

City Of Alpine
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, January 20, 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 Robert Rückes (*Arrived late*)

City Staff and Stakeholders Present:

Geoffrey R. Calderon, City Secretary
Henry Arredondo, City Manager
Cynthia Trevino, City Attorney
Kirk Caughman, Chief of Police

Not Present: Councilor Lucy Escovedo

Others Present: None

- A. Workshop to discuss funding non-profit organizations and the possible implementation of a Community Service Grant Program. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

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:

Mayor Catherine Eaves
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
Henry Arredondo, City Manager
Cynthia Trevino, City Attorney
Kirk Caughman, Chief of Police
Abel Hinojos, Airport Supervisor
Randy Guzman, Gas Director
Eddie Molinar, Public Works Director
Mike Maciaz, Director of Utilities
Kera McDaniels, Asst. Director of Utilities
Jessica Isley, Building Official
Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary

Not Present: None.

Others Present: 22 others.

Mayor Eaves announced that a quorum of the City Council was present at the City Council

Chambers and City Secretary, Geoffrey R. Calderon, reported that the meeting agenda was posted by 2:00 P.M. on January 14, 2026.

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.

- Mary Ann Vega, Ward 3, addressed the City Council regarding Mountain Country Christmas.
- Marylan McGee, from Fort Davis, addressed the City Council regarding Mountain Country Christmas.

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 second and final 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.

Open (5:36 P.M.)

Public Comments: None.

- B. Public Hearing to obtain citizen's views and comments regarding Special Use Permit 2026-01-01, a special use permit allowing the applicant, Karen Chapman, to establish a short term rental at 401 W. Sul Ross. The property owner of record is Karen Chapman & Thomas Robinson. The Parcel ID of the subject property is 35650.

Public Comments: None.

Closed (5:37 P.M.)

5. **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS.**

A. Presentations & Recognitions

- i) Swearing in of Henry Arredondo as City Manager by the Honorable Judge Elizabeth Lewis.
- ii) Presentation and Ceremonial Swearing-In of the Alpine Police Department Officers by Chief of Police Kirk Caughman.
- iii) 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

The Mayor called a short recess. (5:48 P.M.)

Meeting resumed. (6:08 P.M.)

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.

City Manager Henry Arredondo requested item 11C to be moved to the next Council Meeting.

RESOLUTION 2026-01-22: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Eva Martinez to withdraw item 11C, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- 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.

Councilor Rick Stephens requested item 8J 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 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.

Councilor Rick Stephens requested Item 12A be added for time sensitive items.

7. **TIME SENSITIVE ITEMS.**

RESOLUTION 2026-01-23: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Lucy Escovedo to approve Ordinance 2026-01-01 as presented, discussion ensued.

RESOLUTION 2026-01-24: Councilor Rick Stephens moved to amend the original motion and table the Ordinance until such time as there is a workshop on February 17, 2026 on how to improve the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes and the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

8. **CONSENT AGENDA.**

- A. Approval of the January 6, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes (G. Calderon, City Secretary)
- B. Approval of the November 2025 Office of the City Secretary (OCS) Report including Legislative Services, City Council Activities, Boards & Commissions Activities, Public Information, and Departmental Statistics and Updates. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)
- C. Approval of the December 2025 Office of the City Secretary (OCS) Report including Legislative Services, City Council Activities, Boards & Commissions Activities, Public Information, and Departmental Statistics and Updates. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)
- D. Approval of the 1st Quarter Fiscal Year 2026 Office of the City Secretary (OCS) Report including Legislative Services, City Council Activities, Boards & Commissions Activities, Public Information, and Departmental Statistics and Updates (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)
- E. Approval of the appointment of Martha Munoz to the Place 7 position on the Building & Standards Commission. (E. Martinez, City Council)
- F. Approve Special Use Permit 2026-01-01, a special use permit allowing the applicant, Karen Chapman, to establish a short term rental at 401 W. Sul Ross. The property owner of record is Karen Chapman & Thomas Robinson. The Parcel ID of the subject property is 35650. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)
- G. Approval of a Letter of Support for the 2026 Keep Texas Beautiful Affiliate Annual Recognition - Gold Star Level. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

- H. Approval of the December 2025 invoice for Bojorquez Law Firm Services. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)
- I. Approval of the termination of the stipend provided to Geoffrey R. Calderon for Interim City Manager services effective January 20, 2026. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)
- J. Approval of Fiscal Year 2025-2026 1st Quarter Investment Report. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-01-25: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Eva Martinez to prove the consent agenda items A to I, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

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

RESOLUTION 2026-01-26: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to table item 8J, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

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 Volunteer Fire Department Update from Chief James Etchison. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)
- B. Emergency Services Board update by Rusty Moore. (G. Calderon, Interim, City Manager)

11. **INFORMATION OR DISCUSSION ITEMS.**

- A. Discuss updates to the Skyway Gardens II water system improvements project, including a recommended change to the project design approach related to pressure plane boundaries, pump station coordination, and water service delivery, and review the proposed path forward to address newly identified system constraints and project timing considerations. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)
- B. Finance Report - October 2025, November 2025, and December 2025 Revenue and Expense Reports by Victoria Sanchez, Director of Finance. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)
- C. Finance Operations Update from Victoria Sanchez, Director of Finance. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)
- D. Discuss potential City participation in hosting a 2026 Governor's Small Business Summit in Alpine, including coordination with Brewster County, Sul Ross State University, and local partners; review partner responsibilities outlined by the Governor's Office; consider potential dates, topics, and venue options; and provide direction regarding any anticipated City involvement or expenditures related to the event. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

- E. 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)
- F. Presentation and discussion by Adriana Holguin, Public Works Administrative Assistant, regarding the In-House Flood Mitigation Action Plan for Fiscal Years 2026–2028, including proposed short-term drainage and vegetation management projects, coordination with the Fire Department and TxDOT, preliminary infrastructure improvements in flood-prone areas, identification of future grant-eligible sites for potential retention ponds, and consideration of establishing a recurring annual flood mitigation funding mechanism within the General Fund. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)
- G. Discuss and consider clarification of Resolution 2025-02-01 regarding the term of the City’s sponsorship approval for the Mountain Country Christmas Bazaar, including a review of the February 4, 2025 agenda language, resolution caption, and operative resolution language referencing the 2025 and 2026 event years, and determine whether any corrective or ratifying action is necessary. (L. Escovedo, City Council)

The Mayor called a short recess. (7:35 P.M.)

Meeting resumed. (7:43 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 second and final 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)

Action Item A was considered during the time-sensitive item portion of the agenda.

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; Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

14. **CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS.**

RESOLUTION 2026-01-27: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Eva Martinez to move into executive session, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion. (7:49 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. Operational, Finance, and Personnel Discussions and Considerations to ensure that the City Council and the City Manager are aligned. (G. Calderon, Interim City Manager)

16. **ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

RESOLUTION 2026-01-28: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes 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 2026-01-29: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to take no action, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

17. **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 P.M. on January 14, 2026, and remained so posted for at least 3 business days preceding the scheduled time of the said meeting.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL

this 14 day of January, 2026.



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

