

**City of Alpine  
Regular City Council Meeting  
December 10th, 2013  
6:00 P.M.  
Minutes**

**1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of allegiance to the flag – Mayor Rangra called the meeting to order. There was a moment of silence for the invocation and Mayor Rangra led the pledge of allegiance to the flags.**

**2. Determination of a quorum and proof of notice of the meeting – Mayor Rangra and Councilors Bermudez, Davidson, Fitzgerald, Gonzales and Castelli were present. Councilor Fitzgerald was absent. The meeting notice had been posted at 5:30 P.M. on December 6th, 2013.**

**3. Presentations, recognitions and proclamations –**

**A. Proclamation for AEP. (Mayor Rangra) – Mayor Rangra said since no one was present from AEP, we should postpone this item. He said this will be a long agenda so we should postpone this until the next meeting.**

**4. Reports –**

**City Mayor's Report - No Report.**

**City Attorney Report – No city attorney.**

**City Manager Report – City Manager Zimmer said he was going to defer most of what he wanted to talk about until the Information and Discussion items today. He said he did want to note that this past week, with our recycle team, Martha Latta and Hector, our Director of Public Works, we have made a decision to do an off cycle pick up of limbs and branches around town. He said he thought that what Hector Ramirez and his team did as far as helping a lot of the residents post this major ice storm was a very important thing to do in Alpine. He said so as you are driving around town and you see the branches pulled up to the street, that was purposeful. He said they had announced that through the local radio station and Hector and his team are driving through the community this week picking up the branches and taking them to be recycled. He said we have also moved an employee over there to help with the shredding. He said it is just something we wanted to do for the residents and we thought it was important. He said the other piece that he wanted to note when he brought it up today is that it was an off cycle pickup. He said we will do our normal bulk pickup in January. He said Martha is working now on the language for that so that we get it out to all the residents so that they are aware of our normal bulk cycle. He said from time to time as**

acts of God or acts of nature come up in our City, as a City, we will try to do these things. The City Manager also thanked Virgil Clark, the Utilities Director, from the City and from all the residents, for all the hard work through Art Walk, over the holiday weekend. He said Alpine somewhat dodged a bullet. He said we had major power outages across the region and Virgil in his report will detail out some of the challenges that his team went through, but hats off to him and his folks and as Virgil comes up and gives his report, one thing he wants to note, that is very important, we did get, from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), a note, basically stating that they had done an investigation based on a complaint that they had received on our wastewater treatment plant and everything came back that we were within permit and hats off to Virgil Clark again. He told Virgil thank you for the hard work.

### City Staff Updates –

Virgil Clark, Utilities Director – Virgil said if you were out of town, you might not know we had an ice storm. He said he believed most everyone here knew that we did. He said we sustained a little damage and had power outages and we had some issues that we had to deal with. He said we have four or five really long days and nights and we have a lot of people who were involved in making this a successful “adventure”. He said it was an adventure that he would not like to have again. He said he hopes we do not have an ice storm like that again. He said he is ready for summer. He said there were a lot of heroes and one of them that he would like to bring up is Ray Hendryx. He said he called Ray at the radio station and we declared an emergency on Sunday. He said Ray, eloquently, in his own way, took the information that he gave him and disseminated it to the public, in a very understandable way, more so than he probably could have done himself. He said he wanted to thank Ray for that. He said we had a lot of other heroes. He said AEP had a lot of people out working in some very difficult situations. He said quite frankly, he works in water, and it can get wet and cold. He said if they make a mistake it could be their last mistake and they work through some tough situations. He said we have a lot of heroes in our own work place. He said he wanted to mention their names because a lot of the time they do not get mentioned. He said a lot of the time, what they do, is kind of a thankless job. He said you expect the water to run when you turn it on and when it does not come on you are kind of mad and we have to come out and fix it. He said the same thing with wastewater, when you flush it, you want it to go and when it doesn't, you are not really happy with us. He said it is their job to go out and take care of it. Virgil said Johnny Marquez is his number one. He said he is the guy out in the field that directs the people and makes sure the work gets done. He said his people, John Cordoba, Tony Ybarra, Charles Michaelis, Adan, Fuentes and Ramon Fuentes (he said both of these are long term employees who have been here at the City of Alpine for 30 plus years). He

