

**BREWSTER COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT**

JIM WESTERMANN
Commissioner, Pct.1

RUBEN ORTEGA
Commissioner, Pct. 3



SARA COLANDO
Commissioner, Pct. 2

MO MORROW
Commissioner, Pct.4

GREG P. HENINGTON
County Judge

Regular Commissioners Meeting: September 30, 2025, at 5:30 P.M.
Brewster County Courthouse, Commissioners Courtroom
201 West Ave. E Alpine, Texas 79830

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Judge Henington called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.; the following Elected Officials were present:

Greg Henington	County Judge
Jim Westermann	Commissioner Pct. 1
Sara Allen Colando	Commissioner Pct. 2
Ruben Ortega	Commissioner Pct. 3
Sarah Vasquez	County Clerk

Mayor Eaves called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.; the following Elected City Council Members were present:

Catherine Eaves	Mayor
Richard Portillo	Ward 1
Eva Martinez	Ward 2
Robert Ruckes	Ward 3
Lucy Escovedo	Ward 4
Rick Stephens	Ward 5

Judge Henington led the court in the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Flag.

Public participation was encouraged to engage with the elected members throughout the joint workshop.

2. Public Comment - limited to 5 minutes

Martin Benevich, KVLV / KALP Radio owner, spoke on the community branding initiative. Mr. Benevich suggested promoting low crime rates, no traffic, no stoplights, and not only focus on the dark sky quality. He presented a possible slogan, "Brewster County: we have room for you, but maybe not your friends."

Randall Kinzie, Fort Davis resident and owner of Wild Yeti Films, spoke on the dark skies regulations. He has personally been promoting dark skies since 2018.

Bryan Devonshire, Astro Mucho, LLC, spoke on the dark skies regulations. He suggested putting a sign in Van Horn. The sign encourages a scenic view to San Antonio for a 26 miles difference.

Curtis Even, Fort Davis County Judge, spoke on the dark skies for the Tri-County: Jeff Davis, Presidio, and Brewster. He stated the McDonal Observatory is a big supporter to help reduce the light pollution.

3. Review, discuss and take any necessary action regarding the following topics in conjunction with the City Council of Alpine, Texas

A. Dark Sky Regulations - review of current regulations and planned updates in preparation for the conclusion of the 2026 grace period

See suggestions on Item Agenda 2.

B. Community Branding Initiative - consideration of efforts to re-brand Alpine/Brewster County as the "Dark Sky Capital of Texas" and potential updates to Brewster County branding to further promote tourism

The Dark Sky Resolution will go into effect in May 2026. It was agreed upon within court that the three counties, Jeff Davis, Presidio, and Brewster County, will own the title, "The Dark Sky Capital of Texas".

C. Joint Economic Development Initiatives - discuss of collaborative ventures, including the potential creation of a shared economic development strategy, jointly funded by the City and County, to oversee and manage regional economic development efforts

Judge Henington projected a 5%-6% decline in population in Brewster County. The city has chambers, dark skies, mountain bike parks and multimillion facilities with resources. Judge Henington questioned how to get people to invest in Alpine. It was suggested to attach private capital for people to set up business.

Judge Evans stated three essentials will attract people: housing, education and healthcare.

The Chambers of Commerce could lobby for new businesses to open. The city and county could work together to welcome businesses and not make it difficult to start.

The airport is a possible venue to expand Alpine.

Judge Henington and Mayor Eaves will reconvene on this matter.

4. Adjourn

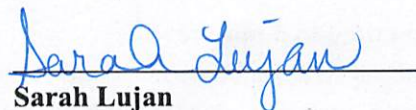
Commissioner Ortega moved to adjourn. Commissioner Colando seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.



Greg P. Henington
Brewster County Judge



ATTEST:



Sarah Lujan
Brewster County Clerk

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING: The Brewster County Commissioners Court reserves the right to conduct an executive/closed meeting session to discuss and deliberate any of the items listed on the agenda instrument posted for this meeting, as permitted by law, including all applicable open meeting exceptions recognized by Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code ("Chapter 551," the Texas Open Meetings Act), or other applicable statute, including without limitation the following Chapter 551 exceptions: §§ 551.071 and 551.129 (consultation with attorney); § 551.072 (deliberation regarding real property); § 551.0725 (deliberation regarding contract being negotiated); § 551.073 (deliberation regarding prospective gift); § 551.074 (deliberation

regarding personnel matters); § 551.0745 (deliberation regarding personnel matters affecting county advisory board); § 551.076 (deliberation regarding security devices or security audits); § 551.0785 (deliberations involving medical or psychiatric records of individuals); and § 551.087 (deliberation regarding economic development negotiations).