

**MINUTES FOR THE
DECEMBER 11, 2023
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

1. Call to Order and Recording of Quorum.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm and a quorum was established.

City Council Members Present

Mayor John Low
Emmy Ballantyne
Bill Mitchell
Peter Mako
Kate Lanfear

City Staff Present

City Manager William Foley
Asst. City Manager Michelle Pack
Fire Chief William Knupp
Asst. Fire Chief Justin Seibert
Police Chief Gail Baham
Asst. Police Chief Gabriel Ortiz
Director Rick Baldarrama
Attorney Frank Garza
Cody Ashley
Jake Bunjes
Rick Leedy
Christian Gomez
Rich Vasquez
Jacob Ginnings

Others Present

Reed Williams
Louella McCamish
Rita Schimpff
Skip Schimpff
Collier Bashara
Ernie Altgelt
Mary Fisher
Bob Newman
Lewis Fisher
Maggi Knupp
Dale Skinner

2. Review/Action of minutes from:

a. Nov 13th Regular Meeting

The minutes were reviewed, Ballantyne motioned to approve, Mako seconded, all voted in favor and the November minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Comments by Citizens

Ernie Altgelt brought and submitted a petition for a senior tax freeze. He presented the petition, said he has over 330 signatures and is hoping that it will be approved to go on the March 2024 ballot. Foley proved Altgelt with a submission receipt. Mayor Low said that he would be informed of its validity but, if it is verified, it would go on the May 2024 ballot. An unidentified woman, in a red shirt, spoke about the senior tax freeze petition stating that 90% of Texas entities have a freeze and all the houses that get torn down and rebuilt help create an increase in tax revenue. Mary Fisher also spoke regarding the petition and said that it is important to seniors as some of the people she got signatures from are worried they will be taxed out of their homes. An unidentified man, wearing a brown vest, commended both fire and police departments by saying how amazing emergency services are, he appreciated the job they do.

4. Presentation: Texas Fire Chief's Association presenting the Best Practices Recognition to the Fire Department

Dale Skinner presented the Best Practice award to the Terrell Hills Fire Department. He spoke about the history, requirements and rarity of the best practice recognition. Chief Knupp recognized the efforts of everyone in his department who helped achieve the award. Mayor Low said how proud he is of the Fire Department to be one of the thirty-one departments to achieve the recognition.

5. Public Hearing: On the FY2024 Operating Budget

The hearing opened at 4:14pm, there were no comments and the hearing closed at 4:14pm.

6. Discussion/Action: Adoption of Ordinance No. 1526 FY 2024 Operating Budget for the City of Terrell Hills. AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF TERRELL HILLS, TEXAS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024; AND PROVIDING FOR THE INTRA-AND INTER-DEPARTMENTAL AND FUND TRANSFERS; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Low introduced the ordinance and then asked for a motion to approve. Mitchell motioned to approve, Ballantyne seconded the motion, a roll call vote was had, each council member voted in favor and the ordinance was adopted.

7. Discussion/Action: Adoption of Ordinance No. 1527 DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL PUBLIC NEWSPAPER. AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS AS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE CITY OF TERRELL HILLS FOR THE PUBLICATION OF OFFICIAL NOTICES

Foley introduced the ordinance as regular housekeeping and that we have gone with the San Antonio Express News for years. Mako motioned to approve, Lanfear seconded, all voted in favor and the ordinance was adopted.

8. **Discussion/Action: Adoption of an Ordinance No. 1528 regarding Interlocal Agreement with the City of Alamo Heights and Olmos Park for Emergency Medical Service Agreement. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) AMONG THE CITIES OF ALAMO HEIGHTS, TERRELL HILLS AND OLMOS PARK FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH SAID CITIES AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Foley introduced it by stating that it is reviewed every three years, all tri cities agree on this version of the agreement and staff recommends the approval. Mayor Low commended Garza for his efforts. Garza said that both agreements are now running concurrently so if there is a termination of one, the other is automatically terminated also. Ballantyne motioned to approve, Mitchell seconded, all voted in favor and the ordinance was adopted.

9. **Discussion/Action: Adoption of an Ordinance No. 1529 regarding Interlocal Agreement with the City of Alamo Heights and Olmos Park for Emergency Dispatch Agreement. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR EMERGENCY DISPATCH SERVICES AMONG THE CITIES OF ALAMO HEIGHTS, TERRELL HILLS AND OLMOS PARK FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH SAID CITIES AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Mayor Low said that this is the concurrent ordinance as Garza had previously mentioned. There was no other discussion. Mako motioned to approve, Lanfear seconded, all voted in favor and the ordinance was adopted.

10. **Discussion from monthly reports as submitted in the council packets.**

Mayor Low commended the Police Department for their efforts on taking care of packages and other duties on their report. Mayor Low asked about insurance, Pack informed him that paperwork was signed today and she will update everyone when cards are ready once she has that information. Foley said that Terrell Hills is 1 of 23 cities with dual police and fire best practices recognition.

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.

John Low, Mayor

William Foley, City Manager