

**City Of Alpine**  
**Special City Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**3:00 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. Dick Zimmer gave the invocation. Mayor Ramos led the pledge of allegiance to the flags.
2. Determination of quorum and proof of notice of the meeting. – Councilor Curry, Councilor Salas, Councilor Fitzgerald, Councilor Escovedo, Councilor Stephens and Mayor Ramos were present. City Manager Zimmer said the meeting notice had been posted at 9:30 A. M. on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. City Manager Zimmer, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Antrim, and Abel Hinojos were also present.
3. Presentations, recognitions and proclamations. – (A. Ramos, Mayor) – None
4. Reports –
  - City Mayor’s Report – (A. Ramos, Mayor) – Mayor Ramos said he did not have a report.
  - City Manager Report – (E. Zimmer, City Manager) – City Manager Zimmer said he had received resumes for the position of City Manager and he was putting them on a spread sheet for the Council to review.
  - 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being discussed separately unless requested by a Council Member, in which event the item or items will immediately be withdrawn for individual consideration in its normal sequence after the items not requiring separate discussion have been acted upon.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.) – None
7. Information or Discussion Items –
  - A. Budget Workshop – FY 2017-2018 City of Alpine Budget. (E. Zimmer, City Manager) – City Manager Zimmer said he had given the Council a Budget Survey for Fiscal Year 2017/2018. The Questions on the survey were as follows: 1) Expectations for 2017-2018 Fiscal Year 2) Funding Fire Department 3) Funding Paving 4) Funding Airport Improvements 5) Goals for Parks 6) Ad Valorem Tax Rate, Property Valuation, etc. 7) Health Care 8) 5- year capital plan 9)HOT funding 10)Economic Development 11) Non Departmental Subsidies

(Library, Family Crisis Center, Children's Advocacy Center) 12) Police Department staffing and funding and 13) Other considerations. He said he hoped this budget workshop would produce more thorough input from the Council concerning the actual line items on the budget. He said he had hoped to have the entire analysis done but he did not have a City Secretary at this time.

City Manager Zimmer talked about the School District and said we are waiting on Fire Department information and working with the County on an interlocal agreement. Councilor Salas asked questions about the Fire Department. It was discussed that a meeting needed to be held concerning the Fire Department, with the County. A new Fire Marshall was discussed.

Councilor Stephens wanted to talk about the tax rate and where the city expects to go with that. Finance Director Megan Antrim said the City would receive the Certified Tax Roll on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Stephens said property values will go up this year. He said the School Board will be going up on their tax rate, he believes.

City Manager Zimmer said the Airport is an asset to our community. He said we have to comply with FAA Regulations. He said we may consider funding Airport improvements by possibly using gas funds. He spoke about what has been done at the Airport. Megan said the Airport is growing. City Manager Zimmer said we are considering having the new hangar owners pay for the extension of the taxiway. He said we are in the black at the Airport. Megan talked about taking advantage of the RAMP grant.

Councilor Stephens talked about Country Club Estates Roads. He said the city made the road safe but not pretty. He said everything there is costly to repair. He said he does not think when it was annexed they realized how much it would cost to maintain it. He said the City does own the road.

Councilor Stephens also talked about an assessment of the worst roads in Alpine. Councilor Zimmer said the worst roads will always be from Sul Ross to the creek. He said we are trying to balance where the traffic really is and fix those streets. Councilor Stephens asked if we could do the main thoroughfares so the public could see it. Councilor Zimmer said he worries about listing the streets because we have emergencies and we would have to move everything over. He said we have really done a lot in 3 or 4 years. He said he is super swamped at work right now. He said he really needs people to show up at these types of meetings. Councilor Stephens said he could put together a list of streets for the City Manager.

There were comments made by Oscar Cobos concerning the budget survey. City Manager Zimmer asked Oscar Cobos where he obtained a copy of the budget and survey without doing an open records request, illegally. Oscar answered that Councilor Escovedo had given him a copy. City Manager Zimmer said the budget and survey were not public information until the Council has acted on them. He said all Councilmembers were instructed that citizens cannot have this information in advance. He said this is now on the record. Mayor Ramos also said that Oscar Cobos had to stick to the subject at hand.

Councilor Escovedo said she had consulted with her own attorney on this. City Manager Zimmer suggested that Councilor Escovedo consult with the City Attorney.

City Manager Zimmer said we have increased funding for the parks. He said we need to determine how many parks we need for our community. He talked about park improvements that were needed. Councilor Salas asked about more lighting for Baines park. Progress on park adoptions was discussed. Dick Zimmer commented concerning the parks. Oscar Cobos commented concerning the trails in the city. Mayor Ramos asked if Oscar had come to the vision plan meeting and Oscar said no.

City Manager Zimmer said health care is important to the City. The Mayor said TML offers a lot to the city. Councilor Salas said they also have TML where she works and she thinks it is good.

City Manager Zimmer talked about Hotel Motel funding and events. It was also discussed that the visitor center needed additional parking. The Sunshine House was discussed and possible future uses for the property. City Manager Zimmer said the hotel allocations would come in September.

City Manager Zimmer said we need a vision plan in the city to grow the economy. Councilor Salas said the citizens here do not like change but our city is growing. She said we may all need to sacrifice a little. Mayor Ramos said Alpine is going to change and there is no way around it.

City Manager Zimmer said we have a good cushion in our non-departmental budget if something comes up. Councilor Stephens said we have 6,000 people in this city and 5 libraries. Mr. Dick Zimmer said the library is coming up with a lot of new programs. Councilor Salas said she sits on the Board of Directors of the Library. She said the meeting room is used a lot by different organizations. Councilor Stephens said it would be a worthwhile discussion. Dale Christofferson commented on the many uses of the library.

Mayor Ramos said he felt that we needed more law enforcement. City Manager Zimmer said Judge Sandefur would like for the Court to return to a Court of Record. He said in that way they would have the ability to take action and bring the violators in. City Manager Zimmer said the pay level for police officers is not good and we do not have enough officers. Megan said we have eleven officers.

City Manager asked the Council to consider how we could maintain our city services such as the hospital with the emergency room, ambulance, fire department and the possibility of a nursing home.

8. 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, own a business or property in the city limits of Alpine, will be

allowed to speak if there is time available.) -

9. City Councilmember Comments and Answers –

Councilor Curry – said this was a great meeting, thank you.

Councilor Escovedo – said we need to make sure everyone’s voices are heard

Councilor Fitzgerald –said he was glad Dick Zimmer, Oscar Cobos and Dale Christofferson were present tonight.

Councilor Salas – Encouraged all citizens to get involved and volunteer for your community. Work together.

Councilor Stephens – said he thought it was a good meeting.

Mayor Ramos –said he also thought this was a good meeting and good work

10. Executive Session – None

11. Action after Executive Session – None

12. Adjournment. – There being no further action, 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 9:30 A.M on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 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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Erik M. Zimmer, City Manager

I, Erik M. Zimmer, City Manager, do certify that this notice was posted at 9:30 A. M. on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, and remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of

**said meeting.**

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**Erik M. Zimmer, City Manager**