

City of Alpine
Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 17th, 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. 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, Salas, Fitzgerald, Escovedo and Stephens were present. City Manager Zimmer said the meeting notice had been posted at 9:00 A.M. on January 13th, 2017. City Manager Zimmer, City Assistant Manager/Finance Director Megan Antrim, former City Secretary Molly Taylor and Abel Hinojos were also present.

3. **Presentations, recognitions and proclamations** – (A. Ramos, Mayor) –
 - **Proclamation declaring January 2017 as School Board Recognition Month** – Mayor Ramos presented a proclamation to the Alpine ISD School Board proclaiming January as School Board Recognition Month in Alpine, Texas.

4. **Reports** –
City Mayor’s Report – (A. Ramos, Mayor) – Mayor Ramos said he wanted to thank everyone for coming in this evening. He said he knew it was cold and damp.

City Manager Report – (E. Zimmer, CM) –
City Manager Zimmer presented the following report –
 - **Monthly Financial Update**
 - Financial Report and budget variance in packets
 - On-site Audit work completed last week
 - Ensuing weeks are Q & A with Megan and Department Heads
 - Focus on improvement with Purchase Order process – paper versus automated

- 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being discussed separately unless requested by a Council Member, in which event the item or items will immediately be withdrawn for individual consideration in its normal sequence after the items not requiring separate discussion have been acted upon.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 David Pallenez – Planning and Zoning Commission Appointment–Ward 2. (C. Salas) -

B. Approve Jimmy Morris – Airport Advisory Board Appointment – Ward 2. (C. Salas) -

Councilor Salas said to remove Item A from this agenda and she would bring it back later. Motion was made by Councilor Fitzgerald, by Resolution 2017-01-03 to approve Item B of the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilor Escovedo. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Information or Discussion items –

A) EMS Quarterly Readout spanning October 2016-Dec 2016 by Michael Scudder with West Texas Ambulance (E. Zimmer, CM) – Mike Scudder with West Texas Ambulance Service gave a quarterly report. He said there were 187 total calls during the 4th quarter of 2016. He broke all calls down by city transports, city no transports, county transports, and county no transports. He broke down the calls by month for October, November and December, gave the total number of Air Transport calls (38) and broke them down by month as well as the total number of EMS calls for 2016 (658). Mike said they also got a lot of Life Line calls lately. It was discussed that 30% of the calls were not transported. Mike said 30% is the norm for most EMS services, even in bigger cities. Cynthia Salas asked what the time frame was for a call. Mike said about 2 minutes. Checking on frequent callers was discussed.

B) Year in Review on Volunteer Fire Department serving Alpine and north Brewster county by Michael Scudder. (E. Zimmer, CM) – Mike Scudder also gave the report for the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department. He talked about the total number of responses (72) for the annual report and broke them down by city and county. He said there had been a decrease from 2015 (104). He also broke down the number of calls by month, with March and July having the most number of calls (12). He said the responses were for structure fires, brush fires, dumpster fires, motor vehicle accidents, man power lift assist, electrical fires, traffic control, vehicle fire/explosion, machinery fires, gas leak, water heater fires, fireworks standby, stove fires, forcible entry, tree/rubbish fires, and carbon monoxide alarm. Mike said there were currently 15 volunteers

with the firefighters and there was a discussion following how volunteers could be recruited. Fire apparatus was also discussed, particularly the ladder truck, and the repairs that needed to be made to that piece of equipment.

- C) Emergency Management Center Readout by Emergency Management Coordinator Dave Lambrix. (R. Stephens, E. Zimmer, CM) – Dave Lambrix presented a report to the Council and talked about deployment analysis. This included 1) Status of Fire apparatus – a) Maintenance Program b) need storage of emergency response equipment c) Hydrants and GIS Mapping d) Equipment needs 2) Communications – a) Update on new communications equipment for first responders b) Update on new communications for the apparatus 3) North County Emergency Operations Center Update – a) Lessons learned during recent responses b) recent updates and c) Outdoor lighting issues and how the city promptly resolved the unknown issues. 4) Lessons learned during recent emergency responses and recommendations – a) staffing needs and ideas how to fill the gaps b) Training needs for all first responders. Councilor Stephens asked Mr. Lambrix about a recent television interview by Mr. Lambrix and County Judge Cano and why the City was not informed about the interview. Councilor Stephens also expressed to Mr. Lambrix that the City needs to know the needs of the fire department so that we can budget accordingly. The ladder truck was discussed.
- D) Visitor Center Readout spanning October 2016-December 2016 by Kalea Cotton. (E. Zimmer, CM) – Kalea Cotton gave a report concerning the 4th quarter of 2016 for the Alpine Visitor Center. She said the total count of visitors for October was 1,002 and that included in state, out of state and foreign. She gave the phone call/mailout count (1,615) and a Relocation request count (104). She said the number of social media hits was 116,505. In November the total count of visitors was 651. Phone call/mailout count was 1,578 and relocation count was 109. Social media was 101,857. In December total count of visitors was 415. Phone call/mailout count was 1,815. Relocation was 94 and social media was 103,656. Events in October and November were discussed and the potential for moving events so that there is a large event for each month to bring in more tourists. Kalea said at this point there are no big events in October. She said November is Art Walk. City Manager Zimmer said he believed that the Visitor Center needed an app that would allow people to interact with them. Kalea said there was going to be a movie made in Alpine soon in March. She said also there will be a big family reunion in Alpine in two weeks.
- E) Discussion related to Board and Commission appointments, vacancies, Chairpersons and expectations for 2017 (E. Zimmer, CM) – City Manager Zimmer said we updated the Board ordinances last year. He said we have had some meetings that were cancelled due to lack of attendance. He said he wanted to establish some time at the next meeting to discuss City Council thoughts and the steps related to these changes as well as

the nominations and assignment of chairmen. He said we need to reaffirm the chairmen for each of these boards. Absenteeism by Board members was discussed and the need for the Chairs to create the meeting agendas.

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. **Consider resolution to apply to the Texas Department of Agriculture for the 2017-2018 Texas Community Development Block Grant Program under the Community Development Fund. (E. Zimmer, CM) – City Manager Zimmer thanked Councilor Escovedo for collecting information on a survey for this grant program. This is for the Southeast section of the City of Alpine and this Grant would really help this area. Motion was made by Councilor Stephens, by Resolution 2017-01-04 to approve the Resolution to apply to the Texas Department of Agriculture for the 2017-2018 Texas Community Development Block Grant Program under the Community Development Fund. Motion was seconded by Councilor Salas. Motion unanimously carried.**

9. **Councilmember Comments and Answers –**

Councilor Antrim – said she thanked Mike, and Dave and Kalea for their Reports.

Councilor Salas – said thanks to everyone for being here tonight. She said hats off to Mike, David and Kalea for their reports.

Councilor Fitzgerald – said thanks for the presentations. He said 7 people in the audience tonight reside in his ward.

Councilor Escovedo - said she had 4 people help her with the surveys and thanked everyone for being here tonight.

Councilor Stephens – said it was good to have all the dialogue and thanked Kalea, Mike and Dave. He said there is a lot of work and we need to go forward.

Mayor Ramos – thanked Kalea, Mike and Dave for their reports.

Motion was made by Councilor Stephens to enter into Executive Session. Motion was seconded by Councilor Salas. Motion unanimously carried.

10. **Executive Session – Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney)**

A. Update on Scown Litigation, Cause No. 2015-03-BO705-CV: Emily

Livingston Scown and Barbara Scown v. The City of Alpine, Texas; in the 394th Judicial District Court of Brewster County, Texas. (E. Zimmer, CM) – Council entered into Executive Session at 8:03 P.M.

11. Action after Executive Session –

A. Take Action, if any, concerning Scown Litigation. (E. Zimmer, CM) – Council entered into open session at 8:07 P.M. Motion was made by Councilor Stephens to take no action. Motion was seconded by Councilor Salas. Motion unanimously carried.

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 9:00 A. M. on January 13th, 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.

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 January 13th, 2017, and remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of said meeting.

Erik M. Zimmer, City Manager