

ALPINE CITY COUNCIL BUDGET RETREAT

January 23, 2026

Mayor Carla Merrill called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A. Roll Call Mayor Carla Merrill

The following council members were present: Brent Rummler, Jessica Smuin, Sarah Blackwell, Chrissy Hannemann, and Andrew Young

Staff: Shane Sorensen, Ryan Robinson, Jason Judd, and DeAnn Parry

II. Goal Setting / Budget Prioritization

Shane Sorensen said that staff have learned that they need more than two weeks to gather information and costs for the council-submitted proposals. We will adjust the timeline for next year's budget retreat.

The council shared goals and ideas:

- Create a five-year plan to address specific needs in the parks and gather plenty of public input.
- Establish a design guide for signs at parks and city buildings to provide consistency. Install monument signs identifying each of the parks.
- Install rusted metal signs (like in the roundabout) at the city entrances on Westfield Road and Canyon Crest. Small sections of property may need to be purchased for this.
- Replace the complaint-centered citizen model with a proactive model where the council hears and addresses resident needs.
- Protect Alpine from high-density urban development. Currently Alpine's smallest lot is 10,000 sf, but the legislature has discussed requiring 6,000 sf lots.
- Alpine is far removed from transportation centers like TRAX or FrontRunner stations, so it does not make sense to force high-density housing here. Each city knows what is best for its own residents.
- Include our senior housing overlay areas in the required Middle Income Housing report. The state's main goal is to confirm that we are doing something about the issue. Alpine's report has been approved each year.
- Craft a mission statement in addition to the General Plan introduction which talks about "...orderly and balanced growth." Determine what Alpine is to be known for, like clean streets, beautiful trails, a rural setting, etc.

III. City Finance Discussion

A. PARC Tax Spending Philosophy (Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture)

Staff and council members shared comments and ideas:

- Most of the revenue comes from online sales.
- It's good to identify the PARC funded projects with a sign so residents know where their tax dollars are being spent.
- We cannot use impact fees to replace worn out playground equipment.
- We could easily spend all of the funds on parks but need to add more emphasis on arts and recreation. We could earmark a small percentage of PARC funds for citizen applications for arts and recreation. Projects focused on preserving history would also be great, and we could rotate the topic each year. Some cities have a PARC committee to help direct their discretionary funds.
- An economic development plan is needed so tax revenues grow instead of shrinking, and the Main Street Master Plan includes a section on this topic. The Finance Committee could also be involved.

B. Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund Policy

There is currently \$1.8M in the Perpetual Care fund because we have sold 750 plots in the last 18 months. Seventy-five percent of each sale goes to the Perpetual Care Fund, and 25 percent goes to the General Fund. Currently cemetery maintenance is paid from the General Fund. It would be good to transfer money each year from the Perpetual Care fund to the General Fund for cemetery maintenance. A fund analysis would help us determine the ideal balance to maintain in the fund. Alpine's ordinance calls

it a trust fund, but it is like an endowment. The ordinance needs to be updated. Staff will conduct an analysis to see how to best make this work.

Half of the plots in the North Cemetery expansion have been sold at this point. Council members asked about the next cemetery expansion options. They also expressed interest in creating a cremation burial area.

C. Public Works Building

The PW building adjacent to the cemetery is falling apart and cannot be fixed because of the type of construction. There are seismic issues with it as well. American Fork just completed a new PW facility, and it cost \$40M. We are not as large as American Fork, but construction is very expensive now. Alpine City owns property on 300 North, but it is not big enough for a PW building. We need to look for other solutions.

IV. FY2027 Budget Calendar

Shane Sorensen recommended that council members refer to the Budget Calendar so they will know about upcoming budget events and deadlines.

V. City Council Proposed Projects

A. Canyon Crest Road Roundabout

Brent Rummler said that residents are concerned about safety and speeding on Canyon Crest Road. Two engineers have suggested a roundabout for safety and improved operations at the intersection with Ridge Drive. Lindon City has a smaller roundabout near the LDS temple, but Andy Spencer, a UDOT engineer and Alpine resident, recommends a larger one for this intersection. Because of the upcoming trail project funded by MAG on this road, it will reduce costs to the city because the paving is already covered (and asphalt prices have dropped 30 percent since last year). The road will be shifted somewhat east toward Peterson Park, and it would be wise to do both projects at the same time.

Part of the cost of a roundabout is running utilities to it. We will not need water here because a planter is not needed. Peterson Park will be the focus. Keller Associates has offered to provide a concept plan (with an approximate one-day turnaround) at no cost. They also want to submit a bid to design the roundabout. The full design would take several months to complete.

There is a chance that we could ask for additional funds from MAG for the roundabout as part of the road/trail project. Michael Clark (office manager at Keller & Associates) and Andy Spencer felt like officials at MAG would take into consideration that this is the first funding Alpine has received, but we need to get the concept plan to MAG as soon as possible.

Staff and council members shared comments and ideas:

- From the UDOT website we learn that 60 percent of the traffic coming north is using Canyon Crest Road instead of Alpine Highway.
- If we request more funding, the project would be presented to the MAG Technical Advisory Committee and the Executive Board for voting.
- Alpine's current roundabout on Main Street is the correct size for our traffic. It must be large enough for trucks with long trailers, around 160 feet in diameter.
- An initial cost estimate is around \$1.2M. Some funding could come from street impact fees, Class C Road funds, etc.
- The roundabout may not slow cars as much as we hope, but it should eliminate high speeds and improve pedestrian safety.
- The proposed roundabout will not address speeding going south towards Highland, so additional traffic calming measures may be needed there.
- The Ridge Drive intersection is very congested with underground utilities and will make construction more complicated.
- The biggest utility issue will likely be how to handle storm water direction channels.

B. Raised Crosswalks / Speed Humps

Brent Rummer said that residents have expressed concern because no progress has been made in dealing with dangerous crosswalks. Raised crosswalks and speed humps do force vehicles to slow down, but they also make snow removal and emergency services (EMS) travel difficult.

Raised crosswalks have been suggested for Main Street, but this is the primary road that EMS travels. A better solution might be to abandon the bike lanes and add curb extensions, which allow bicycles to travel smoothly. Other possible locations for raised crosswalks are at Creekside Park, W. Canyon Crest Road, and Grove Drive.

Mapleton City allows raised crosswalks to be installed only within a certain proximity to schools. They found that those who benefit most are the residents who live nearby. Radar data showed that people speed up after crossing the hump to make up for the lost time. To be effective the intervals between humps should be around 500 feet.

Staff and council members shared comments and ideas:

- There were several speed bumps on Parkway by Burgess Park in the early 2000's, but they were removed because of neighborhood complaints. People find that trucks and trailers create more noise when crossing the bumps.
- Cedar Hills removed their speed bumps when they resurfaced the road, though they did keep the raised crosswalk by the elementary school.
- Because there are sometimes unintended consequences with solutions, it would be good to do a test run with a temporary fix before installing anything permanent. Radar signs can help us gather data before and after a speed bump.
- Engineering is required when we change traffic solutions, especially for storm drainage. Fehr & Peers are excellent consultants and would be good to help us with traffic and crosswalk issues.
- Engineering is important but we also need enforcement and education. Some cities form traffic committees to address these issues. We could also reach out to the schools to have them educate parents about traffic safety. Including articles in the *Newsline* will let residents know we are trying to address these issues.
- We should consider recommendations from the professionals but that doesn't outweigh what we know as citizens of this community.
- While we need traffic calming measures, we also need to consider a mass evacuation and how that would impact traffic. If we do install curb extensions, it may be good to have rolled curbs so they will be less impactful in an emergency.
- The road near Timberline Middle School is busy and dangerous. Most neighbors probably would not want raised crosswalks, but curb extensions and more intense painted patterns for crosswalks could improve visibility and safety.
- Our speed trailer is regularly moved to different locations around town. It has not shown evidence of excessive speeding, as drivers see the sign and slow down.
- Highland's mayor said they installed two temporary speed humps, but residents complained so much that they put them in their storage shed. We could borrow those for a test period.

3. Ranch Drive Extension

Chrissy Hannemann said that our long-term master plan shows a connector road from Ranch Drive to the Alpine Highway. Sgt. Charlie Thurston (LPPD) said that a connector would really help with Mountainville Academy and other traffic and would improve emergency access for the city.

Building this road would be expensive. We could start saving up to have the funds when the former Bangerter property (currently owned by the Church), is developed in the future.

Staff and council members shared comments and ideas:

- Building a road is expensive and complicated and utility lines need to be planned before the road is designed. We also need a road plan that will be acceptable to UDOT.

- A roundabout at the intersection with the highway might help traffic flow.
- The bridge could cost around \$1M.
- In Alpine we do not have a large number of homes built each year, so waiting for impact fees to build up does not work for large projects. There are situations where it is wise to bond so that important projects can move forward, and we can use impact fees to make bond payments.
- This road would benefit residents now and in the future. Waiting 10 or 20 years does not improve our situation.
- It would be good to have our engineer take a concept alignment and meet with Metro Water and UDOT to see if they would agree to the planned intersection. Then we can approach the Church (property owner).

4. Parks Master Plan

Chrissy Hannemann said that we receive a lot of resident requests about parks, as evidenced by Heidi Smith's list (and the end of the minutes). She would like residents to know we are listening and that we have a long-term plan, so they know what to expect.

Staff and council members shared comments and ideas:

- The Parks Master Plan will have recommendations for future improvements but may not be completed for six months because reviews take time. A five-year timeline for projects would be helpful.
- If we have these plans in place, residents who wish to volunteer can help with specific things.
- We can earmark money in next year's budget for parks projects and then move the funds with a budget amendment. Small projects, like signs, can be handled without amendments.
- Parks are different from city utilities (enterprise funds), as there is not a budget category for projects. Depending on the specifics, they are paid from impact fees, PARC taxes, and the General Fund.
- Past councils have talked about various ideas but did not get them prioritized. When we have the Master Plan finished and gather community input, we should get moving and not wait until next year. Let's set priorities and go.
- We may have better luck obtaining grants to improve the baseball fields if we can show the regional impact, listing all the players that come from different cities. A letter of endorsement from the baseball league could be helpful as well.
- An arboretum grant may be possible for Peterson Park as it has historic trees and a compelling story.
- Many grants are a 50/50 match. We can earmark funds in the next budget year for grants we are likely to receive.

5. Water Infrastructure Projects

Chrissy Hannemann said that Steve Burrows often speaks at City Council meetings about Alpine's water situation. He likes a big picture approach and is concerned about our water plan. We need residents to understand the need for infrastructure improvements.

Pressurized irrigation uses 80-85 percent of our total water, and residents need more education on how to conserve. Watering in two shorter cycles helps the water soak in better, and isolating zones with different needs is most efficient. Church properties in the area have installed smart watering systems, and it would help if our schools do the same. We could also host a water conservation open house for residents.

Staff and council members shared comments and ideas:

- An informative mailer, separate from the monthly utility bill, and articles in the *Newsline* could help educate residents. Staff recently applied for a grant to help encourage Eye on Water sign-ups, educate residents, and promote conservation efforts.
- Some cities only allow a one-time leak adjustment. We should evaluate our current policies on this.
- Frequent cleaning of PI filters helps systems work well. Education is needed.
- Higher tier fees for over-use may discourage wasting water. We may need to adjust rates for zones like Box Elder, Willow Canyon, and Three Falls.
- If Pine Grove is annexed, the developer will have to build the water infrastructure to serve those lots.

- We could consider requiring that a certain percentage of the lot for a new home be in xeriscape.

6. Water Well, Storage & Other Water Projects

Andrew Young said that our PI Water is a crucial issue and we need additional water storage to capture spring runoff.

Staff and council members shared comments and ideas:

- The Kay Asay property is owned by the city, but it is not a viable option for a well because of an existing fault there. Three other city properties have also been eliminated as options.
- During the daytime, our PI wells pump water into the reservoirs so it can be used for the high-demand times at night. The Rodeo Grounds tank holds 3M gallons. If it were doubled in size, it would help level out the pressure during peak usage but would not add a water source.
- Wells are the way to add a new water source. Pleasant Grove just put in a new well and it took two years to reach production. Before we construct a well, we drill a test well and run tests. We hope to achieve 1000 gallons/hour production.
- Previously we were told that we would not need another well for 10 years, but five years later we already need that water. We should get started now.
- The proposed Heritage Heights well would provide redundancy in the upper zone. We've had several wells, including the large Healey Well, go down repeatedly in previous seasons. We cannot know how things will play out each year.
- We cannot pump the Healey Well and take CUP water at the same time because our pipes are not large enough. The Canyon Crest Road improvements will install larger diameter pipes to get water to the storage tank by the North Stake Center.
- We currently do not have a well in the high zone to help out in low-snowpack or quick-melt years.
- Council members expressed interest in hearing from Jeff Davis directly.

Shane Sorensen explained that we have three pumps on the Asay property that help serve the low zone. With the new development at The Ridge at Alpine we required a new pump to serve the high zone. It has helped somewhat. We get water from Dry Creek, Box Elder Canyon, and overflow from the culinary water at Grove Spring.

The Alpine Irrigation Co owns the water rights at Grove Spring, which serves 100 percent of the culinary water needs of the city, plus the outdoor watering in the high elevation areas. It is very important to maintain a good relationship with the Irrigation Company. Alpine currently owns the most shares (around 40 percent) in the company. Will Jones and Roger Bennett have been great to work with. There is a provision to create a drought committee, which is three individuals from the city and three from the irrigation company. When we are in a drought, they meet together and work on the plan to manage the limited water.

Andrew Young had additional suggestions relating to water. He would like the broken spout on the water fountain at Legacy Park replaced. He also suggested building a small-scale replica of Sliding Rock for visitors to enjoy at Creekside Park.

7. Additional Crosswalk on Grove Drive

Sarah Blackwell said that North Grove Drive could use a crosswalk and improved signage. A domed mirror could also help with safety. We need traffic calming for the protection of school children and other pedestrians. A similar problem exists at the 90-degree turn on North Grove. Residents cannot see children walking to catch the bus.

Shane said that a warrant study will likely be required by UDOT. Staff will work on this to find solutions.

Due to time constraints, Mayor Carla Merrill suggested that staff present their project list next. The remaining topics will be addressed in a future work session prior to a City Council meeting.

8. Update on Staff Projects

- A. Lone Peak Public Safety Budget - The budget will increase approximately \$140,000 this year and \$280,000 next year.
- B. Street maintenance - These projects need to continue on schedule to keep our roads in good shape.
- C. Canyon Crest Road improvements - If the right-of-way acquisition goes smoothly, we hope to start construction this spring.
- D. Carlton Shop Improvements – We have had this property under contract, waiting for a 1031 exchange with the seller and anticipate it will close soon. The Public Works department needs extra shop space, and this is a good interim solution. The building would be easy to sell if we do not need it in the future.

We need to run water and sewer there for a restroom. Visually, it would be nice for the neighborhood if we paint the building and face it with hardy board. A dumpster enclosure was also suggested. The city owns property to the south, so we could use some of that for the enclosure. Staff will put numbers together. This could be a project for the next budget year.

- E. Fire Station Addition/Remodel – This project will cross budget years. The addition will add six bedrooms to the station.
- F. Burgess Park Outfield Net – The net has only been replaced once and it has worn out again. We do not need new poles, just the net. The estimated cost is around \$5,000.
- G. Resurface of Burgess Park Tennis Courts – We want to update the colors to blue and green when this is done. Staff are working on cost estimates. It would be nice to add a restroom nearby because of heavy use of the courts.
- H. City Hall Landscape Improvements - With the fire station updates we would like to replace the dated landscaping. The Sculpture Garden project may be able to cover the costs and the labor. Jessica Smuin would like to be involved with the Sculpture Garden Committee.
- I. Relic Hall Improvements – The hall has a new roof and needs some other repairs, such as new stucco. We can look at grants because of its historical status. There is not a rush on this, but we can think about it.
- J. The DUP Monument Improvement – This monument is at the entrance to the North Cemetery and currently sits in a low spot. We did not think it could be lifted without damage, so the DUP gave us permission to rebuild it. Currently there is only one woman listed on the plaque, and a resident has asked that female pioneer names be listed also.

9. Park Improvement as Requested by Residents

List compiled by Heidi Smith – as of 1/19/2026

Creekside:

- Better playground equipment
- Improved water feature

- *Tennis nets need replacement (DONE)*
- Tennis posts need leveling
- Pickleball surface repair
- *Wind screen replacement (some) (DONE)*
- *Pickleball nets need repair/replacement (two of them)- (DONE)*
- Better, “cooler” playground equipment
- Exercise stations around walking trail
- Pavilion power is inconsistent
- Water bottle fill options for water fountain (IN PROGRESS)

Burgess:

- *Benches around trail for walker rest spots (DONE)*
- Outfield net (along Canyon Crest) needs repair/replacement. Left field is almost completely gone.
- Outfield fences need to be tacked down in many places
- Outfield fence bumpers (yellow) missing in some spots
- Safety nets over bleachers
- Snack Shack needs paint and floor resurfaced
- Water fountain runs constantly
- Water bottle fill options for water fountain
- Backstop bumpers need replacement or repair
- Hot water heater not functioning (may have been fixed but not sure)
- *Rugby goal replacement (DONE!)*
- Fence maintenance, secure fencing to the bottom tension wire and secure the tension wire to the posts (Heidi).
- Install awning material above bleacher seats for safety and shade. (Brad Belnap)
- Replace top fence guard (yellow) on the outfield fencing for Field 1. (Brad Belnap)
- Snack Shack - Restroom gutter repair (Brad Belnap)
- Snack Shack - Restroom stucco repair (Brad Belnap)
- Infield sprinklers installed on Fields 1 and 4, and possibly 5 (Brad Belnap)
- Prune trees (Brad Belnap)
- Install motion sensor LED lighting on each side of the second floor of the snack shack - restroom. (Brad Belnap)

Rachel McTeer

- Needs a restroom
- Needs a water fountain

Smooth Canyon

- Re-seed and repair to turf (soccer is supposed to be moving the goals)
- A resident would like to eliminate soccer on Smooth Canyon field (via Andrew Young) 9/3/25

Healey

- *Soccer fields moved more to the east away from houses (DONE)*
- Fences are being hit by balls and begin damaged (via Andrew Young) 9/3/25 - *altered field direction for short term fix; talked to league for games & practice; signage?*
- Parking should not occur along Healy Blvd. (via Andrew Young) 9/3/25 – *talked to league*

Lambert

- Expand south parking lot (in progress)
- *Water fountains w/bottle fill & dog dish features (DONE)*

Legacy

- *Need benches in gazebo again (DONE)*

Becks Hill

- Bathroom
- Basketball hoop repair
- Vole “invasion” into neighboring yard

Peterson Park

- Trail work behind housing – *could be a past privacy issue*

Silverleaf Park

- Weirid holes being dug? – *visited site and looks like maybe a “hideout” type of setup (took photos)*

10. Postponed

The following will be addressed in a future work session:

- Becks Hill Park Restroom
- Parking Lot at Peterson Park & Preservation/Gateway Transformation
- Sidewalks Proposal
- Traffic Calming
- Raccoon Plan
- Alpine Highway Easement Beautification
- Alpine History Preservation Projects
- Fire Prevention Projects
- Deer Crest Circle Signs

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.