

ALPINE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 24, 2026

Mayor Carla Merrill called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- A. Roll Call** Mayor Carla Merrill
 The following were in attendance at the anchor location, which constituted a quorum: Brent Rummmler, Sarah Blackwell, Andrew Young, and Jessica Smuin. Chrissy Hannemann was traveling from the airport and joined later.
 Staff: Shane Sorensen, Steve Doxey, Chief Brian Gwilliam, Chief Brian Patten, Heidi Smith, and DeAnn Parry
 Others: Sheryl DeGroot, Kristin Eberting, Sheryl Cragun Dame, Jen Wadsworth, Steve Burrows, Jami Vest, Damian Vest, Bryan Irving, Schafer Jackson, Jennifer Eshenroder, Annie Williams, Kent Parry
- B. Prayer** Brent Rummmler
- C. Pledge** Jessica Smuin

II. CONSENT CALENDAR**A. Approve Minutes from the February 10th City Council Meeting**

Motion: Brent Rummmler moved to approve the Consent Calendar as proposed. Andrew Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT***Jen Wadsworth, Parkway, Alpine***

Jen listened to the recent Planning Commission and City Council meetings, including the discussion about forming a citizen water advisory committee. Heid Smith works hard to keep everyone informed, but Alpine needs a better way to communicate with residents and receive feedback in return. Many residents feel blindsided by public hearings and water issues and do not know what is going on. If we rely on social media or our neighbors' opinions, we sometimes receive incomplete or inaccurate information. Jen does not want to add to the staff workload, so she proposes creating a neighborhood ambassador team with residents from each precinct. They could share accurate information, infrastructure updates, and relay questions and concerns to the city about the water shortage, wildfire risks, emergencies, and other relevant issues. They could also bring resident feedback to the City Council. This model has worked well in other small cities to improve trust and transparency. She hopes that the council will consider this suggestion.

Sheryl Dame – Stonehedge Lane, Alpine

Sheryl wanted to comment on some proposed budget items in the packet. She is concerned that many of the proposals are related to parks, while the city is still in the process of updating their Parks Master Plan. Unless there is an emergency, park improvement decisions would best be made in the context of the larger completed plan. The packet also included a conceptual photo at the Veteran's memorial [that depicts a soldier kissing his young wife and baby goodbye]. Sheryl said that it is important to represent the reverence and difficulty of war, recognizing that soldiers are both single and married, young and old, have a variety of religious backgrounds, and not everyone will have a happy family farewell. Any monument of this type should represent all who serve, and great consideration needs to be involved.

Kristin Eberting – Cascade Avenue, Alpine

Kristin wanted to comment on Becks Hill Park and its pathways in her neighborhood. She previously reached out to 20 neighbors and shared a summary of their ideas with the council. This park has incredible potential, and the upper portion has beautiful views. At this point, however, it has been severely neglected, lacking even basic maintenance. Functional sprinklers, healthy grass, safe sports courts, and clear accessible pathways are the foundation of any public park. The volleyball court is usually overrun with weeds, unless the neighbors clean it up. The basketball court is missing hoops and is sprinkled with broken glass. Overgrown pathways are hard to navigate. Neighbors have tried to help, but as they get older it is more difficult to complete these tasks.

This park is stuck in a cycle. When maintenance declines, families stop coming. When families stop coming, misuse increases. The cycle can be reversed with consistent stewardship and thoughtful improvements. Current uses and equipment could be assessed to provide more family-friendly options, and additional lighting could deter inappropriate nighttime activities. The neighbors are asking for the same standard of care as in the other city parks. With a modest investment and regular maintenance this could be a safe, inviting, and vibrant space for families, seniors, and the entire community.

Sheryl DeGroot – Cascade Avenue, Alpine

Cheryl is an Advocate for Ruth Hale Theater in Pleasant Grove. They have an initiative to highlight surrounding communities, and the week of April 27-May 2 is for Alpine. Sheryl gave a flyer to Mayor Merrill, and explained that during the highlight week any Alpine resident can save \$5 per ticket for The Wizard of Oz. She also presented vouchers to the council and mayor for two free tickets to the production.

IV. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Resolution R2026-11: Creation of Alpine Water Citizen Advisory Committee

Shane Sorensen explained that with increasing pressure on the city's systems to provide water for the citizens of Alpine, council members Chrissy Hanneman and Andrew Young have proposed that an Alpine Water Systems Citizen Advisory Committee be created. Staff anticipate that the committee would:

- Engage with residents on the importance of water conservation and water related items.
- Provide an opportunity for the City Council to receive valuable input from residents on matters related to water, education, enforcement, and implementation of the city's water capital facility plan.

This committee would deal with both culinary water and pressurized irrigation issues, and specific committee members will be proposed at a later meeting.

Mayor Carla Merrill explained that she wants to get more people involved and is asking in her *Newsline* article for resident volunteers.

Council members discussed:

- The city needs individuals on this committee with a variety of backgrounds and who are passionate about water needs and informing the residents.
- Committees are not required to have a formal charter but must have a specific purpose.
- Five or more members will serve for several years, with staggered terms to provide continuity. Voting members must be residents of Alpine.
- The committee must follow the OPMA rules, and meeting times must be posted on the city website at least 48 hours in advance. Minutes must be kept of committee meetings.
- Over 80 percent of Alpine's water is used for outdoor watering. Drought-resistant seeding, timing of waterings, longer grass length, and appropriate fertilizer could improve drought resistance and save money for the city and its residents.

Motion: Andrew Young moved to approve Resolution R2026-11 establishing the Alpine Water Citizen Advisory Committee. Sarah Blackwell seconded the motion. There were 4 yes votes and 1 excused, as recorded below. The motion passed.

Yes

Brent Rummeler
Jessica Smuin
Sarah Blackwell
Andrew Young

No

Excused

Chrissy Hannemann

III. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Eshenroder - Fort Canyon Road, Alpine

Jennifer lives near the stop sign on Fort Canyon Road where there is no sidewalk. Her children and others have to walk that route to ride the school bus. There are a variety of uneven surfaces that are difficult to

navigate, especially in the winter. Cars drive fast in this area, and pedestrians walking in the road are in danger. She asked the council to consider installing a sidewalk for the children.

Motion: Sarah Blackwell moved to bring Item VII ahead of Item V so that the City Attorney may be excused from the meeting afterwards. Brent Rummler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Mayor Carla Merrill explained that the council needs to hold a brief closed meeting about property acquisition. This is to share information only and no decisions will be made. After the closed meeting the council will continue with the budget projects discussion.

Motion: Jessica Smuin moved to pause the regular meeting and move into a closed meeting to be held in the Conference Room at City Hall to discuss property acquisition, and that at the end of the closed meeting the open City Council meeting will continue. Sarah Blackwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The public meeting was paused at 6:30 pm.

VIII. CLOSED MEETING

The closed meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

The public City Council meeting resumed at 7:02 pm. Chrissy Hanneman had arrived at this point.

V. WORK SESSION

A. FY2027 Budget Proposed Project Review – Part 2

Shane Sorensen explained that the council did not get through all of the budget proposals at their retreat in January, so tonight is a continuation of that discussion. The following proposals will be addressed:

1. Becks Hill Park
2. Parking Lot at Peterson Park & Preservation/Gateway Transformation
3. Sidewalks Proposal
4. Traffic Calming
5. Raccoon Plan
6. Alpine Highway Easement Beautification
7. Alpine History Preservation Projects
8. Fire Prevention Projects
9. Deer Crest Circle Signs

Mayor Carla Merrill clarified that no decisions will be made tonight, as this is just to learn about and discuss the proposals.

1. Becks Hill Park

Andrew Young explained that Becks Hill Park is a hidden gem with 360-degree views. It has great potential if it is fixed up. Access to the park is difficult because of the lack of good pathways. He would like to meet with neighbors to receive input about park improvements and to include those ideas in our Parks Master Plan (PMP).

The council and staff discussed the following points:

- This park has been neglected and needs re-purposing. Creekside and Burgess Parks have received nice upgrades, but smaller parks like this are also important.

- Resident input is helpful because they know which equipment would be most used. Chrissy Hannemann suggested that council members visit the swings at the Airport Drive Park in Lehi. These are designed for adults and would allow residents to enjoy the hilltop views.
- Because of the slope there are watering problems, an under-used volleyball court, basketballs rolling down the hill, and other issues.
- The city will have a kickoff meeting with the PMP consultants soon. Part of their process is to meet with residents and gather input, such as at open houses. They will recommend specific amenities for our parks.
- The PMP will be created first and then budget items can be decided upon. These items will be addressed in FY2027.

2. Peterson Park

Jessica Smuin said that as the city moves forward on the Canyon Crest Road project, she would like to include a plan for Peterson Park. This is our only arboretum and has great walking trails. We can improve this park by showcasing its history, educating visitors about the trees, and providing better access and parking. We want to remove as few trees as possible with any improvements.

Mayor Carla Merrill commented that using impact fees to pay for a new parking lot would be great. When we have an approved master plan, it will be easier to apply for grants.

Shane Sorensen explained that the design phase for the Canyon Crest Road project has started, but construction may be delayed until 2027 for right of way acquisition. When the Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG) awards projects, it is several years before those funds are made available. Project costs often increase during that time, so MAG has a contingency fund to help with the shortfalls. They have received numerous requests for these additional funds recently, which have depleted the fund. It may be necessary to postpone projects for a year or more to let the fund replenish. They may also require cities to pay the difference if projects cost more. Peterson Park improvements could be affected by the timing of the Canyon Crest Road project, and we may want to decide on the footprint of the intersection as a first step.

Mayor Carla Merrill explained that because the MAG projects are typically awarded four years in advance, when a city creates their plan, they estimate the costs. The mayor attended a Zoom meeting for the MAG Budget & Audit Committee immediately before this meeting, and the city mayors are divided on how the project approval and funding process should be resolved. Because we are working with Highland City on the Canyon Crest Road project, it may take longer to get all the details arranged.

Council and staff discussed the following issues:

- We want to be thoughtful about the location of parking lots. A gravel lot may help save money, and natural surfaces (as in Lambert Park) may be preferable anyway. Street parking is already available here.
- Peterson Park is one of our gateway entrances. An attractive sign would be a nice improvement and would showcase the park. Staff are working on a standardized park sign plan that they will bring to the council.
- Signs could be installed and trees could be labeled before the Canyon Crest Road project begins.
- A beginners' 9-hole disc golf course has been suggested for this park.
- The city has a binder meticulously prepared by Harvey Hutchinson with details about every tree.
- The trail runs out because the city does not own an easement for the trail on Paradise Lane, which is a private road.

Andrew Young requested that the council address Number 6, the Alpine Highway Beautification project at this time so that residents interested in this issue do not need to stay later.

6. Alpine Highway Easement Beautification

Andrew Young explained that there is a dirt lane that connects Alpine Highway to the Rachel McTeer Park which has historically been a walking path. However, cars and business trucks have begun using

it for travel which makes it unsafe for pedestrians. It would be a visual and safety improvement to redesign the path to be a walking trail.

Shane Sorensen clarified that the city does not have an easement here. The three narrow parcels have had confusing surveys and ownership issues for years. The city does own a sewer line in that area which serves the neighborhood to the east, and staff may be able to get a copy of that survey without additional expense. If sidewalks are proposed along the highway, permission from UDOT would be required.

Andrew displayed a concept photo of a restricted walking trail.

Resident Annie Williams was invited to the microphone.

Annie said that they have lived next to the lane for many years and have maintained and mowed the walking trail, which has been well used by pedestrians. Then new neighbors moved in with heavy equipment, and it is no longer safe to walk there. Annie mentioned that her husband has two old survey maps that may be relevant.

The council discussed the following points:

- The council as a whole was in favor of a pedestrian path and a more natural look (like in the concept photo), at this location. The Main Street Plan also proposed this type of look for the west side of the highway.
- The Alpine Highway entrance into the city needs improvement. Council members appreciated how the orchard owners to the north have cleaned up their property.
- Installing a crosswalk on the highway to connect to Woodland Drive in Highland would make it safer for pedestrians also.

3. Sidewalks

Andrew said that residents in several areas of the city requested sidewalks and were told to come back at budget time. Andrew specifically mentioned Fort Canyon Road, High Bench Road, 600 East, and Allegheny Way.

Mayor Carla Merrill said that the city has talked with residents on 600 East in the past. The reason the conversation ended was because they did not want new sidewalks to encroach into their yards.

Shane Sorensen explained that there are some roads in the city that only have a sidewalk on one side of the street. On High Bench Road it would be almost impossible to put in sidewalks on the west side because of existing driveways. Westfield Road used to be this way, but Alan Gillman donated land so we were able to install full sidewalks there. The situation on 600 East has been evaluated multiple times. The slope is an issue because the street is higher than the homes, and they have short driveways. Installing a sidewalk would make the driveways even steeper. The west side of the road is not feasible for a sidewalk. Sidewalks cannot have more than a 2 percent cross slope.

Shane also talked about Allegheny Way. When the neighborhood was constructed, the developer built a trail along the back of the homes instead of a sidewalk on the street. Homeowners found they did not like this because it felt like people were trespassing in their yards. They petitioned the city to remove the trail, so the city abandoned the easement. The city has installed sidewalks along Allegheny where residents were willing, but other homeowners have planted trees in the easement or have mounded planting areas. It would require a lot of landscape repair if we installed sidewalks there.

The council discussed the following details:

- The possibility of installing rolled curbs on streets with elevation issues.
- Residents tend to feel that the entire parcel is their yard, even if it is actually a city right of way.
- Safety, especially for school children, should be the top priority. Roads that do not have a sidewalk on one side should be considered first.

Andrew offered to survey residents and bring proposed sidewalk locations, lengths, and budget numbers to the council.

Shane said that staff can handle the cost estimates. If Andrew wants to survey the residents about their willingness to have a sidewalk installed, that would be great.

4. Traffic Calming

Andrew Young said that next to our water systems, traffic is Alpine's most important issue. He wants to align our traffic with Alpine's identity of a peaceful, quiet place. He presented a report that looks at all the roads in Alpine, considering resident feedback and various studies. Andrew suggested that solutions could include signs, speed humps, or hiring a part-time enforcement officer.

Andrew's plan starts the entrances to our city (Westfield Road, Alpine Highway, and Canyon Crest Road), and he would like to see a new sign at each entrance. He provided concept photos of granite boulder signs that could have a message board element. Bronze statues could also be installed. The traffic calming plan addresses the main roads, then moves to collector roads like High Bench, Alpine Blvd, Fort Canyon, Grove Drive, and Ridge Drive.

The council discussed:

- Road safety is one of the most common issues mentioned by residents. Distracted drivers are also a problem, as well as cars traveling at high speeds on downhill roads.
- Alpine wants to foster a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere because nature is our rec center.
- We can start with low hanging fruit like crosswalks and signs to see if those improve behavior, then move to larger interventions.
- Other cities are also concerned and are trying to deal with similar traffic issues.

Police Chief Brian Gwilliam spoke on the subject of enforcement, reporting that the legislature passed a law in 2018 that disallowed quotas of any kind, and he anticipates they will pass further restrictions this year. He cannot ask his officers to issue citations during their shift.

Fire Chief Brian Patten explained that a fire engine weighs between 50,000-80,000 pounds, so they have to slow down to about 2 mph to cross speed humps. Because there are so many hills in Alpine, speed humps would significantly slow response times for fire and ambulance, and transport of patients would be slowed drastically at the humps. Speed humps also make any kind of evacuation very difficult.

Mayor Carla Merrill said that Highland City installed two speed humps. They were marketed as temporary, but installation required drilling into the road, and their removal damaged the road surface. Residents who had previously complained about speeding cars then complained because they did not like the extra noise created by vehicles and trailers bouncing over the humps. Highland also noted that people were speeding between the humps. They were surprised at these results and removed the speed humps.

Chrissy Hannemann said that she has learned from her 10 years in public office that a group can be passionate about an idea, but it does not mean that the entire entity feels the same way. Resident input is important, but it is vital to get all of the perspectives. When the new roundabout idea was introduced, people were fired up about not building a roundabout, but we have not heard from them lately. Street crossings should be safe, efficient, and pedestrian-friendly, but we do not want to sacrifice emergency response times or cause damage to vehicles. Engineers do not recommend speed bumps but prefer traffic calming measures like sidewalk extensions. Engineering can help calm traffic and still work for emergency vehicles when we choose a 'meet in the middle' solution. Rather than focusing on enforcement, she would like to see the city create solutions, like more efficient pickup flows at the school. Chrissy said her number one goal is to have the Ranch Drive connector built. Our Master Plan was designed to get traffic moving efficiently and safely.

Brent Rummeler said that the council discussed the roundabout at the budget retreat in January. He stated that Hales Engineering said the roundabout was a good option for safety and operations. The Small Area Plan Engineer also said it was probably the best option, and Andy Spencer who works for UDOT said a roundabout would be a good solution for safety and operations. The police have told us that it is difficult to enforce the speed limit on Canyon Crest Road because of topography and the lack of places to pull off. The roundabout is not just an idea but has been recommended by multiple traffic and safety engineers. Looking at this issue in conjunction with the MAG trail project on Canyon Crest Road makes the most sense. Brent reminded the council that at the retreat, curb extensions were discussed as being better for Main Street than speed humps or raised crosswalks in case of an evacuation.

Mayor Carla Merrill clarified that Andy Spencer (UDOT) said the roundabout would only be worthwhile if MAG were funding the construction. If the city redirects the Mountainville Academy (MVA) traffic to Ridge Drive, the roundabout could help with traffic flow there.

Brent Rummeler commented that Andy Spencer has said several times that he believes a roundabout is a good option for Ridge Drive and Canyon Crest Road outside of the discussion of MVA traffic. Redirecting the MVA traffic would constitute an additional reason for considering the roundabout.

Jessica Smuin said she has not heard any residents say they do not want traffic addressed. Thousands of people who live here have been asking for solutions for years. If the council chooses to install speed humps or hire an extra officer, at least we are doing something. It would be wise to solve the Main Street traffic issues before school starts again in the fall.

Sarah Blackwell said she loves the idea of traffic calming because it is low hanging fruit. Addressing the MVA traffic flow might alleviate a lot of issues. Sarah likes the positive approach of incentives. She also thanked the Public Works crew who fixed the big pothole on her street.

Andrew Young said that Main Street is the most important road to fix, whether it is narrowed painted lines, raised crosswalks, or whatever the council feels is appropriate.

Shane Sorensen commented that we have to own the property or have a right of way in order to place signs. He suggested the council look at the budget for this year and then figure out which traffic issues to address first.

Chrissy Hannemann commented that Alpine does a great job of maintaining our roads for efficient travel.

Shane Sorensen said that Jason Judd is reviewing the Fehr & Peers traffic study. It started at 7-8 pages but with the increased scope it is now more like 80 pages. It will likely be ready for the next City Council meeting. Fehr & Peers has worked with traffic calming issues in Salt Lake City, and we could ask them what would work best on Main Street from 200 North to the roundabout.

5. **Raccoon Plan**

Andrew Young said the city has a raccoon infestation in the storm drains. People call him daily to pick up raccoons, and he takes them to the Lindon Animal Shelter. He would like the city to install bars across several storm drains so we can see if it is effective for deterring raccoons without causing leaf buildup and flooding. The bars would be welded or attached with bolts. Andrew proposes a budget of \$2,835 for the test bars.

The council discussed:

- Blocking some storm drains would simply funnel the animals to other areas of the city.
- Accessible garbage, pet food left out, and chickens are a big draw for raccoons. Once raccoons find a food source, they come back repeatedly at night.
- State law requires that captured raccoons are euthanized at the shelter. People may not let them go in the mountains or other areas.

- We do not have enough public works staff to assign racoon removal without affecting their other responsibilities.
- The council should be proactive in dealing with this issue.

