

Alvin council considering fee increases

By Judy Zavalla, Staff Reporter | Posted: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 10:18 am

During last Thursday's Alvin City Council Meeting, members accepted the Impact Fee Advisory Committee's written comments on the proposed amendments to the land use assumptions and capital improvement plan and impact fees. One council member voted against the plan.

During a Public Hearing, held in conjunction with the council meeting, Alvin resident Dick Tyson spoke against the submitted comments by saying, "This is the worst piece of stuff ever brought before the Alvin Council. Developers are to be furnishing \$75,000.

"Last year, the city collected less than \$400,000 and the year before, only \$200,000 was collected," he said.

He also publicly accused council members of harassment against the city's manufactured home park owners.

Tyson also was asked for an explanation as to why the city had not created a Master Plan since 2003.

"The State of Texas says these plans are to be updated every five years. We have this all backwards," Tyson added.

During the Consent Agenda portion of the meeting, council approved the second and final readings of the following: amending the Personnel Policy by defining vacation day as a ten hour day for all employees unless otherwise specified.

The ordinance also ordered that pre-October 1, 1998 accrued vacation hours be paid prior to separation from employment with council approval; amending the City of Alvin's 2012-2013 fiscal year budget for the purpose of paying vacation hours accrued prior to Oct. 1, 1998 by increasing certain expenditures and decreasing the fund balance reserved for the payment of vacation hours and an Itinerant Merchants and Vendors Ordinance which regulates itinerant vendors, peddlers, solicitors and mobile vendors.

A fee will also be assessed for registration, identification cards and peddler sales.

Council Members approved the first reading of a Comprehensive Fee Ordinance, which will increase certain solid waste fees due to the annual CPI-U increase. The first reading of certain water and sewer fees due to the annual CPI-U fee ordinance was also approved on the first reading.

The contract for Refuse Collection and Disposal Services between the City of Alvin and Progressive Waste Solutions to adjust rates paid to Progressive pursuant to the Agreement because of the increase in the CPI-U and fuel adjustment was approved.

City Manager Terry Lucas explained this increase by saying, "Several years ago, there was an imbalance in the refuse collection and disposal services.

"The rate had remained at the same level for several years, he said. "We were way behind the curve, so we approved an annual fee adjustment to help us catch up," Lucas added.