

**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
6:30 P.M., COMMISSION CHAMBERS
March 22, 2022**

**SUSAN PAYNE, MAYOR
SHARON McDONALD, COMMISSIONER
JOSH RARDIN, COMMISSIONER
STEPHEN BURNETT, COMMISSIONER
NICHOLAS PAUL, COMMISSIONER**

**DUSTY WRIGHT, MAYOR PRO-TEM
KARL MELTON, COMMISSIONER
BRIAN CESAR, CITY MANAGER
PETRIA BENGOCHEA, CITY ATTORNEY
RACHEL HUGHS, CITY CLERK**

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Wright called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll Call was taken by the Deputy City Clerk. Mayor Payne was absent. Deputy City Clerk Aleshire announced there was a quorum present. Invocation was given by Pastor Bill Heithold and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Paul.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Rardin moved to approve the agenda.
Commission Melton seconded the motion.
Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation on combining City Animal Control and County (*Ronda Merrick*)

Ms. Merrick said she appreciated the opportunity to share a concern that many residents of our County and City have been discussing. Social media has been an avenue of seeing how many puppies and kittens are being born daily, the many postings show that we have a problem. The rescuers in our town do an amazing job of saving the lives of many dogs and cats; if not for them, our problem would be even huger. As a City, County, and community, we can be helpful if we can have a way to increase the amount of animals that need the procedures of spaying and neutering. She would like to share at this time, while doing the research for this project, our local vets were complimented at every corner. They are the best. She said that she learned there is just not enough time in the day; we need a vet that can provide twenty-four seven emergency care. Our seniors are lower-income pet owners and have a difficult time arranging for going out-of-town for emergency care. Jean Schaeffer was one of the biggest advocates for saving the lives of pets, she had Animal Rescue Mission; she supported spaying, neutering, and a lower cost of care. She had a dream, a dream of building kennels, runs, and lots of land. This dream became a reality, but sadly, was never opened. Animal Rescue Mission was granted land on a corner street, and Ms. Merrick said she provided that information to the Commission. Animal Rescue Mission at the time of this writing is not in good standing with the State. Ms. Merrick said her question would be, could be this property be used. A recent event witnessed that a fur baby was hit by a car, surgery was needed, and the cost was estimated at \$1,500. City Animal Control reached out for donations, and the community came together to make this happen. Donations were raised, and the dog received the needed surgery. Ms. Merrick stated she was asking if there was a way that City, County, and possibly even Mescalero could come together, combining budgets, to help with lower care prices and emergency care being available. In closing, the past no longer needs us, the future, we can make a difference.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Birdie Carrillo said she just wanted to give a big shout-out to Kitty City for working with Animal Control, they have gotten grants to do the TNR program. She said she is so happy to go walk into Animal Control and see hardly any cats. Now if we could do the same thing for the dogs in this area, we'd be great. We did at one time, maybe three years ago, we got a grant, and we did a low-cost spay and neuter clinic that came, she said she thought it was Soul Dogs. They came in for three days, they fixed a bunch of dogs, shots, and everything. Now if we could get together, write some grants, and get some low-cost spay and neuter. She said she helps with Forever Homes Rescue, and it is sad out there. You can get on Facebook, her pages are filled with dogs being re-homed and free puppies. With free puppies, guess where they end up at, they end up at Animal Control, because they were free. Why are they going to pay over \$200 to go get their dog out, when they can go and get another free puppy. All she is asking if maybe we can join together and get this problem solved, because with Forever Homes, they help at least seven hundred dogs and some cats every year.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Cesar made the following remarks:

1. He said we are finalizing the budget at this time. On Thursday is when he will do the final review for capitol, equipment, and new positions. One of the things that he has been doing, and has talked about at previous Commission Meetings, is the salary and benefits study that has been ongoing. They are finalizing, but it is not yet complete to give the Commission a copy of it. We do have what we think are pretty solid numbers. Finance will be incorporating that into the proposed budget for this upcoming fiscal year. As he mentioned in a previous meeting, we have some areas that are critical such as Water, Wastewater, Police, and Fire. In the Water area, he has given direction to HR to go ahead and start with the proposed salaries. We are down to just two certified individuals in the Water Production area, and we are dangerously close to being out-of-compliance with the State.

Mayor Pro-Tem Wright asked if we have gotten an update on the liner at the pond. City Manager Cesar said that on the liner, the contractor to do the repairs is scheduled to be out and we will get an estimate on that. Once staff has that, we are then looking at what are our alternatives. The same contractor will give us a price on repairing. We have an estimate for the South Reservoir, which is due for replacement, so it is just adding quantity. They have that number, and they are looking at other options. Technology has changed since those liners and covers were first installed; in California and other areas that have large reservoirs, they use balls that are much less-intensive maintenance. They are looking at other options, but at this point, he doesn't have a number yet for you. Mayor Pro-Tem Wright said he knew the technical standards have been in work for a while, are they soon to be, and City Manager Cesar replied that at a staff level, this final review right now, there are a couple of changes, tweaks, that we are asking the engineering firm to do. That should be coming out the to Commission and public for comment within the next three weeks.

REMARKS AND INQUIRIES BY THE CITY COMMISSION

Mayor Pro-Tem Wright said he will reiterate what Pastor Heithold said and congratulate Mayor Payne on her new grandson that arrived last night. He said he hoped that everyone was healthy, safe travels to and from, and we'll send our warm thoughts from the Commission.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Approve the Minutes for the March 8, 2022, Regular meeting. *(Rachel Hughs, City Clerk)*
3. Approve Resolution 2022-15 designating the City Clerk as the Custodian of Records and including the method of destruction of City records as witnessed shredding. *(Rachel Hughs, City Clerk)* **(Roll Call Vote Required)**
4. Consider, and act up, the application for Law Enforcement Protection Funds for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, Fiscal Year *(Richard Denton, Chief of Police)*
5. Consider, and act upon, an emergency funds appropriation of \$8,904 to cover the cost shortfall of the Senior Center grease trap installation. *(Magdalena Morales, ASC Manager, and Veronica Ortega, Community Services Director)*

Mayor Pro-Tem Wright said City staff needed to pull item 2 from the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Melton moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

Commissioner Paul seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote was taken.

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

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

2. Approve the Minutes for the March 8, 2022, Regular meeting. *(Rachel Hughs, City Clerk)*

Deputy Clerk Aleshire said that regarding the minutes on March 8, 2022, on page eleven of twenty-two, under Alamogordo Disability Council, under the second paragraph, third sentence, it states "to be quite honest, she has knowledge of what the function of this board is." It should be amended to, "to be quite honest, she has no knowledge of what the function of this board is."

Commissioner Rardin moved to approve.

Commissioner Burnette seconded the motion.

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

Commissioner McDonald moved to adjourn at 6:46 p.m.

Commissioner Paul seconded the motion.

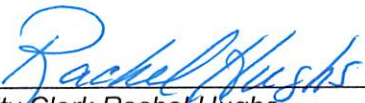
Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT



Mayor Susan L. Payne

ATTEST:



City Clerk Rachel Hughs

(Prepared by Dylan Aleshire, Deputy City Clerk)
Approved at the Regular Meeting held on April 12, 2022.

