



TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

November 19, 2024, at 6:00 PM / 250 River Circle - Alpine, WY 83128

1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Green

Mayor Green called the public hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL – Monica Chenault

Clerk Chenault conducted roll call.

PRESENT: Mayor Eric Green, Councilman Jeremy Larsen, Councilman Frank Dickerson, Councilman Emily Castillo, and Councilman Andrea Burchard. A quorum was established.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Presentation Rules: Each consulting firm was allotted 30 minutes for their presentation, including time for Q&A.

Sunrise Engineering Presentation

Robert Hood, Service Center Manager for Sunrise Engineering's Afton office, presented the firm's qualifications and methodology for conducting the impact and capacity fee study. Key points included:

- **Experience:** Sunrise has worked in Star Valley since 1990 and serves over 500 clients. The firm emphasized its understanding of Alpine's unique needs compared to neighboring towns like Afton or Thayne.
- **Approach:** Focused on accurate calculation of system capacity, system value, and user demands to ensure equitable and effective impact fees.
- **Specific Expertise:** Highlighted past projects such as water and wastewater system valuations, engineering in Victor, ID, and involvement with Alpine's mega-well project and water master plan.

Council members inquired about:

1. The use of impact fees for specific projects. Hood clarified that while Wyoming lacks statutory requirements, tying fees to capital improvement plans is best practice.
2. The legal defensibility of their methodology. Hood noted that none of their studies have faced legal challenges.
3. Integration with current Alpine projects. Hood explained alignment with the ongoing water master plan.

Raftelis Presentation (via Zoom)

Todd Cristiano, Project Manager, presented Raftelis' qualifications and methodology. Key points included:

- **Experience:** Raftelis is a national firm specializing in utility financial consulting, with a strong focus on impact fee studies and a history of projects in Wyoming, including Cheyenne, Casper, and Jackson.
- **Approach:** Emphasized developing fees based on rational Nexus principles, ensuring equity between new and existing customers, and diversifying revenue streams to reduce rate pressure.
- **Process:** Outlined a four-step process for the study: project initiation, fee development, financial impact analysis, and reporting.

Council members inquired about:

1. Legal challenges. Cristiano confirmed that Raftelis has not faced litigation regarding their studies.
2. Fee implementation. Cristiano explained the process for adopting and revising fees, noting that annual percentage adjustments could be built into ordinances.

Council Discussion

Mayor Green and councilmembers discussed both presentations. Key considerations included the firms' approaches to calculating fees, experience with Wyoming-specific regulations, and responsiveness to Alpine's needs.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Larsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilmember Dickerson. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Transcribed By:

Sarah Greenwald, Town Assistant Clerk

Date

Attest:

Monica L. Chenault, Town Clerk

Date

Minutes approved in a legally advertised meeting on 12, 17, 2024.

Signed:

Attest:

Eric Green, Mayor

Monica L. Chenault, Town Clerk