

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ALAMO MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL

Mayor Emison called the meeting to order.

Roll was called with the following Aldermen present: Kenneth Bodkins, Larry Conder, P. B. Conley and John Reddick.

Alderman Bodkins gave the invocation.

Others present: Rita Reasons, Jim Knox, Ferris and Marcie Arnold, Caitlin Hodge, Junior Gorman, Neal Towater, Bill Tyler, Jimmy Wheeler, Chris Sherrod, Richie Hutchinson, Martha Gregory and Judy Emison.

Mayor Emison gave his monthly report on the following items that occurred during 2018: 1) The Charter of the Town has been adopted. 2) The new code is in progress of being updated with MTAS. 3) The new heat/air unit has been installed by GSA. 4) The Christmas party is December 6, 2018 at Catfish Cabin. 5) The city hall has been painted and the post office has had some painting done as well. 6) Many safety improvements have been made at the water plant and fire department and policies adopted, as well as shoring equipment purchased; partially with a grant. 7) The town adopted a 10 year capital purchase plan for the water department. 8) The budget for the general fund had a 12% surplus for last fiscal year. 9) The EPA finally gave an interim record of decision. 10) The town was awarded the CDBG block grant for the water department. 11) The town accomplished adopting job descriptions along with a merit hiring and evaluation procedure. 12) The Chamber of Commerce helped the town received the Downtown organization designation. 13) The Town has done more paving in the last year than has been done in many years. 14) There was an across-the-board adjustment for police officers pay and it has resulted in stability in the police department. 15) Three houses have been taken down that were nuisances.

Alderman Conley made a motion to adopt the minutes of the November 2018 meeting and it was seconded by Alderman Bodkins. All Aldermen voted, Aye. The motion passed.

Mayor Emison stated that a detailed invoice was given to the aldermen for the Wortham Chapel parking lot. Mayor Emison stated that in exchange for the town participating in 1/3 of the cost of the Bells Street parking lot, that Wortham Chapel would make that lot available six days a week for public use. Mayor Emison stated that he and Craig Laman talked and decided to alleviate the parking on court days that Mayor Emison would ask the judges to instruct law enforcement and lawyers to park at Wortham Chapel once the inner ring of the square was full. Alderman Bodkins stated that no public funds needs to be spent on private property. There being no motion to authorize payment and adopt the parking plan, the Mayor pronounced the item dead.

Mayor Emison stated that the tabling of Firemen Auxiliary Fund needed to be added to the town's books. Mayor Emison stated that the auditors have been here for annual audit. Randy Camp stated that since it had the town's name it had to be in control of the town. Alderman Bodkins asked if private donation had to go into the town's general fund. Rita Reasons stated that all monies would have to be recorded as well as expenditures. Mayor Emison stated that the only question left was the town going to continue to give 20% to the collected out of town fire calls. Neal Towater asked if donations had to be turned into the city recorder and Randy Camp stated that monies cannot be comingled. Alderman Bodkins made a motion to transfer 20% of the collected out of town fire calls to the fire fund and Alderman Conley seconded the motion. All Aldermen voted, Aye. The motion carried.

Mayor Emison stated that the property located at 82 West Vine by Deloris Sanders burned about a month ago, with only a small portion left standing. The lien holder has released the lien. The property owner still owns the property and still owes the lien; however there is a second lien that would have to be signed as well. Mayor Emison asked the board if Ms. Sanders signed a quick claim deed over to the town and the second lien was signed over if he could proceed in

getting ownership. He stated that he thinks it would cost a \$1,000.00 or less. Mayor Emison stated that if this worked out that could be a second entrance to the cemetery. Alderman Conley made a motion to try to secure the property by signing of quick claim deed, paying taxes and recording fees of \$1000.00 or less and Alderman Bodkins seconded the motion. All Aldermen voted, Aye. The motion carried.

Mayor Emison explained to the board that he suspended Ferris Arnold for five days on November 29, 2018 around 2:45 p.m. and that the employee's personnel policy and charter of the town gives him the authority to do so. He stated that Ferris Arnold used poor judgement in diverting town resources. Ferris Arnold was recognized to speak and stated that he apologized for any problems that this has caused. He stated that he had 2 piles of brush; one the right of way and one in his backyard. Ferris Arnold stated that he still didn't see where it was wrong, because other citizens were treated the same way. Mayor Emison stated that in exchange for reducing the suspension time he would allow him to pay \$120.00 for 2 dump trucks and a backhoe for reducing suspension time to 3 days. Ferris Arnold stated that he wanted the board to make that decision. Ferris Arnold stated that he pays property taxes and deserves services just like the rest of the tax payers. Alderman Bodkins stated that other tax payers get services and it is not right that Ferris shouldn't. Mayor Emison stated that Ferris Arnold was a supervisor not a subordinate, working on his property. Alderman Bodkins stated that he wanted him reinstated with full pay for his entire time off. Alderman Bodkins stated that he would like the potholes filled in and meters put on instead of tearing down so many houses and a policy enacted by the board explaining junk/brush pickup. Mayor Emison stated that the authority to hire and fire employees rest solely with the board and the mayor comments are advisory; and that the authority to suspend rest solely with the mayor and the board's comments are advisory only. Mayor Emison stated he had a real concern that the brush pick up behind Ferris Arnold house was borderline official misconduct. Alderman Bodkins stated there were state laws that had already been broken and he wanted things done legally. Randy Camp stated that if it was a nuisance there was an ordinance to cover nuisance, and that if a brush/junk pickup was in policy

form he was unaware of one. Mayor Emison stated that he has communicated with all city employees that there will be no use of city owned property, equipment or labor for any personal benefits. Alderman Conley asked if we had a brush/junk pick up ordinance and Randy Camp stated that what employees are under scrutiny of the appearance of what looks wrong to the tax payer or official misuse of property. Randy Camp stated that supervisors are held to a higher standard than subordinate employees. Ferris Arnold asked if the employees are going to pick up all taxpayers the same on junk/brush pickup. Mayor Emison stated that he would discuss this tomorrow with Ferris Arnold in the office, if he chose to do so.

Alderman Conley made a motion to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Alderman Bodkins. All Aldermen voted, Aye. The meeting was adjourned.