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"To provide quality service to the citizens of Alpine"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 10, 2020

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CONTINUING PRECAUTIONS WITH COVID-19

With the number of COVID-19 cases rising in Brewster County, the City of Alpine would like to inform citizens of the preliminary precautions the City is taking to mitigate risks associated with the pandemic. The City understands many citizens may still feel confused and unsettled with the reported number of cases rising. Here are a few practices that the City has implemented to ensure safety in the community:

1. Supporting outdoor events where social distancing and mask use (where applicable) can be achieved.
2. The City supports the Governor's Executive Order GA-29 highlighting the use of masks in commercial spaces and when out in public if social distancing cannot be maintained. The City will continue to provide signage (at no charge) to support business entities.
3. Screening for COVID-19 symptoms is in place for all City employees. Staff are being asked to continue with temperature checks that are being given daily with a forehead thermometer. Anyone with a temperature of 99.6F or greater will be asked to leave and contact their healthcare provider. The City has emphasized the need for employees to stay home if they are feeling ill.
4. The City Maintenance Team is disinfecting and sanitizing all City offices on a regular basis. The City is utilizing a non-toxic, medical grade, virus-killing agent to ensure that work spaces for employees remain safe and protected.
5. The Lobby for utility billing is currently closed with window access only and payment at the outside drop box is preferred to provide better social distancing.

6. If utility customers require in person assistance from a customer consultant, an appointment can be made by calling the Utility Billing Department and choosing the appropriate option. The number to Utility Billing is (432) 837-0047. Press OPTION 3 for water service or OPTION 4 for gas service.
7. The City of Alpine will begin helping the Brewster County EMC (Emergency Management Coordinator) set up localized free testing now that the National Guard will no longer be conducting testing for the region.
8. City council, board, and commission meetings have proceeded with hybrid style (utilizing both virtual and in person attendance). If all attendees for a meeting prefer to be remote, the City will schedule a remote Zoom meeting in place of hybrid style. Zoom meetings are scheduled and posted at www.cityofalpine.com/meetinglink with Zoom information access for citizens.
9. With a large number of employees in City Hall, the City will be utilizing the Old School House (Old Sunshine House) to ensure that employees are able to gain a greater sense of safety and comfort in the workplace. This will also allow citizens to enter a larger lobby space that will not be overcrowded when they are paying their utility bills. The City hopes to have part of the City Hall staff relocated by early 2021. This will be the new location for Utility Billing where citizens will go to pay their bills.
10. The City has released a wide range of communications. Chris Ruggia, Director of Tourism, has provided the City with many COVID infographics such as precautions for local businesses to post for their customers, website graphics to better educate citizens, as well as testing flyers. The City has also built a COVID Resource & Information page on the city website at the beginning of the pandemic. Our staff (primarily Geo Calderon) has done an excellent job at maintaining this site as a resource of information for those inside and outside of our community. We will continue to manage this webpage and add appropriate information. Please visit the site at www.cityofalpine.com/covid-19 for additional information.

Operations have continued in all City departments. For nine months the City has maintained service for all Public Utilities, Public Safety (Police Department), Animal Control, Recreation, and Streets. City staff is in contact with the public daily and a limited number have contracted COVID with the new safety protocols that have been implemented internally. The service to the public has not been interrupted due to safety precautions that are in place.

The City will continue to engage with the other key entities and update citizens weekly on precautionary measures the City is implementing. If you have any questions, please feel welcome to contact us.

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