

City Of Alpine
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, September 16, 2025 – 5:30 PM
Minutes

1. **CALL TO ORDER.**

Mayor Catherine Eaves called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. The meeting was held at City Council Chambers located at 803 West Holland Avenue and via Zoom Videoconference in the City of Alpine, Texas. Mayor Eaves led the pledge of allegiance to the flags.

A. Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag.

C. Determination of a Quorum and Proof of Notice of the Meeting.

City Council Members Present:

Councilor Lucy Escovedo
Councilor Rick Stephens
Mayor Catherine Eaves
Councilor Eva Martinez
Councilor Richard Portillo
Councilor Robert Rückes

City Staff and Stakeholders Present:

Geoffrey R. Calderon, City Secretary
& Interim City Manager
Cynthia Trevino, City Attorney
Felipe Fierro, Police Captain
Victoria Sanchez, Director of Finance
Abel Hinojos, Airport Supervisor
Jessica Isley, Building Official

Not Present: None

Others Present: 7 others

Mayor Eaves announced that a quorum of the City Council was present at the City Council Chambers and City Secretary, Geoffrey Calderon, reported that the meeting agenda was posted by 2:00 P.M. on September 10, 2025.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

Each person in attendance who desires to speak to the City Council on an item on the agenda shall speak during this section. A Public Comment Card must be filled out and turned in to the City Secretary at least 5 minutes prior to the start time of the meeting. The Public Comment Card may be filled out at www.cityofalpine.com/councilcomments. Public comments may be made regarding agenda items only. Attendees must be physically present in order to address the City Council. Comments by proxy are not allowed. Public Comments are limited to 3 minutes per person. Unused time may not be yielded to other attendees. Please note that the City Council may only take action on items posted on the agenda. The Texas Open Meetings Act prohibits the Council from deliberating or taking action on an item not listed on the agenda. City Staff may ask commenters clarifying questions, respond with facts, and explain policy.

Public Comments: Cathy Lemmons, Brewster County Resident, addressed the City Council in support of Information or Discussion Item B.

3. **PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

At this time, the Mayor will invite members of the public to address each item listed in this section. Comments made during this section are limited to the topic of each public hearing. Attendees must

be physically present in order to address the City Council. Comments by proxy are not allowed. Public Comments are limited to 3 minutes per person. Unused time may not be yielded to other attendees. If more than one public hearing is being held, each person will be allowed to speak during each topic.

Open (5:34 P.M.)

- A. Public Hearing to obtain citizen views and comments regarding the first and final reading of Ordinance 2025-09-02, an ordinance amending the City of Alpine Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget; Providing for the following clauses: Findings of Fact, Cumulative, Proper Notice and Meeting, and Effective Date.

Public Comments: None.

- B. Public Hearing to obtain citizen views and comments regarding Ordinance 2025-09-03, an ordinance making appropriations for the support of the City of Alpine, Texas for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026; appropriating money to a sinking fund to pay interest and principal on the City's indebtedness; adopting the annual budget of the City of Alpine, Texas for the fiscal year 2025-2026.

Public Comments: None.

- C. Public Hearing to obtain citizen views and comments regarding Ordinance 2025-09-04, an ordinance approving the fiscal year 2025-2026 proposed tax rate of \$0.424737 per \$100 of assessed valuation for the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026 for use and support of the municipal government of the City of Alpine, Texas. This tax rate will raise the same amount of revenue from property taxes as last year's tax rate.

Public Comments: None.

- D. Public Hearing to obtain citizen views and comments regarding Special Use Permit 2025-09-01, a special use permit allowing the applicant, April McAnally, to establish a short term rental at 509 N. 6th St. The property owner of record is Elizabeth Rogers. The Parcel ID of the subject property is 12058.

Public Comments: None.

Close (5:37 P.M.)

4. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS.

- A. Presentations & Recognitions
- B. Proclamations
- C. Community Interest Items

- i) Mayor Announcements
- ii) City Manager Announcements
- iii) Council Member Announcements

5. **CHANGES TO POSTED AGENDA.**

NOTICE: *The City Council reserves the right to change the order of business at any time during the meeting. To change the order of business a motion, a second, and a majority vote is required.*

- A. **Items to be continued or withdrawn.** Items may be continued to the next City Council meeting or withdrawn from consideration during this agenda. Items to be continued or withdrawn require a motion, a second, and a majority vote.

No items were continued or withdrawn.

- B. **Items to be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion.** Items may be withdrawn from the consent agenda by a simple request by the Mayor or any City Council member. Items removed from the consent agenda will be considered in the *Items Removed from the Consent Agenda* portion of the meeting directly after approval of the items not requiring separate discussion.

No items were removed from the consent agenda for separate discussion.

- C. **Action items to be added to the consent agenda.** Adding action items to the consent agenda must be requested by the Mayor or any City Council member and requires a motion, a second, and a majority vote.

No action items were added to the consent agenda.

- D. **Time-Sensitive Items.** The Mayor, any City Council Member, or a member of City Staff may, by simple request, ask that time-sensitive items be considered during that section.

No items were added to the time-sensitive items portion of the agenda.

6. **TIME SENSITIVE ITEMS.**

7. **CONSENT AGENDA.**

- A. Approval of the August 26, 2025 Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)
- B. Approval of the September 2, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)
- C. Approval of the August 2025 Office of the City Secretary (OCS) Report including Legislative Services, City Council Activities, Board & Commissions Activities, Public Information, and Departmental Statistics and Updates. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

- D. Approval of Special Use Permit 2025-09-01, a special use permit allowing the applicant, April McAnally, to establish a short term rental at 509 N. 6th St. The property owner of record is Elizabeth Rogers. The Parcel ID of the subject property is 12058. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)
- E. Approval of August 2025 Invoice for Bojorquez Law Firm Services. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2025-09-17: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and Seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to approve the consent agenda as presented, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

8. **ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

9. **REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS.**

Presentations are limited to 6 minutes each. A bell will ring when the 6-minute timeframe has been reached. If further time is needed the presentation may be extended an additional 4 minutes at the discretion of the presiding officer. After the initial period and extension have passed, the presentation may be extended further by a motion, a second, and a majority vote of the City Council.

10. **INFORMATION OR DISCUSSION ITEMS.**

- A. Discussion regarding internships and succession planning with Dr. Jessica Velasco, program coordinator for the MPA program. (C. Eaves, Mayor)

Dr. Jessica Velasco addressed the City Council regarding internships and succession planning.

- B. Discuss city funding for non-profit and community organizations, and the possibility of funding the charitable organization of Saint Vincent of Paul. (E. Martinez, City Council)

Councilor Eva Martinez led a discussion regarding possible funding for the St. Vincent De Paul Organization.

- C. Discussion regarding the City's agreement with Deckard Technologies, Inc. for short-term rental software and consideration of whether to continue services for an additional one year term. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

The following city staff members addressed the City Council regarding the current contract with Deckard Technologies:

*Geoffrey R. Calderon, Interim City Manager
Victoria Sanchez, Director of Finance
Jessica Isley, Building Official
Grisell Gonzales, Finance Clerk*

Mayor Eaves called a short recess. (6:14 P.M.)

The meeting resumed. (6:19 P.M.)

11. **ACTION ITEMS.**

Action items are to be accompanied by a brief statement of facts, including where funds are coming from, if applicable. (Action items limited to 10 per meeting).

- A. Approve the first and final reading of Ordinance 2025-09-02, an ordinance amending the City of Alpine Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget; Providing for the following clauses: Findings of Fact, Cumulative, Proper Notice and Meeting, and Effective Date. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2025-09-18: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and Seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to approve, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- B. Approve the first and final reading of Ordinance 2025-09-03, an ordinance making appropriations for the support of the City of Alpine, Texas for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026; appropriating money to a sinking fund to pay interest and principal on the City's indebtedness; adopting the annual budget of the City of Alpine, Texas for the fiscal year 2025-2026. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2025-09-19: On a motion by Councilor Lucy Escovedo and seconded by Councilor Eva Martinez to approve, discussion ensued.

RESOLUTION 2025-09-20: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens to amend Ordinance 2025-09-03 to reduce the water budget by \$250,000 and reduce the sewer budget by \$250,000 and reduce the budget from \$17.047 million and adopt the budget at \$16.547 million. The motion was seconded by Councilor Lucy Escovedo, the City Council members voted in the following manner:

Councilor Richard Portillo: For
Councilor Eva Martinez: Against
Councilor Robert Rükes: Against
Councilor Lucy Escovedo: For
Councilor Rick Stephens: For

RESOLUTION 2025-09-21: On a motion by Councilor Richard Portillo and seconded by Councilor Eva Martinez to reopen the vote for the amendment, City Council voted with 4 members in favor and Councilor Rick Stephens voting against.

RESOLUTION 2025-09-22: After reopening the vote for the amendment proposed in Resolution 2025-09-20, the City Council voted in the following manner:

In favor of the amendment proposed by Resolution 2025-09-20:
Councilor Rick Stephens

Against:
Councilor Richard Portillo
Councilor Eva Martinez
Councilor Robert Rükes
Councilor Lucy Escovedo

The motion to amend the original motion was not adopted.

The City Council then voted on the original motion to adopt the budget as presented, with 4 members voting in favor, excluding Councilor Stephens, who voted against the motion.

- C. Approve the first and final reading of Ordinance 2025-09-04, an ordinance approving the fiscal year 2025-2026 proposed tax rate of \$0.424737 per \$100 of assessed valuation for the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026 for use and support of the municipal government of the City of Alpine, Texas. This tax rate will raise the same amount of revenue from property taxes as last year's tax rate. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2025-09-23: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes that the property tax rate be adopted at the no new revenue tax rate of \$0.424737 per \$100 of valuation, which is effectively a 0 percent increase in the tax rate, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion by roll call vote:

Councilor Richard Portillo: For
Councilor Eva Martinez: For
Councilor Robert Rückes: For
Councilor Lucy Escovedo: For
Councilor Rick Stephens: For

- D. Approve the first reading of Ordinance 2025-09-01, an ordinance establishing a speed limit of 30 miles per hour on Gallego Avenue from South 1st Street to South 5th Street, pursuant to a traffic and engineering investigation, and providing for appropriate signage; providing for the following clauses: Findings of Fact, Establishment, Cumulative, Severability, Proper Notice & Meeting, Public Hearing, and Effective Date. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2025-09-24: On a motion by Councilor Lucy Escovedo and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to approve, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- E. Approve Resolution 2025-09-15, a resolution adopting a power pedestal rental policy and agreement; Establishing rental fees; Providing for fee waivers for city-sponsored events; Requiring release of liability; Providing for damages recovery; Providing for reduced nonprofit rates; Authorizing the City Manager to administer and implement the policy; And providing an effective date. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2025-09-25: On a motion by Councilor Lucy Escovedo and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to approve, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- F. Approve Resolution 2025-09-16, a resolution authorizing the City to participate in the Fiscal Year 2026 Regional Solid Waste Project allocation RIOCOG managed program. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2025-09-26: On a motion by Councilor Richard Portillo and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to approve, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- G. Approve the 2025-2026 Alpine Public Library Contract. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2025-09-27: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Lucy Escovedo to approve, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- H. Approve the 2025-2026 Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend Contract. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2025-09-28: On a motion by Councilor Robert Rückes and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to approve, the City Council adopted the motion with all members voting in favor excluding Lucy Escovedo who voted against.

- I. Approve the 2025-2026 Children's Advocacy Center of the Big Bend contract. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2025-09-29: On a motion by Councilor Robert Rückes and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to approve, the City Council did not adopt the motion with all members voting against adoption except Councilor Eva Martinez voting in favor.

12. **EXECUTIVE REPORTS.**

Executive reports are limited to 10 minutes each. The City Council may hold a discussion during this section regarding any item listed on the agenda. No action may take place regarding report items, unless specified on the agenda.

City Mayor Report

- B. **City Manager Report:** Employee Compensation; Streets; Water; Wastewater, Budget; Grants; Information Technology & Cybersecurity; Utility Billing Software Transition; Requests for Proposals; Smart Meters; Pending Projects; City Manager Search.

13. **CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS.**

RESOLUTION 2025-09-30: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to recess into executive session, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion. (7:43 P.M.)

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

NOTICE: *The City Council reserves the right to reconvene, recess, realign, change the order of business, or adjourn into Executive Session at any time during the course of the meeting prior to adjournment, to discuss any item listed above, as authorized by 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 551.087 (development).*

- A. Consultation with Attorney § 551.071, Texas Government Code:

- a. Review and discuss the Texas Disposal Systems contract terms. (R. Stephens, City Council)

Personnel Matters § 551.074, Texas Government Code:

- a. Operational, Finance, and Personnel Discussions and Considerations to ensure that the City Council and the City Manager are aligned. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

15. **ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

RESOLUTION 2025-09-31: On a motion by Councilor Robert Rückes and seconded by Councilor Rick Stephens to move into regular session, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion. **(8:28 P.M.)**

- A. Action, if any, concerning any of the items listed in executive session. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2025-09-32: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to take no action, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

16. **ADJOURN.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Eaves. (8:28 P.M.)

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Catherine Eaves, *Mayor*

Geoffrey R. Calderon, TRMC
City Secretary & Chief Governance Officer

CERTIFICATION

I, Geoffrey R. Calderon, do hereby certify that this notice was posted at City Hall, in a convenient and readily accessible place to the general public, and on the City website at www.cityofalpine.com pursuant to Section 551.043, Texas Government Code. The said notice was posted by 2:00 P.M. on September 10, 2025, and remained so posted for at least 72 hours preceding the scheduled time of the said meeting.

**WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL
this 10th day of September 2025.**

Geoffrey R. Calderon, TRMC
City Secretary & Chief Governance Officer

