

**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
6:30 P.M., DONALD E. CARROLL COMMISSION CHAMBERS
April 9, 2024**

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

**MARK TAPLEY, COMMISSIONER
WARREN ROBINSON, COMMISSIONER
RICK HOLDEN, CITY MANAGER
ASHLEY SMITH, CITY ATTORNEY
RACHEL HUGHS, CITY CLERK**

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

Mayor Payne called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll Call was taken by the Deputy City Clerk. Deputy City Clerk Aleshire announced there was a quorum present. The Invocation was given by Pastor James Forney of Corinth Baptist Church, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Paul.

Mayor Payne read Resolution 2018-08, the City of Alamogordo's rules of conduct for City Commission meetings.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Payne pulled items 9 and 10 from the Agenda.

Commissioner Burnett moved to approve the agenda as amended.

Mayor Pro-Tem McDonald seconded the motion.

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

PRESENTATIONS

1. Purple Up Day Proclamation to honor Military Children. (Susan Payne, Mayor)

Mayor Payne proclaimed Friday, April 26, 2024, as Purple Up For Military Kids Day in Alamogordo and urged all citizens to wear purple in its observance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Samantha Raso said on January 3rd, there was a fire at 1401 Incredible Court. We live next door. Code Enforcement gave two years to take the house down. Twenty feet of my yard were burned, there are smells, and insulation is blowing around. Before the house burned, there was drug activity at the house. I have compassion for the house owner, but they have not been there. It is the owner's decision-making that led to the cul-de-sac becoming a drug haven. We called Code Enforcement, but not much was done. The cars parked out there are a mess. They have not been moved in two years. People are living on the property, but there is no dwelling there. They have a water utility from a hose and electricity, but there is no house. The house was supposed to be gated and locked. They unlocked it to work on it and take it down. It is a mess.

Gary Parrish said he lived on Incredible Court. Some cars are not registered but tagged to be towed away, but they have not been towed. I put motion lights up to slow the drug activity down at night. I am concerned about the kids being let loose at that place. We want to see our neighborhood picked up. We keep our places up; everyone else should, too.

Irvin Michaud said I have a property at Incredible Court. On February 2nd, I contacted Mr. Brockett, who said that he would look into the situation on Incredible Court. A week later, I called him and they told us to be patient because of the fire. I was concerned about a red car with flat tires that had been there for months. It is parked on the sidewalk, and I believe people are living in it. There are also kids running around who dart out between cars. We have to come to a complete stop to avoid running them over. Code Enforcement referred us to the police. Nothing is being done, and it looks like a ghetto. People are thinking about moving out because of what it looks like.

Susan Raso said at one time, there were about six vehicles at Incredible Court. None of them are in service. People are living in them, and their friends show up. It is trashed. They are living in a food truck in front of the house and squatting in another part of the burned house. They are doing drugs. Their kids are unsupervised and running around. Due to the fire, three-quarters of our yard was black. They were there a few weeks ago to work on the house, and they were as high as a kite and stumbling around. I am worried for our safety. I do not want to come home and see my house on fire. I do not want to move, but when I am fearful for my house and life, I do. I hope something can be done.

Hazel Weihausen said there is a problem with loose dogs running around Alamogordo. My mom and I went for walks. Over time, there were more large dogs and fewer people. Now we live on Florida and there are more dogs in this part of town. We have an enclosed chicken run in the backyard, but there is no fence between us and the next house. We have had at least eleven different dogs in our yard, and some were pit bulls. My mom has called Animal Control five times. It is the duty of the city government to protect its citizens. Please enforce Chapter 7-01-030 of the Alamogordo Code of Ordinances, which states, no owner or person having control of any animal shall permit it to run at large in the city, unless the animal is contained within a part specifically designated for the animal's species. My mom suggested sending out a notice with the water bill. I am asking the City to enforce the codes about this, so we no longer have dogs running around our town.

Donald Weihausen said the dog problem seems to be getting worse. We own a house on Bellamah, and the neighbor across from us had dogs out many times. We are on the edge of a school zone with kids walking through, and the neighbor's dog is aggressive. We are worried about their safety. There was an incident where Animal Control referred us to the Police Department. The police officer came up, and the dog started barking at her when she came across the street. She was preparing to pull her sidearm. Animal Control does not want to take care of the dogs. They want the police to do it. The police already have way too much to do, so they want Animal Control to take care of it because it is animals.

City Manager Holden said we could comment with specific facts. The house has been condemned, and somebody has already been ticketed for being in the house when it was restricted. Unfortunately, they continue to do that. As it is condemned, they have two years to bring the house up to a minimum standard. Regarding dogs, we can put a notice on the jumbotron about dogs and encourage people to keep dogs put up. Chief Kunihiro was taking notes, and both departments fall under him, so we will have opportunities to visit.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Holden made the following remarks:

1. I signed a letter of commitment. You will get a formal letter from the Department of Finance Authority and asked to approve once we get it. We would be granted \$400,000 to help our drinking water from the State's revolving loan fund to finance the inventory and survey the City's lead lines, a mandate we must follow. You will get a formal contract from them soon. I had to sign the letter of intent in the interest of time, but you will ultimately get the letter to approve or not.

