

City Of Alpine
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, June 9, 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 - *virtually*
Mayor Catherine Eaves
Councilor Eva Martinez
Councilor Richard Portillo
Councilor Robert Rückes

City Staff and Stakeholders Present:

Henry Arredondo, City Manager
Alexandra Tackett, Deputy City Secretary
Cynthia Trevino, City Attorney
Ann Marie Torres, Administrative Receptionist
Abel Hinojos, Airport Supervisor

Not Present: None

Others Present: 3 other attendees.

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 June 3, 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.*

Public Comments: None.

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

6. **TIME SENSITIVE ITEMS.** -

7. **CONSENT AGENDA.** -

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.** -

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).*
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 2026-06-15: 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. **(5:32 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 and Consultation with Attorney § 551.071, Texas Government Code.

- I. Deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the City Secretary, including discussion of performance, continued employment, and related personnel matters. (H. Arredondo)
- II. Consultation with City Attorney regarding legal matters related to the employment status of the City Secretary, potential personnel actions including appointment of an Interim City Secretary, including legal rights, obligations and potential liabilities. (H. Arredondo)

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

RESOLUTION 2026-06-16: On a motion by Councilor Robert Rückes and seconded by Councilor Eva Martinez to move into regular session, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion. **(6:39 P.M.)**

A.

- I. Discussion and possible action regarding matters discussed in Executive Session related to the City Secretary, including employment, reassignment, discipline, or dismissal. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)
- II. Discussion and possible action to appoint an Interim City Secretary, including designation of duties, authority, and effective date of appointment. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-06-17: On a motion by Councilor Richard Portillo and seconded by Councilor Eva Martinez for City Council to remove from office City Secretary Geo Calderon and direct the City Manager for termination of employment effective June 10th, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

RESOLUTION 2026-06-18: On a motion by Councilor Robert Rückes and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo for City Council to appoint Clarinda Espinoza as Interim City Secretary starting at the entry level City Secretary pay based on our compensation study level from Evergreen, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

RESOLUTION 2026-06-19: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Robert Rückes for City Council to direct the City Manager to work with Brewster County Elections Officials to be able to support the City for the upcoming November elections, the City Council unanimously adopted the motion.

16. **ADJOURN.** -

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Eaves. (6:41 P.M.)

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Catherine Eaves, *Mayor*

Alexandra L. Tackett
Deputy City Secretary

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact the Office of the City Secretary at (432) 837-3301, option 1, three working days prior to the meeting for appropriate arrangements.

CERTIFICATION

I, Alexandra L. Tackett, 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 June 3, 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 3 day of June, 2026.



Alexandra L. Tackett
Deputy City Secretary

