

**City of Alpine  
Regular City Council Meeting  
October 1st, 2013  
6:00 P.M.  
Minutes**

- 1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of allegiance to the flag –**
- 2. Determination of a quorum and proof of notice of the meeting – Mayor Rangra and Councilmen Bermudez, Davidson, Fitzgerald, Gonzales and Castelli were present. Meeting notice was posted at 3:00 P. M. on September 27th, 2013.**
- 3. Presentations, recognitions and proclamations –  
A. Resolution for Friends of the Alpine Public Library – (J. Gonzales)  
Mayor Rangra and Councilor Gonzales presented a Resolution to the Friends of the Alpine Public Library for their service and contributions to the Library and proclaiming October 13<sup>th</sup> through October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 as Friends of the Library Week in Alpine, Brewster County, Texas. Mayor Rangra thanked them for all the hard work they do.**

**4. Reports –**

**City Mayor's Report** - Mayor Rangra said it looks like everything is quieting down a little bit. He said the Council authorized the Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem and City Manager to cosign checks. He said it is not a perfect system and it still has some problems. He said once in a while somebody gets a second check and a duplicate payment and those guys are pretty nice and bring the check back to the Council and sometimes an employee gets a check for work they have not done yet. He said he has talked to Jim Stateczny to see if we can have our system where something like this will not happen. He said if it does not get corrected he might ask all five councilmen to start cosigning checks. He said it is a pretty thick stack of checks we have to sign. He said that is all he has.

**City Attorney Report –**

**City Manager Report** – Mayor Rangra said we have an acting City Manager. He said this lady works so hard. He said sometimes she stays here until seven o'clock in the evening and does not get any extra pay. He said some people for some reason instead of saying acting City Manager call her limited City Manager. He said he does not want them to say that because that is very obnoxious. He said you need to be respectful of people who work. Interim City Manager Taylor said she has been very busy and has

been making decisions every day. She said she is trying to stay up with the paperwork and important or emergency issues that come along such as TCEQ, TWDB and Landfill issues. She said she does not have anything particularly to report about tonight. She said she did think that we may have to call an emergency meeting this week, maybe on Thursday to address an issue about staffing the sewer plant. She said it is an emergency situation. Mayor Rangra asked if she would like to go ahead and have the Council call it for Thursday. Molly Taylor said yes she would. He asked at 6 P.M. and she said yes. She said it does have to do with health and sanitation and falls under the guidelines of an emergency. Councilor Gonzales said he would like to make a statement that she is working real hard trying to keep up with what she does normally and as an acting City Manager too. Councilor Davidson said he agreed. Councilor Fitzgerald said he saw her at the office on the weekend and she was here both days, Saturday and Sunday. Molly said she was just trying to get it done. Mayor Rangra said and there is no overtime. Molly said no, no overtime.

#### City Staff Updates –

**A. Recycling Update by Martha Latta –** Martha said they observe a calendar which coincides with Rio Grande Council of Governments for grant funding purposes. She said they go from September through August and she has new numbers for our past year. She said we are down four tons from the previous year. She said that is directly attributable to brush and yard waste. She said we did not have as much this year because the prior time frame, if you will recall back to 2011 is when we had the fires and there was a lot of fire debris. She said people were cleaning out and clearing up around their places. She said we also had the invasion of the pine bark beetles that took down a lot of trees. She said that really escalated our numbers for the prior time. She said she does not think four tons is too much to be ashamed of as far as being down from the previous year. She said our glass is way up. She said we have gone from approximately 60 tons in the prior time frame to over 85 tons and she thinks we may have maxed out our capacity. She said the machine can only process so much glass at a time. She said she thinks that may be true with most of our recycling efforts, is that people have jumped on board but we have to acknowledge that we are way out here in West Texas and there are no markets close by and everything that is collected has to be transported for long distances and so unless we can collaborate and operate with the other two counties in our area and come up with a recycling depot or materials recovery facility or something else that serves the tri-county area, our efforts are maybe maxed out. Martha said this past year we diverted 521 tons from the landfill. She said the one that is kind of unsettling is that we have been keeping these records for seven years now and with all of our recycling

efforts over a seven year time frame, we have only gained 99 landfill days. She said that is not even a third of a year. She said we could do better but we need more infrastructure to make that happen.

**B. Financial Update Progress Report by Jim Stateczny, Owner and Chairman of the Board of Hill Country Software** – Jim Stateczny. said he was the owner of Hill Country Software. He said he has been working since the first of June to convert the old accounting system and his staff has also been working for the last year or so to convert the old Court Systems. He said for the last few weeks he has been here working with the staff and working with outside auditors since Deborah has been on vacation, to clean up the books and get everything settled down. He said what he wants to do tonight is to give a status report on where we are and maybe clear up a few issues that have been raised over the last few weeks. He said when we started these conversions we had lots of obstacles. He said we kind of expected that but there were many. He said first off we had no technical references we could follow on to. He said he had no one to talk to about how the old system worked and how it worked internally. He said we pretty much just had to do trial and error and figure out how things were supposed to be. He said the office staff here at the city was a tremendous part of this effort because it was interviewing them and seeing how things were done that allowed us to get the things done that we wanted to do. He said there were many disappointments during the entire process where we thought we had it figured out and then we found something else and did not have it figured out. He said one of the big problems with the old system was the chart of accounts. He said it had lots of flaws in it and it wasn't really structured properly and it was not structured consistently. He said reconciliations and recommendations that came from Shaw Skinner as to how to improve the system apparently were ignored. He said they were never implemented. He said they tried to fix it but it never really happened. He said it appeared that the efforts were made to adhere to some of his advice at the end of the last fiscal year. He said those efforts were never really completed and they weren't really done properly. He said at the end of your audit adjusting journal entries, what we found last week is that a bunch of these had never been done or if they had been done, they were not done properly. He said it was these type of journals, these journals that your outside auditor issues at the end of the year as closing journals. He said they deal with fixed assets, capital assets, depreciations, due to and due from accounts and it is just adjustments that you make at the end of the year, that need to be made, so the books will be correct. He said some of the interesting functions in the old system was voiding a check. He said voiding a check was rather unconventional as to how we are used to it today. He said if you had a check that you needed to void you could not just call it up and say void the check. He said all you could do was enter a check with another check

number that was all negative amounts that offset the first check. He said what you ended up was two check records out there dealing with the first check and all we wanted to do was void it. He said if you had to correct a check the process was even more unconventional. He said first you had to issue the next check with another check number with all negative values to negate the first check and then issue a third check with another check number to represent the check you actually wanted to issue. He said these are some of the things that went on in the old accounting system. He said a big problem they had was check number limitations. He said whoever wrote the system, 9,999 checks was all we could have in the system at one time. He said so what happened, every few years, they had to start over. He said it took them a little while to figure out that this was what was going on so they at least knew what year the check was in so they just added the year to the front of it so now we could have check numbers that were not duplicating themselves every three years. He said another interesting function was the way they paid checks out for the refunding of moneys to your customers. He said these people were not regular vendors. He said to get a check out of the old system you had to be on the vendor file. He said the vendor file could only hold 9,999 vendors. He said they had one series of numbers, the 7,000 series he thinks, but he really does not remember, where all the temporary names were put into this series so they could write a check. He said the problem was at the end of the month those temporary names got cleared out, so when he went to convert, he was getting erroneous names so they have a bunch of names in the system where checks just say unknown payee, but that was the best we could do. He said the transaction history was also very limited. He said transactions were only kept for the current year and transactions were only posted to your general ledger once a month when you closed the month out. He said that left very little tracking that they could do, for instance if he wanted to look at check 12345, there was no transaction, on the transaction file it said check 12345. He said what there was, was a batch transaction that posted all similar checks in one journal at the same time. He said another thing they found was at the end of the year, when he closed out the fiscal year, because it was only one set of books. He said all the transaction history got deleted. He said they should have made backups at the end of each year prior to that happening. He said if they did make them, they could never find them, and that was another complication they had to deal with. He said now we come to the infamous 30 million dollars. He said actually it was \$31,189,986.55. He said what you are looking at is the final page of the trail balance. He said you can see that the debit balance does not equal the credit balance. He said therein is your \$31,189,986.55. He said doing more investigation, they found that fund 70 which is capital assets fund was the primary culprit. He said he does not know if you can read these numbers but there are two entries on here that are grossly wrong. He said one was accumulated

depreciation for \$7.7 million that is logged in as a minus instead of a plus. He said that was a \$14 million swing. He said down below you will see the fund balance account and in about half of your funds they found that the fund balance account was entered improperly. He said instead of being credited as a liability account, it was created as an expense account. He said this threw everything off too. He said this accounted for roughly \$29.5 million dollars of the \$31.1 million dollars that you were off. He said last week he worked with Daniela Lara of Skinner and Lara Accounting Services and they went through and studied the entire chart of accounts. He said they found that a lot of the end of the year entries that should have been made over the years, were not made. He said what they did was sit down and take the report as of the end of 2011/2012 and they matched it up with the city's set of books. He said after they did that, fund 70 took on a whole new picture. He said all of a sudden the \$7.8 million became a positive amount of depreciation and the fund balance account became what it should have been, \$12 million plus dollars. He said now fund 70 is in balance. He said that took away about \$29 million of the \$31 million plus. He said they went through and made the same type of adjustments to all the other funds in the system and basically got the system to where it should have been on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. He said once they had those in balance, this is what the new trial balance looks like and you can now see that those two numbers are the same. He said that was your \$30 million dollars. He said it never existed. He said all it was, was bad accounting practices in the old accounting system. He said as he told the Mayor when they found it, he said he had good news for him and bad news. He said the Mayor asked what the good news was. He said he told him they found the \$30 million dollars. He said the Mayor asked what the bad news was and Jim said we can't spend it. He said there were some questions raised about Municipal Court. He said to summarize what he is going to put in front of the council, basically they ran into the same problems with Municipal Court that they ran into with the accounting system. He said the old system was pretty inadequate. He said quite frankly it took his staff quite a while to get those data converted from the old system to the new system. He said because this Municipal Court system was funded by Brewster County, as part of the overall law enforcement grant that they have, they decided to use Jerry Sotello's JP #1 data base to start the city's data base. He said they were going to work from there and then change the things that needed to be changed. He said basically Municipal Court and JP Court are exactly the same. He said the things that are different are maybe the court costs, fines and fees, some official documents and some reporting. He said the conversion issues were plenty but they got it done and some of the questions that were raised was because we never went back and took out the nomenclature that said JP Court instead of Municipal Court. He said his staff tells him that they pretty much have all of that under control but if there are any more issues, his court people will continue to work with

the city's court people to get them resolved. He said in closing, he would like to point out that all they have accomplished, would not have been possible, without the assistance of the staff working here at the Alpine City hall. He said the staff is made up of a great group of people who he found to be most courteous and easy to work with. He said we should all thank them for the wonderful job they did in assisting him with this project. He said and folks, he truly means that. (There was applause from the audience) He said that is all he had to say. Councilor Gonzales said he wanted to ask one quick question. He asked if we are getting to the point where we can be transparent with the budget and be able to see what is going on with it. Jim said we are getting very close. He said what Deborah's strategy has been is to get everything cleared out in FY 2012/2013. He said we know that there are still some issues out there. He said they are minor but they are going to take time to find. He said you do not correct five or six years of poor accounting practices overnight. He said the plan is also that when we start the new fiscal year on Thursday or Friday morning, we will leave all the baggage back in 2012/2013 so that 2013/ 2014 are started fresh with a clean budget, with everything clean and so in the next fiscal year we will get the money back under control and everything will be where you can get reports that actually mean something. He said yes, we are very close. He said one thing they have not done yet is the actual reconciliation with the bank. He said he can see where some of the staff members started to do it. He said they are relatively close, money wise. He said they just have not sat down and brought it down to the penny. He said in his opinion, things are looking very, very good. He said one of the other questions that was raised was the possibility of money being missing from the city coffers. He said he would tell the council with all the work that he has done and with his experience of 30 years of working with counties and city governments, and he has prosecuted three dozen elected officials for stealing, he can find no signs that any money is missing. He said when he talked to Shaw with all his audits and his research, Shaw can find no signs that money was missing. He said the payroll advance loans, as far as we can tell, were all paid back. He said the city should not have done them, but they were all paid back. He said he thinks that they have pretty much cleaned everything up and like he said, your staff, he could not have done this without your staff. He said they are really a great bunch of people. Councilor Castelli said he has a question about our records. He said we are going to be hiring an auditor to do our last year's audit and that is based on an hourly fee that is not a guarantee. He said we have received four proposals and all four proposals have spoken like Alpine is a typical customer. He said we are not. He asked if we would be able to provide complete information to them at their first request. Jim said yes, we will. Jim said we will be able to provide them with that information and whoever your next outside auditor will be. He said we had a county that he worked with about three years ago that had problems for a different

situation. He said he would tell our auditor what he told their auditor. He said the audit that they are getting ready to do will be the most creative audit that they have ever done in their life. He said they will be able to work through it and they will get it figured out and he will be available to help them. He said your staff will be available to help them. Councilor Castelli asked if this would happen within a reasonable time frame. Jim said yes sir, he said it could be as soon as an hour after they make their request. Councilor Fitzgerald said he would like to thank Jim for all the hard work he has put in. He said he has been around here for a long time and is working very hard. Councilor Davidson asked if Jim's work revealed if all the loans were paid back actually in cash or from carried over sick leave or vacation time. Jim said all that they could determine from the old books was that there was an account where the loans were charged to when they were issued and where they were paid back. He said that account balances out. He said Shaw's view point is a little more in depth. He said Shaw said if any significant amount of money had been missing, when he would have done his reconciliations at the end of the year, when he did his audit, they probably would have showed up. He said can he tell them for certain that no money is missing, no but he can tell the council that they found no signs that any money is missing. Mayor Rangra said one thing he wanted to ask was that up until this presentation, there was a \$32,000,000 question. He said now with changing the signs, from minus to plus, Jim balanced everything. He said some people might call this a slight of hand or smoke and mirrors. He said he wanted to raise a very serious question about this and make sure that the public understands and the council understands that this is not anything like that. Jim said no, these are solid numbers. He said these were numbers, where if they had paid attention to Shaw's report, this problem would have been fixed years ago. He said about half of the funds had improperly structured fund balance accounts. He said that was a big problem. He said and another thing, if you do not post in the closing journal entries for every fiscal year, it is kind of like a snowball. He said it just keeps getting bigger and bigger and bigger and that is what you have. He said what they were able to do, Daniela and himself, was to go back and get the end of the year numbers and put them all together, and she would do a fund and would tell Jim that these are the journal's she needed him to enter. He said it took them probably a good day and a half to do it. He said as they hoped it would and as it worked out, after they were all done, everything was zero. He said there is a line item in the chart of accounts that he inserted, when they started to have problems, called conversion reconciliation account. He said whenever they had problems that they could not account for, they got posted against that account. He said at the end of this process, all those accounts were back to zero, where they should have been. He said he has pretty good confidence that what Daniella and he did is the right thing to do and those are solid numbers. Mayor Rangra said he appreciated the work Jim

had done. Jim said the thing that really makes him feel good about everything they have done is that the partial bank reconciliations that they have done are off hardly anything at all. Sheila Ness asked who was responsible for overseeing the accounting every month. She asked if we had a general manager or officer that looked at the books every month to make sure that they balance and that journal entries are made and made properly. Jim said the oversight should have been done by the previous director of finance and the oversight should have been done by your city manager at the time. He said those are the two that should have looked. He said the thing is when he first started into this, he told the Mayor, and a few of the councilmen, how could you guys meet and make responsible decisions with the money reports that you were being given were 45 days old. He said not only they were 45 days old but they were quite confusing to read. He said you never were furnished a trial balance out of the old system. He said there were just a lot of things that contributed to the snowball coming down the hill. Sheila asked if it would be more beneficial to hire Lara and Skinner to look at the books every month so that this kind of thing does not happen again. Jim said if the City Manager and the Finance Director had done their job, this would not have happened. Anita DeVries said based on Jim's presentation tonight that he could not find documentation for the antiquated system that we had, was he going to establish a pass down procedure so that the incoming staff members such as the finance director and the city manager will be fully aware of how to use this system. Jim said that is what he is doing right now. She asked what was his recommendation, as far as updates. She said with today's technology changing on a day to day basis, what would be his recommendation as far as updates to the system that he is providing to the city today. Jim said his system is being updated continually. He said as their customers make requests, they react to that. He said the second thing is that he and his wife have taken a great loving to Brewster County and the City of Alpine. He said he looks for any reason in the world to come out here. He said he will be available to work with the staff and not charge them, all the time, to stop by. Anita said that was going to be her next question, at what cost would these updates be. Jim said we have a maintenance agreement and it runs about \$3,000 a year. He said that gives you all the updates free and they can call the tech support number and they will tell you at Brewster County, that they can call and he will see them tomorrow. Brian Garrison asked if this was just a report on the new software or was Jim an accountant. Jim said he was not a CPA. Brian said the Council seems to be taking advice from someone who is not an accountant. Brian asked if Jim represented Shaw Skinner in any way. Jim said no. Brian said he wanted to make that clear. He said he heard Jim say that there was no money missing so he just wanted to make it clear that he was speaking for them and he wanted to get it on the record. He said the other question that he had was that Jim said that no money was missing that he could see. He asked if that

included Chavez who is under indictment. Jim said Shaw and he work very closely together. He said he has been working with counties and cities doing this. He said he wrote the accounting system back in 1982. He is not a CPA but he has been involved in this enough that he pretty well knows Municipal and County accounting upside down and inside out. Brian asked when Hill Country entered into a contract with the city. Jim said they entered into a contract in May of this year. Brian asked if this was the first contract with the City. Jim said yes they have been doing the Municipal Court but that was kind of under the umbrella with Brewster County. Brian asked what his working capacity was in May, as a computer software or an accountant. Jim said in May his capacity was whether they should come in here and determine whether or not they should install the software into the city and after visiting with Chuck Harrington for about an hour and a half, they determined that it would be a good fit.

#### **5. Citizens Comments (on agenda items) –**

**Carl Fleming** – said he had a comment on number 17, which is to support legislation for street improvements with the increase of our state sales tax by one percent. He said he thinks it is not a really good time to do that right now because that would kick it from 8.25% to 9.25%. He said that is a big jump for a lot of votes. He said that is a lot of money. He said the other comment is on number 18. He said you are going to interview city manager candidates on the 18<sup>th</sup> and select them the same night. He said that does not sound like good business. He said he would recommend that the city leave at least two nights to interview, re-interview and rehash their comments and do some quick background checks. He said we need to really interview these people. He said we do not want it to wind up like it did last time.

**Anita Devries** – said she would like to address item 18 also. She said she would like to ask that the candidates resumes be vetted thoroughly because based on past issues it seems like that is not done and she thinks it thoroughly needs to be done. She said with something as simple as a google search you could probably come up with a lot of things on whether or not their resumes are being factual with some of their qualifications. She said she would also ask that you really take into consideration management. She said that was brought out by a lady who asked her question earlier, who oversees things. She said the city manager is supposed to be in charge of overseeing every department. She said she pointed out issues many times to a former city manager and it just went by the wayside. She said management is a big concern and she thinks they also be pretty well versed in finance also because as we can see, based on the past, nothing was being done to guard these two obvious positions that the individual who sits in that chair needs to have.