2. We have been working with our new Airport Manager, Troy Orr. We have identified a significant number of issues, particularly with leases. In preparation for future action requiring the Commission, I respectfully ask Mayor Payne to appoint two members to meet with Airport Manager Orr in an informal setting so you can be apprised of some of the issues that will need work. The commissioners that participate will be able to address the rest of the Commission so there is a better understanding of the problems. These things have been going on for a long time, and some may result in political situations. Mayor Payne said she would be one of the members. Mayor Pro-Tem McDonald said she would be the other member.
3. This weekend is the Airport Open House. A Ford Tri-Motor built in around 1925 will be giving rides out there. There will be a lot of activity, and it is an opportunity to see the Airport and for us to showcase it. If you go out there and represent the City, I am sure they will be happy to see you.

REMARKS AND INQUIRIES BY THE CITY COMMISSION

Commissioner Rardin made the following comments:

Given recent events in Alamogordo and White Sands Boulevard, I would like to see the City set up a temporary safety corridor from Highway 54-70 to Highway 54-70 intersection on the north end, with a zero-tolerance policy for speeding, maybe for the next month or two. People go fifty to sixty miles per hour between five and eight on weeknights, down by the fast-food restaurants. It seems harsh, but we need to slow people down. Start with White Sands Boulevard and saturating patrols. City Manager Holden said absolutely, let me visit with Chief Kunihiro. That is probably a consensus among the Commission. Let us come up with a plan you can approve by resolution or something, so we know what expectations are. Then, we can educate and bring it forth. I want to give Chief Kunihiro to weigh in on that. We will have a report and possible action item at the next regular meeting. Mayor Payne said she agreed with Commissioner Rardin, and this was a tragedy.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Approve the minutes for the Regular Commission meeting on March 26, 2024. (Rachel Hughs, City Clerk)
3. Consider, and act upon, Resolution 2024-21 requesting written approval from the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration, State of NM for the revised budget numbers computed as of April 9, 2024. (Evelyn Huff, Finance Director) (Roll Call Vote Required)
4. Approve the statements related to the Executive Closed Sessions held on March 26, 2024. (Rachel Hughs, City Clerk)
5. Approve grant funding from THRIVE of Southern New Mexico for the Alamo Senior Center's Home-delivered Meals program for FY25. The total amount budgeted is \$17,929.00. (Magdalena Morales, ASC Manager / Veronica Ortega, Community Services Director).
6. Consider, and act upon, bid award RFQ 2024-01 to Pland Collaborative for an estimated amount of \$150,000.00 for the plan and design of the new irrigation system at Desert Lakes Golf Course. (Belinda Bass, Director of Parks & Recreation and Michael Bradley, Golf Course Superintendent)
7. Consider, and act upon, approving a government-to-government transfer of the 2001 KME Fire Engine transfer to Water Wheel Fire & Medical District, Payton Az. (Jerry Ramirez, Fire Chief and Stephanie Hernandez, Assistant City Manager)

8. Consider, and act upon, Resolution 2024-22, approving the submission of a grant application, in the amount of \$100,000, and commitment of match funding, in the amount of \$5,000, to the New Mexico Tourism Department. (Debbie Osborne, Grant Coordinator) (Roll Call Vote Required)

Commissioner Rardin moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Burnett seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote was taken.

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

NEW BUSINESS

9. Consider, and act upon Ordinance 1697 Case Z-2024-0002(A) for first publication of a map amendment to rezone Somerset Subdivision Phase 1 from R-2 Townhouse Dwelling District to Planned Unit Development District (PUD). (Stella Rael, City Planner) (Roll Call Vote Required)

Item 9 was previously pulled from the Agenda.

10. Consider, and act upon Ordinance 1696 Case Z-2024-0001(A) for first publication of a map amendment to rezone properties located at 181 & 243 Hamilton Ridge Rd., 3100, 3150, 3180, 3190, 3192, & 3194 Hamilton Rd., Reynolds Subdivision Replat G Lot 3G, and Pruiett Subdivision Replat A Lot 4A from R-1 Single Family Dwelling to RE-Residential Estates. The property owners request the zone change to comply with the current ordinance for keeping livestock. (Stella Rael, City Planner) (Roll Call Vote Required)

Item 10 was previously pulled from the Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro-Tem McDonald moved to adjourn at 7:13 p.m.

Commissioner Rardin seconded the motion.

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



Mayor Susan L. Payne
ATTEST:

City Clerk Rachel Hughs

(Prepared by Dylan Aleshire, Deputy City Clerk)

Approved at the Regular Meeting held on April 23, 2024.