

City Of Alpine
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, March 17, 2026 – 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:

Henry Arredondo, City Manager
Geoffrey R. Calderon, City Secretary
Cynthia Trevino, City Attorney
Kirk Caughman, Chief of Police
Victoria Sanchez, Director of Utilities
Mike Maciaz, Director of Utilities
Abel Hinojos, Airport Supervisor
Jessica Isley, Building Official
Jennifer Stewart, Animal Services Sup.
David Martinez, Parks Foreman
Adriana Holguin, Public Works

Not Present: None

Others Present: 5 other attendees

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 March 11, 2026.

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: None.

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 (5:32 P.M.)

- A. Public Hearing to obtain citizen views and comments regarding the second and final reading of Ordinance 2026-03-01, an ordinance Approving Rezone Application 2026-03-01; Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City by Rezoning the Property Located at 707 E. Ave F and Legally Described as the South 69.4 Feet of Lots Six (6) and Seven (7), Block Twenty-Five (25), Hancock Addition (South of the Railroad) to the City of Alpine, Brewster County, Texas, as the Same Appears in Plat Envelope No. 112 on File in the Office of the County Clerk of Brewster County, Texas, Save and Except the East 17.3' of Lot 6 Deeded by F.E. Weyerts to the City of Alpine, Texas, for Street or Highway Purposes, Dated August 30, 1947, Recorded in Volume 111, Page 380, Deed Records of Brewster County, Texas; Rezoning the Subject Property from R-2 Two-Family District to C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District; Providing Findings of Fact, Repealer, Severability, Effective Date, Proper Notice, and Hearing Clauses.

Public Comments: None.

- B. Public Hearing to obtain citizen views and comments regarding the second and final reading of Ordinance 2026-03-02, an ordinance amending Chapter 26 – Civic and Cultural Affairs and Facilities of the Alpine Code of Ordinances; Establishing Article IV – Alpine Public Library; Recognizing the Alpine Public Library as a Core Civic and Cultural Institution; Exempting the Alpine Public Library from the Community Services Grant Program; Authorizing Annual Consideration of funding through the City’s budget process; Providing Findings of Fact; Providing for Inclusion in the Code of Ordinances; Providing a Cumulative clause; Providing a Severability Clause; Providing for Proper Notice and Meeting; And Providing an Effective Date.

Public Comments: None.

- C. Public Hearing to obtain citizen views and comment regarding the first and final reading of Ordinance 2026-03-03, an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget to appropriate \$50,000 from the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department Reserve Account for Phase One Burn House renovations; ratifying Council intent regarding Addendum No. 1 to the Fire Training Facility Use Agreement; and authorizing payment of Invoice No. 1004 to the Alpine Emergency Services Board.

- James Etchison, Alpine Fire Department Chief.

- D. Public Hearing to obtain citizen views and comments regarding the first and final reading of Ordinance 2026-03-04, an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget to

Appropriate Funds for Municipal Swimming Pool Improvements; Authorizing the Expenditure of Funds for the Municipal Pool Rehabilitation Project; Ratifying prior council actions related to the project; And Providing for Findings of Fact, Cumulative, Severability, Proper Notice and Meeting, and an Effective Date.

Public Comments: None.

- E. Public Hearing to obtain citizen views and comments regarding the first and final reading of Ordinance 2026-03-05, an ordinance authorizing and ordering the issuance of City of Alpine, Texas Limited Tax Note, Series 2026; Specifying the terms and features of such note; Levying a continuing Direct Annual Ad Valorem Tax for the payment of said note; And resolving other matters incident and related to the issuance, sale, payment, and delivery of a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement, And Providing an Effective Date.

Public Comments: None.

Close (5:37 P.M.)

4. **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS.** -

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

RESOLUTION 2026-03-18: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to extend the Community Interest Items past 1 minute, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion with all members voting in favor.

- 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.

City Manager Henry Arredondo requested that item 12-A be continued to the next City Council Meeting.

- 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 time-sensitive items were added.

6. **TIME SENSITIVE ITEMS.** -

7. **CONSENT AGENDA.** -

- A. Approval of the March 3, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. (G. Calderon, City Secretary)
- B. Approval of the February 2026 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, City Secretary)
- C. Approval of the February 2026 invoice for Bojorquez Law Firm Services. (G. Calderon, City Secretary)

RESOLUTION 2026-03-19: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo 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.*

- A. Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend Update. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)
- B. Alpine Country Club Update. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

10. **INFORMATION OR DISCUSSION ITEMS.** -

- A. Discussion regarding potential revisions to the City of Alpine Employee Handbook and employee incentive pay policies, including certification, GED, and degree requirements tied to position qualifications; review of associated employee data and timelines; and direction to staff on developing a comprehensive plan for policy amendments and implementation. (L. Escovedo, City Council)
- B. Discussion regarding potential collaboration between the City of Alpine and Alpine Independent School District for grant funding, joint use, and improvements to the Historic Manuel Payne Field located in Kokernot Park. (C. Eaves, Mayor)
- C. Discuss the working draft of the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), including project priorities, funding considerations, and next steps in the planning process. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

Mayor Eaves called a short recess. (6:49 P.M.)

The meeting resumed. (6:54 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 second and final reading of Ordinance 2026-03-01, an ordinance Approving Rezone Application 2026-03-01; Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City by Rezoning the Property Located at 707 E. Ave F and Legally Described as the South 69.4 Feet of Lots Six (6) and Seven (7), Block Twenty-Five (25), Hancock Addition (South of the Railroad) to the City of Alpine, Brewster County, Texas, as the Same Appears in Plat Envelope No. 112 on File in the Office of the County Clerk of Brewster County, Texas, Save and Except the East 17.3' of Lot 6 Deeded by F.E. Weyerts to the City of Alpine, Texas, for Street or Highway Purposes, Dated August 30, 1947, Recorded in Volume 111, Page 380, Deed Records of Brewster County, Texas; Rezoning the Subject Property from R-2 Two-Family District to C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District; Providing Findings of Fact, Repealer, Severability, Effective Date, Proper Notice, and Hearing Clauses. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-03-20: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2026-03-01, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- B. Approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2026-03-02, an ordinance amending Chapter 26 – Civic and Cultural Affairs and Facilities of the Alpine Code of Ordinances; Establishing Article IV – Alpine Public Library; Recognizing the Alpine Public Library as a Core Civic and Cultural Institution; Exempting the Alpine Public Library from the Community Services Grant Program; Authorizing Annual Consideration of funding through the City's budget process; Providing Findings of Fact; Providing for Inclusion in the Code of Ordinances; Providing a Cumulative clause; Providing a Severability Clause; Providing for Proper Notice and Meeting; And Providing an Effective Date. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-03-21: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2026-03-02 as presented, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- C. Approve the first and final reading of Ordinance 2026-03-03, an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget to appropriate \$50,000 from the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department Reserve Account for Phase One Burn House renovations; Ratifying Council intent regarding Addendum No. 1 to the Fire Training Facility Use Agreement; and authorizing payment of Invoice No. 1004 to the Alpine Emergency Services Board. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-03-22: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to approve the first and final reading of Ordinance 2026-03-03, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- D. Approve the first and final reading of Ordinance 2026-03-04, an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget to Appropriate Funds for Municipal Swimming Pool Improvements; Authorizing the Expenditure of Funds for the Municipal Pool Rehabilitation Project; Ratifying prior council actions related to the project; And Providing for Findings of Fact, Cumulative, Severability, Proper Notice and Meeting, and an Effective Date. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-03-23: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to approve the first and final reading of Ordinance 2026-03-04 with compliments to everyone who made this happen, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- E. Approve the first and final reading of Ordinance 2026-03-05, an ordinance authorizing and ordering the issuance of City of Alpine, Texas Limited Tax Note, Series 2026; Specifying the terms and features of such note; Levying a continuing Direct Annual Ad Valorem Tax for the payment of said note; And resolving other matters incident and related to the issuance, sale, payment, and delivery of a Paying Agent/Registrar Agreement, And Providing an Effective Date. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

Item 12-E was continued to the next meeting during the Changes to the Posted Agenda Portion of the meeting.

- F. Approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026-04-01, an ordinance amending Chapter 74 – Parks and Recreation, Article I – In General, to the Alpine Code of Ordinances; Amending Rules and Regulations for All City Parks; Providing the Establishment of Up to a \$500 Penalty per Occurrence for Violations of the Ordinance; Providing for the Establishment of Up to a \$4,000 Penalty for Certain Public Health and Safety Violations of the Ordinance; Providing for the Following: Findings of Fact, Enactment, Repealer, Penalty, Savings, Severability, Proper Notice and Meeting, and Effective Date Clauses. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-03-24: On a motion by Councilor Richard Portillo and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to approve Ordinance 2026-04-01 as presented, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- G. Approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026-04-02, an ordinance Establishing Article X Low Speed and Utility Vehicles to Chapter 94 – Traffic and Vehicles of the Alpine Code of Ordinances; Establishing Regulations Related to the Operation of Golf Carts, Pocket Bikes, Mini-Motorbikes, and Utility Task Vehicles Within the City; Providing for a Penalty of up to \$500 per Occurrence for Violations; and Providing for Findings of Fact, Enactment, Repealer, Penalty, Savings, Severability, Proper Notice and Meeting, and Effective Date Clauses. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-03-25: On a motion by Councilor Richard Portillo and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to approve Ordinance 2026-04-02 as written, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- H. Approve Resolution 2026-03-17, a resolution Expressing Support for the Big Bend Regional Hospital District’s Efforts to Seek Federal Funding for Rural Healthcare Initiatives; Expressing the City’s Interest in Participating in Regional Healthcare Improvements That May Result from Such Funding; Authorizing the Mayor to Execute Related Documents; and Providing for an Effective Date. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-03-26: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Lucy Escovedo to approve Resolution 2026-03-17, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- I. Approval of the Tourism Job Descriptions:

-Tourism Administrator
-Visitor Center Assistant

(H. Arredondo, City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-03-27: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Eva Martinez to approve the tourism job descriptions as presented, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

12. **EXECUTIVE REPORTS.** - *Executive reports are limited to 6 minutes each. A bell will ring when the six-minute timeframe has been reached. If further time is needed the presentation may be extended an additional four 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. Executive reports do not require individual items to be listed for presentation, but no discussion may take place during this section unless the items are listed on the agenda.*

A. **City Mayor Report**

- B. **City Manager Report:** Employee Compensation, Personnel, and Organizational Development; Budget and Financial Administration; Capital Improvement Program and Infrastructure Projects; Streets and Transportation; Utilities Operations (Water, Wastewater, and Utility Systems); Smart Meter Implementation; Utility Billing Software Transition; Information Technology and Cybersecurity; Grants and Funding Opportunities; Requests for

Proposals and Procurement Activities; Public Safety and Emergency Services Coordination; Economic Development and Tourism; Elections, Charter Amendments, and Governance Matters; Intergovernmental Relations and Regional Partnerships; Boards, Commissions, and Committees; Pending and Ongoing Projects.

13. **CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS.** -

RESOLUTION 2026-03-28: On a motion by Councilor Robert Rückes and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to recess into executive session, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion. **(7:31 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. 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. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

15. **ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION.** -

RESOLUTION 2026-03-29: 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. **(8:10 P.M.)**

- A. Action, if any, concerning any of the items listed in executive session. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-03-30: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to take no action after executive session, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

16. **ADJOURN.** -

*There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Eaves. **(8:10 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 March 11, 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 11th day of March 2026.



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