**Bob Steele** – said on 7C which is the civic center to be used next year by the Lions club for the gun show. He said he wanted to ask the council for favorable consideration of that. He also asked on item #13, that the council consider purchasing another 20 tables, so that there would be plenty of tables for all special events, including the gun show. He also told the council to be careful when you google applicants before you see them. He said sometimes a third party will try to stone wall a candidate.

**Susan Curry** – said she would like to speak on number 12. She said she thinks the council is hearing from a lot of people here, the importance of actually taking the time to vet your candidates for city manager. She said it is really going to be very critical, especially with management. She said take the time and make sure and make sure you really do know what you are getting so that problems of the past do not continue into the future. She said she thinks the tremendous efforts, that Jim has made, to try to reconcile the books, is something that is very, very important. She said as a former library director, we know what it is like to get old books or shoe boxes full of papers and then have to realize that they have not ever had an audit and then take it from there to now being a library that we can all be very proud of. She said she wants to assure the city that these things can be taken care of. She said she knows hers is on a smaller scale but it can be done and it is done working together and not being adversarial. She said it is important to be professional and not jump to conclusions before all the facts are in. She said she really as an artisan in the community and as a business owner, it is really important to look at how the hotel/motel funds are used. She said one of the very best is art walk/gallery night. She said that is not just because her husband has been one of the featured artists in the past and will again this year be, but when you see how many people come in and how the hotels and motels fill up because of this, and it has been 20 years that this has been going on. She said don't defund or give them less than what they deserve at this point. She said on number 15, if you are going to take the time to do it properly, she knows that those who are on the city staff now need the encouragement and help. She said you should listen to them and do what they need to have done. She said that is extra support and that is all she has to say.

**Dale Christopherson** - said he would like to assure everyone that he has not communicated with the other folks much but what he is going to say is repeating what they said. He said he has been a resident of Alpine since 1965. He said this council has some serious matters before it. He said unlike the feds we will not be shutting down the city of alpine tonight or any time soon. He said on agenda item #15, yes hire someone capable to assist the interim manager who is now handling the job of city secretary as well. He said he could not do that, those are two big jobs. He said on item 18, however, he just cannot see it and it does not seem reasonable to him. He said the proposal that each Council Member bring three names to the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, and

conduct interviews at a November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, and hire that night makes no sense to him. He said when and by whom is the vetting to be conducted. He said when do the executive sessions occur in which council members share the information which has been obtained by however the structure is and then determine how many candidates are to be seriously vetted and then to decide which will have interviews, after which you need to decide which candidate with which salary. He said it seems to him that some special called meetings are needed for the council and others that he thinks the council would be wise to include in the process. He said you may need some special called meetings to take the necessary steps for a competent process of selection. He said do not do slapdash as others have said. He said we have been there and we have done that and it was not good. He said his second point is number one do it right and number two take the time necessary to do that and three provide yourself some assistance with this process from community members. He said you are our representatives who will make the final decision but you can enlist others to assist in the process. He said last with regard to both this critical selection process and your continued role as council persons, trust but verify. He said that is an old Russian proverb. He said recent councils have done way too much trusting and not enough verifying, leading to where we find ourselves now, in a mess. He said the council needs to do what they can within the parameters of the charter. He said vetting requires verifying. He said you need to do what is necessary to be sure that you are being told the truth, by your appointed officials and city staff. He said you owe your constituents and your community your very best efforts in these hiring processes. He said that includes getting past what divisions you may have had among yourselves and getting on the same page for the benefit of all of the citizens you represent.

A citizen said she did not agree with number 14. She said she did not think that all council members should have to be present to vote concerning hiring and firing. She said as long as you have a quorum. She said you could have someone critically ill and some emergency could happen that needs to be handled and one person could not be there. She said she wondered why the agenda could not have been copied and pasted on the website so that they have access to this prior to being here.

## **6. Public Hearings –**

- A. Public Hearing to obtain citizens views and comments regarding approval of large animal permit for one miniature horse. This request is from Bret Welch, to be located at 1609 West Murphy, Alpine, Texas. (M. Taylor, ICM) – The Interim City Manager said the Animal Advisory Board has already had their public hearing regarding this large animal permit and the council has their recommendation as part of your action item. She said we have Mr. Welch here tonight who make like to speak on his behalf and also we have Jordan from the Animal Control to speak to us**

concerning this permit. She said we also welcome public comment. Bret Welch said this is pretty straight forward. He said when you look at this it says large animal but a miniature horse is not really a large animal. He said there are dogs in the neighborhood that are bigger than this horse. He said bottom line, he is on his property, and he has not been causing problems and that is where he would like him to stay. He said we have had one minor issue with a gentleman who does not like horses and had a bad experience with someone who had a horse in the past. He said the horse only has one eye. He said he is a rescue horse. He said he actually belongs to his six year old daughter and he trusts this horse with his daughter. Keri Blackman said she lives at 109 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street and the horse is a family member and she would encourage the Council to approve this permit. Jordan Barlow with Animal Control said the current pen right now is a little too small but Mr. Welch said he is willing to extend it. She said the carport is being used as a shelter and she thinks that will be fine. She said the neighbor is within the 50 feet minimum but Mr. Welch has spoken to him and he is perfectly fine with the situation. She said there seems to be no other problems. She said they will be going by and checking on this for the next six months.

**7. Consent Agenda- (Minutes, Financial reports, Department written reports, board appointments, etc.) -**

**A. Discuss and Consider approving minutes of September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. (A. Rangra, Mayor) -**

**B. Approve Accounts Payable. (M. Taylor, ICM)**

**C. Consider allowing Lions Club to lease Civic Center on Labor Day Weekend, August 30<sup>th</sup> through September 1, 2014 and waive all fees other than utilities. (J. Gonzales)**

**Councilor Davidson said he would like to remove item B to the action items and retain items A and C in the Consent Agenda.**

**Motion was made by Councilor Gonzales, by Resolution 2013-10-01, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald . Motion unanimously carried.**

**8. Information or Discussion items –**

**A. Discuss Resolution concerning backup data for council agenda. (J. Fitzgerald) – Councilor Fitzgerald said he was just bringing this up because about four years ago there were all kinds of documents in front of us on the desk given to us a few minutes before the meeting at 6 that we were supposed to make a decision on at 6:15. He said we passed a**

resolution stating that if it is not in the blue book it did not happen. He said that type of documentation needs to be given as backup to the city secretary by Thursday at noon. He said he just put this item on the agenda to bring this back up again. He said we are starting to get in that same situation. Councilor Gonzales said he has to agree with Councilor Fitzgerald because we do not get to really see the information and study it and try to figure out what we are looking at if we receive it right before the meeting.

