

**ALPINE CITY SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Alpine City Hall, 20 N. Main, Alpine, UT**  
**June 6, 2019**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6 pm by Mayor Troy Stout

The following were present:

Mayor Troy Stout

Council Members: Jason Thelin, Ramon Beck, Lon Lott

Staff: Shane Sorensen, Charmayne Warnock, Chief Brian Gwilliam, Chief Reed Thompson

Others: Jeff Brodie, Monty Domike, Alan Gilman, Jessica Smuin, David McManus, Richard James, Jennifer Stout, Jeff Vincent

Mayor Troy Stout thanked the citizens for being present. He said he wanted to hear their thoughts on the City's need to increase revenue to meet the cost of maintaining Alpine City's present level of emergency services. He explained that Cedar Hills had left the Lone Peak Public Safety District, which left Alpine and Highland to cover all the costs. While there was a resulting reduction in some of the costs such as reduced personnel, there were still the remaining costs which would had to be cover by Alpine and Highland rather than split between three cities. He said both the police and fire departments had pruned their budgets and reduced costs, but there would still be a shortfall. He said the Council would be discussing the budget at their next meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup> and again on June 25<sup>th</sup>. He asked the City Administrator and Budget Officer, Shane Sorensen, to present the proposed budget.

Shane Sorensen offered a Power Point Presentation showing the projected costs for both the police and fire departments, and Alpine City's projected revenue. As Alpine's share of the Lone Peak Public Safety District Budget, they were looking at an increase of \$423,633. Both the police and fire had made cuts in their budgets. The fire department would reduce their personnel from nine firefighters/EMS to eight. Three would be stationed in Alpine and three in Highland. The remaining two would be dedicated ambulance personnel to run the ambulance in Highland. A fire truck would be stationed at the Alpine facility which also had ambulance capabilities so there would be coverage for both cities.

In the police department, they were looking at incentives to improve officer recruitment and retention. Nationwide, fewer people were interested in becoming policemen and there was a lot of competition between cities to recruit officers. The Police Chief was proposing an increase of \$1.50 for the starting wage for an officer. They would also offer a 401k plan to which the District contributed 2.5%. If the officer also contributed 2.5%, the District would match that bringing the contribution to 5%. He explained that the pension plan for members hired after July 2011 was not as good as for those hired prior to that date under Tier 1. The 401k was to help offset that.

Shane Sorensen presented graphs showing tax rates in Utah County. Alpine City had the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest overall tax rate of all the cities in Utah County. They ere proposing a tax rate that would increase the property taxes by \$1.80/month for every \$100,000 in home value. The median home value in Alpine was \$573,000. For the average home, that would be an increase of about \$125. He said Highland City was also looking at a tax increase or fee to cover expenses.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mayor Stout invited the citizen to comment.

Richard James – Ranch Drive. He asked the fire chief if he was correct in understanding that if they received two 911 calls at the same time, they had the capability of responding to both. Chief Thompson said that was correct. Richard James said he loved the campaign for drivers to slow down. On his street, no went 25 mph or even 30. Kids were driving ATVs and golf carts on the paved trail and he doubted any of them were over the age of sixteen. On Saturdays they had motorcycle races. He said he would like to see more enforcement and said he felt Alpine could afford to increase the budget to meet the public safety needs of the community. .

Alan Gilman – Westfield Road. He said he didn't think anyone had used public safety more than his family. They lived in an upscale community and he supported increasing the taxes for public safety.

Dave McManus – North Main. He said the police and fire did a great job and he felt the cities could do a better job to support them. He was a retired police officer and served when they still had a volunteer fire department. The community had grown and they needed the services offered by police and fire. He said the officers did the best they could on what they had. There were days when they had more calls than they knew what to do with.

Alan Gilman – Westfield Road. He added that the police had always been very courteous. He seen things happening in other parts of the country, but he hadn't seen that here. He said one thing that bothered him was when he was driving the speed limit and looked in his rearview mirror and saw someone bearing down on him, half-a-car-length behind him. When he got to the stop sign, he got out to talk to the man and he pulled a gun on him. He got back in his car.

Richard James – Ranch Drive. He asked if the City had ever signed up for Deer Creek water. Shane Sorensen said they had signed up for CUP water but it was undeliverable to the City. They were working on it and he hoped they would have that ability to receive the water by next fall.

Jessica Smuin – Moyle Drive. She said it was worth it to her for pay more for services. She wasn't sure why they had this minimalist attitude. She suggested the City look ahead and see if there was some way they could generate revenue outside of real estate. She suggested looking at a commercial base rather than relying on residential to carry the load. She said she supported a tax increase. When she had a 911 call, she wanted the service to be there.

Alan Gilman noted that the graph was a function of property values. Other towns had property with lower valuations so their tax rates were higher. The homes in Alpine had a higher value so the rate could be lower. He said they really ought to be at bottom end and provide services.

Jeff Vincent – Himalaya Court. He said he agreed with Alan Gilman. The levy was low because the property values were higher. Regarding police and fire, had suggested that they look at being cover by the County rather than having their own police and fire. He wanted to know what the cost would be of doing that.

Chief Reed Thompson said they could get the numbers but they needed a partner that was willing. Utah County was more geared toward wildland calls and they didn't provide emergency medical services. They had looked at those options and didn't believe it was viable.

Jeff Vincent asked about metering the PI water and asked if they had paid off the bond. Shane Sorensen said there was about six years left on the bond and was the only bond the city had which spoke to their frugality. Mr. Vincent also asked about the feasibility of requiring moisture sensors to conserve water. Lon Lott said they didn't work in the desert. There were ground moisture sensors being developed which be more effective.

Dave McManus said the reason Highland joined Alpine in the Lone Peak PSD was because they were dissatisfied with American Fork. When a city went outside their area for service, they had to get permission from that provider for everything they did. There was no autonomy. The officers got to the point where they did not answer to the city or citizens. They answer to who wrote their checks. All they need to do was look at what happened in Salt Lake County. They were down to 5 or 6 cities. The others had pulled out because they felt it wasn't working and wanted to have their own emergency services. He said Alpine needed to have their own police and fire. They were part of the community.

Mayor Stout thanked Shane Sorensen for his presentation and everyone for their comments, and closed the meeting.

The meeting was closed at 7:20 pm.