

**ALPINE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
20 North Main Alpine, UT  
March 22, 2011**

**I. REGULAR MEETING:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Hunt Willoughby.

**A. Roll Call:** The following Council members were present and constituted a quorum:

Mayor Hunt Willoughby

Council Members: Jim Tracy, Kent Hastings, Kimberly Bryant, Bradley Reneer, Troy Stout

Staff: Rich Nelson, Charmayne Warnock, David, Church, Shane Sorensen, Annette Scott, Annalisa Beck, Jay Healey, Kip Botkin, Brad Freeman, Jannicke Brewer

Others: Allan Hastings, Jared Page, Ken Kirk, Baylee Robinson, Lizzy Alexander, McKennie Cordner, Lauren Whitney, Ellen Hall, Jacob Frazier, Officer J. Moosman, Eric Farr, Diane Hunsaker, Rachel Johnson, Trevor Johnson, Danielle Orrock, Brady Fry, Mazie Reneer, Scott Southwick, Colin Walker, Liz Skousen, Taryn Owen, Cassidy Ferrell, Natalee Barrett, Peyton Hathorne, Anna Rasband, Alexis Arnold, Brendon Boye, Isaac Frazier, Sarah Clark, Lorin Groesbeck, Madeline Dame, Deb Dowd, Todd Whiting, Garrett Whiting, Sadie Dalley, Karen Hunsaker, Tom Hathorne, S. Zobell, Alex Power, Brooke Strade, Chad Paskette, Jacob Irving, Sam Slighting, Sam Merrill, Tanner Evensen, Baily Wilson, Madison Ballif, Carolyn Rossi, Thomas Rossi, Michael Rossi, Annalee Boerner, Dave Boerner

**B. Prayer:** Kimberly Bryant

**C. Pledge of Allegiance:** Garrett Whiting

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Garrett Whiting said he wanted to stain the wood bridges on Canyon Crest and Main Street for his Eagle Scout project to keep them in good condition. Jay Healey said Ron Devey had talked to him and had given him the information he needed. Mayor Willoughby noted that the scouts had performed much valuable service to the community and they really appreciated it.

### **III. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. Approve Minutes of March 8, 2011**

**B. Accept the Bid for the 800 South Sewer Project:** Shane Sorensen said they had received 11 bids on the project. The lowest bid was \$75,684.50 from J&B Excavating in Herriman. It came in substantially under the engineer's estimate. Staff had checked their license, bonding and references and found everything in order. Another engineer in his office had worked with J&B Excavating on several projects and said they performed satisfactory work. Horrocks Engineering had also recommended them. Mr. Sorensen said the sewer project would be funded by sewer impact fees.

**MOTION:** Kent Hasting moved to approve the Consent Calendar and award the bid for the 800 South Sewer Project to J&B Excavating in the amount of \$75,684.50. Kimberly Bryant seconded. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0. Motion passed. Troy Stout was not present at the time of the motion.

### **IV. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Alpine Youth Council Report:** Sadie Dalley reported on the activities of the Youth Council in the past year. There were 25 members on the Youth Council and 25 more on the Service Youth Council. She reported on three of their activities. For one activity they made 400 sandwiches and took them to the Salvation Army in Salt Lake City where they served the sandwiches and soup to the homeless people who had come to listen to the sermon. They didn't see many people in Alpine who were in such dire circumstances and it made her feel good to be helping. Another project was the River Meadow Senior Living Prom and Talent Show. They wore fancy dresses and helped the ladies with their hair and makeup, danced and had a good time. The last project was helping with the Christmas Box House. They made blankets and collected books which they dropped off and played with the kids. Ms. Dalley thanked the Council for their support and the opportunity to serve. Kimberly Bryant said Sadie would be one of two mayors for next year.

Karen Hunsaker reported on the Leadership Conference they attended at Utah State University in Logan. She said there were ten members and two advisors that attended. There were motivational speakers everyday along with breakout sessions on leadership skills and life skills. They performed some service projects and had an award banquet and dance. She said it was a great experience and very beneficial.