said if it had not been for Ramon, who found a leak that was a really difficult one to find, and he just accidently found it, but found it. He said it was a leak on a twelve inch line leading to the pump header at the Sunny Glen Pump Station. He said this particular leak, if it had blown off, the tank on the mountain probably would have emptied in about thirty minutes and we did not have power at Sunny Glen at the pump station for quite some time. He said we did have it at the Sunny Glen wells for four days. He said through the efforts of Ray, getting the information out to the citizens and the citizens of Alpine are his heroes too, believe it or not. He said the citizens did not use water. He said normally the half-million gallon tank will cycle that every day because it is a 500,000 gallon tank but we had half a tank of water left in that tank after four days. He said that is excellent and wonderful and we dodged a bullet. He said we saw some vulnerabilities and we are going to work on fixing those vulnerabilities. He said again, we suffered some damage. He said this is damage that we are going to have to repair. He said they are going to work on it and try not to cost the city too much money but be prepared. He said they have made headway at the wastewater treatment plant. He said there are also a couple of good guys at the wastewater treatment plant, Mike Macias and Brian Llanez. He said Sunday morning he got a call about 6:30 that the power was out. He said he was in Terlingua and the roads were icy between Terlingua and here. He said it took him about two and one half hours to get to Alpine. He said before he got to the wastewater treatment plant, his goal was to get out and get the generator running so we did not have sewage running down the creek, and get in trouble with the TCEQ, before he got there, Mike Macias and his helper Brian Llanez were there at the plant. He said they were working to mitigate the issues. He said nobody called them. He said he did not call them. He said they went out on their own and he wanted everyone to know that. He said they are doing an excellent job and all of the people are. He said he wanted to mention a few people but that is his entire crew. He said they perform and they work wonderfully. He said he would be glad to accept all the kudos for it but quite frankly he was just there helping them, directing them and giving them what they needed, to do the job. The Council thanked Virgil. Virgil said he thought it was great that we got that nice letter from the TCEQ. He said that is a departure from what has been happening and that was a surprise inspection that he told the city about last council meeting and he did not know about it until this morning. He said he was very happy to get that letter. He said he will treasure it and frame it.

**5. Citizens Comments (on agenda items) -**

**6. Public Hearings -**

**7. Consent Agenda - (Minutes, Financial reports, Department written reports, Board appointments, etc.) -**

**A. Approve the minutes of October 15th and October 22nd, 2013 (A.**

Rangra, Mayor)

B. Approve Accounts Payable (E. Zimmer, CM)

C. Accept resignation of Bob Steele, City Attorney, effective November 25, 2013. (E. Zimmer)

D. Approve appointment of Ms. Leslie Hopper to the Airport Advisory Board to represent Ward Five. (M. Castelli) -

**8. Information or Discussion items –**

A. Review the roles as defined by the City Charter of the Mayor and the Mayor Pro Tem. (M. Davidson)

B. Discuss possibility of 1/4 percent of sales tax for use on streets. (J. Fitzgerald)

C. Discuss status of grants and Certificates of Obligation. (E. Zimmer, CM)

D. Discuss status of budget. (E. Zimmer, CM)

E. Discuss status of EDAP grant and loan for sewer interceptor. (E. Zimmer, CM)

F. Discuss Quiet Zone (E. Zimmer, CM)

G. Discuss Cell Phone Tower. (E. Zimmer, CM)

H. Discuss website/technology update. (E. Zimmer, CM)

**Action Items to be accompanied by a brief statement of facts, including where funds are coming from, if applicable. (Action items limited to 15 per meeting.)**

9. Discuss and Consider approving \$15,000 to be paid to Atlantis Aquatic Group from expense account 24.621.0500 for filtration and chlorination system to finish swimming pool. (E. Zimmer, CM)

10. Discuss and Consider approving longevity pay for city employees. (J. Gonzales)

11. Discuss and Consider taking action on adopting a City of Alpine Investment policy in accordance with the Public Funds Investment Act ("PFIA, "Texas Government Code, Section 2256.005) (E. Zimmer, CM)

**12. Discuss and Consider taking action on an electrical services proposal from Priority Power Management LLC. PPM will provide a current market pricing analysis and cost-savings potential for City of Alpine budgets. This discussion will cover the Texas electric energy market and illustrate how PPM manages client risk, energy, spend, and provides all levels of customer care for large power clients with large numbers of metering locations. PPM is a leading energy management consulting services firm serving over 1,300 clients with emphasis in Governmental Entities, Oil and Gas, Real Estate, Industrial and Healthcare. (J. Fitzgerald)**

**13. Discuss and Consider, in conjunction with new City Manager Erik Zimmer, developing a set of defined and measurable goals to guide his Performance during his first 180 days in his position. These goals of the City Council will be used to measure his performance and guide his actions during this critical period. (M. Castelli)**

**14. Discuss and Consider approving hotel motel funding, in the amount of \$5,000, for Mark Spring, General Manager for the Historic Holland Hotel and the Maverick Inn in Alpine. This funding will be used concerning expenses incurred with a booth at the Midessa Boat, RV, Sport and Gun Show held on February 6th through 9th, 2014 to advertise the Big Bend. (J. Fitzgerald)**

**15. Discuss and Consider renewing the depository bank contract with West Texas National Bank for a term of one year, through December 31st, 2014. (E. Zimmer, CM)**

**16. Discuss and Consider approving first reading of Ordinance concerning approval of on-line credit card payment processing through Traffic Payment.com, LLC for the collection of Municipal Court revenues. (E. Zimmer, CM)**

**17. Discuss and Consider Authorizing the addition of Erik Zimmer, City Manager, as a signatory for all bank and investment accounts for the City of Alpine, Texas – Erik Zimmer, CM) - Motion was made by Councilor Davidson, by Resolution 2013-12-03 to approve authorizing the addition of Erik Zimmer, City Manager, as a signatory for all bank and investment accounts for the City of Alpine, Texas. Motion was seconded by Councilor Gonzales. Motion unanimously carried.**

**18. Citizen's Comments (limit 3 minutes) -**

**19. Council Member's Comments and Answers -**

**20. Executive Session - Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Subsection 551.074, Personnel Matters and Subsection 551.071, Consultation with**

## **Attorney**

- A. Consider Grievance Appeal Hearing for ViCindy Barnett. (E. Zimmer, CM)**
  - B. Consider Contract and Contract provisions for City Manager. (E. Zimmer, CM)**
  - C. Consider reviewing applications and hiring new City Attorney for City of Alpine. (E. Zimmer, CM)**
  - D. Consider pursuing litigation with assistance from District Attorney's Office. (E. Zimmer, CM)**
  - E. Discussion with Attorney concerning pending litigation. (E. Zimmer, CM)**
- 21. Action - Executive Session - Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Subsection 551.074, Personnel Matters and Subsection 551.071, Consultation with Attorney**
- A. Action concerning Grievance Appeal Hearing for ViCindy Barnett. (E. Zimmer, CM)**
  - B. Action, if any, concerning contract and contract provisions for City Manager. (E. Zimmer, CM)**
  - C. Action, if any, concerning the hiring of a new City Attorney for the City of Alpine. (E. Zimmer, CM)**
  - D. Action, if any, concerning pursuing litigation with assistance from the District Attorney's Office. (E. Zimmer, CM)**
  - E. Action, if any, concerning pending litigation. (E. Zimmer, CM)**

## **22. Adjournment -**

I certify that this notice was posted at 5:30 P.M. on December 6th, 2013, pursuant to Texas Open Meetings Act. (Texas Vernon's Annotated Civil statutes, section 551.043 Texas Government Code.) This facility is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking space is available. Requests for accommodations or interpretive services must be made 48 hours prior to this meeting. Please Contact the city secretary's office at (432) 837-3301 or fax (432) 837-2044 for further information.

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Dr. AvinashRangra, Mayor

Attest:

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Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary

I, Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary, do certify that this notice was posted at 5:30 P.M. on December 6th, 2013, and remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of said meeting.

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Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary