

**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
6:30 P.M., VIRTUAL MEETING
August 11, 2020**

**RICHARD BOSS, MAYOR
SHARON McDONALD, COMMISSIONER
JOSH RARDIN, COMMISSIONER
DUSTY WRIGHT, COMMISSIONER
SUSAN PAYNE, COMMISSIONER**

**NADIA SIKES, MAYOR PRO-TEM
JASON BALDWIN, COMMISSIONER
BRIAN CESAR, CITY MANAGER
PETRIA BENGOCHEA, CITY ATTORNEY
RACHEL HUGHS, CITY CLERK**

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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. Invocation was given by City Clerk Hughs and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner McDonald.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation on Project SEARCH, an evidence-based transition-to-work program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. (*Alex Rios, Education Specialist*)

Ms. Rios presented a PowerPoint presentation. She mentioned the partners with Project SEARCH and said they are only missing one piece which is their host business, and it is their ambition for the City of Alamogordo to become that host business. She explained how Project SEARCH works, gave the information for the annual calendar, and showed a typical work schedule for an intern. The main program goal is integrated, competitive employment at or above minimum wage. She said they want the intern to grow their work skills to become more independent, to promote systems change where inclusive employment is the norm, facilitate agency collaboration on the state and local level, and connect the intern to a follow-along support. She then gave the core roles and responsibilities for a host business. She highlighted success stories of Project SEARCH and gave resources for the project. (See Blue Book for PowerPoint)

Mayor Pro-Tem Sikes asked Ms. Rios if they help the City select the departments or the people that would work with the interns. She answered, that is something they can help with, but the program is business led, so they like to get the feedback from the business. The interns must meet certain eligibility requirements and do a skills assessment before they enter the program, then they work with the team to develop their goals for their career and their skills. Once those have been identified, the host business and the on-site team can work together to identify departments which will benefit the intern and the host business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Cesar made the following remarks:

1. He said they were contacted today by Union Pacific regarding the signed agreement. It has been a month since the City has sent the agreement to them, and the City has yet to receive their copy of the

signed agreement. The City will make every effort to get that signed agreement back within the next couple of weeks. He said due to COVID they are only working in the office 1 day a week.

2. He said he would be out of the office for the rest of the week.

Commissioner Wright asked City Manager Cesar what the word was on Bonito Lake. He answered the City was going to be getting a small rain delay request from the contractor. He said they are still on schedule to complete the project by early spring/summer of the next calendar year.

REMARKS AND INQUIRIES BY THE CITY COMMISSION

Mayor Boss made the following comments:

He said he spoke with some Restaurants and Motels and said these businesses said it is hard to bring back employees because they are getting paid more on unemployment. Some of the laid off employees have found new jobs. He said most restaurants in Alamogordo do not have outside space for serving customers.

Commissioner Payne made the following comments:

She said beginning September 2 through 30, and then September 3 through October 1st, she will be teaching local government to kids and local government basics at the College.

She wanted to address a comment Commissioner Rardin said at the last Commission meeting. She said Sheriff Black verified to her that he cannot override what State Police is doing, as long as it is constitutional.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Approve the minutes for the July 28, 2020 Regular meeting. *(Rachel Hughs, City Clerk)*
3. Consider, and act upon, approval of Resolution No. 2020-31 authorizing and approving submission of completed application for financial assistance and project approval to New Mexico Finance Authority. *(Debbie Osborne, Grant Coordinator)* (Roll Call Vote Required)
4. Consider, and act upon, Resolution No. 2020-32 adopting an Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) and identifying the top five (5) recommendations projects for Fiscal Years 2022-2026. *(Debbie Osborne, Grant Coordinator)* (Roll Call Vote Required)
5. Consider, and act upon, acceptance of FAA grant agreement for the replacement of the Airport AWOS (Automated Weather Observation System). *(Jim Talbert, Airport Manager)*
6. Approve grant funding from Thrive of Southern New Mexico for Alamo Senior Center, funding will be used for the Home-Delivered Meals program for FY21. *(Magdalena Morales, ASC Manager)*
7. Consider, and act upon, the Investment Report for the quarter ending June 30, 2020, in accordance with the City of Alamogordo Investment Ordinance. *(Sue Ashe, Accounting Manager)*
8. Consider, and act upon, request for a County resident to have approval to tap into the water main on North Florida. *(Larry Garner, Public Works Director)*
9. Consider, and act upon, Resolution 2020-34 Amending Resolution 2020-01 determining Reasonable Notice of Meetings of the Governing Body of the City of Alamogordo. *(Petria Bengoechea, City Attorney)* (Roll Call Vote Required)

Mayor Pro Tem Sikes moved to approve the consent calendar.
Commissioner Rardin seconded the motion.
Roll Call vote was taken.
Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. Recess into Closed Session in compliance with 10-15-1(h)(7), NMSA 1978 (as amended) to discuss threatened or pending litigation: exploring possible Public Health Order litigation. (Roll Call Vote Required)

Commissioner Baldwin moved to recess into Closed Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.
Commissioner Wright seconded the motion.
Roll Call vote was taken.
Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

11. Motion to reconvene into open session. And take action, if any, as a result of Closed Executive Session.

Commissioner Baldwin motioned to reconvene into open session at 7:49 p.m.
Commissioner McDonald seconded the motion.
Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

Mayor Boss stated that there will not be any action taken at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

12. Consider, and act upon, Resolution 2020-33, a Resolution declaring support for Alamogordo businesses and asking Alamogordo's State Representatives for assistance in having Alamogordo's voice heard in Santa Fe. (*Richard Boss, Mayor*)

Commissioner Payne felt that the City Commission should ask the State Legislator's to advocate for them. She felt that this is way to make a statement that the City Commission supports our small businesses.

