

**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
6:30 P.M., Fire Station 5
May 14, 2018**

**RICHARD BOSS, MAYOR
AL HERNANDEZ, COMMISSIONER
NADIA SIKES, COMMISSIONER
JOSH RARDIN, COMMISSIONER
SUSAN PAYNE, COMMISSIONER**

**JASON BALDWIN, MAYOR PRO-TEM
DUSTY WRIGHT, COMMISSIONER
MAGGIE PALUCH, CITY MANAGER
PETRIA SCHREIBER, CITY ATTORNEY
RACHEL HUGHS, CITY CLERK**

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL /

Mayor Boss called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll Call was taken by the City Clerk. City Clerk Hughs announced there was a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin moved to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

PRESENTATIONS

1. The Finance staff will present the preliminary FY 18-19 City of Alamogordo Budget. (*Julianne Hall, Finance Director*)

City Manager Paluch gave a brief overview of the budget process. She said you can expect the budget to be adopted at the end of May. She said these numbers are not inflated. She said they asked the departments to start at ground zero and to not just roll the numbers over. She described the agenda for the hearings.

Finance Director Hall started to present the budget.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin asked if City Manager Paluch could give the Commission an idea what is going to happen tonight, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday night. She said they scheduled multiple days in case the Commission had a lot of questions. She said basically we are going to run through the budget and if they get done early then those additional days will not be needed. She said tonight they are going to go through the general overview and then they will continue to the Directors and see how far we can get this evening. She said it is scheduled till 9:30 p.m. She said the outside agencies know that they are schedule for tomorrow to talk about any funding request they may have.

Finance Director Hall said there is no action item this evening, it will be approved at the next regular meeting on May 22nd, 2018.

City Manager Paluch said if the Commission has some questions that staff cannot answer or there are some things that may need to be researched, staff will take note of that and will get back to you with plenty of time for the meeting that this needs to be approved

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin said upon the request of Commissioners can staff put it on the agenda so that the Commission can decide at that time what process we would like to go through. He said only because we've kind of had it every way possible. He said he thinks it is a little confusing for staff if they are heading in one direction and we decide to go a different direction. He kind of expected this process to happen like it did last year. He would really prefer that conditional decision as opposed to changing it then.

Commissioner Rardin said when he was in Office before, they had an agenda and it stated out what sections of the budget they would be talking about. He said they knew exactly what sections that they needed to look at and read up on. He said it was a little easier for the Commissioners instead of having to read up on so many pages. He agreed with Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin.

Finance Director Hall said you will notice this power point presentation is very similar to the format used last year.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin and Commissioner Rardin explained that they would not be available if the hearings continue to certain days.

Finance Director Hall went over the budget adoption process and timeline. She said the final budget adoption will be on the July 24th, 2018 Commission meeting. The final budget is due to the Department of Finance and Administration on July 31st, 2018.

Finance Director Hall went over all funds combined and showed a comparison of FY 17 actuals, FY 18 adjusted budget and FY 19 budget. She explained the numbers on the power point.

Commissioner Hernandez asked if we collect those franchise fees from all the different vendors in town. He said like Tularosa Basin is now using those right of ways. Finance Director Hall said anyone who has services in Alamogordo.

Commissioner Hernandez asked when they want to do work do they have to do permits.

Assistant City Manager Cesar said it depends on their agreement. Commissioner Hernandez said he was thinking more of TBTC because they fired their original vendor, and now they are back, and they are doing the same stuff. Assistant City Manager Cesar said they should be notifying us that work is being performed, but there is not a fee associated because it is all wrapped in the franchise fees. Commissioner Hernandez said what he is saying is that somebody has got to go back and fix at some point, and if we are collecting from them, how much are we collecting. Assistant City Manager Cesar said we the City, do not need to go back in and repair, we require the contractor or the utility to come back in and fix damage.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin said historically haven't we been, in our receptions, about two percent increase. He asked why one percent this year on our Gross Receipt Taxes. Finance Director Hall said it is just one of those things, because of the fact that the hold harmless is going up. She said this this year actually, because we are getting some more businesses in town, we haven't started to see a whole lot of an increase yet, but we will start seeing more of an increase. She said at the time we started working on this we weren't sure which businesses would be open. She said we will not be seeing most of those increases until next year. She said one percent overall based upon the fact that we are increasing our hold harmless, as well. She said this year we are running about a little between two and three percent. It is more than last year which is, the department of taxation and revenue there have been a lot of inquiries and comments amongst a lot of the Municipalities and Counties because they don't seem to be very transparent with their reporting process. She said so what we have to do is take the net amounts that we receive and we have to gross it back up to adjust for how much they are telling us for FY19 which is 24 percent. She said she would much rather budget a little more conservative revenues and end up getting more than the other way around.

Finance Director Hall said like Harbor Freight, you have to remember is only gross receipts taxes, they were the first business, and their first full month was February. She said they will send their money into the State in March, and we will not see any increase from that until April. She said there is always a two month lag on it. She said Hobby Lobby, we will not see anything from them until July. She said she is hoping it will be much more than that, but she is kind of loath to go much higher than one percent for this next year.

Finance Director continued the power point presentation.

Commissioner Hernandez asked about the miscellaneous revenues. He said he knows that we sell a lot of stuff online now. Finance Director Hall said yes, when we sell things by auction than that money received goes back to the department that sold the scrap. She said that can increase their budget so that they can purchase new equipment or whatever they want. The only time we restrict them on what they can purchase is if they actually sold something on our fixed asset listing, then that money needs to go back in to a replacement program.

Commissioner Rardin asked if in salaries and benefits, the seven percent increase in the \$1.4 million for raises this year. Finance Director Hall said that would across for all departments, and that is for some departments there were some reorganizations, some reclassifications. She said that is something each of the individual Directors can address for you.

City Manager Paluch said some of the biggest ones was for an increase in the City's portion of health insurance and all insurances across the board. She said there is also another large increase because the Fire Chief is asking for 24 hour pay for the firefighters, which is a standard for a twenty four hour schedule across the State.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin asked if salaries and benefits is roughly 41 percent of our projected budget. Finance Director Hall said it is 37 percent. She said lets don't forget that is not only the salaries paid out to the employees, but the City's portion of what the City has to pay for the health insurances, the taxes and all that. Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin said that is lower than what he thought it would be. City Manager Paluch said remember this is just for budget, it is not the actual expenditure for the end of the year. She said we have a certain amount of budgeted positions, but throughout the year not all those positions are filled.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin asked what our employee count is at now. City Manager Paluch answered about 370. Finance Director Hall said as Commissioner Payne mentioned we do budget for full insurance because we don't know on vacant positions if whoever comes in and takes full family insurance we need to have the ability to pay for that. She said not everyone does, some don't take any at all, so that is built into this as well.

Commissioner Hernandez asked about the insurance premiums on the pie chart. Finance Director Hall said that is total insurance premiums across the entire City. She said that is insurance for property, fleet, public official bonds, etc. She said health insurance would be under salaries and benefits.

Commissioner Payne asked back on miscellaneous revenues, how is sell or scrap is tracked. City Manager Paluch said it is tracked by the Purchasing department. She said any department that wants to sell something has to inform the Purchasing department and they will handle the entire process. She said right now, either we will do an auction on site at the City yard or we have been using EBay, quite frankly we have been getting a lot more money on EBay. Commissioner Payne said so everything, regardless of the department, has to go through one person. Finance Director Hall said yes.

City Manager Paluch clarified that it is the government version of EBay.

Commissioner Hernandez asked if they do disposal forms. City Manager Paluch and Finance Director Hall both answered yes. Commissioner Hernandez said so there is tracking serial numbers and stuff. Finance Director Hall said yes, in Finance we have a fixed asset Clerk and she tracks everything. She said we do our disposals, we do our depreciation every year.

Commissioner Hernandez said a few years ago, one of our piece of equipment ended up at a place of business and we were able to track it back to the City by its serial number. City Manager Paluch said that is all tracked and it has to be reported to the Auditor at the end of the year.

Commissioner Rardin said he sees City crews come from the Convenience Center down to the recycling place, he asked what they are selling there. He said in the past it was an issue because it is a cash transaction. Assistant City Manager Cesar said the only thing you see them taking down to the recycling area are the batteries, cartridges that come in. He said any scrap metal, refrigerators, if you to the area in the rear, there is a company from Mexico that has a contract with the City, and pays the City something like \$150 a month. He said this keeps our tipping fees down. He said we don't need to haul it 30 miles out of town and dispose of it. He said it is a nominal fee and they remove all the material for us. Commissioner Rardin said okay, he just remembers seeing them down there periodically at the recycle place.

Finance Director Hall moved on to present the General Fund.

Mayor Boss made a comment about other expenditures. Finance Director Hall said that is going to be the items that are mostly between \$250 and \$5000. She said every department, within the general fund, can give you a little more detail on that.

Finance Director Hall said our operating and general government, operating public safety transfers out, that is to subsidize other departments that don't have enough revenue on their own to pay for themselves. She said it is a steady increase, costs keep going up and our revenues remain flat. She said granted, these are preliminary numbers. She said it always looks worse in the preliminary budget, it just always does than what it ends up being once we roll over into the actual FY19 budget.

Commissioner Payne asked if they will find out what departments those are. City Manager Paluch said again those departments don't receive funding unless they need it, but it is places like the golf course, the zoo, the Rec center that receive a transfer.

City Manager Paluch reminded the Commission that there are a lot of things that need to be rolled into the final budget.

Commissioner Rardin asked about the Capital Outlay under the non-recurring for the general government public safety. Finance Director Hall said there is a complete capital listing in the back of the small book that is broken out by fund and department. She said there is also a summary of the capital. She said they will be going over that more towards the end that will give you more of a breakdown for what exactly that is.

Finance Director Hall moved on to the Gross Receipts Tax. She also explained the Hold Harmless Gross Receipts Tax.

Commissioner Rardin said when we originally started talking about hold harmless, they estimated us at \$2.7 million over the 15-year period, he asked so it really has gone up over a million dollars. Finance Director Hall said it depends on the municipality, and also this is a calculated number based upon the percentage that we know is being deducted this year. She said we take the net we received, we have to gross it back up by that 24 percent to come out with a total deduction. She said it is a large frustration for Finance Directors all across the State, between Counties and Municipalities, trying to understand what that deduction is. She said what we would really like is for them to tell us this is the gross amount that you would have received, this is your 24 percent deduction, and this is your net amount.

Commissioner Rardin said even when businesses report what we got to send in, they do not give us a breakdown of where it all comes from, so we don't know if they are giving us our fair share or not.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin asked if you would implement the whole three-eighths percent that would not make us whole, in reference to the hold harmless. Finance Director Hall said no, because of the fact that eventually that money is going away. She said the original purpose for implementing this hold

harmless gross receipts tax was to make up for the amount that we are losing by them taking it back, however, we don't have to use it just for that specific purpose. She said is essentially it is a municipal gross receipt tax increment that can dedicated for pretty anything that we want or need to.

City Manager Paluch said Albuquerque just instituted this, but they were able to institute it July 1, 2018. She said they did institute the full three-eighths and the majority of that is going to Public Safety.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin said the State gave us the ability to levy that tax. He said Alamogordo was in a completely different situation and it didn't make us whole. He said some communities it did, but our community it did not.

Finance Director Hall said the County decided to implement the full amount and it would not have impacted them the same way it does the City.

Commissioner Rardin asked if the Legislators talked about fixing the issue they have created with this. He said when they gave Otero County the ability to do this, and City the ability to do it, our tax rate can conceivably go up three-quarters of a percent. He said when the former County Commissioners did what they did and raised it, they were affected \$250,000 or \$270,000 over 15 years and they have generated over 10 million dollars since they passed it to fund their jail. Finance Director Hall said they talk about it every year, it really doesn't seem to go anywhere. She said she knows they stated that if you implement the full amount, that essentially they would take away, instead of parceling it out over 15 years and slowly decreasing the amount that you receive, they would just take it all at once. City Manager Paluch said they have put that on the floor, and every single year it never goes anywhere. Commissioner Rardin said he remembers it was a pretty big issue when they did what they did, and then it allowed Otero County to do it, but they didn't draw the boundaries. He said when we do our reports, we have our different codes we put in, whichever one it is the City or the County or whatever district it maybe. He said they didn't put a limitation on that. He said we've got to be the bad guys now if we raise it. He said that was part of his reasoning in wanting to meet with the County. He said he was going to ask them if they would repeal one-eighth of theirs, so that we could pass an eighth in our taxes. He said you can see the full effect, they have generated over 10 million dollars that is sitting in an account for their two-eighths that they passed the second time around. He said just to do a bunch of cut projects that his Uncle and Mr. Herrell want to do, just for the first eighth. He said the second two-eighths that they get is for the Judicial complex. Mayor Boss said they are still short on the Judicial Complex. Commissioner Rardin said they are, but were only losing \$270,000 over 15 years, where we were losing over \$2.7 million and they really had no business passing it, they were robbing Peter to pay Paul by passing that tax.

Commissioner Payne asked what would be the point in that if they were to repeal an eighth. Commissioner Rardin said if we could talk them into repealing an eighth, then we could pass an eighth and then the tax rate does not go up for the citizens. He said in theory it would just offset.

Finance Director Hall said in FY17, the Commission approved a transferring 35 percent of \$561,948 from fund 49 to fund 11, the only portion that was used was \$300,000 for litigation expenses. She said for FY18 the Commission approved transferring 40 percent or \$647,505 and to date none of the current transfer has been used. She said this transfer will only be used if needed and just to balance the budget.

City Manager Paluch said she wanted to make a note that this transfer is set up as project in fund 11. She said it is just sitting there, it is set up specifically as a project. She said the fact that we have not used any of it, this is a testament not only to good budgeting but to fiscal responsibility.

Commissioner Rardin asked what we used fund 49 for. Finance Director Hall answered that is used for outside water fund for like flood control projects, its not internal within the City, it is for water from the outside. Assistant City Manager Cesar said we used for drilling of the wells, used it for the parallel

pipeline, for the RO Plant, the westside infrastructure, Prather Wells, etc. Commissioner Rardin said now, it's like a savings account. Assistant City Manager Cesar explained what they will use it for.

City Manager Paluch said if the money is not used it is rolled right back into fund 49.

Mayor Boss asked Assistant City Manager Cesar what percentage of pipeline do we have completed from the Snake Tank, what percentage are we lacking as a percentage. He said it is approximately nine and a half miles and we have two and half miles complete, so we have seven miles left.

Commissioner Rardin asked if we weren't all the way from the Plant to La Luz Gate Road. Assistant City Manager Cesar said yes.

Finance Director Hall presented the budgets for the individual departments. She started with the City Manager's Office.

Commissioner Rardin asked they were looking to create an additional position under the City Manager for Communications and Marketing assistant. City Manager Paluch said we are looking for an assistant for the Communications and Marketing Manager. She described what this person would be responsible for doing. Commissioner Rardin said staff had mentioned that there were 370 employees and when he was in Office before they were at 350 employees, so there has only been 20 employees added over four years. City Manager Paluch explained that over those years how staff had been cut and now they are just trying to catch up. Commissioner Rardin said he is a little concerned because they are spending \$43,000 to \$44,000 and they are showing that they need to take \$2.6 million of the general fund money to balance the budget. Commissioner Rardin asked if there is any way to track the performance of specific employees, nothing against that specific employee but since we are investing another \$44,000 in an employee, we need to see if we are getting out money's worth. City Manager Paluch answered sure.

Commissioner Rardin asked if they looking to create an additional position underneath the communications marketing assistant. City Manager Paluch said they have right now a communication and marketing manager, Michelle B. She said they are looking for an assistant for her for \$43,358.82 at \$12.44 an hour. Commissioner Rardin said the trying to grow in government, they mentioned 370 employees and when he was in office they had 350 so they have grown 20 employees over the last four years. Commissioner Rardin said he is still a little concerned because they looking into spending \$44,000 and you show we need to take \$2.6 million of their general fund to balance the budget. City Manager Paluch said there is \$1.4 million dollar in savings because of the way employment fluctuates. Commissioner Rardin asked if there was any way of tracking the performance of those specific employees to see if they are getting their money's worth. City Manager Paluch said it comes through by how my hits they have on their website and the Facebook page. Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin cautioned the commission that if Maggie wants to hire an employee for whatever position she wants she can do that, it is not their job to tell her she cannot create a position and if it is a success of failure that is how the judge her in her position.

Finance Director Hall said one of the simplest ways to track whether this is success or not is simply by the amount of revenue increasing annually.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin said getting some analytics is kind of a tricky subject. He said if you do it for that one person then you need to do it all employees.

Finance Director Hall moved on the Assistant City Manager and the departments that fall under him.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin asked if they have decided they were not going to bring in a City Engineer. City Manager Paluch said they have tried in the past to hire one and she and Assistant City Manager Cesar are still working on that. The last 2-3 times that they interviewed people they did not get many applicants and the people did not want to draw. They need someone that will draw so they do not have

to spend the money on the engineering for it. The other issue is salary for that position is very expensive. Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin asked how much they were paying, she said it was a director position and was paid \$90,000 and people want 120 to 150. Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin how much were they paying a contractor, Assistant City Manager Cesar said it was project specific but the SMP was about \$430,000. Commissioner Hernandez said the problem with paying an engineer what he is asking, then you have to raise everybody's salary because you can't have a director making more than the City Manager. City Manager Paluch said she did not think they could hire anyone for under 120. Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin said as long as they are on top of it because it seems like they are spending stupid amounts of money. City Manager Paluch said they just can't pay someone enough money to do it. Commissioner Hernandez said they could just go to elected mayor who runs the city and City Manager Paluch said you could and you could get rid of your city manager and go to elected mayor. Commissioner Hernandez said an elected mayor that would run the city then you can hire a \$200-300,000 engineer because then an elected mayor would get \$70-80,000. City Manager Paluch said yup you can do that. Mayor Boss said that is a whole lot more than what he is making now.

Finance Director Hall went on to talk about Engineering and Planning and Zoning and mentioned they are adding a part-time enforcement officer. Commissioner Rardin asked what does this position entail, what area they enforcing. Assistant City Manager Cesar said when a person turns in their permit, this person will be the one going out in the field to ensure the road way has been closed up correctly. Commissioner Rardin asked if that what public works inspectors already do, he said no but they have filled in. Commissioner Hernandez asked if this person will also work to check if some of these companies are licensed with the City.

Finance Director Hall presented the legal department. Commissioner Rardin said in salaries and benefits, they have an increase of \$26,654, what is that. City Manager Paluch said she believes that is they are contemplating a raise of one of the paralegals. They added a new paralegal, last year when they originally hired the position they contemplated being an administrative position that ended up being a paralegal and in addition they had changes to health insurance in the department. Commissioner Rardin asked if they were only giving one paralegal an increase in pay and not the other, she said they gave Dorothy a raise two years ago. Commissioner Rardin said more salaries more government.

Finance Director Hall moved on to the City Clerk's Department. Commissioner Hernandez said they are not preparing for an election but they could have one. Hall said they could potentially have one yes. He asked if they knew where they are with that right now. City Clerk Hughs answered, there has been no one come forward and he asked when cut of date is, she said the first day in July and they have 90 days to bring that petition forward. City Clerk Hughs said in FY18 they used \$22,000 of the budgeted \$42,000 that included the special election. Commissioner Hernandez asked if it could be around \$22,000 and she answered probably not that much because it is only going to be done different. He said so it could be between \$10,000 and \$20,000 and if the recall does succeed it is another \$10,000-20,000. She said yes, he said ok so between \$20,000 and \$40,000.

Finance Director Hall spoke and said the only changes Legislative is in the group health insurance.

Finance Director Hall moved on to her Finance department. She said the large increase in Customer Service and Utility Billing is for software support fees of \$30,500 for a billing portal in FY19, this is what is going to make their meter readers really useful the way they were originally planned to be used. It is going to allow for a much friendlier user process, detailed customer account information and show the customer when there is an increase in water consumption. Commissioner Hernandez asked her if they will still charge a fee to pay online to pay with a credit card, she answered yes and that is something she would like to reduce.

Finance Director Hall continued with the Human Resources Department.

Commissioner Payne asked about the reclassification from part-time to full-time. HR Director Josselyn said that position was full time and that long term employee is retiring. They want to reclassify that

position, to add 10 hours per week. She spoke about how difficult it has been because of all the things going on in HR.

Commissioner Hernandez asked HR Director Josselyn if the .25 increase was a one time after 10 years, she said right and in their department they have two people that will meet that in FY 19 and FY20. He said anytime you can give something to keep people with us for longevity, especially in the lower pay side of it.

Commissioner Rardin how much of the family does the City cover for insurance, HR Director Josselyn said it is 60/40 for any employee making over \$26,000 a year, with the City covering 60 percent. This is for the employee and their dependents. If an employee makes less than \$26,000, the City pays for 75 percent of the employee only and for their dependents the City pays 53 percent.

Commissioner Hernandez asked HR Director Josselyn how many hours are donated yearly for donated leave time, she said she has not measured that. He asked if when it is donated, is it one to one, she answered that is correct. He stated that is where he would have a concern, because if they have an employee that is making \$7 an hour donating to a person making \$20 an hour. She said it is almost always the other way around. He asked if they can track that to see where they are with this.

Finance Director Hall said the next department was the Alamogordo Fire Department.

Commissioner Rardin asked what the salary is for the new firefighter position. Fire Chief LeClair said it is around \$51,000.

Commissioner Rardin asked how the 24 hour pay works. Fire Chief LeClair said currently they are getting paid 16.25 hours for working a 24 hour shift and the Fair Labor Standard Act states that if you work someone more than 24 hours you don't have to pay them for sleep time, we are the only department that pays their staff that way. His goal is to pay his staff for the time they are at work. Commissioner Rardin asked if they are on 24 hours they get paid whether they are sleeping or working, he answered yes. Commissioner Hernandez asked if it was at the full rate, Fire Chief LeClair said at their full rate. Commissioner Rardin asked him if that would increase their salaries \$250,000 a year, he answered yes sir. Commissioner Payne asked if they are on shift they are required to be at the firehouse, he said yes ma'am they can't leave and when he says they can't leave he means they can't get in their POV and go home. Commissioner Wright asked if it changes the structure of their schedule, Fire Chief LeClair answered it would stay the same they just won't be required to work as many shifts to accumulate those hours. Commissioner Hernandez asked if his drivers are DOT licensed, he said no. Commissioner Sikes asked if they provide a place to sleep, he said yes. She asked how they fire fighters felt about the alternant form of pay verses increasing their hourly pay to equal what people make in Hobby Lobby. Fire Chief LeClair said they would like to operate like a traditional fire department. Commissioner Hernandez stated when they split the police and fire department it was at minimal cost and they have seen that cost ten times over. He asked how come that was over looked Commissioner Hernandez told Fire Chief LeClair he was not there at the time and does not blame him but that goes back to management that they did not have a full plan and they knew it at the time. He asked Fire Chief LeClair what was the true amount that he needs, he answered about two thirds more than what he has right now. Commissioner Hernandez asked him why he was not asking for that for that said he would love to make that happen right now. Commissioner Hernandez said he did not want to see another \$150,000 increase next year because they did not do enough last year and asked would it give them more benefit to have another firefighter or a promotions person. Fire Chief LeClair said when he took over he proposed doing away with a deputy chief slot so he could hire more people, his current deputy chief and he observed the responsibilities of the other deputy chief position. Commissioner Hernandez asked him if he could possibly give them a 5 year plan to fully staff the fire department, Fire Chief LeClair said he sure could. Commissioner Hernandez said this was going to take a lot of people's budgets do prepare for that. Commissioner Hernandez said the fire department is the only department that is majorly understaffed, City Manager Paluch said and police as well.

Commissioner Hernandez said no that is a recruitment issue, she said right but we are working on that real hard.

Next Finance Director Hall presented the Police Department.

