

**City of Alpine  
Regular City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, July 19th, 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. Lana Covington 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, Salas, Fitzgerald, Escovedo and Stephens were present. There was a quorum present. The meeting notice had been posted at 1:45 P.M. on July 15th, 2016. City Manager Zimmer and City Secretary Taylor were also present.**
  
- 3. Presentations, recognitions and proclamations – None**
  
- 4. Reports –**  
**City Mayor’s Report - (A. Ramos, Mayor) – Mayor Ramos said the American Legion had been talking and decided to maintain American Legion Park. He said they would be maintaining that park. He said the City is pretty short staffed in regards to maintaining parks and we also do not have a lot of budget for that. He said he thinks it would be a great benefit to the city and to the community if some of these organizations start adopting some of these parks and take care of it for the City of Alpine. Mayor Ramos recognized David Lamryx, who is the new commander of the American Legion and Manny Ybarra. He thanked them for coming.**

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

**Monthly Financial Readout**

- City Manager Zimmer said we ran the data through July 5<sup>th</sup> to capture bills received early in the month.**
  - He said as we enter the last quarter we work with Department Heads on the completion of goals through the fiscal year.**
  
- Megan is completing work on Specified Activity Report related to ‘Due-To/Due –Froms’**
  - System originally set up to run all checks for all funds through General Fund**
  - We currently use the General Fund for All Payroll and General Fund**

### **Activities**

- Each Fund pays their own bills
- Will complete before end of this fiscal year
  
- **City Manager Zimmer showed a chart containing General Fund, Water/Sewer/Sanitation, Airport, Hotel Motel and Gas Revenue, Expenses, and Net Income for October, 2014 through September, 2015.**
  
- **City Manager Zimmer then showed a graph of General Fund Results Year to Date. He said Ad Valorem Tax is at 99% of our annual Budgeted expectation. Sales Tax is at 83% of our annual budgeted expectation - \$107.7K over. He said we anticipate more spending on paving materials through the rest of the fiscal year.**
  
- **He then showed a graph of Water/Sewer/Sanitation Results Year to Date. He said hot weather is leading to more water usage. He said we are reviewing capital projects to ensure completion during this fiscal year (fire hydrants, aerator, bar screen, etc.) He said the SWAC grant was completed in July.**
  
- **He showed a graph of Airport Results Year to Date. He said the City has made a significant investment in the Airport property this year – to crack seal and new taxiways. He said this month there will be a preliminary design review meeting with TxDot and Lochner Engineering. He said the checking balance for monthly operations continues to be in good standing.**
  
- **He showed a graph of HOT Results Year to date. He said the feedback to Tourism Directors from Hoteliers continues to be positive. Summer activities are robust for community. Next four weekends have key annual events. Some spending in retail establishments is lower than expected.**
  
- **He finally showed a graph of Gas Results Year to Date. He said the annual DIMP program is on target for completion. He said reviewing capital purchases budgeted and not complete for year for primary vehicles. Provide support back to Water/Sewer field work as necessary.**

### **Alpine PD Update**

- **Continue to answer 500+ calls for service per month – on average**
- **Burglary article in the most recent edition of Alpine Avalanche**
  - **Encourage people to keep items put away and doors locked.**
  - **Answer 20+ calls per month related to burglary, trespass and**

- suspicious activity
- **Pokemon App – leading to more activity with those playing the game. City Manager Zimmer said it has led to calls with the Police Department.**

**City Staff Updates – None**

**5. Public Hearings –**

**A. Public Hearing to obtain citizens views and comments concerning a zoning change requested by owner, Reba Cross Seals, from C-2 to M-1, for expansion of an existing substation. Agent is AEP, Texas – Robert Saenz. Property identification/street address is 8<sup>th</sup> Street between W. Murphy and W. Avenue F., Alpine, Texas and the legal description is Lot 4 and Portion of 5, Block 57, Original townsite of Alpine. (E. Zimmer, CM) - City Manager Zimmer said this public hearing is strictly for the citizens to express their opinions. Manny Ybarra from Ward 2 said his concern is that the substation is being built so close to some houses. He asked about the radiation effect for people living around there and what studies have been made in order to assure the people living around there who might be affected by it. Johnny Carpenter was present who is with Carpenter Real Estate. He said he was here to represent Reba Seals. He said she has owned this property for many, many years. He said she has attempted to sell it for the last two years with no success. He said this property is not immediately across the street from any homes. He said AEP is the only one who can come in there and use the property and they need the property to improve our electrical service in Alpine.**

**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 July 5th, 2016. (A. Ramos, Mayor).**

**Motion was made by Councilor Stephens, by Resolution 2016-07-03, to approve the Council Minutes for July 5th, 2016. Motion was seconded by Councilor Salas. Motion unanimously carried.**

**7. Information or Discussion items –**

- A. Quarterly Readout – EMS (E. Zimmer, CM) – Mike Scudder was present and reviewed his report that contained information about the quarterly EMS report from April 1<sup>st</sup> through June of this year. He gave statistics about Alpine and Marathon concerning total number of calls, total number of runs, total of transports, number of paying patients (including medicare and insurance), transports from the hospital to airport, numbers of city residents and county residents, numbers of billable patients for air transfer. He said they have provided service to the city and county for 31 years. He said they have added new equipment to make their services more effective. Councilor Salas asked if the equipment purchases were funded. Mike said no, that they purchased everything through their own collections. He said one of the things that has become an issue, and it really effects them, is since 66% of our residents are on Medicare, with Obamacare the payment for EMS services has dropped. He said every year it has continually dropped.**
- B. Quarterly Readout – Alpine Visitor Center (E. Zimmer, CM) – Kaylie Cotton gave a presentation from the Visitors Center. She said they did very well for their second quarter. She reported on the number of visitors for the quarter. She reported on emails and mail-outs. She reported on relocations and phone calls also. She shared a comparison with 2015. She also talked about foreign tourists who came to visit. She said the web site visits are going very well and they are reaching close to 16,000 people. She also talked about upcoming events in Alpine. She said they have purchased Alpine t-shirts to sell to the tourists. She said she would also like to get some key chains and magnets for the tourists as well, since they ask about them. She said they are working with Chris Ruggia to update their events calendar. She said they are working with SRSU computer science classes and they are putting together an app for the walking trail. She said they are waiting to release that until December. She said this will be great and it did not cost us anything. She said she thinks it is very important to use what you have. She said she is hoping that some of the SRSU students will come and landscape the Chamber. City Manager Zimmer asked if the Chamber was getting requests for outside catering services. Kaylie said they do get calls and they direct them to the restaurants in town.**
- C. Hotel Motel tax dollars application schedule (E. Zimmer, CM) – City Manager Zimmer said he met with Chris Ruggia and Stewart Ramser after our budget workshop last week. He said we are preparing applications to go out for hotel funding dollars this year. He said the other piece is that he spoke with Martha Latta who is the Chamber President of the Board now. He said the City will be going through an RFP process on running the visitor’s center. He said Chris Ruggia is working with him on that. He said we want to get that RFP out at some**

point during the latter half of next week. He said we will put all of that on the web site. He said the Chamber is interested in submitting a proposal for the RFP. Mayor Ramos said he notices that we have a lot of German tourists in Alpine.

- D. City/County Liaison report (J. Fitzgerald) - Councilor Fitzgerald said he had several contacts with Judge Cano and he put together a letter formally requesting some answers to the questions sent to the County in a list that the City wanted to discuss. He said the city is requesting this in writing. He said Judge Cano said they would be responding. He said until they respond he does not have anything else to report. Commissioner Pallanez was present. He said yesterday he was handed a request from Councilman Fitzgerald. He said these items had previously been discussed at the Commissioner's Court regularly called meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. He said Councilor Gonzales was there and they discussed each one of those items. He said they talked about the proposals and gave their feedback. He said he did not know if you all received that feedback. He said he went back to the minutes of the meeting and he has copies of the discussion that took place. He said it took about an hour and one half to discuss all of those items. Mayor Ramos said we do need a good relationship with the County and he thinks this is just the start. Commissioner Pallanez said he agrees with Mayor Ramos and just wanted to state that Councilor Gonzales and he would meet periodically, at least once every two weeks, to discuss things that were on the agenda. He said he knows that he met Councilor Fitzgerald several weeks ago and he told him he was the new liaison. He said he would appreciate it if Mr. Fitzgerald could go to him and then he could present the requests to the Commissioner's Court. Councilor Fitzgerald said "no problem". Councilor Stephens said we have not heard anything back about the action item so it sounds like he is going to give the meeting minutes to Fitz. Councilor Pallanez said he had them with him and he was going to pass them out tonight. Mayor Ramos said we would probably all read the minutes and then later get back to Councilor Pallanez. Mayor Ramos thanked Councilor Pallanez.**

**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 approving recommendation by Planning and Zoning Commission concerning zoning change requested by owner,**