**B. Presentations by bidders for Audit FY 2012/2013. (M. Taylor, ICM) – Molly Taylor** said none of the bidders for the audit could be present because of the short notice they had. She said they all left their phone numbers and said they would be open for questions prior to the meeting, but none could attend. Councilor Fitzgerald said he read all four of them and the last one that came in was way high. Councilor Gonzales asked who the last one he read was. Councilor Davidson said he believed the advertisement that went out to TML and the newspaper was actually a request for qualifications and did not necessarily ask for a dollar amount. He said they did jump in a step in the process. Councilor Fitzgerald said Craig Gibson was pretty much in line with the other two that were received. Councilor Gonzales asked if we were going to accept the fourth audit bid, since it was late. Molly Taylor said she did not have the fourth audit and had not received it. She said she did call TML and asked them if there was an urgency for us to hire an auditor. She said they said there was an urgency. She said we have not done anything wrong, or anything illegal, but we do need to go ahead and hire an auditor as quickly as possible.

**Action Items to be accompanied by a brief statement of facts, including where funds are coming from, if applicable. (Action items limited to 15 per meeting.)**

**7B. Approve Accounts Payable.** – Councilor Davidson said he just had a question if there was money in the bank to pay these bills. The City Manager said there is money in the bank for the ones that we have paid. She said we did have some large invoices that we just got billed for at the end of the month, such as the appraisal district. She said they are going to total up to around \$300,000. However, we have tax money coming in and water bills that we just sent off coming in today or tomorrow. She said we have gas money coming in. She said we feel like we will be fine. She said we are going to mail those bills off at the end of the week. She said we don't want to borrow any money and we feel that we will be fine unless it is a positive emergency. She said they do not believe they will have to borrow any money. Councilor Bermudez said yesterday when she was talking to Deborah, they were talking about the salaried position that we were going to open, the project accountant. Councilor Bermudez said

Deborah mentioned that it would be nice if we had a CPA. Councilor Bermudez said it sure would be nice but there is no money for that. She said Deborah said, oh yes there is. She said Deborah said she put some money in several different accounts. Councilor Bermudez asked if that was allowed. The Interim City Manager said if it was authorized by the Council or if the former auditor told her it was legal. She said Deborah said she had done budgets in other cities prior to this. She said she was sure she has. Councilor Bermudez said she would suggest, if possible, that before we go and dig into that money that may be borrowed from the bank, let's see where this money is at and see if we can use it. Councilor Bermudez asked when she could get an answer to her question. Sales Tax payments were discussed by Mayor Rangra. The interim city manager said we get tax money daily and water bill funding daily and gas funding daily. She said we want to start off the new year clean. Mayor Rangra said it would be up to the finance director to clarify this. Molly Taylor said they want to close out the fiscal year. Motion was made by Councilor Davidson, by Resolution 2013-10-02 to approve the accounts payable. Motion was seconded by Councilor Gonzales. Councilor Davidson said he believed at the end of the fiscal year is the slowest time for cash flow but we do have our timing for when the money will come in. He said this is not a debt ceiling. He said we owe these bills and we should certainly pay them and he thinks he understands that if we had to borrow the money we have that capability in place. Anita DeVries said if we have a budget, were these items that were part of accounts payable part of the budget and if so where did the money go. The interim city manager said these were some issues for some projects that were not budgeted for. She said these were for an emergency situation. She said most of them were not budgeted for. She said we did not have a contingency fund but were hoping to build that back up again this year. Sheila Ness said if you are talking about balancing books the end of the year bank statement says that you have \$2,340 as of September 30<sup>th</sup> and then if you go and pay bills and back date them you are overdrawn. Susan Curry said it seems to her is what she is hearing is that the money is going to be used to pay for these bills that are in the 2012/2013 budget is coming from monies that also have been charged but not paid yet, but they are also from the 2012/2013 budget year. So it would seem that they would be flush. Mayor Rangra said we have to pay the state in quarterly in advance and if we don't the state fines us. Brian Garrison said when he interviewed Harrington and Pattison in the last couple of weeks one of the things they said was if you have an official doing something for all the departments they would put money in each department to pay their share for that official doing work for them. He said that may have been what Councilor Bermudez was told. Motion unanimously carried.

9. Discuss and Consider awarding bid and selecting auditing firm for FY 2012/2013 Audit. Bidders are Whitley Penn, Garza-Gonzales and Associates and Gibson Ruddock Patterson LLC. (M. Taylor, ICM) – Interim City

Manager Taylor said she handed out all the proposals to the Council Members and she is assuming that all of the Council has studied them. She said she personally does not have a recommendation. She said she has spoken with all three of them briefly on the phone. She said she knows that the auditor from El Paso does strictly government work and they are in close proximity to this location and their bid is competitive. She said if she were going to recommend any of them, she would say that El Paso kind of catches her eye. Motion was made by Councilor Davidson, by Resolution 2013-10-03, to hire the Gibson Ruddick Patterson LLC firm out of El Paso as the auditing firm for the City of Alpine for 2012/2013 fiscal year. Motion was seconded by Councilor Bermudez. Councilor Fitzgerald said he likes the idea of having our auditor in El Paso instead of Dallas or San Antonio or Houston. Councilor Gonzales said he spoke to some of the customers of Gibson Ruddick and they were very impressed with the work that they have done. He said he believes that they also do the audit for Marfa. Councilor Castelli said he wanted to make a comment about the fourth bid because it seems to be a clouded issue. He said it was in his email today and according to that the city did receive a fed ex package within the time frame that we allowed them to make a proposal but on the other hand of the four that he reviewed they are the only one that did not seem to have a single west Texas reference and they seemed to be a very strong regional firm based out of Houston. He said based on that he is considering all four, but he would not recommend them. Councilor Fitzgerald said they are about 50% higher too. Brian Garrison asked if anyone else called the bidders or their references. Councilor Davidson said he spoke to other accountants. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Discuss and Consider approving large Animal Permit for one miniature horse as recommended by the Animal Advisory Board. This request is from Bret Welch, to be located at 1608 West Murphy, Alpine, Texas. (M. Taylor, ICM) – Interim City Manager Taylor said Mr. Welch was approved by the Animal Advisory Board and we did give him the requirements necessary to conform to the size of the pen and he said he would do that. She said Mr. Welch also said that he would improve on the structure for the horse's shelter. She said the horse is extremely small. She said there are no complaints from any neighbors who are close enough to the area where the horse is located to be affected by it. She said the neighbors love the horse and their kids play with the horse. She said there was one complaint from a man who lived across the street but he does not reside there and has not resided there for years. She said he had no complaints about this particular horse but someone in the past. She recommended to the Council to approve the large animal permit as the Animal Advisory Board has done. Motion was made by Councilor Bermudez, by Resolution 2013-10-04, to approve the large animal permit for one miniature horse as recommended by the Animal Advisory Board for Bret Welch, to be located at 1608 West Murphy Street. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. Councilor

Fitzgerald said he went out and saw the horse and at one time he had a German Shepherd that was about that size. He said the horse is really small. He said he talked to the neighbor next door and he is in favor of having the horse there. He said Bret seems to be a very responsible person and he is a former Marine. Motion unanimously carried.

