

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
MEETING LOCATION: ALEDO COMMUNITY CENTER
104 ROBINSON COURT
ALEDO, TEXAS 76008
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023
6:00 P.M.

CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nick Stanley called the regular meeting of the City Council to order at 6:00 pm on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at the Aledo Community Center 104 Robinson Court. Those in attendance at this meeting were Mayor Nick Stanley, Councilmember Shane Davis, Mayor Pro Tem Nelson Rowles, Councilmember Shawna Ford and Councilmember Christian Pearson. Councilmember Summer Jones was not present at this meeting having given prior notice of her absence.

2. Staff present were City Manager Noah Simon, Director of Public Works Luis Gatica, Communications and Engagement Manager Whitney Walters, Director of Administrative Services Amber Karkauskas and City Attorney Alicia Kreh.

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Christian Pearson gave the Invocation. Mayor Nick Stanley led the Pledge of Allegiance given by all present.

4. **CITIZEN APPEARANCES:** This is an opportunity for citizens to address the City Council on any agenda item not listed for public hearing or any matter not posted on the agenda. This is the citizens' only opportunity to address the City Council on agenda items not listed for public hearing. Individual citizen comments are normally limited to three (3) minutes; however, time limits can be adjusted by the presiding officer. Time is not transferable. The presiding officer may ask the citizen to hold their comment on an agenda item if the item is posted as a Public Hearing. The City Council cannot by law take any action nor have any discussion or deliberations on any presentation made at this time concerning an item not listed on the agenda. The City Council will receive the information, and ask the City Manager to review the matter, or an item may be noticed on a future agenda for deliberation or action. Please sign in before the start of the meeting and provide the paper to the City Secretary.

- a) Susan Nickell – 221 Catbird Trail – Spoke to the Council regarding the concerns of the high water bills in Aledo.
- b) Mary Frances Wood – 109 Cedar Bluff – Spoke to Council regarding the concerns on the water billing for the City of Aledo and what is Council going to do .
- c) Bob Wood – 109 Cedar Bluff – Spoke to Council regarding his high water bills at his house since September of 2023. They have been as high as \$3,018. Also talked to

Council regarding a comment about a comment from the City Attorney regarding a statement that “intent to live in Aledo” qualified someone to serve on the Council or various boards. This does not meet the requirements of a minimum of 6 months of residency within the city limits.

- d) Bob Carlson – 112 Hidden Valley – Spoke to Council regarding the issues of the utility billing process and high water/sewer bills in Aledo.

5. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS:

- a. Proclamation presentation to Freedom House recognizing the month of October as Domestic Violence awareness month.

Mayor Nick Stanley read aloud the Proclamation to Freedom House recognizing the month of October as Domestic Violence awareness month.

- b. Presentation by Kim Knox-Lewis, BMY, PLLC, of the Annual Audit Report for Fiscal Year end September 30, 2022.

Ms. Kim Knox-Lewis of BMY, PLLC presented the Annual Audit report for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2022. She went over the details of the Audit and stated that the City had a clean audit with no issues found. She thanked the staff for working with them during the Audit process and looks forward to continuing working with the City of Aledo.

No action was taken on this item.

- c. Presentation by Beck Gorman, Director, East Parker County Library.

Newly appointed Library Director for the East Parker County Library Beck Gorman introduced herself to the City Council and went over items as it related to the Library. She thanked everyone for having her here and looks forward to working with everyone.

- 6. **CONSENT AGENDA:** All items listed below are considered routine by the City Council and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of items unless a Council Member requests, in which event the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered in its normal sequence. Approval of the Consent Agenda authorizes the City Manager to implement each item in accordance with the staff recommendation.

The consent Agenda was presented as follows:

- a. Consider approval of the City Council meeting minutes from the following meetings:

- i. September 28, 2023, City Council Meeting.

- b. Consider approval of Resolution 2023–138, a Resolution releasing certain property from the City’s extraterritorial jurisdiction pursuant to the requirements mandated by Senate Bill 2038.
- c. Consider approval of the purchase of a Backhoe Loader from Associated Supply Company for an amount of \$103,750.00.
- d. Consider approval of Additional Services Proposal #1 – design services for city hall finish out and Construction Only Cost in the amount of \$336,875.00.
- e. Discuss and consider Ordinance 2023–195, an Ordinance amending the City regulations of the 2015 International Building Code section 423.2 Critical Emergency Operations storm shelter requirements.

Councilmember Christian Pearson recused himself from the Council table due to a conflict with Item number 6 (b) a Resolution a Resolution releasing certain property from the City’s extraterritorial jurisdiction pursuant to the requirements mandated by Senate Bill 2038.

Motion was made by Councilmember Shane Davis seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nelson Rowls to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion carried 3-0

- 7. REPORTS AND UPDATES:** Reports and Updates are prepared for informational purposes and will be accepted as presented (there will be no presentations associated with the report items). There will be no separate discussion unless a City Council Member requests that the report be removed and considered separately.

- a. Update by City Staff on the installation of park benches and pet waste bag dispensers.

Director of Public Works Luis Gatica updated the Council regarding the placement of park benches and pet waste bags in the Community Center Park as well as Bearcat Park.

- b. Update by City Staff on the UDC.

City Planner Ivan Gonzalez gave a quick update on the UDC stating that the Planning & Zoning had met and approved recommendations to the City Council for adoption. There was also an Open House held for anyone wanting to obtain additional information about the proposed Code. The next steps will be an update at the November 2, 2023 City Council meeting and then a Public Hearing will be held at the December 7, 2023 City Council meeting and adoption of the code. Staff will also make certain that the UDC is put into Municode so it will be easier to search, etc.

- c. Update by City staff on Aledo Fest.

Communications and Outreach Manager Whitney Walters updated the Council regarding the Aledo Fest event that was held on Saturday, October 21, 2023. She stated that we had a good turn out and everyone had a great time.

- d. Update by City Staff on the text alert system.

Communications and Outreach Manager Whitney Walters updated the Council regarding a Text Alert System. She stated that the staff is working with a company to help provide this technology that would allow citizens to be texted about alerts such as weather issues, water issues etc. We will have more information in the upcoming months about an implementation date.

- e. Update by City Council on the 2023 TML conference.

Mayor Pro Tem Nelson Rowls gave an update on the TML Annual conference that was held in Dallas in early October. Mr. Nelson stated that several staff members and Councilmembers as well as the Mayor attended this Annual conference and gained a lot of information from the conference. It was a very informative event and he was glad that Council members and staff members attended.

- f. Update by City staff on TWDB funding.

Director of Public Works Luis Gatica informed the Council that he would be attending a meeting in Austin on December 7, 2023 with the Texas Water Development Board to discuss funding for the construction of the Clear Fork Interceptor line. He also said that we scored well enough to be invited to apply for funding for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project. More updates to come.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CITY COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS:

The following items are the regular business of the City Council. If any item requires a public hearing, it will be noted in the caption of the item.

- a. Discuss and consider recommendation from the City Manager on the Utility Billing Audit.

City Manager Noah Simon informed the Council that due to the issues that have come up with the recent water bills and the installation of the automated water meters he would like to bring in an Independent Auditor to look at all the processes to locate the issues and get them resolved so that we do not experience this issue in the future.

City Council agreed that an independent audit should be done. No action was taken on this item.

9. BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES

- a. Accept the resignation of Randy Keck, from the Zoning Board of Adjustments and Aledo Economic Development Commission.

Motion was made by Councilmember Shane Davis seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nelson Rowls to approve the resignation of Randy Keck from the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Aledo Economic Development Commission.

Motion carried 4-0

- b. Discuss and consider Resolution 2023–139, a Resolution establishing the Utility Billing Advisory Committee.

Motion was made by Councilmember Shane Davis, seconded by Councilmember Shawna Ford to approve Resolution 2023-139 establishing the Utility Billing Advisory Committee.

Motion carried 4-0

- c. Discuss and consider Ordinance 2023–196, an Ordinance establishing the Veterans' Advisory Committee.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Nelson Rowls, seconded by Councilmember Shane Davis, seconded to approve Ordinance 2023-196 establishing a Veteran's Advisory Committee.

Motion carried 4-0

- d. Appointment/Reappointment to Boards/Commissions/Committees – Consider approval regarding appointments to Boards/Commissions/Committees.

- i. Consider appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

This item was discussed in Executive Session. Mayor Nick Stanley adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council into Executive Session at 7:15 pm to discuss items listed below: Those in attendance of this Executive Session were Mayor Nick Stanley, Mayor Pro Tem Nelson Rowls, Councilmember Shane Davis, Councilmember Christian Pearson, Councilmember Shawna Ford, City Manager Noah Simon and City Attorney Alicia Kreh.

- 10. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, the City Council may convene in executive session to deliberate regarding the following matters:

- a. **§ 551.071. Consultation with Attorney** – to conduct a private consultation with the City Attorney on any legally posted agenda item, when the City Council seeks the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the provisions of Chapter 551, including the following items:

- Potential Annexation North of Dean Ranch to I-20.
- Dean Ranch Development Conversation.
- *Aledo v. Seigmund* – settlement and easement.
- City Council qualifications

- b. **§ 551.087. Deliberation regarding Economic Development Negotiations.**

The City Council may convene in executive session to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the City has received from a business prospect that the City seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the City and with which the City is conducting economic development negotiations; or to deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect described above, including the following items:

- Potential Annexation North of Dean Ranch to I-20.
- Dean Ranch Development Conversation.

- c. **§ 551.074. Deliberation regarding Personnel Matters.**

The City Council may convene into executive session to discuss and deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee, including the following:

- Appointments to the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- Appointments to the Veterans' Advisory Committee.
- Appointments to the Utility Billing Advisory Committee.
- Appointments to the Aledo Economic Development Commission.

11. ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

Mayor Nick Stanley adjourned the Executive Session of the Aledo City Council at 7: 50 p.m. and called the regular meeting back to order at 7:50 pm

12. TAKE ANY ACTION, IF NEEDED, FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. Take any action, if needed, on other matters from executive session:

Motion was made by Councilmember Shane Davis, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nelson Rowls to appoint the following applicants to said boards and commissions:

Nicole Reilly as regular member of AEDC Board
Wes Cooper as alternate member of AEDC Board

Bryan Smith as alternate member of Planning & Zoning Board
Dan Reilly as alternate member of Planning & Zoning Board
Ben Clark as regular member of Planning & Zoning Board

Susan Nickell as regular member and Chair of Utility Billing Advisory Committee.
Ben Clark as regular member of Utility Billing Advisory Committee

Gordon Heibert as regular member and Chair of Veterans Advisory Committee
Scott Tetro as regular member of Veterans Advisory Committee
Korry Hamman as regular member of Veterans Advisory Committee
Christopher Hebert as regular member of Veterans Advisory Committee

Motion carried 4-0

- 13. COUNCIL RECAP/STAFF COMMENTS DIRECTION:** (In compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Council members may comment on routine city matters, may ask questions of staff that require only responses of factual information or statements of existing City policy, or may request that non-routine matters of public concern be placed on a future agenda. Council members may not discuss non-agenda items among themselves. In compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, staff members may comment on routine City operations and projects. Staff members may respond to questions from others only with statements of factual information or existing City policy.)

There were no council recap/staff comments at this meeting.

14. ADJOURN

With there being nothing further to discuss or consider Mayor Nick Stanley adjourned the regular meeting of the Aledo City Council at 8:00 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE

Mike

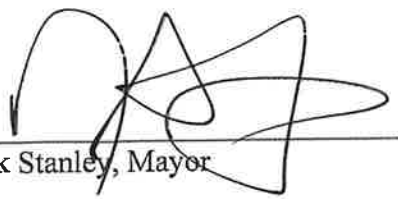
DAY OF

December

2023.

CITY OF ALEDO
CORPORATE
SEAL
ATTEST:
TEXAS

Deana McMullen, City Secretary


Nick Stanley, Mayor