

City of Alpine
Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 17th, 2016
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. Father Nicholas Roth, from the Orthodox Church, 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, and Escovedo were present. Councilor Stephens was absent. The meeting notice had been posted at 2:45 P.M. on May 13th, 2016. City Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Megan Antrim and City Secretary Taylor were present. City Manager Zimmer was absent.
3. **Presentations, recognitions and proclamations** – None

4. **Reports** –

City Mayor's Report - (A. Ramos, Mayor) – Mayor Ramos thanked everyone who voted. He said he believed in more effort to get citizens involved in City Government. He said 453 people voted. He said he has started an Article in the Avalanche to let people know what we are doing in the City. He said Rick Stephens already has a talk show. He said hopefully our citizens are aware that City Government is working for them. He said it would be nice to have more people at the meeting and it would be especially good if more people would get out and vote. He said otherwise no one will hear them. He said Megan and Erik have done an outstanding job of balancing the budget. He said it has been a busy week for him for the last week and one half. He said last week he met with the Police Chief and some of the businesses in town. He said he also met with Fred Hernandez who is the public relations man with AEP. He said one of the important things that AEP does for us is to trim the trees off the power lines. He said that is the main source of power outages. He said AEP has 200 employees ready to come to Alpine in case we have another ice storm.

City Manager Report – (E. Zimmer, CM) – Assistant City Manager/Finance Director, Megan Antrim, reported on the following items:

Department Updates – **Finance Department**

- Continue to work on audit recommendations
- PO system modified to ensure procedures are followed
- Additional internal checks implemented
- Additional training requested

- **Financials for October, 2015 – April, 2016**
 - General Fund – Net Income \$833, 178.13
 - Water/Sewer/San – Net Income \$270,938.28
 - Airport – Net Income (\$19,078.87)
 - Tourism – Net Income \$34,545.54
 - Gas – Net Income \$361,872.18
 - City Wide Total – Net Income \$1,481,455.26**

Department Updates – Water/Sewer/Sani

- Utilizing US Water Corp to assist with TCEQ requirements – Certification
- No qualified applicants for Director Position at this time – will continue to advertise
- Current projects
- Holiday Inn Express
- Fire Hydrants
- Water/Sewer Taps
- Removal of Sludge at Sewer Plant

Department Updates – Airport

- Finished temporary crack repair grant
- Core samples taken for next grant project
- Regular maintenance on schedule
- NDB Beacon finalized, up and running

Department Updates – Code Enforcement/Recycle/Gas

Code Enforcement

- Permits issued during month of April
- Building Permits: 8
- Plumbing Permits: 10
- Electrical Permits: 12

Recycle

- Continue to request bids for the SWAC – Brush Disposal Grant
- Recycling Tech position open – continue to accept Applications
- Increase in glass recycling

Gas Department

- Working on Leak survey repairs for above ground services in Alpine and Fort Davis
- Assisting Water Department

Department Updates – Streets/Parks

Parks

- Pool is almost ready
- Accepting applications for lifeguards

Streets

- IT'S PAVING TIME!
- Street Department is up and running with seal coating
- First 20 blocks completed

- Continue to prep streets for next go round
 - N. 2nd from E. Sul Ross to E. Brown St.
 - E. Nations from N. 2nd to N. Cockrell
 - E. Hancock from N. Phelps to N. Walker

Councilor Fitzgerald said sometimes the Airport looks like it is in the “red” but it depends on how recently they purchased fuel and how much fuel is still in inventory at the Airport. He said it looks like it is in the red but it is not.

City Staff Updates – None

5. Public Hearings –

A. Public Hearing to obtain citizens views and comments regarding Ordinance 216-04-01, intersection at 5th Street and Murphy plus adjacent parkways. (C. Salas) – There was no public comment.

B. Public Hearing to obtain citizens views and comments regarding request for 3 large animal permits for 3 horses. Horses to be located at 1307 W. Marfa Avenue in Alpine, Texas. Applicant is Jamie Boyd. (N. Antrim) – Councilor Antrim said the Animal Advisory Board met last night and they have tabled this item until they receive further information.

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 for April 19, 2016. (A. Ramos, Mayor) – Motion was made by Councilor Fitzgerald, by Resolution 2016-05-05, to approve the Council Minutes for April 19, 2016. Motion was seconded by Councilor Salas. Motion unanimously carried.

7. Information or Discussion items –

A. Update on City/County joint project items. (J. Fitzgerald) – Councilor Fitzgerald said last Wednesday was his first full day as liaison. He said he spoke with Judge Cano last Wednesday and they are to meet tomorrow afternoon at 2 P.M. Coach Pallanez will also meet with them.

He said the purpose of this meeting is to set out priorities for items that we need to put into three different categories. He said one, where we can work together, one where they can help us and one where we can help them. He said if we set it up like a project management scenario we do not have to use Microsoft project or anything like that. He said we can do it with a spreadsheet. He said we can set up what the items are, prioritize them, cost amount of how much it will take in dollar amounts and how much it will take to accomplish these tasks, what it will cost for personnel and materials. He said we need to set it up as a legitimate project management scenario. He said Judge Cano was very receptive to that scenario and they will have their first meeting tomorrow at 2.

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 second and final reading of traffic Ordinance 2016-04-01, regarding intersection at 5th Street and Murphy, plus adjacent parkways. (C. Salas) – Motion was made by Councilor Salas, by Resolution 2016-05-06 to approve the second and final reading of traffic Ordinance 2016-04-01, regarding the intersection at 5th Street and Murphy, plus adjacent parkways. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.**

9. **Discuss and Consider approval of one quote received for street project from Jarratt Dirt Work and Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$457,500 and approve first reading of budget amendment Ordinance 2016-05-01 for equity transfer of \$457,500 from the Gas Operating fund to Street Department (General Fund) for 27 block rebuild. (E. Zimmer, CM) – Assistant City Manager Antrim asked if each of the sections in this could be addressed separately. She said they received one bid and the bid was in their packets. She said the notice of the bid was put out on line and in the paper for multiple weeks. She said no one did submit except for the one individual. She said he is a local individual and that is up for discussion. She said the bid notice was broken down so that people had the opportunity to bid on certain sections and did not have to bid on the whole project. She said the scope of the work does include pre-building the streets from the ground up so basically they come in and take the streets down and redo the base and the asphalt and implement 27 new blocks around Alpine. She said this is in addition to what the City workers are already doing. Councilor Salas asked how long the bid was open.**

ACM Antrim said two weeks. Councilor Fitzgerald said anyone who knows him knows that he really does not like to make a selection from a field of one. He said these people are local and it will cost a lot more if we have to bring them in from Dallas. He said he thinks we ought to just do it. Councilor Escovedo asked if we did not have the equipment for the City employees to do this. ACM Antrim said it was not a matter of having the equipment, it was a matter of having the time. She said they would come in and do this from start to finish. She said it would take our employees longer. She said some of the equipment will be right there and available. She said we do work with some older equipment so sometimes you do have setbacks. She said it is the timing. She said we have a smaller staff. She said we have them scheduled right now to do a little over 127 blocks of seal coating. She said in addition to that would be the 29 blocks. Councilor Salas asked how long it would take Jarratt to take care of all of this. ACM Antrim said from start to finish, taking into consideration that with the rain you have set backs, 3 to 4 months. ACM Antrim said we got a good deal. She said we did have a pre-bid meeting but no one showed up. She said with hiring someone from our community you deal with these people on a daily basis. She said the citizens are driving on your street that you just paved. She said sometimes an outside company will come in and do the work and take the money and they really do not care what happens to their product. She said we are all about trying to hire locally. Councilor Salas asked how many employees Jarratt had. ACM Antrim said she could not answer that. Councilor Escovedo asked what newspapers it was put into. ACM Antrim said the Avalanche and it was also on line. She said she could not speak for Erik on this and he was the one who started the process. She said as far as reaching out to people, she did not know who he reached out to. She said when we had the Airport come up, he reached out to some of those people as well. She said we are required to put that in a local paper and we also put it on line. Councilor Fitzgerald said that is the paper of record. Mayor Ramos said not only that but we are also an isolated community here. Councilor Fitzgerald said most of his career was in consulting of materials and it gets awfully pricey, as well as bringing people in from other areas. Councilor Salas said she agrees with that. She said the only thing is that if we are going to keep our money locally she would like to see them help us as well. She said it would be nice if they gave us a discount. Mayor Ramos said we need to keep the money in Alpine. Carl Fleming said the Council might want to mention what streets are being re-done and what priority they are. ACM Antrim said she did not know if she could release that information at this time since it is bid information. Mayor Ramos said we will get the information to Carl. Carl said to give it to the newspaper instead. Councilor Fitzgerald said the paving will be spread out evenly over the five wards. Joseph Goldman asked if the City had a history of Jarratt doing work for the City and asked if this bid included a performance bond. He said the City has had some experience with

companies that did not perform. He said the second question has to do with the equity transfer. He said he thinks he understood from the presentation that the gas company had a net income of \$361,000 in April. He said we are going into a season where the gas company does not get much in income. He wanted to know how the city accounted for the \$100,000 difference. ACM Antrim said in this equity transfer it is not just the money that they have accumulated this fiscal year, and there is more money in their account. She said we reached out to our auditors and verified and found the documentation. So the money is actually part of their checking account. She said it is not a part of their actual cash flow. ACM Antrim said she was not aware of a performance bond. Councilor Escovedo said she did not want to go forward with this without a performance bond. Councilor Fitzgerald said he believed we did need a performance bond on this. Mayor Ramos said there is an issue sometimes with companies that are not bonded. Motion was made by Councilor Escovedo to table this item until the next meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. Motion unanimously carried 4-0.

10. Discuss and Consider approving the first reading of budget Amendment, Ordinance 2016-05-02 to include the SWAC Grant award in the amount of \$9,221.00 to the Sanitation Department budget. (E. Zimmer, CM) – ACM Antrim said we did get awarded the SWAC grant for the brush disposal. She said this grant was designed so that we could hire a contractor to pick up all of the brush around the dumpsters and have it mulched by another contractor. She said we were awarded \$9,221.00. She said in line with our Charter and Ordinances we will be changing the budget of the sanitation department so we would like to amend it to include this grant for that amount. Motion was made by Councilor Salas, by Resolution 2016-05-07, to approve the first reading of budget Amendment, Ordinance 2016-05-02 to include the SWAC Grant award in the amount of \$9,221.00 to the Sanitation Department budget. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. Motion unanimously carried 4-0. Carl Fleming said this problem happens more than once. He said some way they need to let people know they cannot put mattresses, sofas and brush around the dumpsters. ACM Antrim said the grant is specifically for the brush.
11. Discuss and Consider approving 3 large animal permits for 3 horse permits. Horses to be located at 1307 W. Marfa Ave. in Alpine, Texas. Applicant is Jamie Boyd. (N. Antrim) - Councilor Antrim said we do not have a recommendation from the Animal Advisory Board at this time but they will be meeting on Monday at 5:30 and she would like to personally invite the Council to attend so that they can express their opinion as well as the public. Motion was made by Councilor Antrim to table this item, to approve 3 large animal permits for 3 horse permits. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. Motion unanimously carried 4-0.

12. Discuss and Consider approving agreement for Public Library Services for the period of October 2015 through September 2016. (C. Salas) – Councilor Salas said this agreement is for the library and she has asked Don, the Executive Director to come and talk about this to the Council. Don Wetterauer said he came to the Council about a year ago to talk about the services that the library provides. He said he prepared an attachment to the agreement which he believes that the Council has. He spoke of visitors to the library, the computers, number of books in the collection, children’s programs, adult programs and more. Mayor Ramos said we do have a beautiful library here in Alpine. Motion was made by Councilor Fitzgerald, by Resolution 2016-05-08, to approve the agreement for Public Library Services for the period of October 2015 through September 2016. Motion was seconded by Councilor Salas. Motion unanimously carried 4-0.
13. Discuss and Consider approving amendment to TDA contract 721400. Restrooms to include cost of payment bond. (E. Zimmer, CM) – ACM Antrim said this is for our Centennial Park restrooms and this has already been approved previously by Council. She said it was determined that in order to follow state guidelines we needed to have a payment bond. She said the facilities are being built and brought in. She said the state requires a payment bond to make sure that we actually get the products that we are paying for. She said we are amending the original amount by \$1,798.00 for a total cost of the restrooms of \$91, 717. She said this is a fully funded State Grant. Mayor Ramos said this is a beautiful park and he thinks this is long overdue. Motion was made by Councilor Salas, by Resolution 2016-05-09, to approve the amendment to TDA (Texas Department of Agriculture) Contract 721400, Restrooms, to include cost of payment bond. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. Motion unanimously carried 4-0.
14. Discuss and Consider the second reading and approval of Animal Ordinance 2015-11-01, amending Chapter 10 of the Code of Ordinances – Animals, Article I and Article II. (N. Antrim) – Councilor Antrim said the Animal Advisory Board is meeting on Monday. She said at this time we do not have a recommendation and we are making amendments to it. Motion was made by Councilor Antrim to table this item until we receive the recommendation from the Animal Advisory Board. Motion was seconded by Councilor Salas. Motion unanimously carried 4-0.
15. Councilmember Comments and Answers –
Councilor Antrim – said she wanted to commend the Mayor for a very efficient meeting and said thanks to everyone for attending and encouraged the Council and citizens to attend the Animal Advisory Board meeting next Monday when public input would be accepted.
Councilor Salas – thanked the public and thanked Don for his work with

the library. She said she thought Megan was doing awesome. **Mayor Ramos** – thanked Megan and said he thought she was very knowledgeable and very at ease with what is going on. She has enlightened him about some of the procedures. He also thanked Don for his help with the library.

Councilor Fitzgerald – said he wanted to acknowledge Molly Taylor, the City Secretary for recommending a physician (Rebecca Lewis) to him, who helped him feel a lot better.

Councilor Escovedo – said she was happy to be a Councilmember. She thanked Julian and Angie for coming and also thanked Joseph for his questions.

16. **Executive Session – None**

17. **Action after Executive Session – None**

18. **Adjournment** – There being no further business, 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 2:45 P.M. on May 13th, 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:

Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary

I, Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary, do certify that this notice was posted at 2:45 P.M. on May 13th, 2016, and remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of said meeting.

Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary