

**City of Alpine
Regular City Council Meeting
Thursday, January 5th, 2017
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 Salas, Fitzgerald and Escovedo were present. Councilors Antrim and Stephens were absent. City Manager Zimmer said the meeting notice had been posted at 9:00 A.M. on December 29th, 2016. City Manager Zimmer, City Assistant Manager/Finance Director Megan 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 wished everyone a Happy New Year and said he hoped it was a safe and prosperous one. He said the last quarter of 2016 was filled with a lot of tragic events in our small city. He said we can overcome most of them but we need to keep the missing ZuZu Verk in our prayers. He asked for everyone to keep their ears and eyes open and notify the local authorities if they know anything. He said we are going to be challenged with some new issues in 2017 but we have had a good city council since he has been here. He said we have all worked together with the City Manager and we hope to continue that way. He said any problems or issues that come up, we can all get our heads together and rectify them.

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

- He said he wanted to talk briefly about Human Resources.
- W2, 1099’s, Year end reporting, etc...due out in January
- Monitoring performance of new TML Health Insurance for employees
- Full Time Employees (Does not include new hires) – 56
Part Time Employees – 6
Seasonal – 2
Council – 6
Resigned/Retired – 4
New Hires
 - Police Officers – 2

- Dispatch – 1
- Water Dept – 4
- Animal Control – 1

Part Time to Full Time

- Gas – 1

Police Department Update

- Staffing updates provided
Officer Staffing important for visibility in community and patrols on major thoroughfares
- Updating furniture/layout in Dispatch center – working through COG
- Grants for new body cams and also mobile workstations for Vehicles
- Continued work/involvement on Zuzu Verk case
- Calls for service range from 18-23 daily

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 of December 6th, 2016. (A. Ramos, Mayor) –

B. Approve Councilmember Antrim’s Commission member appointment – Building and Standards Commission – Rawles Williams (N. Antrim)

Motion was made by Councilor Fitzgerald, by Resolution 2017-01-01, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilor Salas. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Information or Discussion items –

A) City Secretary Hiring Update and next steps. (E. Zimmer, CM) – City Manager Zimmer said he put updates in the Council’s packets. He said the candidate who was selected was Patsy Patten. He said Councilors Antrim and Stephens offered up comments to the City Manager

concerning this item, knowing that they would not be at the meeting tonight. He said he gave those comments to the Council tonight. He said no significant action was taken after Patsy Patten was offered the job on November 19th. He said if the Council wants to continue supporting her, then no action really needs to be taken. He said it is the Council's decision. Mayor Ramos said she is a highly qualified individual. He said she is committed to be here. Councilor Fitzgerald said he did not see any reason to deviate from the course. He said she was obviously the most qualified. He said if we start over again, it will be 3 months before we get someone here. Mayor Ramos said he feels the same way about it because we have elections coming up. He said that is a very crucial agenda in city government. He said she has had experience in that field also. Councilor Salas said she has some issues not with Patsy herself but with the explanation that she gave as to why she could not come to work. She said she did talk to Molly there had been two other resumes that had come in for City Secretary late and she would like to see those. She said she just wants to make sure that this does not happen again. She said our family issues always come into our lives and she knows that we have a lot of issues with elections but if we rush into this we may be in the same boat down the road. Councilor Fitzgerald said part of the reason he likes Patsy is because she is committed. He said she has been coming out here for years. He said she is into astronomy and goes to McDonald's Observatory. He said we need to look at our time frame. Councilor Salas said she understands all of that. She said she did not like the way it was handled. Councilor Salas said she does not want us to get in a hurry. Councilor Escovedo said we still have the 90 day probation period. Councilor Fitzgerald said we went through the interview process and the advertising process. Councilor Escovedo said everyone tonight has good points. Councilor Fitzgerald said we went through Executive Session to discuss this. City Manager Zimmer said he thinks the comments around the timing are right. He said the idea was to have someone who could shadow Molly for a few weeks. He said that window is closed and filing for the elections starts January 18th. He said the Council does not have to take action as the Council has already taken action. Councilor Salas asked if we decide to keep Patsy on board, when will she be available. City Manager Zimmer said he believes that within two weeks she will be here. Councilor Salas said if filing starts on January 18th that only gives us next week. City Manager Zimmer said he would take care of the filing until Patsy gets on board.

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 letter in support of TEEXs continued offering of classes for water and wastewater licensing in the City of Alpine. These classes have been: 1. Low cost and 2. Close proximity (E. Zimmer, CM) – City Manager Zimmer said that the Council had in their packets information about this. He said we have been able to offer training in the Civic Center. He said normally these classes are \$250 but we only have to pay \$25. He said we need to push to have this class in Alpine. He said this item is very important from a cost perspective. Motion was made by Councilor Salas, by Resolution 2017-01-02, to approve a letter in support of TEEX’s continued offering of classes for water and wastewater licensing. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald.**

9. **Councilmember Comments and Answers –**
Councilor Salas – said she would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and thanks for coming.
Councilor Fitzgerald – said he wanted to thank everyone here and wanted to thank his constituents who were present tonight and who lived in his ward. He said let’s keep the progress going as we have for the past couple of years.
Councilor Escovedo - said she wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year.
Mayor Ramos – said he wished everyone here a Happy New Year, prosperous and safe. He thanked everyone for being here.

10. **Executive Session – None**
11. **Action after Executive Session – None**

12. **Adjournment – There being no further action. Meeting was adjourned upon the motion of Councilor Salas and seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. 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 9:00 A. M. on December 29th, 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:

Erik M. Zimmer, City Manager

I, Erik M. Zimmer, City Manager, do certify that this notice was posted at 9:00 A.M. on December 29th, 2016, and remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of said meeting.

Erik M. Zimmer, City Manager