7. **Alpine History Preservation Projects**

Andrew Young said that he and Jessica Smuin would like to propose a yearly budget amount (possibly \$20,000) dedicated to Alpine's legacy. This could include projects like the history wall in the senior center, a second volume of the *Alpine Yesterdays* book, and recordings of long-time Alpine residents sharing their stories. Andrew is in the process of digitizing many old photos gathered from residents. Other projects could include an update to the pioneer plaque at the cemetery, specifically adding the names of historical women, a replica of the Carlisle Home, a statue of John Moyle, improving the Veterans' memorial, and planting trees and installing a fence to beautify Moyle Park.

As it was now 9:00, Mayor Merrill asked if there was a motion to extend the meeting.

Motion: Jessica Smuin moved to extended meeting until the business of the city was complete. Sarah Blackwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The council discussed the following:

- Preserving Alpine's history is a positive effort and people are our greatest legacy.
- What we budget for reflects our values and there currently is not a line item for legacy. If residents get involved, they will help stretch the dollars.
- Visual representations are impactful, and we could honor veterans and those who are currently serving in the military. Families would need to opt-in for current service members.
- PARC funds could be used for some of the projects.
- City Hall is on the historic registry. When the council chose wood shake shingles, it preserved the historical elements of the building.

8. **Fire Prevention**

Andrew Young said that we have had some years of heavier rainfall in the past which has caused extreme growth in open spaces. If we clear out the overgrowth in these areas it could influence the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) map and save residents money on their insurance premiums. Andrew said that Shane Sorensen and Landon Wallace and his crew are doing a wonderful job at key locations in the city, but the residents typically do not clear out dry brush on their own land or on their HOA land. The city gets blamed whether fires happen on private land or public open space, so Andrew would like to see regularly scheduled fire mitigation events held by the city.

Fire Chief Brian Patten said that about a year ago they received a grant from the International Fire Chiefs and started working on a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for Alpine. The north and east sides of the city have the biggest risk, but anywhere with oak brush and open space could be a problem. The fire department has a rough draft of the CWPP ready now, and they anticipate it will be completed in the next 30-60 days. This plan is for Alpine, Highland City, and the unincorporated areas around us.

The chief said we cannot force anyone to mitigate fire risks on private land, so we need community cooperation and a focused effort on education about egress and evacuation. Because of all the dry brush, the potential for a major fire event here is high. Any mitigation we can do will help. Firefighters work first to save lives and then to protect property.

Mayor Carla Merrill said that the mitigation work done by the County crews last spring and summer was a continuation of the effort in the Draper Corner Canyon area and progressing south. Once our CWPP is completed we can apply for State grants to continue mitigation in Alpine. The mayor expressed concern that if the city gets involved with mitigation on private or HOA property it could create a liability situation. We will need to consult Attorney Doxey about this issue.

Chief Patten said that one challenge with the CWPP is where private property abuts federal forest land on the north and east, because we cannot just go in and start working on federal land. A lot of mitigation will need to happen on private property, and as long as the owners are amenable the crew can complete the work. Hopefully we can clear the entire city perimeter. We will still need to do internal mitigation projects on private land, HOA areas, and city open spaces. We also have not yet started on the city's east side.

The council discussed various details:

- Draper City received \$350,000 for mitigation in their Corner Canyon area. There are significant funds available for grants.
- The city held a fire risk mitigation open house to educate homeowners in the past and could host another one.
- If funds are available, the city will allow mitigation crews on public land. Costs include equipment rental, fuel, and food for the workers.
- Typically, HOAs are hesitant to pay for mitigation because they have small budgets, but their homeowners actually own the HOA open space.
- The city should lead by example in mitigating our own open spaces.
- The city should not be expected to mitigate private land, but we could get the word out like we do about Trail Service Days and neighborhoods could work together.

Andrew Young mentioned two areas where fire mitigation has been started in the city, Hillside Circle and Silver Lane.

Chief Patten responded that in the event of a fire, Hillside Circle would have upslope winds towards the houses at the top, the same as in the Three Falls area. We also know how a fire would move in Lambert Park during mid-summer because we have seen it in the past. It is hard to predict which locations in town would be most susceptible, but there are definitely areas we can target. The fire department does not have the manpower to handle large areas of mitigation, but they are willing to do everything they can. We really need the help of County and State crews, and funding is vital.

The chief commented that it is also important to educate residents on how they can protect their homes, such as making sure they do not have a wood fence touching trees that touch the wood deck which is connected directly to their house. If a neighborhood wanted to clear brush, the city could provide a woodchipper or a roll-off dumpster. Anywhere we can remove trees and brush near structures is helpful.

We also need education to prepare for an evacuation. In Alpine we only have three roads out of the city, so we also need a plan so that some residents can shelter in place. These decisions will help the city with their overall emergency plan as well, because evacuations can occur for reasons other than fire. Fort Canyon and Three Falls would be especially difficult to evacuate.

Trees that have not had sufficient moisture for long periods get drier and drier inside, and it takes years to recover from a drought. If we get a wet spring, the undergrowth shoots up quickly and then dries out and adds to the fire risk. With mitigation, we do not burn piles of brush because we do not want to light fires in areas already at risk. Trees and brush that are removed are hauled away.

Mayor Carla Merrill summarized that the council appears to support the city leading by example and mitigating risks on public land as a first step.

9. Deer Crest Signs

Andrew Young explained that he would like to have "No Motorized Vehicles" signs installed on Deer Crest Lane. Vans and Jeeps use this area to do donuts, which damages the trails and creates a fire hazard from sparks. The Trails Committee supports installing the signs.

Shane Sorensen explained that these signs would be part of the comprehensive signage for parks. Former council member Kelli Law took a photo of an example sign in another city. Shane sent the photo to Heidi Smith for the parks sign project.

Staff and council members discussed:

- We need to review our ordinance to see if the current version allows tickets to be issued outside of Lambert Park (\$500). The Trails Committee would like a stronger ordinance prohibiting motorized vehicles.
- The Trails Committee has also discussed the problem of motorists doing donuts in the rodeo grounds field.
- Resident questions or suggestions about parks should be directed to Shane or the mayor.

On a separate issue, Chrissy Hannemann mentioned Item J on the Staff Projects list (City Hall Landscape Improvements) from the budget retreat. The Sculpture Garden Committee wants to design the landscaping for the fire station addition so it flows into the other areas in the Sculpture Garden and the City Hall block. The whole area should be cohesive. Because of the drought the designer will include water conservation measures like drip lines and native plants.

Shane Sorensen said that we need to update the landscaping on the southeast corner of the City Hall block, which is outdated and overgrown.

Mayor Carla Merrill said it would be best to get a bid from the landscape architect for the scope of work and then the council can vote on it.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

Police Chief Gwilliam said that the legislative session has 10 days left. He mentioned that SB262 (McKay) would severely hamper law enforcement's ability to do traffic enforcement, as it stipulates that they cannot use unmarked vehicles. There are occasions when an officer will see driver who needs education and perhaps a citation. If this bill passes, they could not do that in their own vehicles. This is very concerning to the police department. If the bill makes it through both groups, he might ask council members to contact Sen. Brammer and Rep. Chevrier to express their opposition. Law enforcement colleagues have spoken with Sen. McKay and felt it was confrontational.

Fire Chief Patten said that HB41 will define the urban interface code, so they are watching it closely. He suggested Alpine look at permanent "No Fireworks" signs like the ones at Traverse Mountain. Residents who drive by them every day will learn the rules.

Shane Sorensen said they have those exact signs on the proposed list for Alpine parks. He would like to get suggested locations from Chief Patten.

Shane Sorensen reported on various items:

- The city closed on the Carlton shop today.
- We are recruiting a new City Planner and conducted some interviews last week. We will hold more interviews tomorrow and hope to hire a planner soon.
- We received our latest sales tax allocation today. It is up 4.54 percent over last year in the same month. This is a 6.43 percent increase year over year.
- A fire station meeting was held yesterday to go over the plans. SIRQ is working with subs to get cost estimates and is conducting more value engineering with the architect. Shane shared the example that by switching from a standing seam metal roof to asphalt shingles it would save the city about \$179,000.

Heidi Smith reported that our contract with our website provider includes a visual refresh. This will begin tomorrow and they will update one page at a time. This effort will bring us into ADA compliance for fonts and colors, as well as updating the look. Heidi will add captions under the photos to complete our compliance requirements.

VII. COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Brent Remmler reported that the Trails committee met last week. They would like to install vehicle restriction signs and are looking at Draper City and others for ordinance examples. Trail Service Days will be April 18 and June 13 starting at 8:00 am.

Jessica Smuin said they would like to have a ramp installed on the sidewalk south of the Relic Hall so that senior visitors can access the area safely. She reported that because of structural issues, the door to the Relic Hall cannot be widened for ADA compliance.

Sarah Blackwell said that we are currently a member of the American Fork Chamber of Commerce and they help with our Main Street Trick-of-Treat event. The Highland Chamber would like us to join them. Sarah was not convinced of the value to the city.

Mayor Carla Merrill said Highland wants Alpine to join them and pay to be a member of their chamber. Currently about five businesses are members of the American Fork Chamber and they do not attend the meetings. She is not sure the benefits justify the cost of \$2,500. Businesses can join a chamber on their own even if the city is not an official member. The council may want to have a formal discussion on this topic in the future. The mayor asked that council members email her with their opinions.

Jessica Smuin said she would like to have a presentation by each chamber to the council.

Sarah reported that with Draper City developing land on our side of the mountain it is affecting the northwest trail access. She would like to look at the cost of installing a trail along Hog Hollow Road or off Lakeview Drive to connect with the Draper trails. We would need Draper City's permission. Topography in this area is fairly steep, and a new trail would require engineering. It would benefit our residents to be able to access these trails.

Shane Sorensen commented that our previous engineer, Jed Muhlestein, did a conceptual trail design for this area that included switchbacks and a reasonable slope. Staff can look for that document.

Mayor Carla Merrill said we previously took a conceptual design to the Trails Committee and Draper City for connecting the trails. She suggested Sarah work with Andrew Young, Brent Rummmler, and the Trails Committee to formulate a good proposal. She remembers that Jed's report did not have the average grade listed. Draper City will want detailed information if we submit a proposal.

Andrew Young said that the next Trails Committee meeting will be March 12 at 7:00 pm. He suggested that Sarah attend and make a presentation.

Chrissy Hannemann commented that in reviewing the minutes, she noted that Shane asked that suggestions for view ordinances, impervious surface rules, massing standards, and closing the breezeway loophole be sent to him. She reminded the council to send their ideas.

Chrissy said she talked with the Mountainville Academy Board recently, and things were much improved. We still have a short timeline to deal with traffic because school will dismiss for the summer soon. She is looking forward to reviewing the traffic study results on March 10.

The Sculpture Garden Committee is moving forward on fund raising. They want to have the funds ready for landscaping by the time the fire station addition is completed in the third quarter of 2027. People tend to donate funds near the end of a project, and now we have a timeline.

Jessica Smuin asked about the theme for this year's Alpine Days.

Heidi Smith reported that she has asked her committee for theme suggestions, which will then be presented to the council for a final decision.

Mayor Carla Merrill said that Heidi is working with an incredible group of volunteers who have proven their worth over the years, though we can always use additional help.

Heidi confirmed that it is the volunteers who make Alpine Days happen. She welcomes emails with suggestions.

Mayor Carla Merrill has received some phone calls and reminded the council that they are both residents and City Council members. If they decide to get involved in a neighborhood dispute, they do so as a resident, not as council members. It is important they do not blur the lines. The council's job is to support the existing city ordinances or to submit changes with the support of another council member and have them approved, it is not to pit one resident against another. She urged them to keep these parameters in mind.

The mayor reported that it looks like the legislation requiring cities to allow detached ADUs will go forward. This could affect every lot in Alpine that is over 10,000 square feet.

Shane Sorensen commented that the only way for Alpine to be exempt would be if our infrastructure would not support the additional structures.

The mayor will work with Shane to have the chambers of commerce present to the council. She would like future council meetings to be finished by 9:00 pm.

Motion: Chrissy Hannemann moved to adjourn the meeting. Andrew Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 pm.