

City of Alpine
Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 18, 2021
5:30 P.M.
Minutes

1. **Call to Order, and Pledge of allegiance to the flags** – Mayor Ramos called the meeting to order. The meeting was held at the City Council Chambers and via zoom conference in the City of Alpine, Texas. Mayor Ramos led the pledge of allegiance to the flags.
2. **Determination of a quorum and proof of notice of the meeting** – Councilor Judy Stokes, Councilor Chris Rodriguez, Councilor Sara Tandy, Councilor Martin Sandate, and Councilor Jerry Johnson attended at the City Council Chambers. City Manager Erik Zimmer, City Secretary Cynthia Salas and City Attorney Sandy Wilson attended at the City Council Chambers. City Secretary, Cynthia Salas reported that the agenda was posted at 11:00 A.M. on May 13, 2021.
3. **Public Comments** (limited to 3 minutes per person) – Karen Cantrell, JoAntoinette Valenzuela, Chris Ruggia, Stewart Ramser, Rick Stephens, Tammie Neu, Oscar Cobos, Carl Fleming, Karen Cantrell, Abbey Branch, Kirsten Moody.
4. **Presentation, Recognitions, and Proclamations** – (A. Ramos, Mayor) –
 - Mental Health Awareness Month
 - Stop the Bleed Campaign
5. **Reports** – Copies of the charts presented during the meeting are posted on the City website at www.cityofalpine.com/cmreports.

City Mayor’s Report – (A. Ramos, Mayor) –

- Introduction of the three (3) newly elected Council Members
- Presentation to Ramon Olivas for his 4 years (2 terms) in office as Council Member for Ward 2
- Presentation to Lucy Escovedo for her 4 years (2 terms) in office as Council Member for Ward 4
- Presentation to Rick Stephens for his 7 years (3 terms) in office as Council Member for Ward 5

City Attorney’s Report –

- AISD Project Update

City Manager Report –

- Coronavirus Update
- Relief Act Update
- IT Readout
- Sample Contract – Milestone Billing examples follow-up
- Boards & Commissions

- Ordinance Updates

City Staff Updates –

- Human Resources by Lorena Crespo-Gonzales

6. Public Hearing –

- Public Hearing to obtain citizen’s views and comments on three applications totaling approximately \$2,000,000 (\$2 million) in TXDOT – Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) program funds for sidewalk and related infrastructure improvements in multiple areas throughout the city. The City requires matching funds for all three (3) awarded, will be approximately \$400,000.

7. 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.)

1. Approval of minutes from City Council meeting on May 4, 2021. (E. Zimmer, City Manager)
2. Approval of minutes from Special City Council meeting on May 10, 2021. (E. Zimmer, City Manager)

Councilor Tandy requested items three (3), four (4), and five (5) be moved to Action Items. Motion was made by Councilor Johnson, by Resolution 2021-05-13, to approve items one (1) and two (2) on the consent agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilor Stokes. Motion unanimously carried.

8. Information or Discussion items –

1. Discussion of a City street sign for Peach Tree Street also known as Quail Run. (S. Tandy, City Council)
2. Discussion regarding street repair timeline (S. Tandy, City Council)

9. 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.) after being called upon by Mayor or Mayor Pro Term. 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.) –

1. Approval of Gwin Grimes for Animal Advisory Board – representing Humane Society Position. (E. Zimmer, City Manager) – **Motion was made by Councilor Tandy, by Resolution 2021-05-14, to accept item 1. Motion was seconded by Councilor Stokes. Motion unanimously carried.**

2. Approval of Rick Stephens for P&Z At-Large Position – (C. Rodriguez, City Council) – Motion was made by Councilor Tandy, by Resolution 2021-05-15, to table this item. Motion was seconded by Councilor Johnson. Councilor Stokes, Councilor Tandy, Councilor Sandate, and Councilor Johnson voted in favor. Councilor Rodriguez voted against. Motion passed 4 to 1.
3. Approval of Rick Stephens for Chairman of P&Z. (C. Rodriguez, City Council) – Motion was made by Councilor Tandy, by Resolution 2021-05-16, to table the approval of Rick Stephens for Chairman of P&Z. Motion was seconded by Councilor Johnson. Councilor Stokes, Councilor Tandy, Councilor Sandate, and Councilor Johnson voted in favor. Councilor Rodriguez voted against. Motion passed 4 to 1.
1. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action regarding the employment contract and most recent employee evaluations for: (J. Stokes, City Council)
 - a. City Manager – Erik Zimmer
 - b. City Secretary – Cynthia Salas

Motion was made by Councilor Stokes, by Resolution 2021-05-17, to terminate the contracts of Erik Zimmer and Cynthia Salas. Motion was seconded by Councilor Tandy.