Commissioner Hernandez told Police Chief Peete that a few years ago some officer's wives come to a commission meeting and accused the commission of not allowing the police officers what they needed and said in the police budget he only saw some replacement for some tasers. He asked Police Chief Peete if that is all he needed. He answered, in this particular point and time we are there are several big ticket items that they are looking at to modernize the police department to include an increase in man power, but at this particular point in time he is still trying to make an assessment what they need and prioritize them then come up with a strategic outline for what they would like to have. Commissioner Hernandez said that one got pretty ugly because they as the commission, they ask for something and they either approve in or deny it and as you can see they hardly ever deny something. Commissioner Hernandez said they not know what the police department needs and wants to make sure that does not happen again. He said it was not fair to the commission to get blindsided like that and it is his responsibility to make sure they are aware of what they need, which is why he is going to be working on that strategic plan. Commissioner Hernandez told Police Chief Peete that his preference is that his troops know that he is working on that so their wives don't go to them. Police Chief Peete responded, he has been meeting one on one with each of the members of the police department and he actually asked their spouses to come and got their concerns and ideas. Commissioner Hernandez said they go off of what he tells them as they do not what his department needs.

Commissioner Sikes said as far as pets go people should have a license for their pet and it is a minimal fee, it is \$5. It would be a significant amount of revenue. Finance Director Hall said the software they purchased this year can track annually that their license fees are coming up. Commissioner Hernandez said another job for the PIO, they can put out information about the licensing and donations and they can also publish ordinances like garage sales.

Commissioner Rardin asked Police Chief Peete about a NARC unit and said they need it in Alamogordo. He asked him if they are looking into putting money aside for it. Police Chief Peete answered yes, the increase in the training budget is one of the things that is within their proposed budget. City Manager Paluch told Police Chief Peete that he has his letter coming out to the public. He said yes, that one was published in Sunday's Alamogordo Daily News letting the public know what their new mission statement is and the core values that were based from the officers, sergeants, and supervisors.

Finance Director Hall presented the Community Services Department.

City Manager Paluch said staff needs some input on where commission wants the marquee sign. Commissioner Hernandez asked they could check on LED lights to see if they could get rebates.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin said in references to the parks and community services, they City manager and him have had conversations about what they can effect in reference to the outcry form the community to make sure we get this bed down with Holloman with the branding they mentioned. He asked what they can do as a municipality to really do that, well parks and recreation. Those are the things they can do right now and he was disappointed they did not see anything else being requested and everyone knows the parks look bad at no fault of Erik's or his crew but what can the City do to check that box off and making their green spaces green is one of them. He said when it comes time to make decisions about these parks, he stated he wants this to be on record because this conversation has happened so many times he is blue in the face. He said he has said for the past five years, parks and promotion. We have people in our parks every day, let's get it to look good.

Finance Director Hall said the last department tonight is the Housing Authority.

Mayor Boss said he noticed there is a decrease in maintenance, are they cutting back on the maintenance they do. Finance Director Hall said they are replacing vehicles with newer vehicles so there will be a decrease in the cost.

Commissioner Hernandez said on the lawnmower, didn't we put sheds so everyone can have their own lawnmower. City Manager Paluch said no there are sheds at plaza, they put their regular household belongings in there. Housing has been in charge of mowing their own lawns there. He said he thought that when they put this sheds there that was it was for. Housing Manager Huff stated that may have been but that was 20 years ago so she that policy was lost somewhere in the shuffled. He said if it is a policy and it's not, (Housing Manager interrupted). She said it is not a written policy, there is nothing written down and City Manager Paluch agreed.

Commissioner Hernandez said they do recurring projects and he wants to make sure they keep up with the warranty and he knows some of those projects they could have done under that. Housing Manager said the newer roofs at Alta Vista have a longer warranty, and he said as long as they keep track of those.

Commissioner Rardin moved to adjourn at 10: p.m.

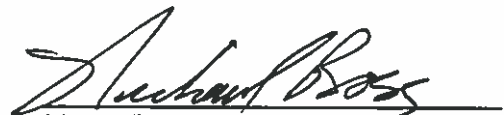
Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin seconded the motion.

Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT




City Clerk Rachel Hughs


Mayor Richard Boss

(Prepared by Eric Barraza, Deputy Clerk and City Clerk Hughs)
Approved at the Regular Meeting held on May 22, 2018.