



TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION

September 11, 2024, at 7:00 PM

121 US-89

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Green called the work session together at 7:00 PM

Mayor Green's Introduction: Mayor Green began the work session by stating the goal of the meeting, which was focused on gathering information, with no decisions being made as it was a work session. He welcomed the Alpine Charter Board and members of the public, explaining that the meeting would include a presentation from the mayor on the timeline of key events since the town's inception, followed by a presentation from the Charter Board, and a question-and-answer session. Public comments would be allowed afterward, with the reminder that respectful conduct was required. Personal attacks, outbursts, or unruly behavior would not be tolerated, and violators could lose speaking time or be removed. He emphasized the importance of the Golden Rule, encouraging everyone to treat others with respect. The mayor then proceeded with his presentation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mayor Green's Presentation: Mayor Green presented a detailed history of the Town of Alpine's development in relation to the potential establishment of a charter school. He began by noting that Alpine was formally incorporated in 1989, with significant annexations occurring in 1992 and 1993. In 1995, a plat designated Lot 4 in Alpine West as a school site. Over the years, the town worked with various organizations, including the Wyoming Business Council, to develop the Child Development Center (CDC) and created a master plan in 2006. This plan emphasized the need for public facilities, including a potential elementary school.

In 2018, the North Valley Education Committee was established to advocate for education, which led to the recommendation that Alpine pursue its own charter school. In 2023, after further discussions with Lincoln County School District No. 2, it was determined that the fastest path to a school was through a charter. In August 2023, the Alpine Public Education Committee was established to explore this further, and in July 2024, the Alpine Charter School Board submitted its application to the Wyoming Charter School Board.

Mayor Green then outlined the charter board's plans for a school site on town-owned property near the CDC and Pavilion, describing both a Phase 1 concept (K-8 school) and a potential expansion for upper grades. He also noted that the Town Council is currently developing a new master plan, which will address school location and the town's broader vision for future development.

Mayor Green concluded by announcing a public meeting hosted by the Wyoming Charter Authorizing Board on September 18th, inviting public participation in the ongoing discussion about the charter school. *[Transcriber's Note: You can view this presentation in the meeting packet on the Town of Alpine's website.]*

Jeff Daugherty's Remarks:

Jeff Daugherty, consultant for the project, provided an overview:

- Charter schools are public schools subject to the same federal requirements as traditional schools.
- Charter schools are funded through the Average Daily Membership (ADM) system.
- Unlike traditional schools, Wyoming does not fund charter school construction; costs must be privately funded.

Steve Funk's Remarks:

Steve Funk, a member of the Inaugural Committee, highlighted:

- APA's recognition as a "Gap-Busting" school.
- Private funding is already secured, with no taxpayer burden.
- The urgency of acting now to secure financing and avoid delays.

Carolyn Sharette's Remarks:

Carolyn Sharette introduced the APA's classical education model:

- Focused on truth, beauty, and wisdom.
- Leveled learning to support students at their own pace.
- Emphasis on character development and joyful learning experiences.

Question-and-Answer Session

Councilwoman Castillo:

- Asked if the school is open to all students, including those outside Alpine.

Response:

- Enrollment is open to all; oversubscription triggers a lottery. Returning students and siblings receive preference.

Councilwoman Castillo:

- Raised concerns about zoning, real estate laws, and land value.

Response:

- Legal experts, including the former Governor Mead's firm, are assisting. Land lease terms aim to balance community benefits and legal requirements.

Councilwoman Castillo:

- Highlighted community survey findings on conservation and recreational use of waterfront properties.

Response:

- Flexibility in land use is necessary to align with current needs and opportunities.

6. Public Comments

Ken King:

- Expressed concerns about the lottery system potentially disadvantaging Alpine residents.

Carolyn Sharette:

- Clarified that initial capacity should meet local needs.

Josh Floyd:

- Asked about lease terms and future flexibility if APA isn't a good fit.

Mayor Green:

- Confirmed provisions to allow town control if needed.

Jordan Kurt-Mason:

- Raised concerns about APA's curriculum exclusions.

Heather Goodrich:

- Supported a local school but questioned proximity to an active runway and curriculum concerns.

Meta Ditmer:

- Urged action without further delay to avoid missed opportunities.

Multiple Residents:

- Discussed traffic, conservation, and location concerns.
- Voiced both support and reservations about the school and its long-term implications.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mayor Green:

Acknowledged logistical challenges and emphasized urgency in meeting construction timelines. He thanked participants for their input and reiterated the town's commitment to ensuring thoughtful planning and transparency.

Transcribed By:

Sarah Greenwald, Town Assistant Clerk

Date

Attest:

Monica L. Chenault, Town Clerk

Date

Minutes approved in a legally advertised meeting on 11, 14, 2024.

Signed:

Attest:

Eric Green, Mayor

Monica L. Chenault, Town Clerk