

City Of Alpine
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, January 6, 2026 – 4:00 PM
Minutes

1. WORKSHOP MEETING - 4:00 P.M.

Mayor Catherine Eaves called the meeting to order at 4:00 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.

City Council Members Present:

Mayor Catherine Eaves
Councilor Rick Stephens
Councilor Eva Martinez
Councilor Richard Portillo
Councilor Lucy Escovedo, *Arrived Late*
Councilor Robert Rückes, *Arrived Late*

City Staff and Stakeholders Present:

Geoffrey R. Calderon, City Secretary
Victoria Sanchez, Director of Finance
Randy Guzman, Director of Gas
Mike Maciaz, Director of Utilities
Kera McDaniels, Asst. Director of Utilities

Not Present:

Others Present: None

A. Workshop meeting to review:

- i) The 2025 Water Rate Study update prepared by Communities Unlimited.
- ii) Updates to the 2025-2026 Utilities Fee Schedule and Utility Rates.

2. CALL TO ORDER - REGULAR MEETING - 5:30 P.M.

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
Councilor Eva Martinez
Councilor Richard Portillo
Councilor Robert Rückes

City Staff and Stakeholders Present:

Geoffrey R. Calderon, City Secretary
Cynthia Trevino, City Attorney
Felipe Fierro, Police Captain
Abel Hinojos, Airport Supervisor
Adriana Holguin, Public Works Assistant
Jessica Isley, Building Official
Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary

Not Present: None

Others Present: 4 others.

Mayor Eaves announced that a quorum of the City Council was present at the City Council Chambers and Deputy City Secretary, Alexandra Tackett, reported that the meeting agenda was posted by 2:00 P.M. on December 23, 2025.

3. **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.

- Mickey Cox, Ward 4, addressed the City Council in support of Information or discussion item 11B.

4. **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.

- A. Public Hearing to obtain citizen views and comments regarding the first and final reading of Ordinance 2026-01-02, an ordinance amending the City of Alpine Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget to appropriate funding for the purchase of an incinerator for the Animal Services department; Providing for the following clauses: Findings of Fact, Cumulative, Proper Notice and Meeting, and Effective Date.

Open (5:36 P.M.)

Public Comments: None.

Closed (5:37P.M.)

5. **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS.**

- A. Presentations & Recognitions

- i) Presentation and Ceremonial Swearing-In of the Alpine Police Department by Chief of Police Kirk Caughman. (C. Eaves, Mayor)

- ii) Presentation to Marsha Guerry-Hurley in appreciation of her donation of a ballistic vest for K-9 Prada.

B. Proclamations

C. Community Interest Items

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

6. **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 to be 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 to be 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 to be 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 time sensitive items were added.

7. **TIME SENSITIVE ITEMS.**

8. **CONSENT AGENDA.**

- A. Approval of the December 2, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

- B. Approval of the excused absence of Councilor Escovedo from the December 2, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)
- C. Approval of the November 2025 invoice for Bojorquez Law Firm Services. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-01-06: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to approve the consent agenda as presented, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

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

10. **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.

- A. Alpine Country Club Update. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

11. **INFORMATION OR DISCUSSION ITEMS.**

- A. Process and Timeline to Consider Proposed Amendments to the City of Alpine Home-Rule Charter for Submission to the Voters at the November 3, 2026 Uniform General Election. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)
- B. Discuss a proposed ordinance restricting large contractor vehicles from traveling through Cemetery Road and adjacent residential areas to access the Sierra La Rana development, including a review of municipal authority, road safety and preservation concerns, the need for a traffic/engineering assessment, and next steps for potential ordinance development. (L. Escovedo, City Council)
- C. Discuss the status of the Recreation Coordinator position and job posting. (C. Eaves, Mayor)
- D. Discuss the status of the Dog Park and steps moving forward to continue improvements at the facility. (C. Eaves, Mayor)
- E. Discuss options for developing a vacant building ordinance and an abandoned and/or dilapidated building ordinance, including a review of existing city ordinances, prior draft ordinances presented to the City Council, and any updated information or recommendations from the Building Official. (C. Eaves, Mayor)
- F. Discussion and possible direction regarding updates to the official City logo and branding to incorporate Alpine's identity as a Dark Sky Destination. (C. Eaves, Mayor)

Mayore Eaves called a short recess. (7:25 P.M.)

The meeting resumed. (7:30 P.M.)

12. **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 2026-01-02, an ordinance amending the City of Alpine Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget to appropriate funding for the purchase of an incinerator for the Animal Services department; Providing for the following clauses: Findings of Fact, Cumulative, Proper Notice and Meeting, and Effective Date. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-01-07: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Eva Martinez to approve Ordinance 2026-01-02 as presented, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- B. Approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026-01-01, an ordinance establishing regulations related to the operation of golf carts, pocket bikes, and mini-motorbikes within the city; Providing the establishment of up to a \$500 penalty per occurrence for violations of the ordinance; Providing for the following: Findings of Fact, Enactment, Repealer, Penalty, Savings, Severability, Proper Notice and Meeting, and Effective Date clauses. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-01-08: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to approve Ordinance 2026-01-01 as presented, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- C. Approve Resolution 2026-01-01, a resolution formally accepting the donation of improvements to the Kokernot Little League Field from the Big Bend Little League Association; Requiring compliance with all applicable building codes; Authorizing the waiver of building permit fees for the donated improvements; Authorizing the City Manager to execute any necessary agreements; Finding a valid public purpose; And providing an effective date. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-01-09: On a motion by Councilor Richard Portillo and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to approve Resolution 2026-01-01 as presented, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- D. Approve Resolution 2026-01-02, a resolution opposing any federal legislation that increases semi-truck size or weight; requesting the federal delegation to oppose such legislation; and approving a letter of support expressing the city's position. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-01-10: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Lucy Escovedo to approve Resolution 2026-01-02 as presented, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- E. Approve Resolution 2026-01-03, a resolution granting a land owner petition and releasing approximately 11.73 acres of land from the City of Alpine's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction;

Directing the filing of this resolution and related documents with the Brewster County Clerk; Authorizing updates to official city maps and records; And providing an Effective Date. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-01-11: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to approve Resolution 2026-01-03 as presented, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- F. Approve Resolution 2026-01-04, a resolution updating authorized check signatories for all city accounts held with West Texas National Bank; Requiring two signatures on all city checks; Designating primary and alternate authorized signers; Providing for an effective date. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-01-12: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to approve Resolution 2026-01-04 as presented, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- G. Approve Resolution 2026-01-05, a resolution recognizing Kokernot Park, including Kokernot Field and the Manuel Payne game field, as historic community resources; Making Findings of Fact; Directing that the park and fields be identified in the city's inventory and plans as historic; Providing an Effective Date. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-01-13: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to approve Resolution 2026-01-05 as presented, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- H. Approve the Employment Agreement with Henry Arredondo for the position of City Manager. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-01-14: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Eva Martinez to approve the employment agreement with Henry Arredondo for the position of City Manager, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

13. **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.

A. **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; Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

14. **CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS.**

RESOLUTION 2026-01-15: On a motion by Councilor Richard Portillo and seconded by Councilor Eva Martinez to move into executive session, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion. **(8:11 P.M.)**

15. **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:

- i. Discussion regarding the Municipal Pool, requirements under Texas Code, plans for the upcoming season, and status of personnel requisition. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

B. Personnel Matters § 551.074, Texas Government Code

- i. Conduct the annual Performance Evaluation of the Interim City Manager/City Secretary. (R. Stephens, City Council)
- ii. Discuss the benefits provided to the incoming City Manager including possible inclusion of assistance with relocation expenses. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

16. **ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

RESOLUTION 2026-01-16: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Eva Martinez to move into regular session, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion. **(8:44 P.M.)**

RESOLUTION 2026-01-17: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to extend the meeting past 9:00 P.M., the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

RESOLUTION 2026-01-18: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to move into executive session, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion. **(8:44 P.M.)**

RESOLUTION 2026-01-19: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Eva Martinez to move into regular session, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion. **(9:44 P.M.)**

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

RESOLUTION 2026-01-20: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to approve an additional 7% increase to the Interim City Manager/ City Secretary salary on top of the 3% COLA that he received in October, effective immediately, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

RESOLUTION 2026-01-21: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Eva Martinez to approve up to \$7,500 relocation allowance for the new City Manager Henry Arredondo, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

17. **ADJOURN.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Eaves. (9:46 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 December 23, 2025, and remained so posted for at least 3 business days preceding the scheduled time of the said meeting.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL
this 23rd day of December, 2025.



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

