

**ALPINE CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Alpine City Hall, 20 N. Main, Alpine, UT**  
**April 9, 2019**

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

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

Mayor Troy Stout

Council Members: Jason Thelin, Ramon Beck, Carla Merrill, Kimberly Bryant, Lon Lott

Staff: Shane Sorensen, Charmayne Warnock, David Church, Austin Roy, Police Chief Brian Gwilliam, Fire Chief Reed Thompson

Others: Terry Way, Ed Bush, Will Jones

**B. Prayer:** Kimberly Bryant

**C. Pledge:** Ramon Beck

**II. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. Minutes of the Alpine City Council meeting held March 26, 2019**

**B. Resolution No. R2019-04 – Appointment to the Pressurized Irrigation Management Committee**

**C. Resolution No. R2019-05 -- Banking and Investment Management**

**D. Bond Release #4 – Alpine View Estates - \$25,197.00**

**MOTION:** Kimberly Bryant moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Ramon Beck seconded Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. Motion passed.

**Ayes**

Jason Thelin

Ramon Beck

Carla Merrill

Kimberly Bryant

Lon Lott

**Nays**

none

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Alan Gilman asked the Council to explain what the Consent Calendar was, specifically, the Resolution on the appointment to the Pressurized Irrigation Management Committee.

Shane Sorensen said that the Agreement between Alpine City and the Alpine Irrigation Company required the formation of a Pressurized Irrigation Management Committee. Three members were to be appointed by the Irrigation Company; three members were to be appointed by the City Council. The Resolution formalized the appointment of Lon Lott, Greg Kmetzch and Shane Sorensen by the City Council.

Shane Sorensen explained that the other Resolution authorized the City Treasurer and the City Administrator to manage the City's Public Treasurers Invest Fund on behalf of Alpine City.

**IV. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS:** None

**V. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS.**

**A. Willow Canyon Height Restriction:** This item was postponed at the request of the applicant.

**B. Sewer Easement Through Public Open Space.** Austin Roy said the Clarks, who owned the building lot at 75 N. Preston Drive, were requesting a sewer easement across a small piece of public open space in the Willow Canyon subdivision. The easement would also pass through two other vacant lots owned by another individual and provide a gravity feed sewer line to Bald Mountain Drive for all three lots.

Shane Sorensen said that when the subdivision was constructed, they put in sewer laterals for the two lots but the easements were never formalized and the laterals were never extended to the east. Laterals were installed higher up on Preston Drive, but they would have to pump the sewage to reach them.

David Church said underground utilities were a permitted use in the open space but the applicant had to get approval from the Council. The staff could not just approve it. The easement would cross a very small piece of open space that was serving no particular purpose..

Ramon Beck asked if there would be an expense to the City or if trees would need to be removed.

Austin Roy showed an aerial photo of the location and said the proposed route would minimize the impact on the vegetation. There might be some scrub oak that needed to be removed.

Lon Lott noted that that the trench wouldn't need to be very deep because of the slope of the land. A narrow trench would be sufficient and there should be minimal impact.

**MOTION:** Ramon Beck moved to approve the sewer easement as described through the open space in the Willow Canyon subdivision. Jason Thelin seconded. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. Motion passed.

| <u>Ayes</u>     | <u>Nays</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Jason Thelin    | none        |
| Ramon Beck      |             |
| Carla Merrill   |             |
| Kimberly Bryant |             |
| Lon Lott        |             |

**C. 2019 Alpine City Municipal Election.** Charmayne Warnock explained that there were two issues which would require separate motions. The first was a motion on Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), which the Council had discussed at the previous meeting, but no motion was made. The second motion would be on the approval of the Interlocal Agreement with Utah County to conduct Alpine City's 2019 Municipal Election. The County had previously conducted Alpine City's 2015 Election and the 2017 Election.

The Council discussed RCV and agreed they would prefer to have a traditional election with both a primary and general election. Since it was an election to fill four City Council seats, it was likely they wouldn't have enough candidates to require a primary election anyway.

**MOTION:** Kimberly Bryant moved to reject the option of ranked choice voting in favor of a traditional election. Carla Merrill seconded. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. Motion passed.

| <u>Ayes</u>     | <u>Nays</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Jason Thelin    | none        |
| Ramon Beck      |             |
| Carla Merrill   |             |
| Kimberly Bryant |             |
| Lon Lott        |             |

**MOTION:** Ramon Beck moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement affirming that Utah County would administer Alpine City's 2019 Municipal Election(s). Kimberly Bryant seconded. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0.

| <u>Ayes</u>     | <u>Nays</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Jason Thelin    | none        |
| Ramon Beck      |             |
| Carla Merrill   |             |
| Kimberly Bryant |             |
| Lon Lott        |             |

**D. Tentative Budget Discussion for Fiscal Year 2019-20.** Shane Sorensen said he would be sitting down with the Councilmembers two at a time for a budget meeting. He would be sending out a schedule so they could sign up. The Tentative Budget would be on the agenda for adoption on May 14th. The Final Budget would be presented at a public hearing and adopted at the meeting of June 11th. The Budget then had to be presented to the State Auditor within 30 days.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Shane Sorensen reviewed the preliminary budget.

#### EXPENSES

He said the biggest budget impact would be Cedar Hills leaving the Lone Peak Public Safety District. The cities of Highland and Alpine would be sharing the costs of that exit, plus inflationary costs.

Another item they needed to plan for was the cost of CUP water. In 1996, the City signed up for 1600 acre-feet of CUP water but since there was no infrastructure to deliver the water to Alpine, the City was able to give back half the water. In the past, the remainder of Alpine's share of the water was used to enhance stream flows in the Provo River to preserve the June sucker. In exchange for that, Alpine's fee was waived. The extension to waive that fee expires in the fall, so unless the City received another extension, they would have to pay the fee, which would be \$113,000 plus maintenance. It might be possible to sublease the water to Lehi and they would pay the fee.

The Highland City Library had opted to join the interlibrary system which increase the cost of a library card from \$40 to \$70 per year. Alpine City, in lieu of the expense and trouble of trying to establish their own library, had been reimbursing Alpine residents \$40 toward a library card. With the increase in the cost of a card, residents had been asking the City to increase the reimbursement. If the Council chose to do that, he anticipated it would increase the library budget by nine or ten thousand dollars.

Regarding benefits for staff, he said there was no increase in dental coverage this year or retirement, but the health insurance costs had gone up 4.8%. The adjustment to wages would be 3%.

#### UTILITY FEES

ACE Disposal would be increasing their salaries which would be a \$10,000 increase for their service.

There was no proposed rate increase from the City for sewer, water, or storm drain. They would be looking at the rate structure for pressurized irrigation.

#### LONE PEAK PSD BUDGET

Fire Chief Reed Thompson said that in the wake of Cedar Hills leaving, they had reduced staff, but they still had a deficit of \$790,951. They also had reduced revenue from the loss of ambulance transports.

Regarding staffing, Chief Thompson proposed three firefighters at the Alpine Fire Station and three at the Highland Fire Station. There would be two staff members on the ambulance, which would be kept at the Highland station. If the ambulance came from Highland, it provided better coverage. A fire engine would be kept in Alpine and a ladder truck in Highland. The fire engine in Alpine also had ambulance capabilities so if the ambulance was out on a call, they would have back up. They could also call for backup from surrounding communities.

Chief Thompson said they were looking at other revenue sources and had applied for grants. Last year they had received revenue when they deployed to the fires in California. That money was used to buy a brush truck. He noted that if they reduced staffing too much, they wouldn't be able to deploy to other fires.

As far as personnel costs, he said they were consistent with Alpine City's cost. He had four EMTs who had gone to paramedic school on their own and paid for it. If the District wanted to retain them, there would need to be a wage adjustment for them. He also presented a 5-year plan, which would be discussed at a later date.

Police Chief Brian Gwilliam said the police budget was based completely on recruitment and retention. As in most professions, experience in law enforcement was key. Currently there was a lack of officers throughout the state and the country. As the population in Utah grew, the demand for officers grew, and the pool was shrinking. When the District had an officer retire a while ago, they advertised the position for 30 days and got six applications, three of which were retreads that he wouldn't retire. The other three were inexperienced officers. The experienced officers were being lured away by other cities. The same thing was happening in the fire department. He proposed increasing the wages for officers by \$1.50/hour plus a 3% merit increase. He also wanted to implement a 5% match for a 401K in order to compensate those officers who were hired under Tier 2.

## REVENUE

Shane Sorensen said the property tax revenue was trending upward at 8.19%. He expected most of that came from the homes in the recently annexed Alpine Cove since Alpine only had 39 new homes last year. The sales and use tax was projected to be less than the previous year. The projected revenue for the current year was negative to flat.

The City would be receiving some new revenue from the 4th quarter-cent sale tax which would start July 1st. The estimated revenue was \$107,425 and it would be restricted to road and pedestrian safety. They were also looking at a potential increase in Class C road funds. The Municipal Recreation Grant would be \$5,177.33. The previous year's grant money was spent on the Dry Creek trail but there was still work that needed to be done. The City was still working with Verizon on a cell tower in Burgess Park, which would bring in additional revenue.

## OPTIONS TO INCREASE REVENUE

One revenue option was a property tax increase. They could also increase the telecommunication tax which was at 2.1% but could go up to 3.5%, which made a difference of about \$35,000. They also had the option of RAP tax which was a 0.1% tax for recreation, arts and parks. Parks and trails did not generate revenue and this was a way to generate revenue for them. The use of the tax would be restricted to recreation, arts, and parks.

Mayor Stout said he would like to know what percentage of land area in Alpine was dedicated to parks and open space. He expected it was higher percentage than other communities.

The Council discussed the possibility of a tax increase to cover the increases in the Lone Peak PSD budget, which would be \$529,696. Ramon Beck and Kimberly Bryant, who sat on the PSD Board, noted that over the years, the City had not kept pace with the increasing expenses for the PSD.

Shane Sorensen said the Council needed to decide if they wanted to maintain the same level of service or if they were willing to pay less for less service. He said that Alpine had the third lowest overall tax rate of all the cities in Utah County, and showed a graph illustrating their position in comparison to other communities. Only Cedar Fort and Fairfield were lower. The last tax increase for Alpine was in 2011, which was to cover the increased cost for the Lone Peak PSD.

He said they would go over the budget in more detail at a future meeting. They hadn't talked about the Enterprise Fund.

## VI. STAFF REPORTS

Chief Reed Thompson said they had a fire in the Dry Creek river bed over the weekend. The fire fighters did some mitigation on dead trees and undergrowth while they were there. Their goal was to get in front of future fires and do some other mitigation projects. He said he would be out of the office the next week. Mayor Stout suggested the fire crew be involved with the Trail Day in Lambert Park on April 27th. He asked Shane Sorensen to schedule a planning meeting.

Charmayne Warnock said she'd received notice that Draper City was holding more meetings to update their Master Transportation Plan. The dates were April 11th and April 16th if anyone was interested in attending. The Mayor requested that the notice be posted on the City website.

Shane Sorensen said he had talked to Wes Alexander about the deer removal program. He said the DNR had done away with the nonlethal program. Alpine needed to decide what they wanted to do. They could still trap the deer, but they would not be relocated. The Council had budgeted \$40,000 to trap deer so they needed to decide what to do with it. It would be a future agenda item.

Shane Sorensen also reported that they had been approached by Dave Fotheringham about planting evergreen trees in a piece of open space along Ridge Drive. His family owned a Christmas tree farm and had trees that needed to be relocated. Shane said that under the ordinance, families needed to get approval from the Council to improve open space, but if the Council wasn't in favor of it, they wouldn't go to the trouble of noticing it, etc. The neighbors would water the trees with a dripline. Lon Lott said he didn't think the City could lose if they approved it.

## **VII. COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

Kimberly Bryant said they were moving ahead on the Easter Hunt at Creekside Park on April 20th, the day before Easter.

Carla Merrill asked if there had been any word from Comcast about installing service in her neighborhood. She understood that they were obligated to put in a line when there were enough homes on the street. Shane Sorensen said he would be at a city manager conference at the next meeting in April. Comcast usually had a booth at the conferences so he would talk to them.

Jason Thelin said he had bumped into the kids who started the fire in Dry Creek. They were young and had started the fire with ground flower fireworks. He commended the fire department on how well they had handled it with the kids.

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None held.

**MOTION:** Lon Lott moved to adjourn. Ramon Beck seconded. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. Motion passed.

| <u>Ayes</u>     | <u>Nays</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Jason Thelin    | none        |
| Ramon Beck      |             |
| Carla Merrill   |             |
| Kimberly Bryant |             |
| Lon Lott        |             |

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.