

**City of Alpine
Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 5th, 2016
5:30 P.M.
Minutes**

- 1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of allegiance to the flags – Mayor Ramos called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers at 803 West Holland in the City of Alpine, Texas. Mr. Dick Zimmer gave the invocation. Mayor Ramos led the pledge of allegiance to the flags.**

- 2. Determination of a quorum and proof of notice of the meeting – Mayor Ramos, Councilors Antrim, Fitzgerald, Stephens and Escovedo were present. Councilor Salas was absent. There was a quorum present. The meeting notice had been posted at 10:00 A.M. on July 1st, 2016. City Manager Zimmer and City Secretary Taylor were also present.**

- 3. Presentations, recognitions and proclamations –**

- 4. Reports –**
City Mayor’s Report - (A. Ramos, Mayor) – Mayor Ramos said there were a couple of things that were brought to his attention. He said he was told he was not giving the people time to explain what the topics are about. He said if he was at fault with that please let him know what they were and he will try to correct it in the future. He said we want to give everyone a chance to speak but of course we have a time limit. He said he would also like to thank the City of Alpine for the 4th of July Celebration. He said it was fantastic. He said the Fiesta Del Barrio had their parade and it was great and the Kiwanis had their parade yesterday on 5th Street and there were festivities at Kokernot Park. He said the fireworks were also on display. He said he did notice that people did not pick up their trash after the fireworks. He said he is a stickler for that. He said the City Manager and he have talked about it on numerous occasions. He said we need to keep Alpine clean, it is a beautiful town. He said it is our town and our backyard. He said the trash you leave laying around also reflects on your neighbor. He said we need to be more diligent in that. He said if you see anyone leaving trash let them know in the nice and courteous way to pick up their trash. He said we are going to start enforcing the litter program here in Alpine. He said folks get two warning letters before they are given a letter to appear in Municipal Court. He said you have ample time to clean it up. He said we have a lot of tourists here and he hates for people to come here and think that Alpine is a dirty little city. He said there are quite a few people out there who put things like mattresses by dumpsters which is an absolute no! He said bulky items will be picked up on July 11th. He said we do this on a quarterly basis and there is really no excuse. He said if it is left by the

dumpsters we start having rats and snakes and insects. He said let's try to do our best to police our areas.

City Manager Report – (E. Zimmer, CM)
City Manager gave the following report.

Electricity and Gas Contract

- Contract with current provider ends July 31, 2016 – go month-to-month
- City spends approximately \$330K + per year on electricity
- Will gather bids as part of budget process to review with Council prior to formal approval of new contract/rate
- Gas contract with West Texas Gas ends July 31, 2016
- City spends approximately \$700K per year on gas
- Will gather new bid from WTG as part of the budget process to review with Council prior to formal approval of new contract/rate
- Summer months (highest consumption) – navigate through the right time to make contract commitments

Utility Payment Location

- Reconstruction of front vestibule and office area complete at City Hall
- Taking bill payments for BOTH Water and Gas at City Hall effective Monday, July 11th
- Announcing on radio and through other media outlets
- Give citizens more centralized location and close proximity to Post Office
- Next step to consolidation of billing activities

Floodplain Training Class

- Hosted in Ft. Stockton Tuesday June 28th
- Chapter 50 of our local Ordinances contemplates Alpine's position on the topic
-<http://cityofalpine.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/2016-030-Chapter-50-FLOODS.pdf>
- Communities Responsibilities
 - Adopt Ordinance
 - Enforce and DocumentCity Manager showed a map of Alpine's flood plains
- Our Map
-<http://map1.msc.fema.gov/idms/IntraView.cgi?ROT=0&O X=6798&O Y=3 484&O ZM=0.078102&O SX=1062&O SY=505&O DPI=400&O TH=3789 0588&O EN=37958757&O PG+1&O MP=1&CT=0&DI=0&WD=14978&HT=10243&JX=1200&JY=566&MPT=0&MPS=0&ACT=1&KEY=37889923&ITE M=1&PICK VIEW CENTER.x=571&PICK VIEW CENTER.y=125&R1=VIN>

- BFE (Base Floodplain Elevation) and Elevation Certificates important for insurance purposes
- Study the map before you decide to buy or build
-Robert Polanco is here to help

High Weed and Grass Notices

- Chapter 54 of City Code of Ordinances
-<http://cityofalpine.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Chapter-54-HEALTH-AND-SANITATION.pdf>
-Article IV – Division 1
- Send out notices weekly during the summer
-Goal of compliance within the first 10 days
- Spend time in different quadrants of town and also focus on areas where we receive higher level of complaints
- Administrated by Robert Polanco and Patsy McWilliams

Councilor Fitzgerald commented concerning the flood plain and flood insurance. He said it is very important to know if you are in the flood plain when you buy property. Gilbert Valenzuela, Justice of the Peace, said the City Manager mentioned the FEMA website and wanted to know if it was FEMA.com. City Manager Zimmer said he thought it was FEMA.org. Councilor Fitzgerald said it was MSC Service Center.FEMA.gov

City Staff Updates – None

5. Public Hearings – None

6. Consent Agenda – (Minutes, Financial reports, Department written reports, board appointments, etc.) – (Notice to the Public – The following items are of a routine and administrative nature. The Council has been furnished with background and support material on each item, and/or it has been discussed at a previous meeting. All items will be acted upon by one vote without being discussed separately unless requested by a Council Member, in which event the item or items will immediately be withdrawn for individual consideration in its normal sequence after the items not requiring separate discussion have been acted upon. The remaining items will be adopted by one vote.) –

A. Approve Council Minutes for June 21st, 2016. (A. Ramos, Mayor).

Motion was made by Councilor Stephens, by Resolution 2016-07-01, to approve the Council Minutes for June 21st, 2016. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. Motion unanimously carried.