Trevor Johnson said he was the Chairman of the Youth Service Committee. It was the first year they'd had the Committee. It was formed because there were so many applicants to be on the Youth Council. He said some of the projects they'd done were setting up flags on the graves of veterans on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Independence Day and Armed Forces Day. They also served breakfast on Memorial Day. They'd run the water games during Alpine Days and the Coke trailer. He said his favorite project was making 500 sandwiches and taking them to the homeless shelter in Salt Lake City. It was very eye-opening. On Christmas they had Santa come to the River Meadows Senior Living Center and offered crafts and projects. They also had a Valentine event there. In April they would have leadership training and an Easter egg hunt.

Mayor Willoughby said he really appreciated their service in putting up the flags. There were a lot of Veterans graves and it was a huge job.

Kimberly Bryant said the youth serving on the Council and Service Committee were the greatest kids. They had decided to expand the program because so many wanted to participate. Alpine had one of the biggest youth councils in the state. The kids had to get up at 5:30 am to put up the flags in the cemetery and along the streets. She thanked Diane Hunsaker for her many hours of being an advisor to the Youth Council.

## V. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

**A. Street Alignment at 400 West 200 North/Flashing Radar Sign:** Shane Sorensen said the Council had discussed this item at the previous meeting. They'd asked for more information on the cost of an electronic speed limit sign and the number of accidents at the intersection. He had submitted costs for four different sign options. 1) A solar powered speed check sign for \$5,687 plus the cost of installation; 2) A solar powered speed check sign with the added feature of a "slow down" message cost \$6,703 plus the cost of installation; 3) The same as option two with the ability to collect speed data that could be downloaded cost \$7,906 plus installation; 4) A solar powered speed detection blinker sign with LED lights surrounding the perimeter. The user could set the speed threshold at which the LED lights would flash. Vehicle speeds were not displayed. The cost was \$2,900 plus installation.

The police department had submitted the following accident information: Between 2005 to 2007 there was one roll-over accident on the hill north of the stop sign. Between 2007 to February 2011 there were five days on which there were accidents. Two of the accidents were during the winter months of January and February. The others were during May, July and October. The accident on February 1, 2011 involved three cars which slid down the hill within minutes of each other.

Shane Sorensen said that two weeks ago he had touched on the fact that a fourth leg of the intersection would be opening up when the subdivision on the northwest corner was developed. The intersection was designed with that in mind. Had that not been a consideration, they might have done it differently. They considered a roundabout as well as the perpendicular intersection. The Council voted to approve the perpendicular intersection. Mr. Sorensen said sight distance was an issue. There was nothing to prevent the construction of a solid fence on 400 West which would impair sight. He said whatever the Council decided to do, they needed to have a plan and stick with it. It was unwise to take signs out then put them back again. It was confusing to drivers

Jim Tracy said he would like to see a warning sign placed farther up on 400 West, telling motorists there was a stop sign ahead.

Kent Hastings said he had gone to the intersection and watched traffic to see where the most traffic was. He said he counted a total of 30 cars coming from Westfield Road. There were 98 cars coming from 200 North and Hog Hollow (400 West). He said the primary reason for changing the signage at the intersection was safety. Looking at the police data, there were 7 accidents since the road configuration. He said that a driver needed to be able to steer the car as he was making a turn. When they had to come to a stop, they were unable to do that, especially in slick

conditions. If a driver braked as he came into a turn, he'd jump the curb. He said he thought it should be a through street from 400 West to 200 North. There also needed to be a speed feedback sign on 400 West.

Bradley Reneer said he also spent some time at the intersection observing traffic. He said he was confused by Kent's numbers. Mr. Hastings clarified that he counted 30 cars coming from Westfield Road. There were 98 cars from the other two directions.

Bradley Reneer said that his count showed that 400 West had the least amount of traffic coming down it. Westfield Road had the next fewest cars and 200 North had the most cars coming into the intersection.

Jim Tracy noted that the numbers would probably reverse depending on whether the count was taken in the morning or evening with people going one direction to work then coming back in the evening. He added that he was not a traffic engineer and he relied on the experts to make the best decision. They'd heard from the engineer and police chief and felt they should utilize their expertise.

There was a question about the grade. Shane Sorensen said 400 West had a grade of about 13%. On Westfield Road it leveled to 4 or 5%.

Bradley Reneer said the danger of loss of control came on 400 West. He'd read that they shouldn't depend on stop signs to control speeds. Steep uphill grades could also cause problems for drivers starting uphill from a stopped position. He asked if there was a possibility for a left turn lane on 400 West but they said it was too narrow.

Kent Hastings said he respected the engineer's opinion but he lived there and understood better what was going on. He said what he was proposing would be safer. He asked if there was public comment.

Eric Farr said he lived on 400 West. He gave the Council a handout which summarized his comments. He said he drove the intersection regularly and felt he understood the situation. In winter conditions, people going up the hill lost momentum if they had to stop. Other cars would pass them which caused more problems. When cars were coming down the hill, they couldn't stop even when they were going slow, and they would slide through the stop sign because they would hit their brakes and their brakes would lock.

Mr. Farr said that under dry conditions, people drove at higher speeds regardless of the stop sign. It didn't slow them down. In the populated areas they would really start to fly and coast down the hill. He said he didn't think they were speeding for the sake of speeding. It was more a lack of attention. He said he would like to see a feedback sign on 400 West. If people knew how fast they were going, they would slow down. He said he supported eliminating two of the stop signs.

Ellen Hall said she lived on Hog Hollow Road. She was president of an engineering company and they had to deal with facts. They should be looking at the safety standards and at the number of accidents since the stop signs were put there. It was hard to brake on a steep grade. There was a problem with going down and coming up. She said she'd been stuck halfway up and found herself blocking traffic. It would be easier if it was a through road. The future subdivision could be 20 years away. They needed to look at what was best for the situation right now. She said none of them were trying to break the law. They needed a reminder and a flashing speed sign would be good. She said it wouldn't be wild and crazy if they took the sign out. She said she was respectful of the engineer's opinion but they needed to look at the standards and what the people wanted.

Bradley Reneer noted that there had been a stop sign at the bottom of 400 West even before the intersection was reconfigured. He wondered if changing the speed limit to 20 mph would help.

Mr. Jenjua said he also lived there. He said it seemed there was opposition to changing the signs because of the future development and they had to train the people. He said that in that case there should be a stop sign on every future road. But the reason people had a drivers license was because they were going to abide by the law. He said they should be addressing the current situation, not a future one. He said there should be one sign on Westfield Road and let the rest be a through street.

Ellen Hall said they usually gave the right-of-way to the person who had the least ability to control the situation. Usually the people with the most control were the ones that had to stop. She presumed the people coming from Westfield Road would be stopping. Until the subdivision was built, that would be the optimum solution.

Debra Dowd said there used to not be such a sharp turn at the intersection. She asked about widening it at the bottom to make a right turn lane. Redirect the traffic the way it used to be. Widen the intersection to make room for errors.

Kimberly Bryant said it had always been a bad hill. It appeared the number of accidents had increased since the additional stop signs went in.

Jim Tracy said the slope of the hill and the stop sign had remained the same. The angle was the only thing that had changed. He asked if there was an opinion from the traffic officer. Chief Botkin said they did not have a traffic officer because of their thin staff. He said they enforced what the City Council passed.

Kent Hastings said they did not always consult the police when they changed the speed limit. They had not consulted them when they changed the speed limit on Westfield Road and Canyon Crest Road.

**MOTION:** Kent Hastings moved to have City staff remove the stop signs on 200 North and Hog Hollow Road (400 West) and restripe the road appropriately; put additional signage on Westfield Road indicating it was a one-way stop ahead and that the cross traffic did not stop; add a flashing radar sign (option 2) in front of the Chatfield property on 400 West and put another sign (option 4) sign farther down where it made sense. Troy Stout seconded. Ayes: 3 Nays: 2. Kent Hastings, Kimberly Bryant and Troy Stout voted aye. Jim Tracy and Bradley Reneer voted nay. Motion passed.

Bradley Reneer said he felt they should look at the most dangerous intersections related to speed before they spent that much money. There might be other intersections more dangerous. He suggested separating out the motion. He said he would like to see a sign stating that the speed limit was reduced to 5 mph in icy conditions.

Mayor Willoughby said he wasn't sure that was the best location for the sign. He thought a flashing LED sign might be more effective. He suggested they ask police department to use their speed trailer on 400 West and do it as a separate motion. He also suggested they hold off on removing the signs until the April Newline went out so they could communicate with residents that the signs were being removed.

Shane Sorensen said they probably needed to come up with criteria where they placed speed radar signs because they would probably receive additional requests for such signs.

**B. Lone Peak Public Safety District Budget:** Rich Nelson proposed they go through a three-step process. He would review the general information, then the police chief would make a presentation and the Council would make a decision. Then the fire chief would make a presentation and the Council would make a decision. Direction could then be given to the representatives on the Lone Peak Public Safety District.

Rich Nelson briefly reviewed the fact that Alpine was involved in an interlocal agreement with Highland City for police protection and with Highland and Cedar Hills for fire and EMS service. Cedar Hills had requested that their fire station be staffed. There was also a request by the police department for at least two additional officers.

Mr. Nelson reviewed the budget graphs showing that Alpine received 11% of the property tax Alpine residents paid. The lion share of 73% went to the school district. The school district also wanted additional funding.

Mr. Nelson reviewed the PSD Total Budget Comparison Sheet which showed Alpine's share and proposed share of proposed budget. Fire would be an additional \$169,618. For the police service with two additional officers and to provide weapons, it would be \$68,300. Because dispatch fees had been changed to be assessed to the entity that originated the call, Alpine's share had gone down. Mr. Nelson said that to fund the current police service the tax rate would be 0.001487. To fund two more officers the tax rate would be 0.001570.

Troy Stout asked what that would translate to for the tax on a \$400,000 home. Jim Tracy said he estimated it would be 2% property tax increase on the portion that came back to Alpine.

Chief Kip Botkin recapped the presentation he made at the meeting of March 8, 2011. He said that there were 39 hours a week when they had only one officer on duty, which was essentially another full-time position. With two more officers they could schedule two officers 24/7, which was what they had four years ago. There was also an option for 22 officers. He noted that there had been an error in calculations on the cost of that option which Jim Tracy had caught. The actual cost had gone down when corrected.

Hunt Willoughby said they had heard less than stellar reports on DARE and NOVA programs. Chief Botkin said he was a big advocate of the programs which were aimed at teaching children life skills. People in prison had been asked if they'd been in the DARE program and they had, thus the bad press. But they didn't consider the number of people on the outside who had also participated in the program. He said with 22 officers they could get a motor at the school crossings, plus another one. They could have two narcotic dogs and another trained canine officer. They would have proactive community programs and park patrol.

Kent Hastings said it looked like there were 11 slots where there was just one officer and no sergeant. He asked if it was possible to take officers from some areas where they had four officers on duty plus a sergeant and schedule one of them in those slots where there was just one officer.

Kip Botkin said the only way they could do that was to have the officers on split shifts. He said he had studied it and couldn't find any way to do it without having everyone start different times on different days.

Troy Stout said that under the current staffing it showed one officer between 1 am and 6 am on Friday night, but two and three officers on Tuesday. It seemed like Friday would have a higher crime rate.

Kip Botkin said they had to keep the days off together rather than splitting them up. When they had a total of only 12 people, it left only nine people to move around.

**MOTION:** Jim Tracy moved that based on safety and proactive police service, they increase the number of officers to 22. Bradley Reneer seconded. Ayes: 1 Nays: 5. Jim Tracy voted aye. Bradley Reneer, Kent Hastings, Kimberly Bryant and Troy Stout voted nay. Motion failed.

Mayor Willoughby asked if there were comments from the audience.

Ellen Hall said she admired the police department and they had helped her many times, but last fall the nation had gone to the polls and said they wanted the spending to stop. She said there were eight houses in her neighborhood that people had lost. People were already over burdened. She said she had 19 employees in her company and would love to have more but they had to cut their budget. She said Alpine did not have the crime rate Salt Lake did, and one would expect the mil levee to be less. She asked what had happened since 2007 that they needed the increase.

Kimberly Bryant said that in previous years the Lone Peak PSD had extra money that they no longer had. There had been a grant for the fire department that had run out. They no longer received the ambulance transfer fees. She said they had one police officer on duty between 1 am and 6 am for both Alpine and Highland, and that was dangerous not just for a resident that had someone in their backyard in the middle of the night, but for the officers and their families. It was far more dangerous when they didn't have backup. She said you didn't realize how valuable the police were until someone was trying to get into your home. The Council was looking at the level of service very hard, and they were very careful with tax payer's money, but when someone needed the police, they needed them.

Mayor Willoughby said Detective Eddington sent a weekly update on investigations. He said Alpine was not a sleepy little hamlet. They had serious calls on a weekly basis.

Kent Hastings said the police had done a phenomenal job on the budget they had. He'd heard nothing but praise. He just thought there were times during those 11 hours when there was one officer that they could call a sergeant

Jannicke Brewer, speaking as a citizen, said she had spoken to many people since the PSD made their presentation at the last meeting. The response she'd heard from people was that they would be happy to pay few dollars more for police and fire service. If the Council needed to cut something, they should cut something frivolous, but please let the citizens have safety. She said that years ago when they first moved to Alpine they had an intruder and they had to send to Provo for help, and then the officer went to the wrong house. She said that when they had emergencies, she hoped there would be someone to call. Level of service was very important and many people in town had expressed that they didn't want to pay increased taxes for school or recreation, but they would support this.

Bradley Reneer agreed saying that when he'd lived in Fort Worth, they'd heard someone wrenching the door. It took 15-20 minutes before the police showed up.

Troy Stout said one of the responsibilities as a Council was to decide where money should be spent and provide protection for the community. He was concerned about the difference between 20 and 22 officers. He asked if they had taken out the upper and bottom value to get a more accurate average of property values. Rich Nelson said he would look at that.

Annalisa Beck said the numbers they were going off was not the actual home value but the property tax value. The average property tax value was \$287,000 which they felt was basically the median.

Dave Parker asked if there had been an increase in crime since 2007. He said he would be in favor of going to 20 officers. He wouldn't mind paying the extra money but he wanted to know what he was getting. He said the city bill had doubled in the past six months.

Mayor Willoughby said there was an increase in the storm drain fee. Annalisa Beck said there was also an increase in the sewer fee but that came from outside the city.

Chief Botkin said that he was confident that with the opening of the roads and more pass-through traffic, there would be more crime. They didn't use to have people from Salt Lake coming down to burglarize but now they did. Violent crime was still extremely low but they did have the recent, kidnapping/hostage situation in Alpine. Also, they were the gateway to the canyon. As the economy went down, the crime went up.

Ellen Hall asked what happened with the population growth. There were not a lot of new houses and some houses were empty. She said she wasn't saying she was against having more police, she just wanted them to look at it and keep it as low as possible.

**MOTION:** Kimberly Bryant moved to have the level of service at 20 police officers, and find ways to fund that. Jim Tracy seconded. Ayes: 4 Nays: 1. Kimberly Bryant, Jim Tracy, Bradley Reneer and Troy Stout voted aye. Kent Hastings voted nay. Motion passed.

Kent Hasting said his platform for being elected was that he would not increase taxes. He said that if they could have 20 officers without increasing taxes, he would support it. He said they had been reminded of what happened in November on a national level and he was coming back to that principal. If they had the growth, that would give them extra taxes.

Chief Brad Freeman made the presentation for the Fire/EMS Department. He said that Rich Nelson had said the budget for the fire department would go up \$90,000 just to maintain the status quo. That was because they had lost the grant they'd obtained several years earlier and the decision to put two chiefs on shifts had not worked. They'd abandoned it after the first month. He said the proposal would put two paramedics in Cedar Hills. The PSD Board had approved it. They were in the process of hiring two paramedic firefighters.

Brad Freeman explained that at present there were two firefighters/EMS stationed in Alpine. If Alpine had a four-man engine company at their fire station plus the engine company in Highland, they would need two extra hires plus interns. The interns only got paid when they were called out. He said they could not go into a fire without four people.

Mr. Freeman said they recently had a fire in Alpine and got there in 4 minutes. Two men went into the building. According to OSHA they needed two men on the outside prepared to go in if rescue was needed. The next engine would come in and bring water supply from the hydrant and lay the line. One person secured the utilities. Two people were needed for ventilation. They didn't have a ventilation crew in the Alpine fire and they almost lost a fighter when he fell through the roof. Then there was the issue of exposure to the neighboring homes. That didn't include a rescue team. He said that after ten minutes, they could lose a victim or the structure. He added that in the last 6 months they'd had more fires in this district than other jurisdictions including Salt Lake. Regarding medical calls, Brad Freeman said they needed one paramedic to establish an airway, one on the heart, one started an IV and another called for backup. A minor call required a minimum of three. A major call required four people.

He said the question they needed to ask themselves was what kind level of service did they want? If they dialed 911, would they want adequate manpower, quick response time, highest level of expertise? He said they had a quick response time and they had some of the highest trained people and best equipment. What Alpine didn't have was adequate manpower for a fire. Highland City did.

Brad Freeman reviewed a chart that paralleled city services with the goals set forth in the Declaration of Independence, i.e. life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. He said life was the basic and most important goal. The city services that corresponded to preservation of life were police, fire and EMS. Roads, water, sewer, etc. were next then parks, recreation, etc. He said they were just asking the Council to approve filling the basic needs. He'd had 8,000 calls in the district since they acquired paramedic service. One-fifth of the population had used paramedic service at one time or another.

Kimberly Bryant said that at the previous meeting, Chief Freeman had shown a map of response times for the different areas in the Lone Peak District. She said she'd looked at where her home was located and thought they were okay, then realized that they were a district. If she or a family member happened to be in a different part of the district, what kind of response time would be there? She said they needed coverage to be able to help everyone in the district equally.

Jim Tracy asked what would happen if there was a critical care call and they got another call. Brad Freeman said the first call would take his whole crew. They would have to wait for help from another city which would take maybe 20 minutes.

Jim Tracy raised the issue of the ISO rating that insurance companies had on homes. It was based on the ability of the fire department to save a home in the event of a fire. Brad Freeman said that when the fire department was moved from Alpine to Highland, Alpine lost its rating and Highland's improved. The fire department was moved to Highland City because the location was more central to the district.

Jim Tracy said he had checked with his insurance company. Changing the ISO rating from 5 to 4 would decrease the insurance premium by about \$84. He suggested that if they improved Alpine's ISO rating, people's insurance premiums would drop and off-set the cost of additional firefighters. Having an additional engine crew would allow them to handle a second call.

Bradley Reneer asked why the Lone Peak PSD was not being compensated for calls up the canyon and on forest service land.

Brad Freeman said they were working on that. They were not being compensated for calls to Alpine Cove either.

Kimberly Bryant asked why the big fire truck in Alpine was being driven around a lot. Brad Freeman said the truck had haz mat and extrication capability. If they responded to a medical call and a fire broke out, they wouldn't have to go all the way back to the station to get the truck. Also it was better to not have it just sitting in the station because it was diesel. He said they were slated to get another pumper which would alleviate the problem.

Kent Hastings asked what position they would hire for proposal number one. Brad Freeman said they would hire 3 fulltime paramedics and 3 part-time.

Kent Hastings noted that before the grant, they basically had no fulltime firefighters, and asked if they couldn't have more part-time positions, which would save on benefits.

Brad Freeman said there had been three fulltime fighters before the grant. He said he needed a backbone of fulltime firefighters because part-time were obligated to another department. When he needed them, they may not be there.

There was more discussion among the Council and then some comments from the audience.

Ken Kirk (councilmember from Cedar Hills) said Alpine had been a great neighbor to Cedar Hills. He said he understood there would be a drastic cost to man the Cedar Hills fire station but the PSD was a team. Cedar Hills had been paying their portion for the last 11 years but had not had the same level of service as Alpine and Highland. He said he was not blaming anyone for that but their building was now ready for occupancy. He said he also sat on the dispatch board and that obligation had decreased for the cities because the county's obligation had increased. Fifty percent of the calls had been coming from the county. He said the Lone Peak PSD was not being reimbursed for calls in the canyon and he would be taking that up with the county commissioners. He noted that the county took approximately 14% of the taxes.

Mr. Kirk said that everyone understood the urgency of life-saving services. At what cost did you put human life? Someone else's child may be considered less important. He said the country was involved in a war with the basic principal of protecting and preserving human life. It was paid for by the national government. How could cities take a different stance and say human life was not worth that much? He addressed Kent Hastings and said he understood he had campaigned 12 years ago on not raising taxes, but 12 years ago the price of bread was different. The cost of gasoline was a lot different. The cost of everything had gone up. It was their fiduciary responsibility to keep costs minimal, but the public welfare was also their responsibility. If they had to sacrifice something, it should be a park or a trail. If they didn't have adequate safety coverage, they lost lives. He closed by saying each of them were honorable men and women and serving on the city council was a thankless job, but they needed to make the hard decision and make it correctly.

Ellen Hall said she felt this was the most critical thing they had talked about this evening. She appreciated Jim Tracy bringing up the ISO rating. She said she didn't care how the city paid for it but she was in favor of increasing fire and paramedic services.

He Jenjua said the police chief and fire chief were being very modest. They hadn't brought up the issue of morale. The individuals on the fire and police department worked hard; they had families and probably wanted to go on vacation sometimes. It wasn't right to make their schedules so tight that it affected their work. He said he knew because he used to do that. He said the sooner they could decide how to increase services, the better.

Eric Farr said he appreciated what the public safety were doing and didn't like to think about them being out there without proper backup. He would like to see if an improved ISO rating could offset the increased cost.

Troy Stout said that if they were correct in using the home value average and tax average, they could approve option 2 for the police and option 3 for fire for \$23 a month. It was a modest increase to improve the level of service. For public clarification, he said they did recently build a new park without raising taxes. There would be some cost of maintenance. Regarding the ISO rating, he said that if it could be established, it should be noticed in the newsletter so the public would know they would receive a return on the increased tax.

Bradley Reneer said that in addition, an ISO rating of 4 indicated to the public that they were better protected and that in itself was a return.

Peyton Hathorne said they had talked about how raising taxes would affect residents who had lost their jobs or homes. She said she was a citizen in Alpine that had lost her home and had to close her daycare business. Her husband was in construction and had been unemployed for two years. She said she was someone without money and she approved of raising taxes for safety. Her son was important to her and her parents were ailing. Public safety was something that was really important to her and she loved what the fire and police did for the community.



Jim Tracy said that if they increased the number of firefighters in the Alpine fire station to four, and lowered their ISO rating to four, they would be saving \$84. It would offset the cost of both the fire and police department increases. The Council discussed the numbers which were estimations.

Bradley Reneer said it was his impression that it was not guaranteed that the ISO rating would be improved. Brad Freeman said they had six firefighters when Alpine had an ISO rating of four. Other factors were considered and one thing they got since the change was the new fire truck which sprayed 2000 gallon a minute, although it was stationed in Highland. The insurance looked at how quickly and how well they could save a house because it saved them money.

Deb Dowd said the EMS had saved her father's life twice. Among their own personnel, the EMS had saved some of their own coworker's lives. They had an awesome staff and brotherhood.

Scott Southwick said he was a former firefighter. He recalled a tragic incident where they only had three men and backup was too far away. He fully supported the budget proposal.

**MOTION:** Jim Tracy moved to staff the fire department at budget proposal 3. Troy Stout seconded. Ayes: 3 Troy Stout, Kimberly Bryant and Jim Tracy voted aye; Nays: 2 Bradley Reneer and Kent Hastings voted nay. Motion passed.

**C. FY2011-2012 Tentative Budget:** Rich Nelson reviewed the tentative budget for fiscal year 2011-2012. He thanked Annalisa Beck for the marvelous job she did putting it all together and thanked April Naidu, Shane Sorensen and Jay Healy for working with him on it. On page 14 they were projecting general property taxes to increase and fund two additional slots in the fire department and no additional police. They would have to adjust that. They anticipated a sales tax increase of about \$6,000. He said franchise fees kept going down, but the City was not charging what they were allowed to charge for franchise fees. They needed to look at that. Under licenses and permits, they were expecting plan check fees and permits to go up. There was a decrease in traffic fines but if they approved more officers, they should go up. He said Alpine City historically ran a very lean program. The proposed budget would maintain that same lean process.

Rich Nelson said accepting the Tentative Budget merely indicated the Council had received it. It did not mean that they approved it. It was still subject to change. They would schedule more work sessions and public hearings for input.

Mayor Willoughby said he'd been in Washington DC the previous week and the newly elected Senator Mike Lee who lived in Alpine had said to a crowd of people that if the country was run as well as Alpine, they would be in good shape.

**MOTION:** Kimberly Bryant moved to accept FY 2011-2012 Tentative Budget. Troy Stout seconded. Ayes: 4 Nays: 1. Kimberly Bryant, Troy Stout, Jim Tracy and Bradley Reneer voted aye. Kent Hastings voted nay. Motion passed.

## **VI. STAFF REPORTS**

Annette Scott worked in the water department and said she was concerned about the citizens that were not paying their bills and the amount of unpaid bills. Some of them were very large. She had visited with the mayor about the possibility of some kind of incentive to get people to pay their bills. She said she'd been with Alpine for 10 years and some of the folks she dealt with were in the same position 10 years ago. She added that if people paid their water bills, it would help the city's bottom line.

Mayor Willoughby said Annette was very good at working with the people who were delinquent in their payment. If they got more heavy handed and increased the number of shut-offs, the Council would be getting calls and they needed to be prepared for it

Annette Scott explained that people got their bills with the past-due amount on the top, then got another notice on the 16<sup>th</sup> for a shut-off. They sent out 135 shut-off notices each month but by the time it was shut-off time, it was

down to 87. Then she started calling people. It was better if they didn't actually get shut-off because that added a reconnect fee plus 10% of the delinquent balance.

Bradley Reneer asked how much time she spent calling people and if there was a particular profile of people who didn't pay on time, such as retired people, etc.

Annette Scott said she worked five hours a day and a couple of days before shut-off she spent the majority of those hours calling people. As far as the types of people, they were all types. She said the retired people were actually the first ones to pay.

Rich Nelson said staff was well aware of the problem and was in the process of refining the system.

Chief Kip Botkin said he wanted to thank the Council for understanding the police situation. It was never easy to raise taxes. He said he appreciated the dialogue and process.

Chief Brad Freeman said he echoed everything Chief Botkin said. He thanked the Council for their time and seeing what level of service citizens needed.

## **VII. COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

Troy Stout said he got a headache from the overhead lights above the dais and wondered if they could change them to white housings. Other council members agreed. He also asked that the new photo of the Council be posted on the website.

Kimberly Bryant said it was so crucial that there be public information. She noted that Ellen Hall and Eric Farr had initially said they didn't want to raise taxes then changed when they heard the presentations and discussions.

Bradley Reneer said he was glad to inherit such a good fiscal position and said he was grateful for the work of previous councils. Perhaps they should look at cutting the Christmas party or anything that could be viewed as an unnecessary benefit.

Jim Tracy thanked the staff that worked on the budget. He said he'd come in with a lot of questions and always got answers.

Mayor Willoughby said that when he signed the settlement agreement with Pattersons, he talked to them about opening trails in Box Elder South until it was developed. They said they would put in gates and leave them open when they didn't have cattle in there. He said they asked that people be respectful and know that when the gates were closed, they were closed for a reason.

Jim Tracy asked about the Memorial Day breakfast and wondered about having the grand opening of the park that weekend. Troy Stout said it was likely people would be gone that weekend and they should wait.

## **VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** Jim Tracy moved to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing property acquisition and litigation. Kent Hastings seconded. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0. Jim Tracy, Kent Hastings, Bradley Reneer and Troy Stout voted aye. Motion passed. Kimberly Bryant had left the meeting.

**MOTION:** Bradley Reneer moved to adjourn. Kent Hastings seconded. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 pm.