

## City of Alpine

Regular City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, December 5, 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. Josh Steuve 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 – Councilor Olivas, Councilor Fitzgerald, Councilor Escovedo, Council Stephens and Mayor Ramos were present. Councilor Curry was absent. City Secretary, Cynthia Salas reported that the meeting had been posted at 8:30 A.M. on December 1, 2017. City Manager Jessica Garza, Assistant/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) – NONE  
  
City Manager Report – (J Horry, Interim City Manager) – Update on Sewer Plant – Aerator- J Horry stated that at the waste/water plant about 4 years ago they had an aerator go out. J didn’t know what happened at the time, but it was never repaired. Earlier in the year there were some estimates gathered. These estimates were \$86,000 to \$90,000 to repair, and from \$100,000 to \$120,000 to replace. J was able to locate 4 aerators in the City of Brownwood Texas that are used but have been rebuilt. J requested to proceed and purchase one for \$20,000. With the purchase we will be getting a motor, gear box, and a impeller. The estimate to repair the gear box is only \$86,000. This information is provided to inform the Council, and J has drawings if the council would like to look at them. It would be better to purchase the used one than buy a new one or rebuild the one we have.  
  
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being discussed separately unless requested by a Council Member, in which event the item or items will immediately be withdrawn for individual consideration in its normal sequence after the items not requiring separate discussion have been acted upon.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. Approval of minutes from City Council meeting on November 21, 2017. (Jessica Garza, City Manager)

Motion was made by Councilor Stephens, by Resolution 201-12-01, to approve the consent agenda as written. Motion was seconded by Councilor Olivas. Motion unanimously carried

**7. Information or Discussion items –**

**A. Discuss increasing the fine for loose dogs based upon the number of time they are found running loose. (R. Stephens, City Council) –** Councilor Stephens stated that hopefully the council has had the opportunity to look at the write up he did about this. He provided some background about loose dogs within the city. The reason that it was brought to Councilor Stephens attention is that there have been a number of incidents within Ward 5. The more this is talked about, the more discussion you hear about it, about other incidents occurring in the city. This is particularly about where someone is getting bitten, being chased or fearful of dogs being in their yard. Councilor Stephens said he met with Chief, Jennifer from animal control, and with J Horry, as the Interim City Manager. He said this is probably something council should talk about. He said part of Chapter 10 code of Ordinances kind of walks through all the information relative to loose dogs. He said one of the questions is, should we increase the penalties. He said in talking with Jennifer, from animal control, the fines have not been updated in years. For the first occurrence fine, it is a minimum of \$25.00 and the second fine is \$50.00, and not less than \$100.00 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> offense. And for anything beyond that is between \$100.00 and \$500.00 and that is driven by what the Judge decides. Councilor Stephens said there are a couple of options, because people are concerned about dogs. He walks a lot and knows people that do one of two things, they carry golf clubs or they carry mace. Councilor Stephens said he carries mace and it has a 35 foot shot. He said if a dog is coming after him, he will get to the dog way before the dog gets to him. Councilor Stephens wanted to bring this issue up for discussion among us and to take any action, but to share the thoughts. Councilor Stephens has already shared his view with the Chair of the Animal Advisory Board, Councilor Curry, that this get turned over to the Animal Control and that they make a recommendation back to council.

**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 a Park and Recreation Chair. (R. Stephens, City Council) –** Motion was made by Councilor Stephens, by Resolution 2017-12-02, to appoint Kirsten Moody as Chair for the Parks & Recreation Board. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. Motion unanimously carried.

**9. Discuss, consider selecting a chairperson for the Environmental Advisory Board. (R. Stephens, City Council) –** Motion was made by Councilor Stephens, by Resolution 2018-12-03, to appoint Tammy Neu as the Chair for the Environmental Advisory Board. Motion was Seconded by Councilor Olivas. Motion unanimously carried.

**10. City Councilmember Comments and Answers –** No discussion or action may take place.

**Councilor Stephens** – Said he had a couple of comments. One is, welcome Jessica and it is great to have her on board. It was great to have her here last Friday to have her participate and she has been out in the town a lot which is great to see. We will be getting some interesting weather her in the next couple of days to kind of get us into the holiday spirit, but as he reflects on Christmas and as we enter into the New Year, and just finished Thanksgiving, we all have a lot to be thankful for, particularly here at the City of Alpine. Hopefully everyone will enjoy time with their families, friends, and loved ones during the holiday season. His last comment was to thank J for filling in for the last couple of months. He said doing double duty is not easy.

**Councilor Escovedo** – Said thank you everyone for coming. She also wanted to let everyone know that on January 2, 2018 there will be a town hall meeting for Ward 2 and Ward 4.

**Councilor Fitzgerald** – Said thank you to the County Judge and the Emergency Management Coordinator for coming to the meeting. He welcomed our new City Manager. She is going to be a just stellar! He would like to also thank his two representatives from Ward 3. He said Cheryl Eakens walks her dogs a couple of times a day and they are always on a leash.

**Councilor Olivas** – Said just to support Councilor Escovedo, it is his privilege to be able to collaborate with Councilor Escovedo in bringing together this town hall meeting, and it will be from 2:00pm till 4:00pm at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church Parish Hall. The purpose is basically to provide a venue for residents of Ward 2 and Ward 4 to come share their ideas, opinions, suggestions, concerns, and needs where the Council members can better represent them in our city government.

**Mayor Ramos** – Thanked everyone for being here this evening and said this could be our last meeting for December, so he wants to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He thanked the City Staff for the wonderful plant they provided his family in condolence for his dad's passing. He thanked them very much.

11. **Executive Session** - NONE

12. **Action after Executive Session** – NONE

13. **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 8:30 A.M. on December 1, 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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Cynthia Salas, City Secretary

I, Cynthia Salas, City Secretary, do certify that this notice was posted at 8:30 A.M. on December 1, 2017, and remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of said meeting.

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Cynthia Salas, City Secretary