Councilor Rodriguez motioned to amend the original motion. Motion was not seconded. Motion lost. Councilor Stokes motioned to amend the original motion to terminate the employment contract of Erik Zimmer and to terminate him as of that night. Councilor Stokes, Councilor Tandy, and Councilor Sandate voted in favor. Councilor Rodriguez and Councilor Johnson voted against. Motion carried 3 to 2.

Motion was made by Councilor Stokes, by Resolution 2021-05-18, to terminate the employment of Cynthia Salas. Councilor Stokes, Councilor Tandy, and Councilor Sandate voted in favor. Councilor Johnson voted against. Councilor Rodriguez abstained. Motion carried 3 to 1.

2. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action approving Resolution 2021-05-15 authorizing the City of Alpine to participate in the Texas Department of Transportation’s Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside program (E.Zimmer, City Manager) – Motion was made by Councilor Rodriguez, by Resolution 2021-05-19, to table this item. Motion was seconded by Councilor Stokes. Councilor Stokes, Councilor Rodriguez, Councilor Tandy, Councilor Sandate, and Councilor Johnson voted in favor. Motion unanimously carried.
3. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action to review and approve items to Auction and/or Donate from the City of Alpine. (E. Zimmer, City Manager) – Motion was made by Councilor Rodriguez, by Resolution 2021-05-20, to table this item. Motion was seconded by Councilor Sandate. Councilor Stokes, Councilor Rodriguez, Councilor Tandy, Councilor Sandate, and Councilor Johnson voted in favor. Motion unanimously carried.
4. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action on the first reading of Ordinance 2021-05-05, an ordinance amending Chapter 23 – City Council, Article II – Rules of Procedure to the Alpine Code of Ordinances. (C. Rodriguez, City Council) – Motion was made by Councilor Rodriguez, by Resolution 2021-05-21, to table this item. Motion was seconded by Councilor Sandate. Councilor Stokes, Councilor Rodriguez, Councilor Tandy, Councilor Sandate, and Councilor Johnson voted in favor. Motion unanimously carried.

5. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action to approve Special Use Permit Application for: (E. Zimmer, City Manager)
 - a. Short Term Rental Special Use Permit for 406 & 408 Phelps St and 702 & 704 E Ave B. Owner of record is Jennifer Hatch.
 - b. Short Term Rental Special Use Permit for 105 E Lockhart Ave. Owner of record is Lockhart Hacienda LLC.
 - c. Short Term Rental Special Use Permit for 502 E Brown St. Owner of record is Emily Alexander.
 - d. Short Term Rental Special Use Permit for 708 Cactus St. Owner of record is Ruben & Paige Losoya.

Motion was made by Councilor Rodriguez, by Resolution 2021-05-22, to approve the Special Use Permit Applications as they were noted. Motion was seconded by Councilor Sandate. Councilor Stokes, Councilor Rodriguez, Councilor Tandy, Councilor Sandate, and Councilor Johnson voted in favor. Motion unanimously carried.

Robert Martin, Chief of Police, requested that the Council move item two (2) of Executive Session to Open Session.

6. Discuss investigation of false arrest by Alpine Police Dept. Officers Drawe and Cardoza last April 2020. Provide a copy of the complete investigation, findings, and actions taken by our current Chief of Police Robert Martin. Motion was made by Councilor Stokes, by Resolution 2021-05-23, to discuss the investigation of false arrest by Police Department Officers Draw and Cardoza last April 2020. Motion was seconded by Councilor Rodriguez. Discussion took place. No action taken.

Sandy Wilson, City Attorney, requested that the Council move item one (1) from Executive Session to Open Session.

7. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action regarding the employment contract and most recent evaluation for: (J. Stokes, City Council)
 - a. City Attorney – Sandy Wilson

Motion was made by Councilor Stokes, by Resolution 2021-05-24, to terminate the City Attorney. Motion was not seconded. Motion Lost. City Attorney, Sandy Wilson, resigned effective immediately.

10. City Council Member Comments and Answers – No discussion or action may take place.

11. Executive Session - None

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 Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.071 (consultation with an 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)

12. Action – Executive Session – None

I certify that this notice was posted at 11:00 A.M. on May 13, 2021 pursuant to Texas Open Meetings Act.

(Texas Vernon's Annotated Civil statutes, section 551.043 Texas Government Code.) This facility is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking space is available. Requests for accommodations or interpretive services must be made 48 hours prior to this meeting. Please contact the city secretary's office at (432) 837-3301 or fax (432) 837-2044 for further information.

Andres "Andy" Ramos, Mayor

ATTEST:

Geoffrey R. Calderon, Interim City Secretary

I, Geoffrey R. Calderon, do certify that this notice was posted at 11:00 A.M. on May 13, 2021, and remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of said meeting.

Geoffrey R. Calderon, Interim City Secretary