

**City of Alpine
Regular City Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 6th, 2016
4:30 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. Joshua Stueve 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 – Councilor Antrim, Councilor Salas, Councilor Escovedo, Councilor Fitzgerald and Councilor Stephens were present. Mayor Ramos was also present. City Secretary Taylor said the meeting notice had been posted at 10:00 A.M. on December 2nd, 2016. City Manager Zimmer, City Secretary Taylor, City Assistant Manager/Finance Director Megan Antrim and Abel Hinojos were also present.**
- 3. Presentations, recognitions and proclamations – (A. Ramos, Mayor) - None**
- 4. Reports –
City Mayor’s Report – (A. Ramos, Mayor) –**

City Manager Report – (E. Zimmer, CM) – City Manager Zimmer gave the following report:

- **Year in Review (2016) –**
 - **2016 was a productive year with much work completed on our Infrastructure**
 - **We hired and developed some very good employees this year**
 - **Upgrades and additions to our website has allowed us to be more communicative with the public – also utilized a program with KVLF**
 - **Department feedback on following slides**
- **Monthly Financial Readout**

Tourism –

- **Successful year with key events continuing to flourish
Stewart Ramser presentation earlier in year highlighted positive impacts**
- **New ownership at two key hotels will drive more opportunities for visitors**
- **Civic Center Rehabilitation**
- **Program in place monitoring revenues associated with the Revenues**

Airport –

- **Crack Seal Maintenance Project Complete**

Water-Sewer –

- **Team was battle-tested this year with employee turnover**
- **Wastewater treatment plant showed significant improvement in operations and water quality through support of Ron Ketterman**
- **Quantity of new water/sewer tap requests this year increased over previous years by 25-30%.**
- **Fire-hydrant testing and rehabilitation plan re-instituted**
- **Meter replacement program put in place**

Gas –

- **DIMP – Footages for this fiscal year were met for both Alpine and Ft. Davis**
- **Railroad Commission Audit – No violations were issued.**
- **TML Audit – Performance Rating 99%**
- **Gas Bill Collections – Consolidated with the water**
- **5 Year Capital Plan – 2 out of the 5 work trucks have been Replaced**

Streets -

- **Close to 70 blocks seal coated**
- **Sustained focus on high-traffic areas**
- **22 street blocks rebuilt**
- **Sustained focus on high-traffic areas**
- **Alleyways in downtown being worked on**
- **Pothole work continues to improve**
- **Utilizing hot patcher and newer type materials**

Parks –

- **Continued improvements with equipment at parks driven primarily by donations through the Friends of Big Bend Parks**
- **Renewed sense of Volunteerism through the Adopt-A-Spot Program**
- **Vision plan will help with traffic migration to the Parks in the City of Alpine**
- **Walking trails through creeks**

Police –

- **Replaced fleet of patrol vehicles utilizing asset forfeiture funds**
- **Replaced and upgraded a substantial portion of mobile equipment for patrol fleet utilizing asset forfeiture funds**

- **Completed conversion to digital radio capabilities for dispatch and officers**

City Staff Updates – None

5. Public Hearings –

A. Public Hearing to obtain citizens views and comments on Ordinance 2016-11-01, an Ordinance amending Ordinance 2011-11-02, Rules and Regulations for Alpine Casparis Municipal Airport, Section 1, use of Airport restricted. (E. Zimmer, CM)

B. Public Hearing to obtain citizens views and comments on Ordinance 2016-11-02, an Ordinance amending Ordinance 2011-11-02, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Alpine, Texas amending Chapter 10, Code of Ordinances – Animals, Article I and Article II Exhibit “F” Fees. (E. Zimmer, CM)

C. Public Hearing to review the performance and obtain citizen comments on the complete TxCDBG Contract No. 7214000 Centennial Park Restrooms Installation Project. (E. Zimmer, CM)

D. Public Hearing to discuss the community development needs of the City of Alpine prior to the proposed submission of a Program Year 2017-2018 TxCDBG Application to the Texas Department of Agriculture – Office of Rural Affairs (E. Zimmer, CM).

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 of November 15th, 2016. (A. Ramos, Mayor) –

B. Approve Councilmember Salas’ Board member appointment (C. Salas)

Motion was made by Councilor Fitzgerald, by Resolution 2016-12-01, to approve the Council Minutes of November 15th, 2016. Motion was seconded by Councilor Salas. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Information or Discussion items –

A) Municipal Judge Quarterly Report – Chris Sandefur. (E. Zimmer, CM) – Alpine Municipal Court – Alpine City Council Presentation

- **705 Pending Cases in the Municipal Court, City of Alpine**
 - **550 Active cases**
 - **223 Traffic Misdemeanors**
 - **195 Non-Traffic State Misdemeanors**
 - **132 City Ordinance Violations**
 - **155 Inactive Cases**
- **51 New Cases Filed During October**
- **68 Case Disposed of During October**
 - **41 Guilty/No Contest pleas at Court Appearance**
 - **6 Dismissed by Prosecution**
 - **20 Compliance Dismissals**
 - **1 Bench Trial**
- **Magistrate Warnings and Arrest Warrants occurred at or near historical averages**
- **Search Warrants exceeds historical average (Zuzu Verk case)**

Observations and Recommendations

- **Inactive case backlog needs reduction**
 - **Inactive Cases are blend of failure to respond to repeated contact attempts/summons and failure to fulfill obligations under judgments**
 - **Utilize enhanced enforcement options to incentivize “scofflaws” to meet their obligation.**
 - **Liase with Municipal Prosecutor to dispose of older inactive cases that have passed the 2-year statute of limitations.**
- **Enhanced Enforcement Options:**
 - **Omnibase, the Texas DPS failure to appear and failure to pay driver’s license renewal denial program has been inefficiently used in the past.**
 - **Current initiatives are being implemented to insure that Omnibase is utilized in all appropriate cases.**
 - **Capias (failure to appear) and Capias pro fine (failure pay/comply) warrants have been server underutilized.**
 - **Going forward, repeated non-compliance will result in the issuance of appropriate Capias warrant.**
 - **3 Conviction by Court**
 - **Municipal Court: Complete analysis requested by Councilman Stephens regarding repeat offenders, non-compliance to court order, and failure to appear.**

- City: Conduct workshop with Chief of Police, Code Enforcement, Prosecutor and Judge to align on violations penalties.
- **Training**
 - Court Clerk to attend Texas Municipal Court Education Center “New Judges and Clerks Orientation” on 12/12 to 12/16.
- **Policies/Procedures**
 - Develop written “options” form to accompany city citations. Similar in format and scope to that used by Brewster County and DPS

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 second and final reading of Ordinance 2016-11-02 amending Chapter 10, Code of Ordinances – Animals, Article I and Article II Exhibit “F” Fees. (E. Zimmer, CM) – Motion was made by Councilor Antrim, by Resolution 2016-12-02, to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2016-11-02 amending Chapter 10, Code of Ordinances – Animals, Article I and Article II Exhibit “F” Fees. Motion was seconded by Councilor Salas. Motion unanimously carried 5-0.

9. Discuss and Consider approving second and final reading of Ordinance 2016-11-01, amending Ordinance 2011-11-02, Rules and Regulations for Alpine Casparis Municipal Airport, Section 1, use of Airport restricted. (E. Zimmer, CM) – Motion was made by Councilor Stephens, by Resolution 2016-12-03, to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2016-11-01, amending Ordinance 2011-11-02, Rules and Regulations for Alpine Casparis Municipal Airport, Section 1, use of Airport restricted. Motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgerald. Motion unanimously carried.

10. Discuss and Consider approving selection of entity for Depository Agreement. (E. Zimmer, CM) - City Manager Zimmer said the City received one very thorough response from West Texas National Bank. Motion was made by Councilor Fitzgerald, by Resolution 2016-12-04, to approve the selection of West Texas National Bank for the Depository Agreement. Motion was seconded by Councilor Stephens. Motion unanimously carried.

11. Councilmember Comments and Answers –

Councilor Antrim – wished City Secretary Molly Taylor well wishes for future endeavors and said she thinks the new way of reporting the finances is a big improvement

Councilor Salas – said she wanted to thank everyone for being here. She said she agrees that the finances are a big improvement. She told City Secretary, Molly Taylor, that she would miss her tremendously, but she wished her well.

Councilor Fitzgerald – said the report from Judge Sandefur was incredible, very informative. He said Molly was the backbone of the whole city and told her good luck.

Councilor Escovedo - said she thought the parade was very nice. She told Molly that she would definitely be missed and needed her cell phone number. She said she loved the new finance report.

Mayor Ramos – said he would like to compliment Megan on her Finance Report and her work with the City finances. He also complimented City Manager Zimmer. He said he thinks the City is really moving forward. He said he would also like to compliment the Council for working together. He said the parade really brightened up the city and was long overdue with all the recent events. He said we are going to have a big void in the City Office with Molly leaving. He said there will be a reception for Molly after the meeting.

Councilor Stephens – said he agreed with the comments about the finance report and praised Judge Sandefur's report. He said there is no doubt that we are going to miss Molly. He said the changes in the city have been terrific to see. He said he thinks a lot of the credit goes to Erik's leadership. He said he is looking forward to 2017. He said it is going to get even better.

Motion was made by Councilor Stephens to enter into Executive Session.
Motion was seconded by Councilor Salas. Motion unanimously carried.
5:25 P.M.

12. Executive Session – Pursuant to Texas Government Code, Sections 51.071 (consultation with attorney)

A. Update on Scown Litigation, Cause No. 2015-03-B0705-CV: Emily Livingston Scown and Barbara Scown v. The City of Alpine, Texas; in the 394th Judicial District Court of Brewster County, Texas. (E. Zimmer, CM)

21. Action after Executive Session –

Council entered into open session at 5:43 P.M.

A. Take action, if any, concerning Scown Litigation. (E. Zimmer, CM) – Motion was made by Councilor Stephens to take no action on this item. Motion was seconded by Councilor Salas. Motion unanimously carried.

22. Adjournment – There being no further action. Meeting was adjourned at 5:44 P.M.

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 10:00 A. M. on December 2nd, 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.

Andres "Andy" Ramos, Mayor

Attest:

Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary

I, Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary, do certify that this notice was posted at 10:00 A.M. on December 2nd, 2016, and remained so posted continuously for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of said meeting.

Margaret "Molly" Taylor, City Secretary