7. Information or Discussion items –

A. Provide an Update on the Brewster County Appraisal District Board. (R. Stephens) – Councilor Stephens said there were a lot of appeals this year. He said he represents the City with the BCAD. He said they had their meeting in June. He said there were 402 appeals this year. He said the first hearings were held by a 3 person appeal panel. He said only about 10% of the people appealing show up for the hearings. He said he asked the Appraisal District for a list of properties which were exempt from taxes. He said it was only about 6% and there were various reasons why they were exempt. He said we have a tax roll of approximately \$466 million dollars. He said of that \$23 million was exempt. He said they would have their July meeting coming up in a couple of weeks.

Action Items to be accompanied by a brief statement of facts, including where funds are coming from, if applicable. (Action items limited to (up to) 10 per meeting.) (Citizens are allowed to comment–limited to 3 minutes – after being called upon by Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem) Citizens are required to state their name and the Ward in which they reside. Priority will be given to citizens of Alpine and those who own businesses or property in the City. Individuals who do not live in, or own businesses or property in the City limits of Alpine, will be allowed to speak if there is time available.)

8. Discuss and Consider options for aligning the City of Alpine committee, board and commission structures including appointment process and terms of service. (R. Stephens) - Councilor Stephens said we discussed where we were with the City Boards and Commissions at our last meeting. He said a hand out was given to the Council showing the status of the boards at the current time and other information. Councilor Stephens said we do not have to take action tonight. He said he was looking for dialogue on this item. He said he would like to talk about how we make our appointments. He said we have different sets of rules and different terms. He said some have to be residents of the city and some can be residents of the county. He said he could work with the City Secretary and bring back some revisions and then the Council could review the changes and make decisions. Councilor Stephens talked about the Airport Board's term of office and that the members of the Airport Board did not have to be residents of the City. He suggested that members of any board or commission should be present for at least 60% of the meetings. He also discussed other issues. He said he was happy to table this item but he thought it would be worthwhile to really get some feedback from all of the Council. Mayor Ramos said it is important to have these people on our committees. He said it is not good if they never show up for meetings. He said we have five Council members who cannot do it all and we have one man who runs the entire city. He said they cannot do it all and that is why these committees are important. He said it is up to them to focus on what their goals are and report on a regular basis to the city. He said it is crucial. He said sometimes when people get these

appointments it is just about the title and they do not do a thing. He said when the council appoints a member to a board, make sure it is someone who is really interested in serving and participating on the board. Councilor Antrim said she agreed, particularly about the attendance of the board members. She said she thinks the terms should be the same. She said she believes members should live in the wards they are appointed for. Councilor Fitzgerald said he thinks that makes sense except for the Airport Board. He said the Charter specifies that the Mayor nominates the Municipal Judge. He said he does not believe the Mayor should ratify the Planning and Zoning Commission members. He said he thinks the appointments should be from the Council members. Mayor Ramos said he had to agree with Councilor Fitzgerald on that. Councilor Escovedo said she would like to see the Boards and Commissions meet after 5 P.M. She said she spent a lot of time on the Planning and Zoning Commission and she thinks they should have longer terms of office than other boards. She said she also thinks that the Council members should get copies of all the agendas and minutes from the board meetings. Councilor Stephens said he would take the comments from the Council and work with Molly and bring suggestions back to the Council. Motion was made by Councilor Fitzgerald to table this item. Motion was seconded by Councilor Stephens. Motion unanimously carried.

9. Councilmember Comments and Answers -

Councilor Escovedo- said she would like to have any reports by the City/County liaison put into their council packets before each meeting. She said she would also like to have the representative for the BCAD reports as well. Councilor Stephens said sometimes the meetings are not until the day of City Council. Mayor Ramos said he thought it was important that the Council had copies of the reports if possible.

Councilor Fitzgerald – said he would like to thank his constituent for showing up at tonight’s meeting. He also said he appreciated the City Manager running the City like a business.

Councilor Antrim – said she would like to thank the City Manager for his report. She said it is nice to have updates on what is going on.

Mayor Ramos – said he forgot to mention that we have two honored guests at tonight’s meeting, Justice of the Peace Valenzuela and Commissioner Novovitch. He thanked them for coming. He thanked the City Manager for moving forward especially with the streets. He said it has taken a little time. He said we have to try to stay within the budget also without raising taxes.

Motion was made by Councilor Stephens and seconded by Councilor

Fitzgerald to enter into executive session. Motion unanimously carried.

10. Executive Session – Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074 (personnel matters).

A. City Manager Erik Zimmer Annual Review (R. Stephens)

11. Action after Executive Session –

A. Action, if any, concerning City Manager Erik Zimmer Annual Review. (R. Stephens) - Councilor Fitzgerald said he would like to make a motion, by Resolution 2016-07-02, that we formally put on record that we definitely approve of what City Manager Zimmer has been doing, give him a stellar recommendation for his file and further increase his salary by 5%. Motion was seconded by Councilor Antrim. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Ramos said Mr. Zimmer gets his annual raise of 5% and the City Council wholly supports his efforts.

12. Adjournment – There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

NOTICE: The City Council reserves the right to adjourn into Executive Session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed on the posted agenda, above, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071 (consultation with attorney), 551.072 (deliberations about real property), 551.073 (deliberations about gifts and donations), 551.074 (personnel matters), 551.076 (deliberations about security devices), and 551.086 (economic development).

I certify that this notice was posted at 10:00 A. M. on July 1st, 2016, 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.

Andres "Andy" Ramos, Mayor

Attest:

Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary

I, Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary, do certify that this notice was posted at 10:00 A.M. on July 1st, 2016, and remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of said meeting.

Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary