

**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
6:30 P.M., COMMISSION CHAMBERS
OCTOBER 12, 2021**

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

**NADIA SIKES, MAYOR PRO-TEM
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. Commissioner Payne was absent. City Clerk Hughs announced there was a quorum present. Invocation was given by Reverend Warren Robinson and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro-Tem Sikes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Rardin moved to approve the agenda.
Commissioner McDonald seconded the motion.
Motion carried with a vote of 5-0-0.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Breast Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation. (*Richard Boss, Mayor*)

Mayor Boss read the Proclamation and recognized the month of October as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" in Alamogordo.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sikes said as a breast cancer survivor, she appreciated that we commemorated this, and she reminded women to get mammograms.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eugene Downer commented on the following:

Mr. Downer spoke about the need for additional signage on the Relief Route which would highlight the Zoo, the Historical Museum, and the Space Museum. The cost for those types of signs would be minimal. They could also put signs up on Highway 82 and on Highway 54 coming from Tularosa. Also, the current Alameda Park Zoo signs could add wording which stated, "We are proud to be the oldest zoo in the Southwest".

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Cesar made the following remarks:

City Manager Cesar said prior to his report, Jason Baldwin had requested to speak to the Commission.

Mr. Jason Baldwin, former Commissioner of District 1, said he wished to thank the voters that elected him to the position. He also wished to thank his wife, Maggie, for standing next to him during his time as a Commissioner. He thanked City staff for all their work, and the Commission for their advice and help over the years. He now lived in District 6 and was grateful to be given the time to say goodbye to everyone.

Mayor Boss thanked Mr. Baldwin for his service to the City and stated he was going to miss him. Mayor Pro-Tem Sikes said Mr. Baldwin had provided the Commission with wit, intelligence, and logical thought processes and she really hated to see him leave.

1. City Manager Cesar said the three properties that came before the Commission last year, 704 Panorama Blvd., 1113 Catalina Lane, and 2414 Telles Avenue, had been taken down and removed to the asbestos area of the Regional Landfill. In the near future, staff would be coming back before the Commission with a new set of properties they were recommending be declared dilapidated and dangerous. The funding for the three homes that came down was a carryover from last year's money. With the new funding in there now, this process could be continued throughout the rest of the current fiscal year.

REMARKS AND INQUIRIES BY THE CITY COMMISSION

Commissioner Rardin made the following comments:

Commissioner Rardin said, at the last meeting he had mentioned the overgrown weeds on Lavelle Road, and they had been taken down within a couple of days after that. Also, the signage by the old railroad track had been installed and was very bright and visible. He wanted to give staff a pat on the back for those items.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sikes made the following comments:

Mayor Pro-Tem Sikes said today she and City Planner Rael had gone to Ruidoso for the SERPTO Meeting, which was part of the Southern New Mexico Economic Development District. They held a transportation meeting, and she learned the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) had \$28 million which they were inviting this region to apply for. The funds could be used for things such as road striping and paving. They were very enthusiastic about the City applying because we had not taken advantage of that for a couple of years.

City Manager Cesar said we actually had applied the last several years, but our applications had not risen to the top because there was not as much funding in previous years. We would apply again and hopefully be successful this time. Mayor Pro-Tem Sikes said they had actually singled us out as a town they would like to see apply.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sikes said next week was "International Food Week" or "Hunger Week". The 100 Percent Community initiative here in Otero County was providing food bins in locations in the hope that people might donate nonperishable food. She got permission to put a food bin in the employee lounge here at City Hall. All of the food gathered would be distributed among the various food banks in Otero County. No matter what we thought, there was a lot of food insecurity here.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sikes noted the recent passing of Janet Quick. Janet was the President of the local Hunger Coalition for many years. It was a real blow because she did a lot for the community especially as concerned providing food for the community. Commissioner Payne was not able to

attend tonight's meeting, but she asked her to commemorate Janet Quick because they had both worked together for years, and she knew Janet was in Commissioner Payne's prayers as well.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Approve the minutes for the September 28, 2021, Regular meeting. (Rachel Hughs, City Clerk)

3. Consider, and act upon, accepting the grant agreement from Paso del Norte Health Foundation to APD in the amount of \$151,731.00. (Richard Denton, Police Chief)

4. Consider, and act upon, award of IFB 2021-02 Dry Barrel Fire Hydrants to Morrison Supply Company in the amount of \$178,539.15 excluding NMGR. (Barbara Pyeatt, Chief Procurement Officer)

5. Consider, and act upon, acceptance of a funding agreement from the Office of the State Engineer, in the amount of \$900,000.00, for the rehabilitation of Bonito Lake Dam. (Bob Johnson, Engineering Manager)

Commissioner Rardin moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Wright seconded the motion.

Motion carried with a vote of 5-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Consider, and act upon, Resolution 2021-37 Declaring that a Vacancy Exists on the City Commission for District 1. (Rachel Hughs, City Clerk)

City Clerk Hughs explained that per the City Charter this Resolution was to declare that a vacancy existed in District 1. The City Charter further outlined the process of filling the vacancy by appointment. Starting tomorrow packets would be available for anyone interested in the candidacy. By November 10th they would have to submit a letter of interest, a Declaration of Candidacy, Disclosure Statement, and an Affidavit of Voter Registration from the County Clerk's Office. At the November 30th Commission Meeting the candidates would come before the Commission for interviews and possible appointment. They would be interviewing alphabetically. If there was no appointment made at the meeting, then at the December 14th meeting the Mayor would make the appointment. Any applicants had to be registered voters and reside in District 1.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sikes clarified that once the Commission had completed listening to the candidates, that they nominate someone and vote right then and there. City Clerk Hughs said yes, on November 30th. If there was no appointment made on November 30th by the entire Commission, then on December 14th the Mayor would appoint. Mayor Pro-Tem Sikes said she remembered many years ago when she was appointed, that at that time every candidate was voted on. City Manager Cesar said the exact process that was followed was really up to the Commission. Once that portion was done, any of the Commissioners could make a motion to nominate a person to fill the seat, and then it went just like any other vote. If a majority of the Commission voted for an individual, at that point they would become appointed. Mayor Pro-Tem Sikes asked if these were roll call votes. City Clerk Hughs said no. By November 15th she will

have received all the submissions and she would then be able to declare who was eligible to come before the Commission.

Commissioner Rardin moved to approve.

Commissioner McDonald seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote was taken.

Motion carried with a vote of 5-0-0.

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

Mayor Boss read the openings and reappointed Jose Rodriguez to the Mayor's Committee on Aging, and appointed Kristina Marzano to the Parks and Recreation Board. No one was opposed.

Commissioner Wright moved to adjourn at 7:03 p.m.

Commissioner Rardin seconded the motion.

Motion carried with a vote of 5-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT




City Clerk Rachel Hughes


Mayor Richard Boss

(Prepared by Teresa Gutierrez, Deputy Clerk)

Approved at the Regular Meeting held on October 26, 2021.