

**City of Alpine
Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 19th, 2016
5:30 P.M.
Minutes**

- 1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of allegiance to the flags – Mayor Rangra called the meeting to order. Father Nicholas gave the invocation. Mayor Rangra led the pledge of allegiance to the flags.**

- 2. Determination of a quorum and proof of notice of the meeting – Mayor Rangra, Councilors Antrim, Salas, Fitzgerald, Gonzales and Stephens were present. The meeting notice had been posted at 9:30 A.M. on January 15th, 2016. City Manager Zimmer, City Finance Director Antrim and City Secretary Taylor were also present.**

- 3. Presentations, recognitions and proclamations –
A. Jerry Mitchell – Planning and Zoning Commission. (A. Rangra, Mayor) – Mayor Rangra presented Jerry Mitchell with a certificate of appreciation for his service as a member and Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mayor Rangra said volunteers are very hard to get. He said they get all sorts of criticism and their jobs are demanding. He said in a Home Rule City we have to have a Planning and Zoning Commission. He said he appreciated the time that Mr. Mitchell took and gave us his talent. Mr. Mitchell said he would like to express his thanks for our Council members for their faith in him and for having him on the Planning and Zoning Commission. He said actually it was a very good experience. He said he would recommend it for anyone who has not already served. He said it gives you a little bit of insight about what our city employees in city government go through to provide us with a safe, decent and wonderful town. He said he thought that we as citizens should give our City employees a really warm round of applause for all the work they do for us. He said we never have a chance to appreciate them, but they certainly deserve all the thanks that we can give them. He said if you see one of the workers, stop them and tell them how much you appreciate them. He thanked the Mayor and Council.**

- 4. Reports –
City Mayor’s Report - (A. Rangra, Mayor) – Mayor Rangra said he thinks the Council needs to look at the possibility of appointing a member of the Appraisal District Board at the next meeting. Mayor Rangra announced that he would not be seeking the third term as Mayor of the City of Alpine.

City Manager Report – (E. Zimmer, CM) – City Manager Zimmer reported on the following items:**

- **Budget Variance, Income Statement, Specified Activity Reporting**
 - Detailed information included in Councilors packets
 - Check register details provided today and will be updated onto website this week
 - On budget variance – primary focus on OT Management and Supply Management. Write-ups from Department Heads included in Packets.
 - Tendered Money into I&S Accounts for February/March 2016 Debt payments.
 - Specified Activity Report reflects the debt payments when Looking at Water/Sewer (Fund 04)
 - Updating information on New Finance Page and also available for discussions with Citizens.
- **Data – Funds 01, 04, 05, 06, 08, General Fund – 01, Water/Sewer/Sanitation – 04, Airport – 05, Hotel Occupancy Tax -06, And Gas – 08 were discussed.**
- **The Quarterly Investment Report was discussed.**

Mayor Rangra asked if there was any way for the public to give their feedback when the financial information was on the website. City Manager Zimmer said the public could always email him. He said we do not do an “open blog type thing”. He said blogs are not a whole lot different from facebook. He said usually they are non-productive. He said citizens with some regularity will approach him or Megan with this. Mayor Rangra said he had one question about page 13, where it says assets. He said it says water assets and sewer assets. He asked if this was talking about city property. The City Manager said yes it was. Mayor Rangra asked if we have a list of the total assets and value of the total assets. City Manager Zimmer said yes we do. He said that was one of the things that we will be doing in the future. He said he will be interviewing a couple of students from Sul Ross to do internships for the city. He said the first order of operation for that person will be to go through all of our asset listings and re-visit across each fund to make sure of its accuracy. He said he wanted this to be built into a spreadsheet that will be easy to view and easy to share. He said we will be working on that over the next few months.

City Staff Updates – None

5. Public Hearings –

A. TCEQ Permit No. WQ0014349001 – Public Hearing on Notice of Application. (E. Zimmer, CM) – There was no public comment.

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 Minutes of January 5th, 2016. (A. Rangra, Mayor) –
- B. Approve appointment of Kurt Mannchen representative of Ward 3, Parks Board to replace Betty Fitzgerald. (J. Fitzgerald) –
- C. Approve Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Letter regarding AT&T outages as discussed at the December 8, 2015 City Council Meeting, for the Mayor to sign. (E. Zimmer, CM)

Motion was made by Councilor Stephens, by Resolution 2016-01-04 to approve items 6A, 6B and 6C of the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. Motion unanimously carried.

7. Information or Discussion items –

A. Monthly update on City/County items (J. Gonzales) – Councilor Gonzales said he met with the Commissioner who is the County's liaison. He said he presented him with the items that he was given at the last meeting. He said they are going to present those at the next meeting of their Commissioners and see what they can do to try to do some of the things that were on there or at least to discuss them. He said he has not gotten any results yet, since their meeting was just last Tuesday.

B. Quarterly update on Municipal Court with Judge Eve Trook. (E. Zimmer, CM) - Judge Trook said this would be a very brief report. She said they are feeling confident that they have a workable court. She said they are a stable institution. She said the clerk, Gloria Brownell, received an opportunity to move to San Antonio which will allow her, among other things, to take the bar exam in Texas. She said Gloria is an attorney in Mexico. She said that was important for her to do. She said that means that right now they have a valiant part time person learning to be a clerk and she is still there this evening. She said we see various ways that we might be able to increase access to the court by having different hours than we have now so that people who have full-time jobs who are really precluded from exercising a lot of their rights. She said they think more access is important. She said it is enjoyable to be in a position where you can make the court better rather than just be surviving. She said she thinks that is what they are going to be able to do. Councilor Stephens said he knew the Judge had been working hard on the backlog and wondered what she was down to now. Judge Trook said they were down to about 200 cases now. She said they are the type of cases that you look at to see if there is enough paper to justify keeping them for collection

purposes. Councilor Stephens said that was great. Councilor Gonzales said the opening of the Municipal Court Clerk is in the paper and he just wanted to be clear on one thing. He asked if it was going to be a part time job or a full time job. Judge Trook said it is being advertised as a full-time job and they have a part-time person just for the interim because we are having court tomorrow. She said clerks do a lot of duties. She said they take money and they talk with people and the range of questions that the temporary clerk fielded today was pretty amazing. She said the City Administration allowed them to have a part time clerk for this period of time until they figure out exactly who is available and if any changes need to be made. She said applications are still being accepted in the City Office if you come to the place where the water bills are paid. She said she urged everyone to fill them out by tomorrow morning at 9 A.M. because they really need to find a person who will fit in this position so they can be trained a little longer. City Manager Zimmer said Judge Trook, Megan, Molly and he have served on the panel doing the interviewing. He said he really appreciated all the dialogue between the four of them in finding the right person for the community. He said privacy is one of those things that is very important in that court clerk position and especially in a small town so we have been very careful and thoughtful throughout this process. Mayor Rangra thanked Judge Trook.

C. Quarterly update from Mike Scudder relating to West Texas Ambulance Services. (E. Zimmer, CM) – Mike Scudder started with the quarterly EMS run report. He said this was for the fourth quarter of 2015, October 1st to December 31st. He said the total number of city, county and Marathon runs were 120 calls. He said the last quarter they did 118 calls. He said it is about the same for this time of the year. He said they had 66 City calls total. He also broke it down by total response calls, patient payer type, air ambulance transports and patient payer type, Air transport patient resident status, and the number of billable patients. Councilor Gonzales asked when Mr. Scudder was talking about air transport was he talking about from the hospital to the airport? Mike said that was correct. Councilor Gonzales asked if he could be told how much that costs. Mike said their base rate was \$750.00. Councilor Gonzales said the hospital determines what state they are in? Mike said it is determined by the hospital, whatever level that is. Councilor Antrim said she would like to commend our Ambulance service for the excellent service, having to avail herself of it last month. She said they were highly professional and very efficient and yet very caring and supportive as well at a time when the patient was a nervous wreck. Councilor Salas said she really appreciated everything.

D. Update from Mike Scudder on Volunteer Fire Department to include Fire Hydrant Testing, volunteer program and current status of equipment. (E. Zimmer, CM) – Mike Scudder said in 2015 the Fire Department

responded to 104 calls. He gave the number of calls by jurisdiction and number of calls by month for the City and the County. He said currently they have 19 firefighters. He said all of their fire apparatus is functional except for the Tower I aerial platform which has been out of service for over a year now due to transmission problems. It was asked how much it would cost to replace and Mike said a newer/used reconditioned one would probably cost about \$200,000. Replacing the transmission with a newer transmission was discussed. Mike said the truck is 29 years old. Mike said most fire apparatus is custom made from front to back. He said they are weighing if it is worth "kicking a dead horse". He said they get it going for a little while and then it breaks down again. He said usually 30 years is the service life for fire apparatus. Mike said he also planned to give a presentation to the Council with a report like this one but a date had not yet been set. Mike said in November and December of 2015 and in January of 2016, 233 Fire Hydrants were tested. He said of the 233 fire hydrants tested, 50 were deemed either inoperable or in a state of distress. He said the issues ranged from the caps not being able to be removed from the hydrants to some fire hydrants that had no water at all. He said the operational hydrants, were flushed, had their caps removed and had their threads lubricated. He said it was their plan to test each hydrant in the Spring to ensure water flow. He said this is a critical issue. Councilor Stephens said the good news is that we know where the bad ones are at. He said he thought that was a major step in the right direction. He said before we had no idea. Mike said that was true. City Manager Zimmer said Lawrence Cutrone said his team would get back with Mike and work with him. He said the ones where we cannot open the caps, he will probably have Hector's team help with that as well. He said he believed the people who painted the hydrants at one time apparently did not understand the functionality of the hydrants. He said he thought by the next quarter we should be able to give an update on where we are at with this list. Mayor Rangra said this has been a problem for years. He said he is glad we have the numbers. Councilor Gonzales said he thought the scouts painted them at one time. Mike said he did not remember that. It was discussed that the southeast area of town was very slim on fire hydrants. Mayor Rangra said fire hydrants can also affect your insurance. Councilor Gonzales asked about the tanker truck. Mike said it would probably hold water for about 8 to 10 minutes.

- E. Outline Transition Plan and Objectives for new representative for City/County Liaison Position (R. Stephens) - Councilor Stephens said this was a continuation of an earlier discussion. He said at the next meeting he would propose a resolution for the City Council to select a successor to Julian for his role and he wanted to give the Council members time to think about it so that they can make that decision at**

the next council meeting. He said having a replacement in place will allow a smooth transition. Councilor Stephens said the fire hydrants need to be discussed as well as other items. He said property tax also needs to be discussed and why some people do not pay property tax. He said that was all that he wanted to bring up and see who was interested in filling that role. Mayor Rangra said he was proud of the Council for digging into some of this stuff. Councilor Fitzgerald said he would like to put his name in for either one of the two positions, for the appraisal board or the city/county liaison. He said he and Julian volunteered at the same time a year or so ago. Mayor Rangra said we are going to need two volunteers at the next meeting.

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 first reading of Budget Amendment Ordinance 2016-01-01. Budget amendments are for Fund 05 (Airport) and Fund 06 (Hotel occupancy Tax). (E. Zimmer, CM) – City Manager Zimmer said he was bringing this item back to the Council. He said at the last meeting we did not achieve the three votes required. He said if Council chooses to approve the first reading, a copy of the Ordinance will be available at the front desk for the public to review. He said he has not changed any information in the packet from the original request. Motion was made by Councilor Stephens, by Resolution 2016-01-06 to approve the first reading of Budget Amendment Ordinance 2016-01-01. Budget amendments are for Fund 05 (Airport) and Fund 06 (Hotel Occupancy Tax). Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. Councilors Antrim, Salas, Fitzgerald and Stephens voted in favor. Councilor Gonzales voted against. Motion carried.**

9. **Discuss and Consider approving first reading of Ordinance 2016-01-03, an Ordinance setting an expiration date for all city of Alpine checks, 180 days from the date of issuance of check. (E. Zimmer, CM) - City Manager Zimmer said we discussed this item at the last City Council meeting. He said the Ordinance is included in the Council’s packet. He said it is fairly self-explanatory. He said if the Council approves the first reading this evening, a copy of the ordinance will be available at the front desk for the public to review. Councilor Stephens made a motion, by Resolution 2016-01-07, to approve the first reading of the Ordinance 2016-01-03, setting an expiration date for all city of Alpine checks, 180 days from the date of issuance of the**

check. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. Councilor Fitzgerald said it is obvious that we need an expiration date on our checks. Jerry Mitchell asked if there was any mechanism if someone was issued a check and for some reason they lost or misplaced it, is there any mechanism to reinstate the check after 180 days if there is a legitimate claim. City Manager Zimmer said up to day 179 they could come in and get the check reissued and we would cancel the old check but after 180 days the check would be voided. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

10. Discuss and Consider approving first reading of Ordinance 2016-01-04, an Ordinance amending Ordinance 2005-6-22, Division 2, Purchasing, Section 2-258 of the Code of Ordinances, prior authorization for payment required. (E. Zimmer, CM) – City Manager Zimmer said this was another topic that we had spoken about at the last meeting. He said this is updating the ordinance, expanding it to say that anything outside the budget would have to come to council for approval. He said if the Council approves the first reading of this ordinance this evening, a copy will be available at the front desk for the public to review. Motion was made by Councilor Fitzgerald, by Resolution 2016-01-08, to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2016-01-04, an Ordinance amending Ordinance 2005-6-22, Division 2, Purchasing, Section 2-258 of the Code of Ordinances, prior authorization for payment required. Motion was seconded by Councilor Salas. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

11. Council Member Comments And Answers –
Councilor Antrim said it was encouraging to see a full house at the end of a meeting and thanked everyone for coming.
Councilor Salas said she also appreciated everyone being here and their dedication to stick with us through all of this. She also said she wanted everyone to know that there is going to be a workshop on February 6th at the Espino Building and it is called “Birth to work”. She said it would consist of 6 different sessions. She said she would encourage everyone to at least make the introduction one.
Councilor Fitzgerald said he would like to thank Jerry Mitchell for his service. He said he represented Ward 3. He said he did an excellent job. He also thanked Father Nicholas for doing a good invocation. He also said if anyone is interested in obtaining a concealed carry license, Lieutenant Phil Fierro is holding a class at the police station this Saturday at 8:00 A.M.
Councilor Gonzales said he wanted to thank everyone for coming. He said today was a beautiful day in Alpine and he thought that was one of the reasons that so many were here.
Councilor Stephens said thanks very much to Judge Trook. He said they have come a long way in getting the court cases caught up. He also thanked Mike Scudder for doing the fire hydrant check.
Mayor Rangra said he wanted to thank everyone. He said he wanted to thank Father Nicholas. He said he thought with his presence at the meeting

the Council behaved pretty nicely. He said he wanted to recognize two County Commissioners who were present here tonight, Commissioner Luc Novovitch from Precinct 1 and Commissioner Mike Pallanez. Councilor Pallanez said he thought it was a good meeting and that a lot was accomplished. He said hopefully they can continue to work with the city. He said for many, many years there was not too much cooperation and they are working very hard at their end to be able to work together and help each other out and at the same time, hopefully, keep costs down. He said thank you for having us. Commissioner Novovitch said he was present as a citizen of Alpine and obviously it is Commissioner Pallanez who is the liaison for the City of Alpine. Mayor Rangra said it is wonderful that the County and the City are communicating. He said he had not seen that in all his years of service as a Councilman and a Mayor, this level of city-county cooperation. He said he hopes to see it continue.

12. Executive Session - None

13. Action after Executive Session - None

14. 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 9:30 A.M. on January 15th, 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.

Dr. Avinash Rangra, Mayor

Attest:

Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary

I, Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary, do certify that this notice was posted at 9:30 A.M. on January 15th, 2016, and remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of said meeting.

Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary