

**City of Alpine**  
**Regular City Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 21st, 2016**  
**5:30 P.M.**  
**Minutes**

- 1. Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of allegiance to the flags – Mayor Ramos called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers at 803 West Holland in the City of Alpine, Texas. Father Roth gave the invocation. Mayor Ramos led the pledge of allegiance to the flags.**
  
- 2. Determination of a quorum and proof of notice of the meeting – Mayor Ramos, Councilors Salas, Fitzgerald, Stephens and Escovedo were present. Councilor Antrim was absent. There was a quorum present. The meeting notice had been posted at 1:30 P.M. on June 17th, 2016. City Manager Zimmer and City Secretary Taylor were present.**
  
- 3. Presentations, recognitions and proclamations –**
  - A. First Place recognition in KTB Youth and Educator Awards – (School Employee/Volunteer) Cub Scout pack 141 – (Patsy McWilliams – KAB). (A. Ramos, Mayor) – Mayor Ramos presented a Certificate from the City of Alpine and a plaque from Keep Texas Beautiful to Cub Scout pack 141. Patsy McWilliams said the troop had cleaned the creek bed for several years for the trash-off. She said these kids and their folks have cleaned almost two miles of the creek. She said they have cleaned up bags and bags of trash out of the creek every single year. Mayor Ramos said they are a great example to the city and we do need to take their lead. He said we do need to clean up Alpine. He said there is a lot of trash out here. He said it is a beautiful town and we do not need all the trash we have here. He said we need to keep Alpine beautiful. He said the kids have done a fantastic job.**
  
  - B. First Place recognition in KTB Youth and Educator Awards – (Scout Troop) – (Patsy McWilliams – KAB) (A. Ramos, Mayor). Mayor Ramos presented a Certificate from the City of Alpine to Zeke Contreras for the Youth and Educator Awards. Mr. Contreras was also presented with an award from Keep Texas Beautiful. Mayor Ramos said here is another individual who has taken the time to Keep Alpine Beautiful. He said let's again, follow his example. He said let's go out there and pick a block or a street and keep it clean.**
  
  - C. Keep Alpine Beautiful: KTB Affiliate's Current 2016 Recognition Standing is : Gold Star (Patsy McWilliams, KAB). (A. Ramos, Mayor) – Mayor Ramos presented Patsy McWilliams a Certificate from the City of**

**Alpine for 2016 Recognition from Keep Texas Beautiful for a Gold Star standing – Keep Alpine Beautiful. Mayor Ramos said he had known Patsy for about six years and she is always involved in one project or another. He said she is very energetic and leads by example. He said Patsy is a great service to this community.**

**D. Proclamation – AHS Baseball Team and Coaches (A. Ramos, Mayor) – Mayor Ramos said before he read the proclamation to the kids, he wanted to personally thank them and he knows that the City of Alpine thanks them and we are all absolutely proud of the accomplishment that they did this year. He said they sacrifice a lot. He said they are out there with their coaches, practicing and playing and they have had a fantastic year. He said he thinks 1994 was the last time they went this far in the playoffs. He said that says a lot, a lot of work and a lot of dedication. Mayor Ramos read a Proclamation from the City of Alpine to the team and coaches and thanked them for their hard work, pride and dedication.**

#### **4. Reports –**

**City Mayor’s Report - (A. Ramos, Mayor) – Mayor Ramos said the only report he has is that he and Erik have been talking about recognizing people for their outstanding contributions to the City. He said it is important that we do recognize these folks. He said it is an incentive and it also leads to peer pressure, getting other folks involved. He said in Alpine, we need to take pride in our City. He said this is our town so let’s all do our part.**

#### **City Manager Report –**

**City Manager gave the following report.**

#### **TCEQ Enforcement Order–**

- Enforcement Order 20140519MLM-B
- Scheduled to be heard by their Board on July 6, 2016
- Anticipate it will be approved as recommended.
- Critical items for City to complete will be:
  - a) Clean out of old Oxidation Ditch
  - b) Installation of Aerator
  - c) We have already procured 2<sup>nd</sup> Sludgemate Dewatering Box
  - d) Administrative Team has plan in place to handle all reporting and timelines associated with final Order

- **Monthly Financial Readout –**

- Year-over-Year Trending
- Showed chart with GF Revenues, Expenses and Net Income Oct. 2014, YTD – May 2016, YTD, Water/Sewer/Sanitation chart with Revenues, Expenses and Net Income Oct. 2014 YTD – May 2016 YTD.
- General fund overall performing better than last year. Expect continued expenditures related to paving and parks through

summer months.

- Water/Sewer billing dollar amounts trending similar to last year
- Showed chart with Airport Revenues, Expenses and Net Income Oct. 2014 YTD – May 2016 YTD
- Showed chart with HOT (Hotel/Motel) Revenues, Expenses and Net Income, Oct. 2014 YTD – May 2016 YTD
- Showed chart with Gas Revenues, Expenses and Net Income, Oct. 2014 YTD – May 2016 YTD.
- City Manager Zimmer said Airport crack seal expenditures were depicted in May, HOT revenues were slightly down this year and Gas revenues were lower due to a warmer winter.
- City Manager Zimmer showed a graph of General Fund, Oct. 2015 YTD to May 2016 YTD.
- 97% of budgeted Ad Valorem taxes revenue realized
- 93% of budgeted Animal Control revenue realized
- 74% of City Sales Tax revenue realized
- City Manager Zimmer said the net income trend is typical for summer months
- City Manager Zimmer showed a graph of Water/Sewer/Sanitation, Oct. 2015 to May, 2016 YTD.
- Year over year trending consistent with 2015
- Working on audit related to non-functioning and non-read meters
- Continue to work through billing transaction – installed printer receipt this month. Anticipate recommended changes through budgetary process this year.
- Hired PT person reviewing all accounts
- City Manager Zimmer showed a graph of Airport, Oct. 2015 to May, 2016 YTD.
- Revenue and expense increases tied to crack-seal project
- Engineering in progress for larger capital project approved through City and TxDOT Aviation
- City Manager Zimmer showed a graph of Hotel Occupancy Tax, Oct. 2015 to May, 2016 YTD
- Revenues are slightly down from this past year. With Quarter 7 Hotel back on line, we expect to make up the difference.
- Anticipate a great summer with multiple theater events, Viva Big Bend, 4<sup>th</sup> of July – Fiesta del Barrio, Big Bend Ranch Rodeo, Baseball and sooo much more....
- City Manager Zimmer showed a graph of the Gas Department, Oct. 2015 YTD to May 2016 YTD
- Continue expenditure rate to ensure we execute on our DIMP program. Currently focused on retiring steel lines no longer in use.
- Warm winter allowed for less usage by citizens
- New billing location coming soon.
- Monthly financials
  - Checking Accounts: All continue to perform at expectation. We still

monitor the General Fund closely. Fund 04 and Fund 08 are in very good position.

- Potential Budget Amendments after Q3 are 1) Airport and 2) Building Maintenance in General Fund. Contemplating budgeting those dollars in one department next year.
- Staff continues to work to make reports and data available on the City website and welcomes questions and dialogue from the community.

City Manager Zimmer said we try to give out as much data as possible to our citizens. Councilor Fitzgerald said if anyone has ever been involved with conversions, there is no such thing as a 100% perfect conversion. He said there are always going to be glitches. He said we have had a couple of minor glitches but he thinks it is very commendable. He said he has seen nightmares out there. City Manager Zimmer said he appreciated that. He said we understand that mistakes are going to happen out there. He said what he expects from the staff is that we respond and execute on resolving the issue, not laying back and hoping things will fix themselves, because they won't. He said we have brought Laura Nussbaum in to make sure that we are executing well.

#### City Staff Updates – None

#### 5. Public Hearings –

A. Public Hearing to obtain citizens views and comments concerning Budget Amendment Ordinance 2016-05-01 for equity transfer of \$457,500.00 from the Gas Operating fund to Street Department (General Fund) for 27 block rebuild. (R. Stephens).- Joseph Goldman said the last time he asked about this he was told that the \$457,500 was found in equity. He said now he understands that is to be transferred from the gas operating fund to the street department fund. He asked if that was transferring equity or cash? He said if it is equity, what is the equity? Mayor Ramos asked the City Manager if he wanted to comment on that. City Manager Zimmer said in a public hearing, citizens are allowed to make comments but the Council, Mayor, City Manager and City Attorney are not supposed to respond until we come to the Action item.

B. Public Hearing to obtain citizens views and comments concerning Animal Ordinance 2015-11-01, amending Chapter 10 of the code of Ordinances – Animals, Article I and Article II. (N. Antrim) – Faye Carpenter said over the years they have taken in about a dozen feral cats. She said they have found homes for them and had them spayed and given them their shots. She said if she is understanding correctly, the citizens will be fined for this. She said if they continue to feed stray cats and find them homes, they will be fined. She asked if that was correct. Mayor Ramos said

that is one of the reasons why we are changing this ordinance so we can deal with those individuals. He said there are a lot of feral cats in Alpine. Faye said yes, and they try to do their part. She said some of those cats belonged to someone. She said there was a house that was rented and they left six cats there. She said they stayed there for two months, feeding them, to try to keep them safe and where they would trust them, and they found homes for all of them. She said they had them spayed and gave them their shots. She said they should not be fined if they feed a stray cat and try to find an owner. Mayor Ramos told Faye she would not be fined for that. He said that was not the intent of the Ordinance. He said she should be commended for what they are doing. Faye said there are a lot of people out there who do the same thing. She said it is unfortunate when people do not spay their animals. Councilor Fitzgerald said he thought if everyone were to spay and neuter their animals, especially feral animals, after a while the problem should solve itself. Faye said it is not the animal's fault but the humans fault.

6. Consent Agenda – (Minutes, Financial reports, Department written reports, board appointments, etc.) – (Notice to the Public – The following items are of a routine and administrative nature. The Council has been furnished with background and support material on each item, and/or it has been discussed at a previous meeting. All items will be acted upon by one vote without being discussed separately unless requested by a Council Member, in which event the item or items will immediately be withdrawn for individual consideration in its normal sequence after the items not requiring separate discussion have been acted upon. The remaining items will be adopted by one vote.) –

A. Approve Council Minutes for June 7th, 2016. (A. Ramos, Mayor).

Motion was made by Councilor Stephens, by Resolution 2016-06-06, to approve the Council Minutes for June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. Motion unanimously carried.

7. Information or Discussion items –

- A. Joint City/County Items Monthly Readout (J. Fitzgerald) – Councilor Fitzgerald said he had spent the last month in Detroit. He said he got back yesterday evening. He said he did meet with Judge Cano and Commissioner Pallanez before he left. He said he reached out to Commissioner Pallanez to try to set up a meeting so that they could start making some progress on these items. He said he did not have a report but there would be a report next month.

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 the second and final reading of Animal Ordinance 2015-11-01, amending Chapter 10 of the Code of Ordinances – Animals, Article I and Article II. (N. Antrim) - City Manager Zimmer said Councilor Antrim was not able to attend but she did still want the Council to vote on this item. He said he and the City Secretary had not received feedback concerning the Ordinance. ACO Jennifer Stewart said no one has really come to her with any complaints. She said she has just heard what people have had to say at the meetings. She said what Faye Carpenter is doing is what our goal is. Mayor Ramos said he thinks we need to start educating the public more. He said it is very important that we get some of these animals off the street, especially the feral cats who carry diseases such as rabies. He said so far we have been lucky in Alpine and have not had a case of rabies. He said we would like to keep it that way. He said it is a very dangerous disease. He said we need to take control of these animals. He said the citizens of Alpine need to be more responsible with their pets. Commissioner Stephens said when the change was made from the number of animals to a statement concerning how the situation would be handled, it calmed down a lot of citizens. Jennifer said “yes it did”. She said we have not heard any more about that. Councilor Fitzgerald said he wanted to compliment everyone who worked on it. He said he understands that it was worked on for quite a while. He said it was a good job. Motion was made by Councilor Stephens, by Resolution 2016-06-07, to approve the second and final reading of Animal Ordinance 2015-11-01, amending Chapter 10 of the Code of Ordinances – Animals, Article I and Article II. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. Motion carried unanimously.**
  
- 9. Discuss and Consider approval of quote received for street project from Jarratt Dirt Work and Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$457,500.00 and approve second and final reading of budget amendment Ordinance 2016-05-01 for equity transfer of \$457,500.00 from the Gas Operating fund to Street Department (General Fund) for 27 block rebuild. (R. Stephens) – Councilor Stephens said we approved the first part of that at the last meeting. He said we need to approve the budget transfer. City Manager Zimmer said the transfer was cash equity. He said we did put the specified activity report in the packets this week. He said it did show the exact dollar amount. He said it was cash in the checking account. Mayor Ramos asked if that answered Mr. Goldman’s question. Councilor Stephens made a motion by Resolution 2016-06-08, to approve the**

second and final reading of budget amendment Ordinance 2016-05-01, for the equity transfer of \$457,500.00 from the Gas Operating fund to the Street Department (General Fund) for 27 block rebuild. Motion was seconded by Councilor Salas. Motion unanimously carried.

10. Discuss and Consider approval of lease and annual Resolution to accompany the lease for Alpine Country Club and their use of the City's portion of the property which encompasses the 'Alpine Country Club'. (E. Zimmer, CM) – City Manager Zimmer said he included quite a bit of background in the Council's packets. He said since Councilor Escovedo and Mayor Ramos were not on the Council at that time, he thought they might want to see the historic background. He said the Council opted to approve a 10 year lease with the expectation that a Resolution will be drafted every year for the Country Club and the City to work on jointly for critical items. He said although the Council approved the lease with those changes, he said he thought with having a new Council now and a new Mayor, it might be nice to come back and actually write those in. He said we do have Ron Eubanks here. He said Ron has worked diligently with him. He said the Country Club has several new board members. He said the membership was briefed with the different changes and updates. He said he thinks the key thing that he is seeing from the Country Club is this renewed sense of energy in maintaining the asset. He said from his perspective, as the City Manager, we are out there fighting a battle every day on assets, whether it is paving or water or sewer infrastructure. He said the Country Club is saying that they really want to maintain this asset. He said what you see in your packets now is this Capital Plan where they are talking to membership and saying that they need to start saving some money to do some strategic things over time. He said he is really pleased. He said Ron is exceptional and they are really fortunate to have him on the board. He said there are a lot of behind the scenes members who have really helped. He said we are starting to get involvement from membership and they are taking active portions of that property and really look favorably upon it. He said in the packets tonight are the updates to the lease and the Resolution. Ron said he appreciated the support of the City Council and he said we are working very well together and he is very excited about the new lease. Councilor Fitzgerald said he thinks the Country Club is one of the major assets in the City. He said the University, the Airport and the Country Club are the 3 major assets. He said we should support all of those three. Mayor Ramos said we need to let the public know that they can play at the golf course also. He said the golf course itself is open to the public. Motion was made by Councilor Escovedo, by Resolution 2016-06-09, to approve the lease and annual Resolution to accompany the lease for Alpine Country Club and their use of the city's portion of the property which encompasses the Alpine Country Club. Motion was seconded by Councilor Salas. Motion carried unanimously.

**11. Discuss and Consider setting meeting dates for budget workshops in support of the formation of the City of Alpine Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget. (E. Zimmer, CM) – City Manager Zimmer said at the last meeting we talked about setting some dates. He said last year we had two budget workshops. He said they were in July. He said one was in conjunction with a City Council meeting and the other was on its own stand alone date. He said Councilor Antrim had given him some feedback on when she was going to be out and really his goal would be to have two budget workshops with at least two weeks separating them. He said we have the survey out and we have half of the responses. He said he knows some of the responses will come out during this next week. He said Budget workshop one is really to look at the high-level responses and thoughts from Council as to the delineation of the dollars, what we can do with our current budget without taking some level of drastic measure. He said Megan and he will take the output from that and overlay that with the budget work they are doing with the department heads. He said that will be discussed in the second workshop, with a draft that Council can look at. We can see if we hit the mark on some items and we may have to tweak it a little bit. He said by the end of July we should have a good product, that Council can hopefully make a decision to go ahead and accept early in the August timeframe. He said the goal of getting both readings of the Budget and the Revenues with the tax rate by the end of August. He said last year July 8<sup>th</sup> was the first Budget workshop. He said Dr. Antrim will miss the Council meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> and will also be gone for a week on the 26<sup>th</sup>. He said last year we had one workshop in the afternoon and one in the evening. It was discussed that only two members of the public attended last year's meetings. Mayor Ramos said we need to get the citizens involved more. The first meeting was scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup>, Monday at 3:00 P.M. The second meeting was scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M., Thursday. Motion was made by Councilor Stephens, by Resolution 2016-06-10, to set the Budget Workshop Dates of Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 P.M. and Thursday August 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M. Motion was seconded by Councilor Salas. Motion unanimously carried.**

**12. Councilmember Comments and Answers –**

**Councilor Salas - said she wanted to thank the Cub Scouts, Troop 141 for their hard work. She said she also wanted to thank Mr. Contreras for his dedication to the Community and Patsy McWilliams for being a big part of this and for helping us out. Mayor Ramos asked that the crowd give another round of applause for their outstanding jobs.**

**Councilor Fitzgerald – said it was good to be back. He commended everyone who received recognition at tonight's meeting. He told the City**

**Manager he was doing a good job and so was his staff.**

**Councilor Escovedo - said she thinks it is important for the Community to know what we are doing, whether by the radio, newspaper or by Council Members themselves. She said the Council is always open and ready to talk to the citizens.**

**Councilor Stephens – said he thought we had a good meeting and that we had a great group that was presented proclamations tonight.**

**Mayor Ramos - thanked everyone for coming.**

- 16. Executive Session – None**
- 17. Action after Executive Session – None**
- 18. Adjournment – There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.**

**NOTICE: The City Council reserves the right to adjourn into Executive Session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed on the posted agenda, above, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071 (consultation with attorney), 551.072 (deliberations about real property), 551.073 (deliberations about gifts and donations), 551.074 (personnel matters), 551.076 (deliberations about security devices), and 551.086 (economic development).**

I certify that this notice was posted at 1:30 P. M. on June 17th, 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.

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Andres "Andy" Ramos, Mayor

Attest:

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Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary

I, Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary, do certify that this notice was posted at 1:30 P.M. on June 17th, 2016, and remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of said meeting.

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Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary