

City Of Alpine
BUDGET WORKSHOP & REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, August 18, 2026 – 4:00 PM
Minutes

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

- A. Discuss Tax Rates (dependent on receipt of certified tax roll) Budget Workshop (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

Mayor Catherine Eaves called the workshop 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:

Councilor Rick Stephens
Mayor Catherine Eaves
Councilor Eva Martinez
Councilor Richard Portillo
Councilor Robert Rückes

City Staff and Stakeholders Present:

Henry Arredondo, City Manager
Clarinda Espinoza, Interim City Secretary
Kirk Caughman, Chief of Police
Abel Hinojos, Airport Supervisor
Jessica Isley, Building Official
Adelina Beall, Env. Serv. Coordinator
Randy Guzman, Gas Director
Eddie Molinar, Public Works Director
Mike Maciaz, Utilities Director
Kim Morrow, Recreation Coordinator
Jennifer Stewart, Animal Serv. Officer

Not Present: Councilor Lucy Escovedo

Others Present: 1 other attendees

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 Rick Stephens
Mayor Catherine Eaves
Councilor Eva Martinez
Councilor Richard Portillo
Councilor Robert Rückes

City Staff and Stakeholders Present:

Henry Arredondo, City Manager
Clarinda Espinoza, Interim City Secretary
Cynthia Trevino, City Attorney
Kirk Caughman, Chief of Police
Abel Hinojos, Airport Supervisor
Adelina Beall, Env. Serv. Coordinator
Randy Guzman, Gas Director
Mike Maciaz, Utilities Director
Kim Morrow, Recreation Coordinator

Not Present:
Councilor Lucy Escovedo

Others Present: 6 other attendees

Mayor Eaves announced that a quorum of the City Council was present at the City Council Chambers and Interim City Secretary, Clarinda Espinoza, reported that the meeting agenda was posted by 2:00 P.M. on August 12, 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.*

Public Comments: None.

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 2026-08-01, an Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Municipal Budget to include Additional Appropriations for Extended Pool Operations, the Interlocal Agreement with Alpine ISD for Renovation of the Manuel Payne Softball Field, and Airport Fuel Costs; Providing for Severability; and Providing an effective date.

Open (5:32 P.M.)

Public Comments: None.

Close (5:32 P.M.)

5. **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS.** -

- A. Presentations & Recognitions

- B. Proclamations

- i) Proclamation National Aviation Day for Wednesday, August 19, 2026.

- 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.

- 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 items to be added.

- 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 to be added.

7. **TIME SENSITIVE ITEMS.** -

8. **CONSENT AGENDA.** -

- A. Approval of the August 4, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes. (C. Espinoza, Interim City Secretary)
- B. Approval of the July 2026 invoice for Bojorquez Law Firm Services. (C. Espinoza, Interim City Secretary)
- C. Approval of the excused absence of Councilor Richard Portillo from the August 4, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting. (C. Espinoza, Interim City Secretary)

RESOLUTION 2026-08-09: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to approve the agenda as presented, the City Council present 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. Tourism Update by Director of Tourism. Chris Ruggia. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)
- B. Alpine Public Library Update. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)
- C. Update from Property Tax Attorneys on Delinquent Tax Collection Report (H. Arredondo, City Manager)
- D. Environmental Services Projects and Updates by Environmental Services Supervisor Adelina Beall. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

11. **INFORMATION OR DISCUSSION ITEMS.** -

- A. Discussion and possible action to accept the 2026 Certified Estimate of Property Values for the City of Alpine as submitted by the Brewster County Appraisal District. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)
- B. Discussion and possible action to approve the implementation of a new Time and Attendance System from TCP (TimeClock Plus) for payroll processing and workforce management. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)
- C. Discussion and possible action regarding the proposal submitted by TIP Strategies for economic development services for the City of Alpine. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

Mayor Eaves called a short recess. (6:53 P.M.)

The meeting resumed. (7:05 P.M.)

- D. Discussion and possible action to consider adjustments to the FY 2026-2027 HOT Grant recommendations by reducing the previously recommended awards by \$26,500 to align with available budgeted funds. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)
- E. Discussion regarding notice of Public Hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget for the Brewster County Appraisal District (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

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 2026-08-01, an Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Municipal Budget to include Additional Appropriations for Extended

Pool Operations, the Interlocal Agreement with Alpine ISD for Renovation of the Manuel Payne Softball Field, and Airport Fuel Costs; Providing for Severability; and Providing an effective date. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-08-10: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to approve the first and final reading of Ordinance 2026-08-01, the City Council present unanimously adopted the motion.

- B. Approve Resolution 2026-08-07, a resolution approving the 2026-2027 Hotel Occupancy Tax Grant Awards. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-08-11: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to approve the consent agenda as presented, the City Council present unanimously voted to adopt the motion.

- C. Approve Resolution 2026-08-08 for Jacob and Martin LLC's New General Service Engineering Services Agreement. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

RESOLUTION 2026-08-12: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to approve the consent agenda as presented, the City Council present unanimously voted to adopt the motion.

13. **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.

14. **CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS.** -

RESOLUTION 2026-08-13: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to recess into executive session, the City Council present unanimously adopted the motion. (7:33 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 updates on Cause No. 25485, Russell S. Allen v. Brewster County, Et.Al. (H Arredondo, City Manager)
- ii. Consultation regarding the Dis-annexation Petition for the properties known respectively as 2701 US 90, 2801 A US 90, and 2801 B US 90, Alpine, TX. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)
- iii. Consultation regarding legal matters and potential liability associated with the City's finances and financial obligations. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)
- iv. Consultation regarding legal matters and potential liability associated with the City's Municipal Water System. (H. Arredondo, City Manager)

16. **ACTION AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION.** -

RESOLUTION 2026-08-14: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to move into regular session, the City Council present unanimously adopted the motion. **(8:45 P.M.)**

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

RESOLUTION 2026-08-15: On a motion by Councilor Rick Stephens and seconded by Councilor Richard Portillo to take no action after executive session, the City Council present unanimously adopted the motion.

17. **ADJOURN.** -

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Eaves. (8:45 P.M.)

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Catherine Eaves, Mayor

Clarinda Espinoza
Interim 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, Clarinda Espinoza, 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 August 12, 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 12th day of August, 2026.

Clarinda Espinoza

Clarinda Espinoza

Interim City Secretary