**Reba Cross Seals, from C-2 to M-1, for expansion of an existing substation. Agent is AEP, Texas – Robert Saenz. Property identification/ street address is 8<sup>th</sup> Street between W. Murphy and W. Avenue F., Alpine, Texas and the legal description is Lot 4 and Portion of 5, Block 57, Original townsite of Alpine. (E. Zimmer, CM) – He said the Planning and Zoning Commission held a hearing last week and gave a formal recommendation to approve this item. He said we did hear from two individuals at the Public Hearing this evening and we also heard from one individual at the Planning and Zoning Commission hearing. He said Fred Hernandez is here with AEP. He said this is a three and one half million dollar investment in the City of Alpine. He said these are taxable assets. Councilor Salas said Mr. Carpenter stated that this property did not have anything to do with Avenue F. City Manager Zimmer said if you look in the packet at your actual map of the property, you will see the location. He said it does not sit directly on either one of those streets. Councilor Salas said she was okay with this now. Mayor Ramos said we did have a question from an individual concerning radiation. Fred Hernandez said we talked about this a little earlier today. He said substations do not have radiation. He said there may be some confusion about the electro magnetics. He said because of the size, we are not changing the electromagnetic footprint at all. He said the capacity of the substation is not getting any bigger. He said they are changing out their manual system and putting in state of the art electronics with remote control. He said this will help to ensure reliability. He said this plan is part of an over all reliability plan for the region. He said they serve Alpine, Marathon, Marfa, Presidio, Valentine and Balmorra. He said they have three sources of power coming to this region. He said the existing substation is old but it served us well. He said it is time to update it. Councilor Fitzgerald said he does not see a problem with this. He said she wants to sell it and they want to buy it and there is the same amount of electro magnetic current running through this. City Manager Zimmer said one of the things he appreciated about AEP is that for the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, AEP did bring in 8 plus individuals to speak about technical requirements. He said Fred Hernandez is their public liaison officer. He said his experience with AEP is that they do not shy away from the questions. He said helping the citizens understand what they do out there is important. He said he does appreciate Mr. Hernandez continually coming to the meetings. Galen Mack said he had done quite a bit of research on this. He spoke about smart meters. He said he did not know how they were going to do their remote modulation but he would like them to consider doing this without smart meters. Mayor Ramos said he thought we had smart meters here for about a year and a half now. Manny Ybarra asked about noise emissions and how it would affect the people who lived around there. He said he is concerned about the appearance of the place. He thinks it will be an eyesore for the community. Fred said they do not anticipate any change in voice levels. He said the appearance**

may look a little prettier. Councilor Stephens asked if there was any equipment that would make a lot of noise. Fred said no. Councilor Stephens said at 3.2 million they would add over \$17,000 to the tax base. Councilor Stephens made a motion by Resolution 2016-07-04, to approve the recommendation by the Planning and Zoning Commission concerning a zoning change requested by owner Reba Cross Seals, from C-2 to M-1, for expansion of an existing substation. Agent is AEP, Texas – Robert Saenz. Property identification/street address is 8<sup>th</sup> Street between W. Murphy and W. Avenue F, Alpine, Texas and the legal description is Lot 4 and Portion of Lot 5, Block 57, Original Townsite of Alpine. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. Motion unanimously carried.

9. **Discuss and Consider Parks Board recommendation on Path at Medina Park. (E. Zimmer, CM)** – City Manager Zimmer said one of the requirements we have from a city perspective is that we do not have new equipment. He said the friends of Big Bend parks have set up a grant for us. He said there is no cost for that course for the City of Alpine. He said this will help minimize our maintenance perspective. Councilor Salas made a motion by Resolution 2016-07-05 to approve the Parks Board recommendation on the Path at Medina Park. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. Motion unanimously carried.
10. **Discuss and Consider re-approving a Resolution approving submission of the grant application for the mobile communications project for Alpine Police Department. (E. Zimmer, CM)** Motion was made by Councilor Fitzgerald, by Resolution 2016-07-06, to re-approve a Resolution approving submission of the grant application for the mobile communications project for Alpine Police Department. Motion was seconded by Councilor Antrim. Motion unanimously carried.
11. **Councilmember Comments and Answers –**  
**Councilor Fitzgerald** – said he was glad that Commissioner Pallanez brought responses to some of the City’s questions tonight.  
**Councilor Salas** – Thanked everyone who made a presentation and thanked Mike Scudder for his endless hours of service to our community.  
**Mayor Ramos** – thanked Mike Scudder and Kaylee Cotton and Mr. Hernandez with AEP for being here.
12. **Executive Session – None**
13. **Action after Executive Session – None**
14. **Adjournment** – There being no further business, meeting was adjourned upon the motion of Councilor Salas and seconded by Councilor Stephens. Motion unanimously carried.

**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 1:45 P. M. on July 15th, 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.

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Andres "Andy" Ramos, 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 1:45 P.M. on July 15th, 2016, 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