

**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
6:30 P.M., COMMISSION CHAMBERS
AUGUST 28, 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 / INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Boss called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Roll Call was taken by the Deputy City Clerk. Deputy City Clerk Barraza announced there was a quorum present. City Clerk Hughs was absent. Invocation was given by Judge Ryan Suggs and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Hernandez moved to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Rardin seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lori Lamb commented on the following:

She introduced herself as the President of Rotary Little League. She thanked and commended the Commission as the face of Alamogordo in trying to make the improvements for Alamogordo. She complimented the little league complex. She said there are some questions and concerns about budgeting and funding. She expressed her concern for safety issues at the fields. She asked if anyone could help her find answers on the lighting situation.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Paluch made the following remarks:

1. She said Sahara Apartments is moving right along. She said Southwest Abatement and Terracon mobilized on Monday August 27, 2018. Currently, Southwest Abatement is encapsulating and removing the exterior plaster located on the upper "A" shaped ends of each structure. In Addition, a foot of plaster around the perimeter of each structure is also being encapsulated and abated at this moment. She said this process is necessary to minimize the disturbance of asbestos containing materials when the roofs are removed, and commencement of structure demolition is still about a week out.
2. She said Kids Kingdom is moving right along. If you have driven by down Washington or Oregon, you will see that the equipment is currently being installed and we are still on target for the park to be completed the second half of October.
3. She spoke on the Scenic Extension and she announced that Union Pacific Railroad turned in the agreement documents on August 22, 2018. She said with a project this large the documents were quite substantial, and they are being reviewed by our Legal department currently. In addition, the Project Engineer for the city is reviewing the exhibits that were attached to that agreement for technical conformance. The agreement does cover the new crossing at Scenic extension, minor upgrades to the Tenth Street crossing and the closing of the Eighth Street crossing.
4. She said the Street Maintenance project is also moving right along. If you drive through the city you will see many of our streets are closed right now. Paving on Aspen and Spruce to the cul-de-sac, and the milling and prep work for Adams and Washington has begun. The new water main and service

lines on Spruce are completed and the new water main on McKinley has been installed up to Ridgecrest.

5. She said the top dressing on Balloon Park is just over 50 percent complete, and the Otero County youth soccer leagues will begin practicing on that field the second week of September.

REMARKS AND INQUIRIES BY THE CITY COMMISSION

Commissioner Sikes made the following comments:

She complimented Chief Peete on the Crisis Intervention Training. She credited Commissioner Hernandez for his encouragement to get this kind of training for our Police Department. She said Chief Peete got a grant to do the training. She said there was a lot of law enforcement at the training and probably about 40 people at these trainings. She said the company that did the training will be back to follow up on what they surveyed and taught those few days. She thanked Commissioner Hernandez for the impetus to get this thing going and she thinks it is going to only serve to make our community a better place for community policing. She said law enforcement knows that sometimes they are dealing with people who may look like they are exhibiting criminal behavior, but it is behavior that could be aided through the help of behavioral health techniques.

She spoke on the passing of Mr. Chuck Galusha. Mr. Galusha was responsible for building the gazebo in Alameda Park, he was a founding member of Earth Day, and he started the Keep Alamogordo Beautiful program. She said his shining moment in Alamogordo and it continues to be something that goes on here is the fact that he started with the Breakfast Lions Club a thing called "Operation Kids Sight". She explained that in this program they screen children for six different eye problems. She said now numerous Lions Clubs throughout the State do the screenings. She said it continues today and as of this afternoon they have done over 35,000 kids so far this year. She said she didn't know Mr. Galusha very well, and she hopes that those of you who did keep him in their prayers. She said we can't forget about the people who made such large contributions.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve the minutes for the August 14, 2018 Regular meeting. *(Rachel Hughs, City Clerk)*
2. Consider, and act upon, the Lodger's Tax Expenditures for Tourism & Advertising *(Michelle Brideaux, Communications & Marketing Administrator)*
3. Approve the annual Airport Maintenance Grant. *(Jim Talbert, Airport Manager)*
4. Consider, and act upon, final publication of Ordinance No. 1574, to change zoning from R-1 Single Family to R-3 Two-Family for the address of 1201 Oregon Ave. only case: Z-2018-0003(A) *(Stella Rael, Acting City Planner)* (Roll Call Vote Required)

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin asked to remove Item # 3 from the Consent Calendar

Commissioner Hernandez moved to approve items 1, 2, and 4 of the consent calendar.

Commissioner Wright seconded the motion.

Roll call vote was taken.

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

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

3. Approve the annual Airport Maintenance Grant. *(Jim Talbert, Airport Manager)*

Airport Manager Talbert explained a major change in the way this grant is working this year. He the State has elected to give a two-year grant for \$20,000 instead of a one-year grant for \$10,000. He said the big issue that would bring about is that we will be committing two-years of the 10 percent, it is a

90/10 grant, so instead of just committing just \$1,000 this fiscal year, we will be committing \$2,000 for this fiscal year, and then it will be carried forward into next fiscal year. He said the grant can be spent all in either year or it can be spent at any proportion between the two years. He said what this does is saves a lot of paperwork, we do not have to create a new grant for two years and it also allows a lot less money to be left on the table because of the nature of the grant, it is difficult to hit zero at the right time.

Mayor Boss asked if we get \$20,000 for \$2,000. Airport Manager Talbert answered that is correct.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. Consider, and act upon, Application 1097136, The Local by Memories, a Restaurant Beer and Wine Liquor License with on the Premises Consumption Only with Patio Service located at 1223 N. New York Ave, Alamogordo, NM 88310. (Rachel Hughs, City Clerk)

Deputy City Clerk Barraza said basically this is just what it says, it is a beer and wine license for the Local for consumption only with patio service located at New York Avenue.

Mayor Boss asked if this has been approved by the State agencies to this point. Deputy City Clerk Barraza answered he believes so.

Commissioner Payne said she is a little confused because they have closed. She asked if this will transfer with them wherever they move or if they move. She said at this point they have closed or they are getting ready to close and they don't have any place yet.

Mayor Boss said he is guessing that staff did not know they moved.

Commissioner Payne apologized, and said it just dawned on her when she saw this, but she was just in there the other day, they were closing their doors, but they indicate that they were looking for another building. She said she does not know how that works, she does not know if they should approve that or wait. She said they told her that they were closing their doors.

Mayor Boss asked City Attorney Schreiber if she had a comment. She said it would be her recommendation that we table this item to get clarification on the state of the business and perhaps we can bring it back to the next meeting after the Clerk's Office gets some clarification.

Commissioner Payne moved to table.
Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion.
Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Consider, and act upon, approving commencement of foreclosure proceedings to recoup the remaining LEDA funds owed to the City by Premier Pellets. (Petria Schreiber, City Attorney)

City Attorney Schreiber said we did a LEDA project with Premier Pellets in June of 2010. They never actually opened and created any new jobs. We were able to seize a dryer and sell it at auction to help repay some of the \$147,420 owed. She said this came to our attention during a meeting when the Finance department wanted to write this debt off. She said she has been in communication with Mr. Lou Matthews who is the Independent Administrator of the Estate of Murray Matthews, who is deceased. She said he is very anxious to get this resolved. He has offered about \$40,000 to call this

done. At this point and time, she believes it would be best to commence the foreclosure proceedings. She said once we do that, there is an arbitration clause that we can sit down with them and attempt to work something out, but it would be her goal in the foreclosure proceedings to recoup more money than \$40,000, since we are still owed over \$70,000 at this point.

Commissioner Hernandez said he believes the last time they spoke about this, we felt like we weren't going to get anything. He said if City Attorney Schreiber feels like we can get more that is fine, he was just looking to check it and see where we are at. He said \$40,000 is better than zero, but if we can get more.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin said the sale of the dryer was kind of unexpected.

Mayor Boss asked how we got a hold of the dryer and were able to sell that. He said he was not familiar with that.

Commissioner Rardin said he sat in these meetings with Mr. Murray Matthews when they did this agreement and when he wanted LEDA money to buy that dryer. Commissioner Rardin said they talked Mr. Matthews into giving us the mortgage. He asked City Attorney Schreiber if we were in second place. She answered we are in first currently. Commissioner Rardin said when they shut down, they had an auction and we took the biomass burner and sold it. He asked City Attorney Schreiber if we try and foreclose, does she think if we will recoup our full \$72,000. She said she does not know the value of the land, so she does not have any right to go in and have it appraised at this point and time. She did discuss this with the Economic Development Department, because her first thought was that she didn't think that we would get anything, so \$40,000 seemed like a great deal. She said she would expect to have a valuation of the land and the buildings and to be able to make a more solid call on what's best for the City, but we need to get there. Commissioner Rardin said if he remembered right there was a large amount of property out there, but we only put a mortgage on a certain portion of it. City Attorney Schreiber said what's in the book is only what we have the mortgage on, so we only have the land with the building on it. Commissioner Rardin asked if it is just the building part of it. She answered yes.

Commissioner Hernandez asked City Attorney Schreiber what her recommendation is. She answered she recommends that we proceed with foreclosure proceedings. She said the \$40,000 will remain on the table. She thought that would be the way to go at this point and attempt. She said her concern is that this is taxpayer money, so we want to recoup as much as we can.

Commissioner Hernandez moved to approve.

Commissioner Rardin seconded the motion.

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

7. Consider, and act upon, Memorandum of Understanding with the HIDTA White Mountain Task Force. (Brian Peete, Chief of Police)

Police Chief Peete talked about HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area), the Alamogordo Police Department and their plans of what to do with HIDTA. He showed a power point presentation. (See Blue Book for Power Point Presentation).

Mayor Boss said he noticed that we are re-joining. He asked why did we get out of the program. Police Chief Peete said it depends on who you talk to, but what it boils down to were disagreements and who was going to run the organization, how the organization was going to run and what they were going to target. He said APD tried to start its narcotics unit by itself, but manpower wouldn't allow it. He believes that Otero County does have individuals that are assigned to doing narcotics investigations, but APD does not.

Commissioner Sikes asked if they approved the MOU this evening, when will it actually start. Police Chief Peete said they would get started immediately. He said they would get all of their Officers designated as

cost commission in HIDTA. He said any arrests or any other things that they worked on, they would begin the immediate sharing of information. He said as far as him dedicating one or two Officers to do nothing but specifically work narcotics that would happen the next three months, perhaps. Commissioner Sikes asked if he sees any drawbacks or holes because there are some law enforcement that aren't a part of it, and would that be a problem. Police Chief Peete answered he believes not. He said they would be cross-commissioned to work with Lincoln County, so they would have jurisdiction anywhere in Lincoln County, but in Otero County their jurisdiction would be limited. He said they do work with the Sheriff's Department, so he does not foresee any issues with those investigations now.

City Manager Paluch commented that she sees a lot of new faces in the audience, and she does not believe all of the new people knew about signing up for public comment for each individual item. She suggested that for the rest of the meeting, Mayor Boss may want to allow them to come up and do public comment.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin said it was his understanding too, that was the reason that we are no longer apart of HIDTA. He said he has a little bit of concern because every time it seems we come to this there is always a who's in charge issue. He said he gets really tired of organizations and especially law enforcement agencies not doing what is right for the common good of the people and getting into an arguments of who's in charge and where the funds are going to come from and stuff like that. He understands it is necessary and they are only trying to protect their own. He said their own is Otero County and it is the citizens that we are here to take care of. He said he has a little cause only because of that. He really hopes that they do really work well with the other organizations and he hopes that the Sheriff-Elect does decide to go down this road. He said one of the last slides it says that there are no up-front costs. He said he saw a couple of heads turn when that was mentioned. He asked Police Chief Peete what are some potential, down the road costs. He answered there are no down the road costs, what HIDTA does is reimburse overtime expenditures for anything that is narcotic related. Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin asked so no up-front costs is implying that there is no rear-end costs. Police Chief Peete answered basically yes, they would spend the money currently in their overtime budget to pay those Officers that are working HIDTA overtime, but they would get that money back within one to two months.

City Attorney Schreiber wanted to clarify the record. She said actually if we look in Section X of this contract it does read that "Each law enforcement agency shall bear all costs for the personal services of their respective personnel that are assigned to the Task Force, including payment for wages, salaries, overtime and all fringe benefits, and then B says however, if funding is available for the payment of overtime by other sources such as, but not limited to grant funds, the grant funds should be used before the law enforcement agencies funds are used." She said there is no guarantee here that we will receiving funds for overtime. She also thought it was worth pointing out to the Commission that we are not actually joining HIDTA with this MOU, we are joining the White Mountain Task Force. She said we will have to sign an agreement with Lea County before we actually join HIDTA. She said she has spoken with a gentleman named Mr. William Robert Sullivan, who is highly involved with HIDTA at the State level and he does confirm what Police Chief Peete said about the risk assessment. She said once that is filled out and Lea County approves, Lea County will send a sub-recipient our flow-through agreement to us. Once that agreement is signed by the City of Alamogordo and Lea County then we will be able to receive reimbursement that meet the HIDTA requirements. She said not everything will necessarily be reimbursed, but that is how that will work up to and until that flow-through agreement is received and approved by the Commission and then ultimately signed, we will be responsible for all costs. She wanted to clear that for the record.

Police Chief Peete said regarding Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin's question regarding partnerships with the Sheriff-Elect as well as their peers, he is not the type of person who will want to stamp his name on anything or take credit for anything. He said his intent is to maintain the safety of the people that live in this city and the safety of his Officers. If there is any push back that would ever come from him regarding HIDTA, he could care less about the credit, he only cares about that Officers are safe and that the right amount of time to looking at issues within Otero or within Alamogordo are evenly distributed. He has also been in touch with Mr. Sullivan for the past two to three months, he as well as the executive committee of HIDTA. He said so when he says joining HIDTA once we start an MOU the White Mountain Task Force is essentially for all good points and purposes part of HIDTA. He said and with the other part as far as up-front costs with paying our officers to work the streets, when he says up-front costs, his definition of it is "it's not like there is a fee to join the club, or that we have to put in a certain amount of money to get a certain amount back or

matching funds or anything to that effect." He said we still have our officers, we are paying their salaries and benefits, but we are allowing them exclusively to work narcotics investigations. He said other things such as gas or mileage, we already work with BIA and we already work with Ruidoso, Ruidoso Downs and Cloudcroft when they request help, we go up there and help them. In his opinion it would be the same thing that they are using their resources to help maintain the safety of our communities.

Commissioner Payne asked Judge Suggs if he could share some of his experience he has had with HIDTA.

Judge Suggs said he was the agent that got kicked out of HIDTA here in Alamogordo in 2003. He said believe it or not they all worked very well back then. In 2003, we had State Police, Otero County and Alamogordo Police Department and like Police Chief Peete said because of some internal turmoil and disagreement about who was the boss and who was the supervisor, they were voted out of the Task Force and that was the last time Otero County had a fully operating joint task force. He said first off, personally as an individual he supports HIDTA. He believes it is a good program, but there is a lot that comes with though. He said he could give the Commission the very specifics of the problems that they ran into, although he thinks if it is built right with Police Chief Peete and Sheriff-Elect Black he thinks it could be a great program. He said one of the first problems that you are going to run into are the policies, if you don't have that addressed from the front side. He said whose policies do you follow, do you follow Alamogordo PD's policies or do you follow Lincoln County's policy. He said he can give specifics, to back up a little bit, you have an incinerator at 25th and Puerto Rico that was bought by HIDTA probably in 2000ish when he was assigned to that building. When Alamogordo DPS left HIDTA, HIDTA bought the incinerator, but the City of Alamogordo owned the property, so there was a dispute on that. If you don't have a building established on who owns the building, who has the rights to the building, who has the rights to the property, you are going to get into a dispute later just like already happened in probably 2003 or 2004. He said it is right when you sign this MOU, you are signing into White Mountain Task Force. He mentioned that Sheriff-Elect Black is in the audience and he does not know his intentions. He said right now you will not get commissioned by HIDTA, you get commissioned by Lincoln County Sheriff, but that commission is good for Lincoln County, so he does not know what would we do with a Lincoln County commission here in Otero County. He said City Officers could run up the mountain and work up there all day, but then again what would it do for Otero County. He said if Sheriff-Elect's intention is to commission, then you would have a cross-commission when he signs on. He said if you look at the map or slide, HIDTA is divided into 7 Task Forces. He said the Region 6 Drug Task Force, the Program Manager in Artesia, he is fully funded by HIDTA, he has his HIDTA salary, HIDTA pays him directly. He thinks it is \$87,000 a year and he works for HIDTA, he manages it. He explained how the budget process works for HIDTA. He said you don't have any up-front costs to it, you provide the manpower, they pay for the overtime, you don't pay the salaries, they are still on board as employees, but they reimburse you on overtime and things like that, they provide cell phones, your overtime and equipment if needed, but it is not an open ended budget. He said you ask for what you get, you itemize it out and you stay within your budget and you can move the money around. He said probably the first time in fifteen years you have a Chief and a Sheriff in this room that are willing to back into HIDTA together and run things. He said he thinks they could take the right steps and build the program so that it will not fall apart, but if you don't know the problems that they ran into in the past, he does not know how they would avoid them. He said there was an evidence agreement with the task force over in Deming. No one was in control of the evidence vault, so you have multiple agencies putting evidence in and out of the vault, taking evidence in and out of the vault, who is responsible for that evidence, whose policy supersedes who. Everybody in that instance over there washed their hands of it and ended up getting the US Attorney involved in that situation and they ended up bringing in an extra Auditor. He said those are some of the problems. If your money is temporarily suspended and you don't meet the reporting requirements where does your reimbursement costs come from, those are on you. Those are a lot of the things to think about. He said the policies are a big one, if you don't have the policies up front or the understanding up front of who is running what, that was the argument he got into back in 2003. He was a supervisor in the Task Force but he worked for State Police and he had a supervisor in Las Cruces, so who is supposed to direct his day to day operation. He said that is one of the things you have got to think about. Commissioner Payne said that is huge. Judge Suggs said that is what ended the task force for us was just that. He said he doesn't know if Sheriff-Elect had anything to add but he will certainly answer any questions, he spent 15 years in HIDTA and ultimately ran it for the State Police across the entire State.

Commissioner Rardin asked if they could put the potential Sheriff-Elect on the spot and come up and talk a little bit. He then said personally based off what Judge Suggs just said, he feels HIDTA is a good thing, but he is wondering if they should take the rest of this year and maybe if Police Chief Peete, Sheriff-Elect Black and Judge Suggs are willing to help us sit down and structure this thing and then if potential Sheriff-Black is willing to get back into HIDTA, we can get this structured and set-up after the first of the year when he potentially takes office. He said it sounds like it is not going to do Otero County any good right now, it is only going to do Lincoln County good for the time being, he asked if that is correct. Police Chief Peete said even to that extent, those are just the possibilities of what they can do. He said in working with Sheriff-Elect Black the past several weeks and months, he believes that Mr. Black's heart is in the same place, in that he is not worried about credit, he is only worried about what the folks of this County have elected him to do. Police Chief Peete said he believes that they already have a very strong, existing working relationship. He said signing this MOU would allow us to get ahead of the game. He said they will not designate Officers off the street directly to work for this task force. He said they would just be cross commissioned to do that, if there was something that was a pressing issue up on the mountain that they may need our assistance, we would have the jurisdiction to go over there to help them with it, to investigate that and to include down here as well. He said so if we had an investigation that we did not have detective manpower to do, we could also ask them to come down and help as well.

Commissioner Payne asked how much money are you talking about. Police Chief Peete asked how much money in overtime. She said in this how much money would typically be designated to Otero County or our area. Police Chief Peete said to the region, we would look at the budget situation and then we would look at potentially how many cases we historically want. He said based on that there will be an estimate of how much money that the task force would allot to region 6 or a specific area. Commissioner Payne said what she is asking is what do you think this will save as far as, because you are talking about going into your overtime, how much money are you talking about, do you have any idea. She said surely you have kind of sat down and thought about, obviously we are doing this for financial reasons, so we can allocate more resources. Police Chief Peete said no ma'am, he is actually doing it to, for him personally, to join that task force to give them the best opportunity to get drugs out of the area. Commissioner Payne said we could do that now, but there is a reason why you are joining forces, right. Police Chief Peete said we could start a narcotics enforcement unit on our own, if push came to a shove, but he honestly believes that through cooperation with their sister agencies we would have a much better outcome rather than just being our own island on this side. He said one of the benefits, it is true, is to get reimbursed for overtime. He said the intelligence that we would get from HIDTA, the safety for Officers to help down on blue on blue shootings would be his prime indicators. He said each officer can be reimbursed up to \$16,000 of overtime. He said in some areas, you do have officers that do work HIDTA full time, that do work that much. He does not anticipate any one single officer in the department working \$16,000 worth of overtime, but there will be overtime costs. Commissioner Payne said the benefit would be for the District Attorney's Office as they would actually receive funding, is that right. Judge Suggs said they are considered what is called "Operation up the Ladder", they are funded separately. He said Police Chief Peete would submit his budget to the Sheriff in Lincoln County. They would put it together and send it over to Mr. Sullivan in Eddy County, but that would not cover a prosecutor. Individual task forces don't have prosecutors. The District Attorney has his own HIDTA grant that he can put in for and get a prosecutor grant, where he stands with that he does not know. Commissioner Payne said she thought you mentioned something in here about prosecutors.

Commissioner Sikes asked if our District Attorney can apply for HIDTA funds if we are not part of HIDTA. Police Chief Peete said no, they are separate. He said everything is driven by statistics, so if Otero County only has 60 HIDTA related arrests or investigations that does not justify him putting in for it. He could put in for a grant to see if he could get additional paralegals or an additional prosecutor, but he will never get it. The more arrests that we have, the more investigation that we work, the more they can apply for.

Commissioner Payne said really in a sense, it is dependent on us whether he gets it, because the more arrests you make, the more arrests the Sheriff's Department makes, the better his chances are of getting more funding. She said essentially that is what you are saying.

Judge Suggs said again he sat at that table many years where they took budgets from agencies and they gave budgets from agencies. He said the District Attorneys in New Mexico, as well as the United States Attorneys have the same ability as the law enforcement do. They can put in for these grants, they put in for

what they need and how many cases they are going to prosecute. He said Commissioner Payne is right in that right now they couldn't apply for them because the cases that they are prosecuting are not HIDTA cases. He said they have to be deemed HIDTA cases, they have to come from the HIDTA task force so right now he couldn't get any money for it. He said when you become a HIDTA task force you start shifting those cases over to the District Attorney's Office to prosecute then he could make the argument to get some money to find an Attorney, but then again it is all measured. He said when those cases drop, then the funding could drop and like-wise if the funding is not there or they want to stop funding prosecutors, then the District Attorney would be sitting there with an Attorney that he has to pick up the funding for internally out of his own budget.

City Attorney Schreiber said to piggy back on what Judge Suggs is saying, you remember that her office has recently taken on all the prosecution in the Magistrate Courts over from the District Attorney's Office because they eliminated the position because of this exact reason. She said he has lost at least one if not two attorneys due to this very issue.

Sheriff-Elect Black said obviously he can't do anything right now, but come January 1, 2019 they will be signing an MOU and getting back into HIDTA. He has discussed this with Chief Peete quite a bit, and he has even visited with Judge Suggs. He said Judge Suggs sent him a lot of paperwork via email to study up on. He is in the process of educating himself on everything right now, so that he totally understands it when they get into it. He thinks it is a great program and it is going to help everybody in Otero County and again they are going to partner on this. He said he does not care who takes the lead, he doesn't care who gets the credit. He said let's give credit to where it's due. He said we have some agents out there doing some good work, give them the credit. He said let's collaborate, let's work together and let's see if we can make a difference on the streets.

Judge Suggs said he thinks it is a great, worthy venture as long as the planning is there. He said the HIDTA Task Force has to be run by a Board and that was a problem in the lessons learned in the past. If any one particular agency runs that task force that agency dictates the actions of the day. Task Forces only work when you have multiple agencies participating, working well and playing well with each other. He said to give you an example, if you have five agencies working together in that task force then you should have a board consisting of five heads from those five agencies making those decisions. He said with that comes a task force and this is where the mistakes are often made, an agency will often step up to the plate and say they are willing to put a Commander in the Task Force and he will command the unit. He thinks that is a grave mistake because that agency that puts in that Commander now essentially runs that task force. He said this happened over in Deming in the Task Force over there, what they did is when they re-built that last strip before he left was HIDTA funded the Task Force Commander. He said when they re-built that HIDTA funded that task Force Commander, they saved \$87,000 aside for the salary and \$17,000 aside for his overtime. He said there is your salary for a Commander, now you hire external, you bring in a Commander and he reports to the Board, he doesn't report to individual agencies, he reports to the Board, so that not any one agency controls where we work today. They don't all go work in Lincoln County versus Otero County, they all don't work in the City versus the County, it is a task force and they work under that Commander. He said if makes one suggestion at all, the task forces in his experience works better with a HIDTA funded Commander and not an agency provided Commander.

Mayor Boss asked City Attorney Schreiber if they approve the Memorandum, the adjustments that they spoke of and all the considerations, are we knocking ourselves of doing that. She said a couple of things in this MOU, if she can turn your attention to the first page it does call for an establishment of the Board of Directors. In addition, on the second page in section 6 it does call for specific policies and procedures that are not contained in this MOU which are necessary to further the purpose of the agreement maybe developed and promulgated by an agreement between the parties. She said basically all the parties will have to get together and formulate policies and procedures, which she believes is one of the things Judge Suggs was talking about. She said all policies and procedures which may be developed, shall be approved by the Board of Directors. She said the last thing on page 4, it does talk about the task force direction and control, so there is one Commander that will have control of the investigative operations up in Lincoln County, and there is one Deputy Commander who will have control in Otero County. She said it does talk about the Commander being located within Lincoln and the Deputy Commander being located in Otero County. She said everyone has one vote, the District Attorney gets to have one vote, one for the

Commander and one for the Deputy Commander and they will coordinate operations openly and fairly share their resources. She said those are in here, we do not have anything more specific about evidence storage or any of that. She said that is what this MOU says, anything further will have to be hashed out between the parties of the agreement for this MOU.

Commissioner Hernandez said he is not going to ask for a five-year HIDTA plan. He said just to make it clear, he is very pro drug enforcement. He has two roommates and that is all they do day in and day out. He said they have taken over a million dollars of drugs off the streets the last few months. He is very pro drug enforcement, but he does have a lot of concerns. He said nobody mentioned Mr. Bobby Duncan. He said Mr. Duncan tried this with Ruidoso and it failed and it cost us a lot of money. He said he also has staffing issue concerns and whether this is the right place and right time. He asked who is going to be a part of this, his guess a select few, which brings back the problems the last time they had it. He thinks they need to get all those things straightened out. He said they also have a SWAT Team, oh wait we don't have a SWAT Team yet, but the Commission did approve funds. He said they also talked about a motor patrol which we are still not there yet. He said we have a lot of things going, when are we going to get one of them started. He thinks in order to do something right you have to put full attention to it. He said you have too many irons in the fire, you are going to lose one, and he thinks that is where we are at today. He said we don't have Sheriff Black until at least January, he would recommend that we sit down and put this on pencil and paper and figure it out and make sure that we can do this. Get a strict plan on how we are going to do this so that it doesn't fail a second time or actually a third time. At this time, he has a lot of concerns and he will not be able to support this, but he does think it is a good program and he thinks they can make it work if they have a plan. He really does not see that they have a plan today. He said our budget is tight, do we want to spend that money today.

Commissioner Sikes asked what money would we be spending today. Commissioner Hernandez said it's a reimbursement program so you have to put it up front. Commissioner Sikes said she appreciates the comments, but she always feels like we are wearing cement shoes. We talk about doing things, yet we never let people get empowered enough to do them. She said she would support this because it is a beginning, it's a start. She thinks it is time we allow our Police Chief to be empowered and do things that Police Chiefs do. She said we are not Police Chiefs, we are not law enforcement, some of us have more experience than others, but for the most part when we look at the past and some of our failures it's because we like to stick our fingers in to things that we do not know a lot about. She thinks that by recruiting a Police Chief from a metropolitan area, who has a lot of insight, who wants to do things. She thinks get the MOU going and if doesn't work out ultimately, we've not lost anything, all we've done is supported a department that wants to do something to make this community a better place. She said let's get something going.

Police Chief Peete told Commissioner Hernandez that he totally understands. He has been talking to several individuals in regards to our department's failure on making this program work in the past. He said whether it was personality driven or anything else, the only thing that he can say in coming in here, his assessment of the department is that there are several vital areas that need attention, each of them a high priority depending on what happens that day. He believes and actually he is very confident to handle all these different programs at once. He said to bring as much change as quickly as possible because what he sees with the Alamogordo Police Department is that it needs a cultural change and that it needs focus and it needs to do what Police agencies are supposed to do. He said right now this department is barely hanging on to just answering calls. He said he has to plan, in his opinion, with the department so when they are ready to implement we can go step by step by step. He said please hold him accountable to that, he has said that to every citizen he has ever worked with and spoken with here. He would anticipate that the Commission would hold him accountable to that.

Commissioner Hernandez said the problem is that he cannot hold him accountable. He said he has one employee that he can hold accountable and that is it. He does not think it is fair to hold her accountable when he has not had an in-depth discussion on where she sits with this, but again he is very uncomfortable and it is what it is. He said whatever the Commission decides tonight, he will support that as he always has because he never believes in the I aspect of this Commission. He said he fought that over and over again with Mayor Galea and so whatever this Commission votes on tonight he will support that and will back it up, but he is at where he is at.

Mayor Boss thanked Judge Suggs and Sheriff-Elect Black for their input.

Commissioner Payne said you just said something that was interesting about just barely hanging on with just answering calls. She asked Police Chief Peete if he could clarify that. Police Chief Peete said right now they are manning issues, when they have individuals on vacation or training, we are just being reactive Policing and the goal is to move to Proactive policing. Commissioner Payne said she is just trying to figure out or maybe she is asking this wrong, but you will have to take some of those Officers for this Task Force. She said she is just trying to figure out how we are going to do that because you are kind of indicating that you are short staffed. She said the last time he spoke he said they had plenty of Officers, we were talking about a resource officer for the schools and he made the comment that he could easily do that and then he just made this comment and maybe she is confused in two different things, but she is trying to figure out how this is going to work because she is with Commissioner Hernandez, she is not super comfortable with this. She said she will be honest with you, she sees a train wreck. She sees all these agencies working together without a plan, she would probably be more comfortable if she saw a plan but she is thinking and Judge Suggs said himself that whose policies do you go by. She would like for him to clarify because he did state when they allocated another resource Officer to the schools that you were fine and then you just said we are barely hanging on, so she is trying to figure out how all that is going to work and how he is going to fit Officers into this task force on top of it.

Police Chief Peete said back in that time we were anticipating an influx in Officers in which they met their quota, unfortunately they had a detective that left and they had individual that they hired that had backed out, but in the interim we have two folks that are in the Academy, we have hired three certified Officers and then we have two more in January that will be going to the Academy in Santa Fe. He said by time, in planning for this now, and knowing where my manning levels will be in the next few months, he can plan for proactive police operations. If he does not plan for proactive police operations, three months from now he will be three months behind the power curve in implementing those programs, policies and procedures. If manning dictates something else, an emergency happens then he can pull, it's flexibility, his five year plan will go into more in-depth with that, but it is a living breathing document. If there is a situation that dictates that he has to end the program then he will end the program, but the way he is looking at it is that he is staying positive and comfortable in the abilities of the officers in his department and staff in his department and well as himself that these are things that he can get done. He is just planning for them now to implement three months from now.

Mayor Boss said Police Chief Peete mentioned that just about everything that happens out there nowadays is probably going to be related in some way or another to drugs. He asked if he understood that correct. Police Chief Peete answered yes. Mayor Boss said we are going to be giving up resources, but we are also going to have the benefit of other resources from other departments, correct. Police Chief Peete answered yes. He said if he is giving a Detective, it's not that he is giving a Detective and they are not doing anything, they are out there going and arresting people, they are doing investigations, they are executing search warrants and they are taking people off the street. He said for any Police Department to be effective, for any community to be safe you need to levels of Policing, you need a reactionary police force and you need a proactive policing force and right now the Alamogordo police department is reactive and unless he implements programs that will get folks from answering phone calls all the time, unless he looks at his internal policies and procedures and restructures his staff in a way that he can move toward mon policing, towards intelligence led policing, then it will always feel like this, morale will always stay low and we will always have a recruiting and attention problem. He said he has worked specifically with HIDTA in Chicago. He has worked with HIDTA in the Federal Government. He has seen how organizations have fallen and he has seen how some of them have stayed strong, and his opinion it's all based on the cultural of the department and how well the individuals and agencies can talk to each other. He thinks with the opportunity to work with Sheriff-Elect Black, with our District Attorney, our Judges and to bring folks together to try and figure out the best ways to do more with less. He said he can do this.

Commissioner Wright said he is a strong supporter of HIDTA. He said his wife is in law enforcement and he gets to hear some of the drug problems in our schools and around. He asked if there would be any benefit to waiting till January and doing some pre-planning, maybe some more collaborative meetings with Otero and Lincoln Counties just to make sure that everybody is on board.

Police Chief Peete said ever since he has been appointed as Chief, he has been inundated with calls from the region, from the White Mountain task force and they have been collaborating from that point on. He said waiting, if they sign the MOU now, as he said before he is not allocating any resources that are going to be directly going to be on this HIDTA team, it is all going to be planning with our agencies and getting our policy and procedures in place. He said these are grass roots things, these are things to the extent as the Judge had mention as to who's going to take the evidence in a case, these are things that are law enforcement specific that the Commission would want to inundate itself with. He said they can bring that plan to the Commission. He said there are going to be several questions regarding chain of custody or those specific things that would take a more in depth discussion. He said at this point it is the Commission's decision, but we can work on those policies and at any time we can always pull out of the MOU.

Mayor Boss asked if he thought that he could handle this. He answered yes. Mayor Boss asked if he thought it was going to help with the drug problems in our community, in our region. He answered yes.

Commissioner Wright asked if there was anyone that never got their reimbursement. Judge Suggs said no sir, he cannot think of anyone that never got reimbursed, unless it was just inappropriate use of funds that didn't meet the requirement of the grant. Commissioner Wright said so the only reason the City would not be reimbursed is if we just drop the ball. Judge Suggs said just to be clear he supports HIDTA, he built a career on HIDTA, it is just lessons learned from him because he made the mistakes in his career and he was a part of the Task Force that fell apart.

Mayor Boss moved to approve.

Commissioner Sikes seconded the motion.

Motion carried with a vote of 4-3-0. Commissioner Payne, Rardin and Hernandez voted nay.

8. Consider, and act, upon, Resolution No. 2018-41 adopting an Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) and identifying the top five (5) recommended projects for Fiscal Years 2020-2024. (Sue Ashe, Accountant and Katie Josselyn, Acting Finance Director) (Roll Call Vote Required)

Accountant Ashe explained the top five recommended projects. She said the first one is a new first defender RMX hazmat identification tester, which is \$71,200 for the Fire Department. The second one is for Police department and it is for vehicles and equipment. She noted that the spreadsheet states \$200,000 but it should be \$250,000. The third is for a Library restroom for \$135,000 for Community Services. The fourth one is the Library north patio for \$279,738 for Community Services. The last one is for Facilities for ADA compliance for \$300,000.

City Manager Paluch said she wanted to make a quick note to the Commission that if they want to approve this tonight please make the motion indicating that the Police Department's vehicles and equipment is \$250,000, not \$200,000.

Commissioner Hernandez asked how these items were selected. Accountant Ashe said they were selected during the Department-Manager meeting.

Commissioner Rardin said in the past, with the ICIP, what they used to do is staff would bring the Commission a list and then the Commission would pick the top five of what they felt as a Commission that needed to be addressed or ask our legislators for x amount of dollars or whatever it may be. He said he agrees with Commissioner Hernandez cop cars were always on the list, but some of these other ones kind of seem like pet projects a little bit. He said typically under \$500,000 was what they shot for, and anything \$500,000 and below because that's about the max of what Capital Outlay money is. Commissioner Hernandez said it's now \$250,000.

City Manager Paluch said the State does require that they hold a public meeting, where the public can come and discuss the different projects and hear the projects that are sponsored from the individual directors. She said this is the time for the Commission to discuss the projects that they like. She said these were the top five that were recommended from staff and the Commission can certainly discuss those top five items here this evening.

Commissioner Rardin said it used to be that staff brought them a list of about a hundred of things and then the Commission would kind of go through it and pick and choose off of that list.

City Manager Paluch said that list is located listed just after the agenda report. She pointed out that if the Commission so wishes to discuss these projects she wants to make note that any of the projects in the fourth column that say federal grant have to be reported to the State, but they are part of a Federal grant so those projects are already funded. If the Commission would like to discuss any of the other ones you can certainly discuss those.

Commissioner Rardin asked in the fund source, anything that says federal government. City Manager Paluch answered yes sir. Accountant Ashe said they have to be listed on the ICIP for them to get any kind of source to grant.

Commissioner Sikes said a couple of projects on the list she was happy to see because they have been on the ICIP list for years and they have kind of just moved up the list. She said the renovations at the Library restrooms are absolutely necessary. She said the Library is one of our jewels in the community and she would really like to keep this on there. She said the ADA compliance, we have only been out of compliance for 25 years. She thinks that getting the money for ADA compliance would be a feather in their cap. She said she had a long drawn out conversation with Senator Burt and it was nothing but good news. She said apparently because of the oil boom in New Mexico, the money available for projects such as this has greatly increased. Not only might they actually get some money to do these projects, but they are talking about giving back money that they clawed back in previous years. She said yes they can look at the other projects on here, but these are things that she believes that need to be funded.

Commissioner Hernandez said the only reason he asked the question on how these came up was that he wanted to make sure that they looked at projects because there are a lot out there. He wanted to make sure that they are picking the projects that they knew they can get done and really need to be done. He said he does not disagree with any of these. He said the first two are pretty much mandatory that we have to get that stuff here. He said it would be nice to get the other ones, but if they don't it doesn't hurt bad. He said that was his main thing that they had a process of how they picked them.

Mayor Boss said he personally doesn't think that he could pick from the list. He said he thinks staff can do much better than he can.

Commissioner Rardin said there is one here for Ocotillo water storage for \$56, 800. He said that is really a little project that more than likely would get funded. He said little ones like that, where they could potentially get ICIP money to fund that stuff. He said water is very important. He said he noticed that there was one for a fire truck for \$81,000. He said it's not that he doesn't think that the Library is not important, but he feels that those are a little more of a pressing need for the community. He said that is where this is tough because the Library is pressing, but he thinks Fire trucks and water are more pressing and that is why he chimed in on that.

Assistant City Manager Cesar said to piggy back off what City Manager Paluch said, part of the reason you see water and waste water projects on there along with the Airport projects, for them to be able to go to the Water Trust Board (NMFA) they have to list those projects on the ICIP. He said currently they are in the final stages of the Desalinization Plant. He said they have a portion of State money that is going toward the plant, they would not be awarded if they put the Ocotillo tank on there, the rehab. He said the State Legislature would not consider that, if they put another drainage project on at this time, the first days of the Griggs reservoir just started so they wouldn't be awarded monies for that. He said the other thing that they look at, you will obviously see Police and Fire on there and Community Services. Police and Fire are a little bit different, but Community Services doesn't have the same ability to go to, like the Water Trust Board and have these projects funded. He said when we look at ICIP, from the Public Works standpoint, since we have these other avenues for funding projects, we try and let these other areas that don't have the same ability, to put in the applications to have their projects funded.

Mayor Boss said that is why the Library restrooms have not been funded for many years. Commissioner Sikes said since the beginning.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin made a motion to act upon Resolution 2018-41 as is the top five, adding that the public safety vehicles is \$250,000 and not \$200,000.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin moved to approve.

Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion.

Roll call vote was taken.

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

9. Consider, and act, upon lifting stage 1 water restrictions. (Larry Garner, Public Works Director)

Public Works Director Garner said we have recently finished the green storage tank rehab and a result of that we are able to take advantage of our well fields. He said people aren't using water so much to water their lawns because Mother Nature has been doing it and the fact that temperatures have started to recede just a little bit, we have been able to catch back up. He said we have mentioned before that we would try to keep us in stage 1 as brief as possible, staff now recommends that we can go ahead and come out of that stage 1 restriction.

Mayor Boss said we've got our storage tanks back up to a much safer level. Public Works Director Garner said a much safer level, yes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin moved to approve.

Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion.

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

10. Consider, and act upon, first publication of Ordinance 1577, an ordinance amending section 2140-40 of the Alamogordo Code of Ordinances regarding economic development. (Petria Schreiber, City Attorney) (Roll Call Vote Required)

City Attorney Schreiber said this is an amendment to our current LEDA Ordinance that does remove the retail from the Ordinance. She said she put this change there at the advice of the State. She did have members of her staff research the change and then they moved forward on it. This is actually a question for the voters. She did apologize that she did not trust the advice of the State that was completely on her. She said thankfully they have not done any retail projects, we have been in the hopper, so this change is in mind with what this Commission has been approving as far as projects and what we have coming down the pipe. She said if the Commission does want to fund retail projects, we can bring that to the voters and this goes on the ballot, but we do need to make this change in order to keep our Ordinance in compliance.

Commissioner Hernandez moved to approve.

Commissioner Sikes seconded the motion.

Roll call vote was taken.

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

11. Consider, and act upon, a request for authority to commence foreclosure proceedings on unpaid liens. (Petria Schreiber, City Attorney)

City Attorney Schreiber said these represent all of the liens that are outstanding through this month and through the end of the year that we can commence foreclosure proceedings on. She thanked Commissioner Hernandez who helped her out with a citizen today, who saw their name on the list. She said they called and they were able to talk to her about the lien, they set up a payment plan so we are having a lot of success with this and she does thank Commissioner Hernandez with that help. She said she would like to have permission to move forward on these. The first thing that they will do is they will start writing letters giving the property owners 30 days to contact her office and make arrangements to setup a payment plan. She said once they do that, we will not foreclose as long as they stay current on

their payment plan, however, if we do not hear from them, that address we do start to move forward on those foreclosures.

Commissioner Rardin said on the list, she has the Secretary of HUD. He asked if we are having problems collecting from HUD. City Attorney Schreiber said she believes that has gone through several ownership changes, so technically that is who the lien is filed against. She said that is kind of a special project that they will be keeping a close eye on, in trying to collect.

Commissioner Hernandez moved to approve.
Commissioner Rardin seconded the motion.
Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

Commissioner Hernandez commented that something that came up with this is the gentleman that he spoke to, claimed that he did not receive anything. He wanted to make sure that we make every effort to get the notice to the people.

City Attorney Schreiber said her office is required to send the notice to the address of record with the Otero County Assessor's Office. She said if you don't live in the property you own, please update your address. She said that is a lot of the issues they deal with.

Commissioner Hernandez said that was the issue today is that this gentleman owns two pieces of property and lives in one and the mail was going to the other one and he never got it. He said they were able to help him and take care of it.

12. Consider, and act upon, postponing the joint meeting with the Otero County Commission.
(Maggie Paluch, City Manager)

City Manager Paluch said after speaking with a couple of Commissioners, they had requested that this item come before the Commission to discuss whether or not they would like to move forward with the meeting on September 6, 2018 that is currently scheduled for 6:00 p.m. with the Otero County Commissioners or if you would like to postpone that until after the election sometime in February or March of 2019. She said several of the items that our Commissioners wanted to discuss would better be discussed once Sheriff-Elect Black is in Office.

Commissioner Rardin said he asked for this meeting when he first got back into office back in March. He said he spoke with City Manager Paluch and a couple of people and he thought it would be best to postpone it until February or March, due to the fact that two of the County Commissioners won't be there.

Commissioner Rardin motioned to postpone this meeting till sometime first quarter of 2019.

Commissioner Rardin moved to approve.
Commissioner Wright seconded the motion.
Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

13. Consider, and act upon, postponing or cancelling the Commission meeting of September 11, 2018 due to the September 11th Ceremony. (Richard Boss, Mayor)

Mayor Boss said he will attend the 9-11 event.

Commissioner Hernandez said he does not have a problem cancelling but he rather wait and see if they have agenda items that need to be placed on, something they need to vote on between now and then, he does not have a problem coming in earlier if that would be easier if they have to take care of business. Otherwise if they don't have any business to take care of then they can move forward with cancelling, but if there is business he would hate for it to have it wait. He thought the event started

around 7:30, so if they could do a 4:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. meeting, it depends on the agenda.

Mayor Boss said they can always call an Emergency meeting or a Special meeting. Commissioner Hernandez said if they could do it on Monday or Wednesday, if it is heavy items. He said it is going to be up to staff of what they have come up.

City Manager Paluch said there is a parade at 5:30 p.m. before the ceremony. Mayor Boss said we need to cancel it or move it to another date, we cannot have it on that date. City Manager Paluch said there is one item on the agenda for the next meeting, it could be postponed, it isn't a statutory requirement. She said it is the item of discussing the \$250,000 that we were a victim of fraud and where that funding would come from to insure proper payment. She said that item is on the agenda for September 11th, but again it is not a statutory requirement that we speak about it on the 11th. We could push it to September 28, 2018 which is the following meeting, but that is up to the Commission if you would like to discuss it.

Commissioner Hernandez asked what if we hold September 12, 2018 as a meeting date and if something comes up we have a meeting, if not we move forward the 28th. He said he does not want to put staff in a bind if we have an item come up that needs to be addressed because that happens. Mayor Boss said the 11th, he does not think that they need to try and fit it in earlier or anything.

City Manager Paluch said staff will contact the Commission the week before per our posting requirements and let you know if there is a meeting on the 12th or not. She asked Commissioner Hernandez if he said the 12th. He said it is dependent upon the Commission, the 10th or the 12th.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin motioned to move have the meeting on Monday September 10, 2018, if needed. City Manager Paluch asked if Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin could make his motion for staff to call a Special Meeting for September 10, 2018, in the case that we need it. Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin made a motion that if the Commission needs it, that staff calls a Special Meeting on Monday September 10, 2018.

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

Commissioner Payne asked if this includes cancelling Tuesday September 11, 2018 Commission meeting. Mayor Boss answered yes.

City Attorney Schreiber advised the Commission that they would actually need a motion to cancel the September 11, 2018 meeting.

Commissioner Hernandez motioned to approve cancelling the September 11th Regular Commission meeting.

**Commissioner Hernandez moved to approve.
Commissioner Payne seconded the motion.
Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.**

**14. Presentation on the Alamogordo Parks Division "5 Year Plan." (Erik Marion, Parks Manager)
*Erik Marion presented***

Parks Manager Marion presented a 5-year plan for Parks Maintenance. He said the purpose of the plan is to fully staff and resource the City of Alamogordo Parks Maintenance Division. He said the reason that is a need is to fill some resource gaps created in previous budget years, which essentially equated to a 25 percent cut over time within the last decade. He discussed staffing and wages, recurring annual operational needs, vehicle and equipment needs, park improvements and ADA

compliance. He also mentioned that the City currently has about ten years' worth of coffin grave space left in Monte Vista Cemetery, so at some point in the next five years they will have to look at identifying another location for coffin grave space. He showed a power point presentation. (See blue book for power point).

Commissioner Rardin asked if their newest truck, besides their escape, that they are wanting to replace is a 1999. Parks Manager Marion answered that is correct. Commissioner Rardin said usually in the past Public Works will use a truck and then hand it down to the other departments that don't use them as much. He asked how come Parks has been neglected. Parks Manager Marion said he does not know the answer to that. Commissioner Rardin said these guys are driving 1995, 1996, and 1997 model pickups. He said this was why he asked the question on the ICIP earlier. This kind of a dire need to get these guys some reliable equipment and trucks. He said he also noticed a backhoe from 1988. He said that is why he asked the question earlier, the Library is important but does Parks Manager need some dire need of equipment and trucks. He said it might be something next year that we put on the ICIP.

City Manager Paluch thanked Parks Manager Marion for the amount of time that he put into this. She said she thinks the entire Commission knows that the Parks department from years past has been cut significantly and she just appreciates what the Parks department has done with the amount of resources that they currently have.

Parks Manager Marion said he would like to feed reference to a living breathing document and he would like for the Commission to recognize that this to some degree is what that is as well. He said so changing priorities, changing some issues from year to year is something that we need to keep the ability to do, moving forward on this on this plan and not put us into a case where we have to in year one, that we can't make some changes. He said he would like to have that latitude, anyway.

Commissioner Hernandez said a lot of these five-year plans kind of got banged on him, so he is sorry, but he is not sorry. He said this is actually a nice document that actually puts perspective into what they are doing. He said he'll drive by parks sometimes and he'll see the grass where it is starting to get, he does not know what you call it. Parks Manager Marion said you will see that anything hasn't been done and starting to grow off the curb. Commissioner Hernandez said yeah, and then he'll go do whatever he has to do and he'll come back and it's done. He said they keep up on it very well with what they have, but he knows that it is going and going. He said he understands the part of the wages because he deals with that, the hours, the wages, the job and what you do, so you got to make some kind of enticement, so he understands that. He said as a whole he sees some of our job listings and he knows that they are based on statistics but for instance, and he understands it, right now we currently have a mechanic's position and it starts at \$18.00 an hour, and we have certified Police Officers starting at \$17.50. He said you see that and you wonder. He knows that staff goes through all those things, but we really need to take a look at that and make sure that those wages are at where they need to be so that we can have the current quality staff and so that you are not having turnovers because turnovers are also expensive. He said he appreciates this and all the work that they put into these, not just yourself but all the other departments because this is actually something that put something in front of us as far as what we are seeing every year and the need for the growth every year.

Mayor Boss asked if we checked any other cities. He asked if \$8.71 was the starting pay. Parks Manager Marion answered it was \$8.61. Mayor Boss said it seems so low, have we compared, looked at other cities of similar size. He asked City Manager Paluch if she had an answer to that question. She said she does have an answer for the entire salary issue that we are facing here in the City of Alamogordo. She said her and HR Director Josselyn are working on a salary survey that the Commission approved in the FY19 budget. She said HR Director Josselyn is working right now with the Finance department and HR, but this year they have budgeted a full salary survey across the board for the exact same things that Commissioner Hernandez is speaking about as well as Parks Manager Marion is speaking about. She said they are hopeful that they can complete that salary survey and

they probably can't implement it right away but take some areas and start implementing that so that they are in line across the board with other communities of our same size and economic standing. She said that is one of their goals for FY19.

Mayor Boss said that did not answer his question. He said in this particular area it seems like \$8.61, do we have any idea of what Las Cruces pays for a similar position or any other community. He said he knows they are going to do an in-depth survey of it all, but it just seems so low.

City Manager Paluch said she understands and there are several departments where this is happening, not just in Parks and that is why they are trying to focus on just one department versus another department. She said they want to focus on the entire City as a whole and that is why they are going to do the salary survey for the entire City.

Commissioner Sikes said they have been talking about the beautification of Alamogordo for the very recent past. She thinks they have beautiful parks, but that is just the most obvious thing they could be doing to make Alamogordo look better. She asked why they aren't concentrating more on helping Parks Manager Marion get the personnel necessary and the equipment necessary to make Alamogordo look better. She said it is an obvious place for them to make the City look better. She said they should be dedicating more effort to Parks Manager Marion's effort.

Parks Manager Marion said when he moved to Alamogordo the first things he saw driving into town were the medians coming in. He said the landscape efforts that had been done on the medians, obviously decorative landscaping and then the parks. He said maybe because he is a parks guy, that is what he looked at, but those were the first impression items that he saw coming into town.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin said for six-years he has been saying Parks and Promotion. He said the promotion side of it is something they could do that is a little more proactive to get GRT (Gross Receipts Tax) here in the Parks. He said with everything they have been trying to do lately in reference to the bed down of the F-16s, there are a lot of people in this community working extremely hard to get that to happen. One of the most immediate effects we can have is the way our town looks. He said we have headed the right direction with the mitigation of blight, the efforts into taking structures down. He said he would argue that they have made more progress in taking some structures down in town than what has been made in decades here. He said it is roughly \$500,000 a year with this five-year plan, it's not easy but it is pretty doable for the Parks Department. He said the \$20 million tag at the end was a little shocking. He said he knows that this is the wish list, but Parks Manager Marion didn't really spare any expense in the presentation on that part and that is kind of what they are looking for. He agreed with Commissioner Sikes that one of the most immediate things they can do is do in a year or two is they can have the parks in spectacular looking condition. He said we all live in the southwest and we all love the brown landscape, but he does love his green space. To have that beautiful area to go and take your family is really important, and having these people come from out of town and come to New Mexico, for people that are not from here, it is an absolute, punch in the face shock of how there is no green around. Getting our parks to where there's some nice places to go is very helpful and very comforting for them, coming from out of town. He said one thing that was kind of shocking was that there was only ten more years of room left at our cemetery and that is something he would have never known unless they got this presentation from Parks Manager Marion and that is something that the Commission will need to focus on pretty quickly.

Commissioner Hernandez said it is actually less than that if you look at family area plots, it is less than ten years.

Commissioner Rardin asked if they could utilize the old landfill in the future for cemetery area. City Attorney Schreiber said she would have to do some research. He said it is a piece of land that we already own that we really can't use for a whole lot of anything and it could be cleaned up to the point where they could grow grass and make it look nice.

Assistant City Manager Cesar said back in the early 2000s, the City looked at using the old Alamogordo landfill and creating a recreation area. He said they have a study back in engineering and there are some issues with taking an old landfill and converting over to green space. He said when you add water to an old landfill you have methane gas, that does have to be addressed, but that has been looked at in the past. Commissioner Rardin asked if they did it in Albuquerque for a balloon park. Assistant City Manager Cesar answered yes, there were costs associated with converting that. Commissioner Rardin asked for a cemetery is that legal. Assistant City Manager Cesar said he did not know if that is legal or not, but he thinks the idea to the general public would be one that would be. Commissioner Rardin said he agrees, but that is one of those things where they have to find an area that they could use. He said they already own that and there is really not a usable use for that. There is just not a lot they can do with it.

Commissioner Payne said she wanted to point out that she too thought that \$20 million was wow and combining that with we've already seen the Fire Department's five-year plan which she thought was about the same, wasn't it. Fire Chief LeClair said it was \$10 million. Commissioner Payne said when you start thinking about that it adds up and they'll see some more five-year plans in the future. She wanted to point that out to the public that it is part of the reason that they are pushing with investing money in the re-branding of Alamogordo and investing money in advertising and doing those kinds of things. She said they are going to need the income if they are going to implement some of these things. She wanted to highlight that it is not just the Parks, it's the Fire Department and then it's going to be the Police Department and we are doing a salary survey and all of these other things and the only way they are going to implement these things is if they bring up that GRT is why they have been investing so much money into highlighting our city into economic development and so she thinks that is worth bringing up so that the public understands that, because we are seeing these kinds of things. She said we mention reactive versus proactive, we are trying to be proactive. She told Commissioner Hernandez that it was a really good idea that he brought this up and she has really enjoyed listening to these presentations because you can't wrap your head around it until you actually see it and now at least we know what we are facing. She said it is not just for them but it is for future Commissions too, so that they understand what we are facing as a community.

Jeff Swanson commented on the following:

He said he was sitting in the audience on his cell phone flipping through the Capital Outlay projects for this fiscal year, and we asked for \$240,000 to improve six different parks. He said then he flipped to the previous County and they asked for \$300,000 to improve one park. He said he thinks we have some wiggle room to maybe ask for some more funds.

15. Appointments to Boards and Committees. (Richard Boss, Mayor)

Mayor Boss read the openings and did not appoint anyone to the Mayor's Committee on Aging. He said he reviewed the application and noted that the individual that has been on the Board resides outside the city limits and we already have two people from the County, therefore we cannot appoint anyone to that position. He did appoint Nina Walker-Saenz to the Senior Volunteer Programs Advisory Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

16. Adjourn into Executive Session in compliance with 10151(h), NMSA 1978 (as amended) to discuss real property located at 200 S. Florida and 209 E. Tenth Street. (Roll Call Vote Required)

Commissioner Rardin moved to adjourn at 9:04 p.m.

Commissioner Wright seconded the motion.

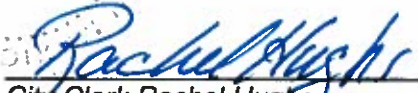
Roll Call vote taken.

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

ADJOURNMENT



ATTEST:


City Clerk Rachel Hughs


Mayor Richard Boss

(Prepared by Eric Barraza, Deputy Clerk)

Approved at the Regular Meeting held on September 25, 2018.