

City Of Alpine
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, May 19, 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
Abel Hinojos, Airport Supervisor
Jessica Isley, Building Official
Chris Ruggia, Director of Tourism
Randy Guzman, Director of Gas Utility
Eddie Molinar, Director of Public Works
Mike Maciaz, Director of Utilities
Kim Morrow, Recreation Coordinator

Not Present: None

Others Present: 8 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 May 13, 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: Joshua Rousselow, Ward 3, commented on water infrastructure.

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 (5:35 P.M.)

- A. Public Hearing to obtain citizen views and comments regarding the second and final reading of Ordinance 2026-05-01, an Ordinance Approving Rezone Application 2026-05-01; Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City by Rezoning the Property Located at 901 E Gallego and Legally Described as All of Lots No. nine (9), ten (10), South 83.07 feet of lot one (1), and two (2), Block Thirty-Four (34), Hancock Addition to the City of Alpine, Brewster County, Texas, as the Same Appears in the Map or Plat Records on File in the Office of the County Clerk of Brewster County, Texas; Rezoning the Subject Property from R-4 Mixed Residential District to C-1 Neighborhood Commercial District; Providing Findings of Fact, Repealer, Severability, Effective Date, Proper Notice, and Hearing Clauses.

Public Comments: None.

Close (5:36 P.M.)

4. **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS.** -

- A. Presentations & Recognitions
- B. Proclamations
- i) Proclamation of May as Community Action Month.
- 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.

- 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 to the consent agenda.

6. **TIME SENSITIVE ITEMS.** -

7. **CONSENT AGENDA.** -

- A. Approval of the May 1, 2026 Emergency Meeting Minutes (G. Calderon, City Secretary)
- B. Approval of the May 5, 2026 Workshop & Regular Meeting Minutes. (G. Calderon, City Secretary)
- C. Approval of the April 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)
- D. Approval of the April 2026 invoice for Bojorquez Law Firm Services. (G. Calderon, City Secretary)

RESOLUTION 2026-05-28: 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.*

- A. Tourism Update by Director of Tourism, Chris Ruggia. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

B. Alpine Public Library Update. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

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

A. Discussion regarding updates to the municipal pool rehabilitation project, including ongoing repairs, infrastructure improvements, and project progress being completed by Landmark Aquatic in preparation for the 2026 summer season. (C. Eaves, Mayor)

B. Discussion regarding a proposed ordinance relating to enterprise fund financial management policies, reserve requirements, rate sufficiency standards, and restrictions on the use and transfer of enterprise fund revenues. (R. Rückes, Council Member)

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 2026-05-01, an Ordinance Approving Rezone Application 2026-05-01; Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City by Rezoning the Property Located at 901 E Gallego and Legally Described as All of Lots No. nine (9), ten (10), South 83.07 feet of lot one (1), and two (2), Block Thirty-Four (34), Hancock Addition to the City of Alpine, Brewster County, Texas, as the Same Appears in the Map or Plat Records on File in the Office of the County Clerk of Brewster County, Texas; Rezoning the Subject Property from R-4 Mixed Residential 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 2026-05-29: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to approve the second and final reading of Ordinance 2026-05-01 as presented, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

B. Approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026-06-01, an ordinance amending Chapter 10 – Animals of the Alpine Code of Ordinances; Amending Section 10-1 – Definitions to Include Terms Describing Human-Wildlife Interactions; Amending Section 10-10 – Human-Wildlife Interactions; Repealing Section 10-11 – Hunting; Establishing Regulations Concerning Human-Wildlife Interactions; Providing for the Establishment of up to a \$500 Penalty per Occurrence for Violations of the Ordinance; and 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 2026-05-30: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026-06-01 as presented, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

C. Approve Resolution 2026-05-05, a resolution increasing water utility base rates to support debt service associated with financing the construction of a new municipal water well and related system improvements, which are necessary to address the emergency loss of water production capacity and maintain system reliability. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-05-31: On a motion by Councilor Robert Rückes and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to approve Resolution 2026-05-05, the City Council unanimously

voted against adoption of the motion and the resolution was not adopted.

Mayor Eaves called a short recess. (7:32 P.M.)

The meeting resumed. (7:36 P.M.)

- D. Approve Resolution 2026-05-26 authorizing intervention in AEP Texas Inc.'s application to amend its Rider Mobile Temporary Emergency Electric Energy Facilities before the Public Utility Commission of Texas; approving cooperation with the Cities Served by AEP Texas; authorizing the hiring of Lloyd Gosselink attorneys and consulting services to negotiate with the company and direct any necessary litigation and appeals; and requiring reimbursement of cities' rate case expenses (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-05-32: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to approve Resolution 2026-05-26 as presented, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- E. Approve Resolution No. 2026-05-27, a resolution authorizing Visit Alpine to apply for Humanities Texas Rural Grants on a year-round rolling basis for qualifying humanities-based projects and authorizing the submission and administration of grant applications and awarded funds in accordance with Humanities Texas program requirements. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-05-33: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Eva Martinez to approve Resolution 2026-05-27, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

- F. Approve a plan for the Alpine Municipal Pool and plan moving forward for the Summer 2026 Season. (C. Eaves, Mayor)

RESOLUTION 2026-05-34: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to approve a plan for the Alpine Municipal Pool for the 2026 Summer Season, discussion ensued.

RESOLUTION 2026-05-35: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes to amend the original motion to include an affirmation of the daily admission free of \$4 per person and to include monthly passes for individuals to be \$30 a month; for a family of 5: up to \$150 a month; and for families greater than 5: \$180 a month. And to continue the amendment, that the opening will be determined by the availability and operational capability of the Cartwright Well and when it comes online, at the point at which the City can go to stage 3 of its water conservation, at that point it can begin filling the pool, which will take approximately 5 days and then the pool can open on whatever date that can be. The City Council unanimously adopted the motion. The Council subsequently amended the original motion as amended.

RESOLUTION 2026-05-36: Councilor Rick Stephens moved to extend the City Council meeting past 9:00 P.M. The motion was seconded by Councilor Eva Martinez. 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 2026-05-37: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to recess into executive session, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion. **(8:46 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. Cause No. 25485, Allen v. Brewster County, Et Al. (C. Trevino, City Attorney)
b. Update on Open Meeting closed session requirements.(C. Trevino, City Attorney)

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

RESOLUTION 2026-05-38: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to move into regular session, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion. **(9:04 P.M.)**

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

RESOLUTION 2026-05-39: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes 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. (9:05 P.M.)

APPROVED:

Catherine Eaves, *Mayor*

ATTEST:

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 May 13, 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 13 day of May, 2026.



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

