

City of Alpine

**Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 9, 2017, 5:30 P.M.**

Minutes

1. Call to Order, Invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM by Mayor Andy Ramos. The invocation was lead by Clark Nesbaum. Pledges were led by Mayor Andy Ramos.

2. Determination of a quorum and proof of notice of the meeting.

A quorum was determined with Councilor Antrim, Councilor Salas, Councilor Fitzgerald, Councilor Stephens, and Mayor Ramos present. Councilor Escoveda was not present and was excused from this meeting

Proof of notice was given by City Secretary, Kalea Cotton.

Mayor Ramos asked City Council to consider swearing in and canvassing in elected officials before moving to item number three on the agenda.

A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgerald to complete action items number eight and nine before continuing with the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Salas. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Action items to be accompanied by a brief statement of facts, including where funds are coming from, if applicable. –

8. Discuss and Consider approving Ordinance 2017-05-05 for the canvass of the votes for the May 6, 2017 City of Alpine General Election for Council Members (Ward 1 and Ward 5). Ward 3 Councilmember was automatically elected since they were unopposed). All terms are full (two year) terms. (E. Zimmer, CM)

Mayor Ramos read aloud Ordinance 2017-05-05. A motion was made by Councilor Salas to approve Ordinance 2017-05-05 for the canvass of the votes for the May 6, 2017 City of Alpine General Election for Council Members (Ward 1 and Ward 5). Ward 3 Councilmember was automatically elected since they were unopposed. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

9. Swearing in of Council members Ward 1, Ward 3, and Ward 5 by the Honorable Roy Ferguson, State District Judge for the 394th Judicial District. (E. Zimmer, CM).

The Honorable Roy Ferguson, State District Judge for the 394th Judicial District swore in Councilor Maria Curry for Ward 1, Councilor Jim “Fitz” Fitzgerald for Ward 3, and Councilor Rick Stephens for Ward 5.

3. Presentations, recognitions and proclamations –

- Recognition of Award for Robert Polanco
- Keep Alpine Beautiful - Gold Star Designation
- Ashton Skidgell – Mayoral Proclamation

6. Consent Agenda – (Minutes, Financial reports, Department written reports, board appointments, etc.) –

A. Approve Council Minutes of May 2, 2017 (E. Zimmer, City Manager)

A motion was made by Councilor Stephens to approve the council minutes of May 2, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilor Salas. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

7. Information or Discussion items –

- Discussion on updates and upgrades related to Southern Software and its impacts on County and City Law enforcement (Erik Zimmer, City Manager)

Chief of the Brewster County Sheriff's Department, Ryan Skelton, provided information regarding the updates and upgraded related to Southern Software. Chief Skelton explained that with the new system it would be easier for the Sheriff's Office, the Police Department, and Sul Ross State University Police Department to communicate with each other. He stated that the software programs that are used as of today does not document the data needed, or offer the ability for all law enforcement to communicate.

The new software will allow dispatch to be able to send a map to patrolman regarding the exact location. Offering the officer the quickest route possible. This software will take the place of COPSYNC, and will be a more fluent system.

Chief Skelton expressed that grants are becoming difficult to receive. The new software system will cost approximately \$10,000.00/year, and there will annual maintenance fees. The County and City have previously split the maintenance costs. City Manager, Erik Zimmer stated that the annual maintenance costs are already budgeted for COPSYNC.

Councilor Stephens asked if the software incorporated virus protection. Chief Skelton explained that it did not but that there would be a contract with Nectar Computers, to help with the virus protection.

Action items to be accompanied by a brief statement of facts, including where funds are coming from, if applicable. –

10. Resolution 2017-05-06 to set rates for Pool Fees for Summer 2017 (N. Antrim, City Council, E. Zimmer, City Manager)

City Manager, Erik Zimmer provided the following information regarding action item number ten: The ordinance requires that each year the City Council set the rates for the pool. He stated that there is usually not a profit associated with the pool, that it is more of a service to the community.

A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgerald to accept by Resolution 2017-05-06 to set rates for pool fees for the Summer 2017 season. The motion was seconded by Councilor Salas.

Councilor Stephens started the discussion stating that the feedback he had received was mostly positive regarding the pool. He stated that most felt that increasing the hourly rate, and the concept of paying back training fees, after the employee had completed "x" amount of hours was acceptable.

Mayor Ramos called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

11. First Reading of New Parking Ordinance 2017-05-01 - Sul Ross/8th - stop sign, Ordinance 2017-05-02 - Sul Ross/8th - no parking, and Ordinance 2017-05-03 Sul Ross/5th - no parking (N. Antrim, City Council)

A motion was made by Councilor Stephens to accept the first reading of the new parking Ordinances 2017-05-01, 2017-05-02, and 2017-05-03. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald.

Councilor Stephens started the discussion stating that he would like for the right turn only ordinance to be put into temporary effect to receive any feedback before the public hearing and second reading of the ordinance.

Mayor Ramos called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

12. First Reading of Ordinance 2017-05-06 Amending Chapter 22, Article III, Division 1, Sections 22-66 through Section 22-70, and Division 2, Sections 22-91 through Section 22-100, to update processing fee and language associated with Peddlers, Canvassers, and Solicitors in the City of Alpine. (R. Stephens, City Council)

Councilor Stephens explained the amendment of the "peddler's ordinance" stating that some of the language regarding the ordinance needed to be changed to reflect the change in the permit's purchase requirements and fees.

A motion was made by Councilor Stephens to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2017-05-06 Amending Chapter 22, Article III, Division 1, Sections 22-66 through Section 22-70, and Division 2, Sections 22-91 through Section 22-100, to update processing fee and language associated with Peddlers, Canvassers, and Solicitors in the City of Alpine. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald.

City Manager, Erik Zimmer started the discussion stating that with these changes the applicant will be added into the City's system; which is then shared with the Police Department. Therefore, having access to it 24/7, and they will be able to look and see if the person(s) have applied for a permit.

Mayor Ramos called for a vote.

The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

13. First Reading of Ordinance 2017-05-04 to close a portion of Bird Street in Kokernot Heights Addition, Lot 230. Physical address is 1002 N. Loop Road,

Alpine, Texas, for permanent closure, due to encroachment. (E. Zimmer, City Manager)

City Manager, Erik Zimmer explained that the seven step process regarding the request to close a street/alley included a survey, appraisal, as well as petitions from abutting property owners. City Manager stated that from the City of Alpine perspective, that the appraisers who are certified in Texas, and have knowledge and wisdom to provide the appropriate value. Zimmer also stated that as of now the road being requested for closure is 60ft. wide. The City would only need 30 ft., and there would be no long term need for those particular roads. Also, that paving and maintenance would be very costly.

A motion was made by Councilor Stephens to accept the first Reading of Ordinance 2017-05-04 to close a portion of Bird Street in Kokernot Heights Addition, Lot 230. Physical address is 1002 N. Loop Road, Alpine, Texas, for permanent closure, due to encroachment. Councilor Stephens stated that he will be abstaining from voting on this matter due to a conflict of interest. *Affidavit of Abstinance is on file with the City Secretary. The motion was seconded by Councilor Salas.

Councilor Stephens started the discussion regarding this item stating that he had spoken with Mr. Walker (Surveyor), and Mr. Hopper (Appraiser), and that the property in question is in the best interest of the City. He explained that prior to 1990 Kokernot Heights was annexed into the city, but that the proper documents were not filed. Councilor Stephens affirmed that he feels this is the right thing to do, and he certainly would like to see it move forward.

Johnny Carpenter, Ms. Kokernot's representative, stated that he felt the City Council's methodology that they use to close streets/alleys was flawed, excessive, and unfair. He stated that the property in question is a dead asset to the City of Alpine, with no benefits. Mr. Carpenter stated that the appraisal done for the property in question had no similarities to the comparable nature that the appraiser used for this lot. He stated that he would like to see a more honest approach regarding the process for street/alley closures. Mr. Carpenter also explained that Ms. Kokernot's family donated all land regarding the golf course, and Sul Ross State University, and that to ask Ms. Kokernot to pay for this road is highly offensive.

City Manager, Erik Zimmer, stated that he was perplexed and surprised by the appraisal himself, but that with not having a surveyor or appraiser on staff, the City of Alpine has no other choice but to use the surveyors and appraisers in Alpine. He stated to City Council that possibly they could table the item, but that due to the buyer and seller regarding the property, he knew they were wanting this agenda item to be fast tracked.

Carol Morrow, the buyer's representative, stated that if City Council doesn't make a decision now, it will only cost the seller and the buyer more money.

City Manager, Zimmer, explained to Ms. Morrow that there had to be two City Council meetings, and one public hearing.

Ms. Morrow asked if there was any way around having to have two meeting and a public hearing. Mr. Zimmer stated that there was not.

With no more discussion, Mayor Ramos called for a vote. The motion passed 3-0, with Councilor Stephens abstaining from voting.

14. City Council Member Comments and Answers –

Councilor Rick Stephens thank Dr. Nancy Antrim for her time served on the City Council, and welcomed the new City Councilwoman Maria Curry. Stephens congratulated Councilman Fitzgerald for being on the Council another term, and that he felt this election had more voters than previous elections.

Councilor Jim “Fitz” Fitzgerald thanked everyone for coming, and thanked Dr. Nancy Antrim for her service to the City, stating that it was a pleasure. He also welcomed Councilwoman Maria Curry.

Councilor Cynthia Salas thanked Dr. Nancy Antrim, and congratulated Councilman Fitz, Councilman Stephens, and Councilwoman Curry. She also stated that there was still a lot of work to do, and that they were moving forward, and could see the light at the end of the tunnel. Councilor Salas also thanked everyone for coming.

Councilor Maria Curry stated that she had big shoes to fill, following Dr. Nancy Antrim’s term, and that she hoped she does a good job on Council.

Mayor Andy Ramos announced that there was cake in the back, and asked that everyone stay to thank Dr. Nancy Antrim.

A motion was made to adjourn the May 9, 2017 City Council meeting at 6:45 PM. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Andres "Andy" Ramos
Mayor, City of Alpine