

**City Of Alpine**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 19, 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. Jobeth McLeod gave the invocation. Mayor Ramos led the pledge of allegiance to the flags

2. Determination of quorum and proof of notice of the meeting. – Councilor Curry, Councilor Olivas Councilor Escovedo, Councilor Stephens and Mayor Ramos were present. Councilor Fitzgerald(excused absence), City Secretary said the meeting notice had been posted at 11:30 A. M. on September 16, 2017. City Manager Zimmer, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director 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) –

A. Hazmat Training – Mayor Ramos attended a Hazmat Training a month ago in Van Horn. Union Pacific provided the training. Training was very informative dealt mainly with no return train. One big point addressed was that if you see a train turned over do not approach being that no one knows what is in those containers. Union Pacific showed a video of a tanker that over turned and was leaking with ammonia gas and a farmer approached the tanker and died instantly. Point being that if you see any part of a train overturned please call 911.

City Manager Report – (E. Zimmer, City Manager) – NONE

City Staff Updates – NONE

5. Public Hearings –

A. Public Hearing to obtain citizens views and comments, concerning the Budget Amendment for Fund 04 of the City of Alpine Budget FY 2016-17. Budget amendment will transfer \$50K each (\$100k total) from 0654-9000 and 0654-9001 in the Sewer department to 0653-0101 in Water department. Budget amendment will cover additional wage costs relative to increased amount of water line breaks during the fiscal year. (E. Zimmer, City Manager) - No Public Comments.

B. Public Hearing to obtain citizens views and comments, concerning Tonya Hutchinson application for a zoning change from R-2 to R-3 to build 4 Plex Apartment. Property Identification/Street address is corner of W. Del Rio and North 13, Alpine, Texas. Legal Description is Shipman Addition, Block 3, Lot 7-10. Alpine, Texas 79830. Record Owner is Tonya Hutchinson. Agent is Shane Mitchell. (E. Zimmer, City Manager) – Erik Zimmer, City Manager did state that this item was tabled last night at the Planning & Zoning meeting due to the block number being incorrect. But we can still listen to Public Comments. No Public

Comments.

- C. Public Hearing to obtain citizens views and comments concerning Roy B. Davis application for zoning change from R-4 to C-1 in order to sell two lots so that a business can purchase them. Property Identification/Street address is corner of S. Phelps and East Murphy, Alpine, Texas 79830. Legal Description is Hancock Addition, Block 25, Lots 1-2. Record Owner is Roy B. Davis. (E. Zimmer, City Manager) – No Public Comments.

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 September 5, 2017.(E. Zimmer, City Manager)

B. Approval of minutes from City Council meeting on September 12, 2017.(E. Zimmer, City Manager)

- C. Discuss and consider establishing City Holidays for FY 2017-2018. (E. Zimmer)

Motion was made by Councilor Stephens, by Resolution 2017-09-07, to approve the Council Minutes and City Holidays as written. Motion was seconded by Councilor Olivas. Motion unanimously carried.

7. Information or Discussion Items –

A. Discuss the action plan relative to Creek Maintenance and how that would tie into the Creek Trail Project. (E. Zimmer, City Manager) – Erik Zimmer stated that we have had a lot of moisture/rain in these summer months causing heavy growth and vegetation in the creeks as construction for our walking path through the creek will start. J. Horray will give a brief overview of the creek maintenance and prep for the creek project. Creek maintenance will start October 9, 2017, this maintenance will be about a month long process. We will be working on the structure of the creek itself while the maintenance continues. Biggest obstacle is getting equipment into certain areas of the creek. The identification of the creek trail are being worked by Dick Zimmer and Cynthia Salas to specifically determine who owns those properties along the creek.

B. Discuss City Council's expectations relative placement of items on agenda during absence of City Manager. (E. Zimmer) – Erik Zimmer wanting to open dialogue to ensure that all of the items that go on the agenda from a staff prospective have to come from the City Manager.

C. "Discuss" City Council's expectations relative to updating the Check signatories for the City

of Alpine checking accounts. (E. Zimmer, City Manager)- Erik Zimmer stated that after his departure there will be two remaining signatures and each check requires two signatures. Erik's recommendation would be to look at potentially have a third and fourth by the next city council meeting. Erik stated that council should contemplate in having Melissa Cobos, who handles all of the cities billing in the water department.

D. Discuss City Paving Priorities. (E. Zimmer) – Erik stated that originally the paving priorities was put on the City website back on 2015 discussing the quantity of city blocks and the cost relatively to proper maintenance program. Posting a blog a couple of months ago on our city website. Wanting to go over with council the strategy about seal coat vs rebuild. J. Horry stated that only 76 blocks were able to get some work done on them due to the weather.

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, own a business or property in the city limits of Alpine, will be allowed to speak if there is time available.) -

8. Discuss and consider adopting FY 2017/2018 City of Alpine Budget and adopting Ordinance 2017-09-01, an Ordinance making appropriations for the support of the City of Alpine, Texas for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2017 and ending September 30, 2018; appropriating money to a sinking fund to pay interest and Principal on the city's indebtedness; adopting the annual budget of the City of Alpine for the year 2017/2018 fiscal year.(E. Zimmer, City Manager) Motion was made by Councilor Stephens to adopt the proposed budget FY 2017/2018 which reflects an increase revenue derived from the property tax revenues over last year's budget. Motion was seconded by Councilor Olivas. Councilor Stephens, Councilor Curry, and Councilor Olivas voted for and Councilor Escovedo voted against. Motion carried with a 3 to 1 vote.
9. Discuss and consider adopting the 2017 Tax Year Proposed Property Tax Rate for the City of Alpine, Texas by Ordinance 2017-09-02. A tax rate of \$0.534970 per \$100 valuation has been recommended for FY 2017/2018 budget. (E. Zimmer, City Manager) Motion was made by Councilor Stephens that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of the total tax rate of \$0.534970 which has affected an 8% increase of the tax rate by the adoption of Ordinance 2017-09-07 for FY 2017/2018 which includes as part of the total tax rate 47.209 cents, 97 cents for maintenance and operations and 6.2873 for debt service. Motion was seconded by Councilor Curry. Councilor Curry, Councilor Olivas, and Councilor Stephens voted for and Councilor Escovedo voted against. Motion carried with a 3 to 1 vote
10. "Discuss and consider Planning & Zoning recommendation to City Council concerning Tonya Hutchinson for a zoning change request from R-2 to R-3 to build 4 Plex Apartment. Property Identification/Street address is corner of W. Del Rio and North 13, Alpine, Texas. Legal Description is Shipman Addition, Block 3 and Lots 7-10. Record owner is Tonya Hutchinson. Agent is Shane Mitchell.(E. Zimmer, City Manager) – Erik Zimmer, City Manager shared with council that this item needed to be tabled.
11. Discuss and consider HOT Funding Request. (E. Zimmer, City Manager) – Motion was made by Councilor Stephens. Motion was seconded by Councilor Olivas. Councilor Stephens, Councilor Escovedo, Councilor

Olivas voted for. Councilor Curry voted against. Motion carried with a 3 to 1 vote.

12. Discuss and consider adopting an Ethics Policy for the City of Alpine. (E. Zimmer, City Manager)  
Councilor Stephens asking that the Ethics Policy applies to city employee's, shouldn't this apply to Council as well. Councilor Stephens under the terms is wanting to strike City Council, therefore including City Council in the policy. Motion was made by Councilor Stephens to propose to approve as written and that the meeting on October 3, 2017 have discussion to follow on where Council is included in this. Motion was seconded by Councilor Olivas. Motion unanimously carried.
13. Discuss and consider request for funding by Children's Advocacy Center. (E. Zimmer, City Manager)  
Councilor Stephens asking how much does the city contribute and how much does the county contribute. Ms. Sullivan stated \$5000 from the city and \$1500 from Brewster County. Total amount from all the counties served is roughly \$15,000. Motion was made by Councilor Stephens to fund an additional \$10,000 for a total of \$15,000. Motion was seconded by Councilor Escovedo. Councilor Olivas, Councilor Escovedo, Councilor Stephens voted for. Councilor Curry voted against. Motion carried 3 to 1 vote.
14. Discuss and consider request of use and lease agreement for Wasserman Ranch to improve and utilize the Caboose at the Railroad Park. Item was discussed at September 5, 2017 City Council Meeting. (E. Zimmer, City Manager) Motion was made by Councilor Stephens that the council agreed to the request for the use of the lease by the Wasserman Ranch for the Caboose Railroad Park. Motion seconded by Councilor Escovedo. Motion unanimously carried.
15. Discuss and approve second reading of Ordinance 2017-09-03 for the Budget Amendment for Fund 04 of the City of Alpine Budget FY 2016-17. Budget amendment will transfer \$50K each (\$100k total) from 0654-9000 and 0654-9001 in the Sewer department to 0653-0101 in Water department. Budget amendment will cover additional wage costs relative to increased amount of water line breaks during this fiscal year.(E. Zimmer, City Manager) Motion was made by Councilor Stephens to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2017-09-03 for the Budget Amendment from Fund 04 of the City of Alpine Budget FY 2016-17. Budget amendment will transfer \$50K each (\$100K total) from 0654-9000 and 0654-9001 in the Sewer department to 0653-0101 in Water department. Motion seconded by Councilor Olivas. Councilor Curry, Councilor Olivas, Councilor Stephens voted for, Councilor Escovedo voted against. Motion carried 3 to 1 vote.
16. Discuss and consider Planning & Zoning recommendation to City Council concerning Roy B. Davis for a zoning change request from R-4 to C-1 in order to sell two lots so that a business can purchase them. Property Identification/Street address is corner of S. Phelps and East Murphy, Alpine, Texas. Legal Description is Hancock Addition, Block 25, Lots 1-2. Record Owner is Roy B. Davis.(E. Zimmer, City Manager) Motion was made by Councilor Escovedo. Motion seconded by Councilor Stephens. Motion unanimously carried.
17. City Councilmember Comments and Answers – No discussion or action may take place.

Councilor Curry – Glad everyone showed up. It was a good meeting.

Councilor Olivas – I just want to see that I am really happy for the turn out of the audience and the public coming out to this meeting today. Just brings to mind a phrase a heard long time ago that

Democracy begins with you. I am just curious how many of you are from Ward 2? Since he raised his hand I would like to introduce Tim Pearce who is a prospect for my replacement in the Planning & Zoning Commission, hopefully we can get him on board next week.

Councilor Escovedo – Thank you all for coming

Councilor Stephens – So this is the last meeting of our current city manager and I would like to make comments that I think as council has discussions next week the 25<sup>th</sup> continuing to look at candidates that come forward I think we as a city council will find it very difficult to find someone whose worked as hard, has provided the leadership that Erik has provided and I think we as a council owe a huge gratitude to you Erik for the work that you have done. As we think about when Erik came on board as a city manager we as a city found ourselves with an inability to pay out debts and we now have not only money in the bank, but we got flexibility to build and meet the needs of the City of Alpine and Erik hasn't done that all by himself his pulled together in my view a fonamonal team so I think we owe Erik a great round of applause and thanks for your service.

Mayor Ramos – City Manager Zimmer I just want to wish you the best of luck in your new endeavor. Thank you for your service to the City. The last two budgets I have been on board it's been a good balance. Thank you very much for your service Sir.

Motion was made by Councilor Stephens, by Resolution 2017-09-08 to enter into Executive Session. Motion was seconded by Councilor Escovedo. Motion unanimously carried.

**18. Executive Session – Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney), and Section 551.074 (personnel matters).**

**A. Consultation with attorney on updates regarding the Chamber of Commerce Contract with the City for the Visitor Center.(E. Zimmer, City Manager)**

**B. Discuss regarding the appointment of an Interim City Manager and transition plans until permanent selection of City Manager is made. (R. Stephens, City Council)**

**19. Action after Executive Session –**

**A. Take action regarding to any updates regarding the Chamber of Commerce Contract with the City for the Visitor Center. (E. Zimmer, City Manager) – Motion was made by Councilor Escovedo to take no action. Motion seconded by Councilor Olivas. Motion unanimously carried.**

**B. Take action regarding appointment of an Interim City Manager and transition plans until permanent selection of City Manager is made. (R. Stephens, City Council) Motion was made by Councilor Stephens to appoint J. Horry as interim City Manager. Motion was seconded by Councilor Curry. Councilor Stephens, Councilor Olivas, and Councilor Curry voted for. Councilor Escovedo voted against. Motion passed 3 to 1 vote.**

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

**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 11:30 A.M on September 16, 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 11:30 A. M. on September 16, 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**