Commissioner Rardin asked if they should add Rick Little, Zach Cook and Jim Townsend on the Resolution. Mayor Pro-Tem Sikes pointed out that Rick Little is not the Representative, it is Willie Madrid. She also said they should not name anybody and just put elected officials that effect Otero County.

Commissioner Payne said she is concentrating on the City of Alamogordo for this effort, and why she only named the three Representatives that cover Alamogordo. Mayor Pro-Tem Sikes said Zach Cook has three precincts within the City, and Willie Madrid has Holloman Air Force Base. Commissioner Rardin pointed out that Willie Madrid has two precincts down south of the Golf Course.

Commissioner Rardin agreed to change the language to not name everyone, but to put our local representation. Mayor Pro-Tem Sikes suggested to use local Senatorial and State Representation. Commissioner Baldwin said he would be ok with that. Commissioner Rardin suggested sending a copy of the Resolution to each of them.

Commissioner Payne said that is important, and her biggest issue is that they have not heard from them or at least not at the level she thinks they should. She said as a City, they receive a lot of emails and they need to put the responsibility where it lies, which is with our State Elected Officials.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sikes asked if anybody had any conversations with Senators Griggs, Burt, or Representative Black. Commissioners Payne, Rardin and Baldwin raised their hands.

Commissioner McDonald asked what it is the Commission is helping the small businesses with. She asked if it is the money, the information, or is it a survey and how is this information being sent to the Legislators. She said when she looks at this, they are saying they want to help the businesses, but have they asked the businesses what type they need. She said she has not heard anything in this meeting what they are talking about. Commissioner Payne said it was mentioned this morning in the Business Impact Relations meeting, starting with a survey that went out to all small businesses. This Resolution came from the idea of everybody working together to say they support small business. Commissioner McDonald said that is what she wanted to know, if they were using the survey based on the information they got from the small businesses.

Mayor Boss commented the Schools are supportive of this. Commissioner Payne said this is their statement that they support small business. She said people need to know that they are doing something, and this is one way they can do it.

Commissioner Rardin said the Legislators they have are working for them. He knows on this issue, they have been a little silent, but it is difficult all the way around, but they are working tirelessly for them. Commissioner Payne said she does not disagree, but she is talking specifically on this issue. She has not seen a lot of communication between the State Legislators and the City of Alamogordo. She said the City has been unfairly targeted in some cases, in a situation that the City is not in a position to do a lot about.

Mayor Boss said in no way does this criticize the Legislators that they are not doing their job for them. He said this Resolution puts the responsibility where it lies. Commissioner Payne said if they are going to ask the City Commissioners, it only makes sense to for the Commission to go one step further and ask their State Legislators to advocate for them in Santa Fe.

City Clerk Hughs said Commissioner Wright lost power to his laptop.

Commissioner Rardin moved to approve as amended.

Commissioner Baldwin seconded the motion.

Roll Call vote was taken.

Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

Commissioner Baldwin thanked the Commission and staff for their hard work for this project. He said this Resolution identifies the people that can affect the most change, and he thinks that is one of their better courses of action. He said one of the things that has become obvious is that in this very unique situation there are certain legislative laws and portions of this health order that has given the Governor the power to enact rules and orders over their counties and municipalities. Since they are asking their Representatives to work on their behalf, he would like to see them bring forward a Resolution, with the Commission's approval, of identifying some of these laws that don't give them due process for a situation like this. He would also like to see, as a municipality or a county, is a little better representation during this process or at least a say so in what happens in our communities. He said they are not too far from the next session; they would like to identify some of the things that they can potentially change for future issues like this. He said it makes it very difficult for them to make decisions that they were elected to make. He thinks they need to identify those things and ask the legislators to work on their behalf over the next couple of years to see what they can effectively change to help them.

Commissioner Payne agreed. She said this should be a true bi-partisan issue, not talking about this Governor but also future Governors. She said no one could have conceived this happening but this is something that needs to be addressed in case it happens sometime in the future.

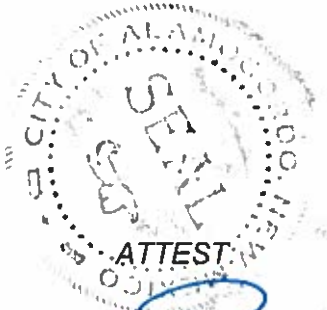
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Rardin moved to adjourn at 8:13 p.m.

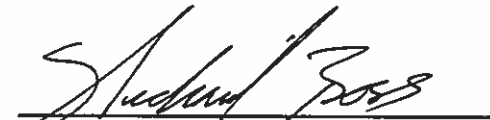
Commissioner McDonald seconded the motion.

Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-0

Note: Item #3 on the agenda, the resolution number has been changed. There was an error in the resolution number 2020-31. The number should have been 2020-36. The agenda will be amended at the August 25, 2020 City Commission meeting.




City Clerk Rachel Hughs


Mayor Richard Boss

(Prepared by Eric Barraza, Deputy Clerk)

Approved at the Regular Meeting held on August 25, 2020.