years working with the grant is not promised to her but she would work closely with staff and Life Education Inc to provide the best scope possible to hopefully get this money to Alton. Mr. Underwood asked what was the timetable for this grant. Ms. Utley responded that there is a very quick turnaround, the grant was opened two weeks ago and it is due by October 12th. Ms. Adri stated that this grant was the first of its kind due to it being tied in with the pandemic and specific to the rural emergency crisis. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Richard Arevalo. Motion carried 5-0.

11. Discuss and consider approving Resolution 2021-24, to allow for application to the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Emergency Rural Health Care Grant Program Track- One Recovery Grant.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, recommends approval of Resolution 2021-24 as described previously by Ms. Utley. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 5-0.

12. Discuss and consider approving Resolution 2021-25, to allow for application to the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Emergency Rural Health Care Grant Program Track- Two Impact Grant.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, noted that this was an Impact Grant different from the previous grant item. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 5-0.

13. Updated Mayoral Declaration of Local State of Disaster due to public health emergency.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that not much has changed on the declaration. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 5-0.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to Government Code Section 551.071 & 551.072

At 7:37 p.m., a motion to move into Executive Session was made by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Richard Arevalo. Motion carried 5-0.

- a) Pending and/or potential litigation
- b) Personnel
- c) Real Estate

VIII. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

At 7:53 p.m., a motion to return to Open Session was made by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and was seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 5-0.

- a) Pending and/or potential litigation
- b) Personnel
- c) Real Estate

Ricardo Gonzalez, City Attorney, stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

IX. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Underwood, City Manger, stated an updated project list was provided by Mrs. Rojas showing the status of projects. Also, October 9th is the celebration of Fire Prevention Week. John Salinas, Fire Chief, stated that Fire Prevention week starts on October 3rd through October 9th and Fire Department will be hosting a drive-thru and celebration of the 70th birthday of the mascot and giving away a goody bag.

X. ADJOURNMENT

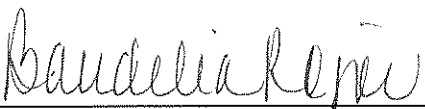
Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 5-0.

CITY OF ALTON



Salvador Vela, Mayor

ATTEST:



Baudelia Rojas CPM, TRMC|CMC
City Secretary