11. Discuss and Consider authorizing the Acting Interim City Manager to advertise for the position of City Attorney, locally and through TML. (M. Taylor, ICM) – Molly Taylor said this is the only position that she has not advertised for. She said she needs the Council's authority to do so. She said we do not have a City Attorney at this time. She said she has been using TML and has been calling them for her needs but we do need to advertise. Motion was made by Councilor Gonzales by Resolution 2013-10-05 to authorize the Acting City Manager to advertise for the position of City Attorney, locally and through TML. Motion was seconded by Councilor Bermudez. Motion carried unanimously.

- \*\*\*12. Discuss and Consider revisiting hotel/motel funds allocation for Gallery Night, Gem and Mineral Show and Jazz Festival. (J. Gonzales) – Councilor Gonzales said he thought he would bring this up again. He said he does not think that we want to punish success. He said he thought that we would listen to some of the people and hear what they had to say and if we can go ahead and meet their needs as to what they have requested before. He said also the Gem and Mineral Show did not get their notice in time so he is giving them an opportunity to speak. A representative from the Gem and Mineral club came to speak and the chairman from last year said he made an application and sent it in but apparently it got lost before the meeting regarding this issue. She said what they are asking for this year is no money but they are asking for two things. She said one is to not have to pay utility expenses and two is a non monetary request. She said they would like someone to take down all the tables. She said the tables are usually up, she understands, when they get there. She said they would like those out of the way so they can lay out the vendors locations. She said they would arrange the tables themselves where the vendors will be. She said at the end of the show at 5 on Sunday, they would like a city employee to put up the tables however they want them. She said they do quite a bit of heavy lifting as it is. She said it is a rock show and she would like to get the help from the city. Councilor Davidson asked if it would be appropriate to have a separate motion for each one of these items. He said he made the motion by Resolution 2013-10-06, for the city to comply with each one of their requests for the tables for the Gem and Mineral Show and that we award them \$200 to spend as they see fit. He said they may use that toward the utility expenses for the Civic Center. Bob Steele said he did not see why this would not work, it is a straight up deal. He said the council has that right. Motion was seconded by Councilor Gonzales. Councilor Castelli said when we purchased these tables it was his understanding that we

would rent them on a per table basis to the organization. He asked if we were going to waive the rental fees because he said he did not think we set rental fees yet. Councilor Gonzales said he believed we waived all fees but the utility fees. He asked the Interim City Manager if that was correct. She said that is her understanding. Councilor Castelli said he understood that the tables would be separate from the rental charge for the facility and the tables would be rented from the city. The Interim City Manager asked if this applied to non-profits. Councilor Castelli said there was never a stipulation that he heard. Councilor Gonzales said this sounds like something we need to bring back to the City Council so that we can discuss it. Molly Taylor said she did not know if that would work for the non-profits, but for private parties and other organizations, we would charge for the rent of the tables. Councilor Bermudez said if we charge for the rental of the tables that is a lot of money. Councilor Castelli said that is what we discussed and agreed to. He said it depends on how much the table rents for. He said a lot of organizations had to go and rent their own tables since Alpine did not have adequate tables. Motion unanimously carried.

Keri Artz said the Art Walk/ Gallery Night had a huge economic impact of 2.6 million dollars. She said they were funded \$30,000 this year which included the mural funding. She said they put heads in beds every year. She said there are a lot of people that have people come to the event. She said it is a once a year production. She said all the funds go to the Alpine Public Library. She said usually \$60,000 to \$80,000 goes to the library. She said there is also a high school art scholarship fund. She said they do not take the money and put it in their pockets. She said they count on the \$30,000. A representative of the Museum of the Big Bend spoke in behalf of Art Walk/Gallery Night. She said all of the schools are involved with Art Walk. She said they have a great time at Art Walk with outstanding art and Alpine has won awards in the state for this festival. She said they spend months in school with teachers and the programs that support them. She said this is an outstanding group to get to work with. She said they are very proud to be a part of gallery night. Councilor Bermudez said she heard from one of the bankers that gallery night is one of the functions where the money flows into the bank. Councilor Davidson said \$30,000 is twice as much as any other event receives. He said we need money for new events. Councilor Gonzales said he thinks what might be a better way of saying this is to penalize success. He said he thinks what we need to do, based on what they are asking, is to go ahead and give them the \$10,000. He said he thinks one of the things that we were looking at is how much money would we have after we draw out hotel motel to everybody. He said we still have a pretty substantial amount. He said he does not think that they are asking for much more than we can afford to give to them. He said he thinks it is a successful thing and maybe we can start talking about weaning them later on. He said their expectation is that we received this money and we cut them off. He said he understands where Councilor Davidson is coming from, but we do have the money and it is a good thing. Councilor Davidson

said there is no question about that. Councilor Gonzales said maybe they themselves can start looking at other places to get money. He said he certainly does not want to see that end. He said he enjoys going to the festival and enjoys all those people. Councilor Gonzales made a motion by Resolution 2013-10-07 to go ahead and increase their amount to \$10,000 more, to \$30,000. Motion was seconded by Councilor Castelli. Councilor Bermudez said she wanted to add that all the things that they contribute money for. She said just the scholarships that they do. She said this is something that we would not want to stop. Councilor Gonzales said he would like to say something as a library board member that they do contribute a lot of money to the library and it is a non-profit library and they appreciate the money. Councilor Fitzgerald said he thought we could go ahead and do this, this year but we want to make it clear that this will not continue every year. Councilor Davidson said he loves the art walk and he attends. He said he gets the sense here that we are really not funding an event. He said we are funding an organization that does a number of different things. He said in terms of understanding it, it might be easier for one for the city to give those scholarships. He said those are options. He said what we are being asked to do is to fund the organization and not really specifically art walk. He said maybe if it were divided up, just like last year when you came back and asked for the money for the mural. He said the council already agreed to give another \$5,000 for a mural. He said maybe in the future it would be more helpful to the city that wants to encourage self sufficiency, to divide your assets up in little compartments to fund different parts of your programs that you operate year round. Keri said the \$30,000 is directly for Art Walk promotion and those funds will be spent toward the promotion and advertising. She said they got \$30,000 last year and based on that they set their budget and already have contracts with television stations, billboards, banners, newspaper ads and postcards. She said they had no clue that they would be kicked down \$10,000. Keri said her job is pretty hard. She said she writes grants and does all of the promotion herself. She said they do not have a PR person She said she does it. Councilor Davidson said Keri makes a salary for this. Keri said she sure does because she has to take time from her gallery. Councilor Davidson said there is no shame in getting a salary for something. She said she wants to be clear that we do get that money specifically for art walk. She said to make art walk happen it is about \$88,000 for the promotion. She said that does not include anything but Art Walk. She said sponsorship is hard. She said she has sent out three rounds for sponsorship. She said they had a party and they have sent out two rounds of letters just because they are trying to meet their budget. She said the only bank in this area that backs us is Trans Pecos. She said they give us \$3,500 and they wanted to go down and give us \$2,500. She said West Texas gives us \$1,000 and Fort Davis gives us \$250. She asks how you make them give you more money. Councilor Davidson said he is not criticizing their work and effort. He said this is just what he considers from

his experience as to how people manage their event programs. He said this city is really great on having events but we do not have a comprehensive promotion. He said we spend maybe a quarter of our money on comprehensive promotion that promotes Alpine every day. He said he thinks that is a shame. He said we need to think about adding more money to that as well. Keri said if you don't have events what will make people come here, just promotion? She said if you don't have events, such as art walk or trappings.....Councilor Davidson asked her if she ever saw someone walking down the street when they are not having an event. She said she did. Councilor Gonzales said he would like to call for the question. Councilor Castelli seconded that. Motion unanimously carried.

Tushar Patel from the Ramada said he asked for \$5,000 last year and he used that money for this year. He said the event was held on September 21<sup>st</sup>. He said it was the first time that Alpine has had a jazz festival. He said there were many people there. He said there were people here from Midland. He said he is asking for the same amount for this year. He said he applied for \$10,000 but he would be happy with \$5,000. He showed the council the flyer. He said on the following week, he did this on his own, and had a kite festival. He said it worked very well from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.. He said to his surprise it worked very well. He said they had over 150 people who came and the children loved this event. He said the people who run it included one of the top three kite flyers in the world, Troy Gunn. Councilor Bermudez said the kite festival was wonderful. She said her grandkids really enjoyed it . Tushar said he thought the more different events you have, the better it is for the tourists. He said this is a stepping stone. He said it will build over a period of time. Councilor Gonzales said he really enjoyed the jazz festival. Motion was made by Councilor Gonzales, by Resolution 2013-10-08, to approve \$10,000 in hotel motel funds for the jazz festival and kite festival. Motion was seconded by Councilor Bermudez.

Mayor Rangra asked what his costs were for the jazz festival. Tushar said it cost him over \$6,000. He said the kite festival cost him about \$2,000. Councilor Davidson asked how much of this would be spent on Advertising and how much would be spent on just operating expenses? He asked if there would be other places to hear jazz or if it would all be at the Ramada. Tushar said this will all be at the Ramada right now. He said that is because we do not know how many people will show up. He said if the event grows, then we can move this to other locations. Councilor Davidson asked what percentage of this was for advertising. Tushar said it would be about 30%. Councilor Davidson asked him if he had any other sponsors. Tushar said not right now. Mayor Rangra said Tushar was not charging for the place for the festival. Tushar said no. He said at first he thought he was going to charge but then he decided not to do it. Councilor Davidson said this is free admission. Tushar said exactly. Councilor Gonzales said he wanted to point out to Councilor Davidson that this is one of the new events. He said he was sorry that he missed the kite festival but he did participate in the jazz festival and he thought that was great. Molly Taylor

asked if this would be on the same weekend of every year. Tushar said it would be on the third weekend in September of every year. Motion unanimously carried.

13. Discuss and Consider ordering 20 more rectangular tables for the Civic Center through Hotel/Motel funding. (J. Gonzales) – Councilor Gonzales said he would like to modify that if he could. He said he would like the motion to read, by Resolution 2013-10-09 “Discuss and Consider ordering 20 more rectangular tables and three additional carts to move them for the Civic Center through hotel/motel funding”. Councilor Castelli said someone came to his house opposed to this. He said the reason was because in the tight city funding, why are we buying tables. He said these funds come from the hotel/motel tax. He said they do not come right out of the city coffers. He said he would like to make that point. Councilor Fitzgerald said it is a good idea to have the carts to carry the tables. Councilor Gonzales said Councilor Castelli pointed that out to him. Motion carried unanimously.
  
14. Discuss and Consider approving a resolution which states that all Council members shall be present to vote concerning the firing and hiring of the four appointed city officers consisting of City Manager, City Attorney, City Secretary and Municipal Judge. (J. Fitzgerald) – Councilor Fitzgerald said he brought this up because on page 17 of the City Charter it specifies specifically that everybody has to be here. He said there are only four people that the council is responsible for. He said the other items just say that they will appoint. He said he thought all of us should be here as a courtesy for a decision on the four people that report directly to the council. He said we all have to be out of town sometime. Motion was made by Councilor Fitzgerald to approve a resolution which states that all Council members shall be present to vote concerning the firing and hiring of the four appointed city officers, consisting of the City Manager, City Attorney, City Secretary and Municipal Judge. Motion was seconded by Councilor Davidson. Councilor Bermudez said she would like to mention again that the time that she was absent, the Council was talking about firing the City Manager. She said for that one the charter states that the full council must be present. She said that is why it was not able to be done and she had an excuse. She said that was not done as a courtesy. She said it was done because that is what the charter says. Councilor Gonzales said the only one that requires everyone to be here is the city manager. He said the others are not required. He said it is in our charter so if we wanted to change that it has to be taken to the public to vote, and not here as a Resolution or ordinance. Councilor Gonzales said if Councilor Fitzgerald wanted to address this, he thinks that is how he needs to do it, take it to the people. Councilor Fitzgerald asked if we do this for one of the four, why don't we do it for the rest of them? Councilor Gonzales said we would have to change the charter. Joseph Goldman said requesting a full council gives the

council almost veto power. He said unanimity is done in a very restricted manner. He said he thought this should be brought about with a quorum. He said he is personally against anything that requires a unanimous vote or unanimous presence. He said there are too many incidentals that come up and too many would need people to play the game. Councilors Fitzgerald and Davidson voted in favor. Councilors Castelli, Gonzales and Bermudez voted against. Motion fails.

15. Discuss and Consider allowing Acting City Manager/City Secretary to hire temporary help to assist in paperwork and filing and other job duties. (J. Gonzales) – Councilor Gonzales said he put this item on the agenda because they are taxing the City Secretary to a lot of work and responsibility and he thinks that she needs help in doing some of these duties that will not tie her up. He said he thinks it would be worth it to the city. He said we do not want to wear her out. Motion was made by Councilor Gonzales, by Resolution 2013-10-10 to allow the Acting City Manager/City Secretary to hire temporary help to assist in paperwork and filing and other job duties. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. Councilor Davidson said he believes she already had the right to hire someone but this is really nice to all show our support for the great work that Molly does. Molly Taylor said thank you. Anita DeVries said she was not opposed to hiring but temporary is somewhat of a general term. She asked if this person would be working 20 hours a week? She said she thought these guidelines should be set by somebody. She said once we get a City Manager hired that would alleviate the City Secretary back into the City Secretary position. Molly said just one or two days a week, not full time. She said just until they hire a new City Manager. Bryan Garrison asked how much the position would pay. Molly said it depends on the worker. She guessed no more than \$12 to \$15 per hour. Motion carried unanimously.
16. Discuss and Consider waiving the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) which have accrued through September 30, 2013 for the Housing Authority, City of Alpine – Imelda Natera. (M. Taylor, ICM) – Imelda Natera said she is here to request a waiver of the payment in lieu of taxes. She said the City has requested that she come every year. Imelda said Housing Authorities are exempt from property taxes. She said when the Housing Authorities were created back in the 60's or early 70's, the Housing Authorities would pay back to the taxing entities, a payment in lieu of taxes. She said because of budget cuts the Housing can now ask for a waiver of payment in lieu of taxes. She said it is divided up among the four taxing entities. Motion was made by Councilor Davidson, by Resolution 2013-10-11, to waive the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) which have accrued through September 30, 2013 for the Housing Authority, City of Alpine. Motion was seconded by Councilor Bermudez. Mayor Rangra asked if Imelda was going to talk to the other taxing entities. Imelda said the city was her last taxing entity to talk to. Brian Garrison asked if all the other taxing entities waived the taxes. Imelda

said yes. Motion unanimously carried.

17. Discuss and Consider supporting legislation for street improvements with the increase of our state sales tax by one percent, as initiated by the City of Big Lake. (Mayor Rangra) – Mayor Rangra said he put this item on the agenda because the City of Big Lake is going to try to increase their state sales tax. He said this money is to be used only to fix streets. He said we sometimes have big trucks using our streets. He said other small cities have the same problem. He said it is up to the council as to what they want to say on this issue. Councilor Fitzgerald said he was not in favor of raising any sales taxes. Councilor Gonzales said he did not believe it was raising sales tax, he thinks it is saying that out of the money that they are already taxing, they want to use one percent especially for the streets. Councilor Fitzgerald said he would be more in favor of saying take one quarter of one cent of the monies that we get for streets. Councilor Davidson said the voters can elect that you dedicate a ¼% to road repair. He said you could add more to it on the general fund if you wanted to but that is already on the books. He said it has to be renewed every four years. He said that would be possible. Motion was made by Councilor Fitzgerald to allocate ¼% of the percentage of existing sales tax to road repairs. Bob Steele said so out of the 1 and ¼% that the city charges you will take ¼% and allocate it for road repairs. He said that would not be in conflict with the sales tax laws. Councilor Davidson said his question was that this was not the same item as is on the agenda. Councilor Fitzgerald said maybe we should put this on a later agenda. Mayor Rangra asked if we could get more information on this. Bob Steele said as he reads the agenda item it calls for an increase in sales tax. He said they say it will be used for street improvements. Motion was made by Councilor Fitzgerald to postpone this item. Motion was seconded by Councilor Gonzales. Motion unanimously carried. Anita DeVries said she just purchased another vehicle in another county and she found out that there are fees called road and bridge tax. She said most of the time it is \$10 and it is charged by the County. She said this may be something that the city wants to look into. She said if Brewster County does not want to, maybe the City can garner the tax. She said instead of getting it through sales tax somehow, if you levy a fee for a person registering a car in the county with a city residence, maybe that would be more money for our roads.
18. Discuss and Consider each Councilmember selecting three candidates by the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting for City Manager. Candidates will be interviewed at the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. City Manager will be selected at the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting (J. Fitzgerald). Councilor Fitzgerald said this is a starting point. He said we have a whole stack full of resumes and a lot of them do not have city manager experience. He said he suggested that each council member select three candidates and then the candidates can be vetted before selection. He said as Dale Christopherson said, we need to take our time to do this. Councilor Bermudez asked if we would interview in Executive

**Session. Mayor Rangra said that is the Council's decision. Councilor Bermudez asked if we could get a special meeting just to do the interviews. Councilor Davidson said to do it right we need to call a special meeting. The Special meeting was set for November 12<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Fitzgerald said we can see how many we pick and how many votes are overlapping. The interim City Manager asked how long the council needed to pick their three candidates. Councilor Bermudez said October 15<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Castelli said you have to have special skills to do background checks. He said Dale gave us great resources. Molly said we could also have our local law enforcement run a background check on them. Councilor Castelli said possibly we could recruit Rusty over at Big Bend Telephone to do that. The are the HR person. Motion was made by Councilor Bermudez, by Resolution 2013-10-12, for each Councilmember to select three candidates by the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting for City manager and give the names to Molly and then at the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting we can discuss the other issues. Motion was seconded by Councilor Davidson. Dale Christopherson said he was not sure he was following exactly where the council is going. He said he does not think the council should do this hastily. He said he does not know if the council will schedule an executive session for the next meeting. Mayor Rangra said on the 15<sup>th</sup>, we will discuss the rest of the selection process. Motion carried unanimously.**

**19. Citizen's Comments (limit 3 minutes) – None**

**20. Council Member's Comments and Answers –**

**Councilor Bermudez – said to keep one of our former Councilmembers, Manuel Payne in your prayers.**

**Councilor Castelli – said he thought we were slogging onward.**

**21. Executive Session - None**

**22. Action Executive Session - None**

**23. Adjournment. – Meeting was adjourned.**

I certify that this notice was posted at 3:00 P.M. on September 27th, 2013, 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.

---

Dr. Avinash Rangra, Mayor

Attest:

---

Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary

I, Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary, do certify that this notice was posted at 3:00 P.M. on September 27th, 2013, and remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of said meeting.

---

Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary