

**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
6:30 PM, DONALD E. CARROLL COMMISSION CHAMBERS
March 11, 2025**

**SUSAN PAYNE, MAYOR
SHARON MCDONALD, MAYOR PRO-TEM
CRYSTAL GUTHRIE, COMMISSIONER
STEPHEN BURNETT, COMMISSIONER
WARREN ROBINSON, COMMISSIONER**

**JOSHUA RARDIN, COMMISSIONER
MARK TAPLEY, COMMISSIONER
STEPHANIE HERNANDEZ, ACTING CITY
MANAGER
ASHLEY SMITH, CITY ATTORNEY
RACHEL HUGHS, CITY CLERK**

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro-Tem McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Roll Call was taken by the City Clerk. Mayor Payne and City Attorney Smith were absent. City Clerk Hughs announced there was a quorum present.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation was given by Pastor Bill Heithold of Trinity Lutheran Church, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Tapley.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Rardin seconded the motion.
Motion Passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Acting City Manager Hernandez said City Attorney Smith was not present and was being sworn in to the Wyoming Bar. We expect her to leave sometime in May.
2. The City of Alamogordo has been selected to host the New Mexico MainStreet Conference, which will be sometime in the fall. We are working with MainStreet on the logistics. We were selected because our capital outlay project involved a lot of collaboration between Alamogordo MainStreet and the City.
3. We believe the Hubbard Bridge project will be completed in the middle of April. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony, plus a barbeque in the neighborhood to thank them for their patience and understanding.
4. We received one Fun Center proposal. They will present in front of the Commission on April 8th.
5. The Zoo Infrastructure project started yesterday.

REMARKS AND INQUIRIES BY THE CITY COMMISSION

Commissioner Burnett said he had previously asked Acting City Manager Hernandez about watering at the Balloon Park. Have we heard anything about that? She said yes, and there are more issues than I was aware of. A complaint that we received is that the Balloon Park is being treated like a dog park, and there is a lot of dog poop. We called Animal Control, but it continues to happen. We will post a No Dogs sign because of that issue. Regarding the water schedule, we still have nights below thirty degrees Fahrenheit, which is why they have not started watering. Once it warms up, they will start the water schedule again.

Commissioner Tapley said he had previously spoken with Acting City Manager Hernandez about the Desalination Plant. A citizen asked me about the timeline for the final pipeline. Acting City Manager Hernandez said the Desalination Plant was not operational right now. It is inactive with the State because we cannot operate it, and we cannot operate it because we are waiting for the Transmission Line from the Snake Tank Field to the Plant. One mile has been completed, and the second phase has been designed and funded at \$12,000,000 for five miles. There are sixteen miles in total we still need to build. The third phase will be the next five miles, and it is going into design. The final phase, which is also in design, will finish it up. The timeline depends on funding. The \$12,000,000 we have is from a loan. Regarding the second phase, which is five miles long, we are waiting for the New Mexico Department of Transportation to clear and approve it. We are clearing the right of way and should start moving to that phase soon. Again, the timeline depends on the funding and when we can get it.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve the minutes for the Regular Commission meeting on February 25, 2025. (Rachel Hughs, City Clerk)

2. Approve the statements related to the Executive Closed Sessions held on February 25, 2025. (Rachel Hughs, City Clerk)

Commissioner Burnett moved to approve.

Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion.

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

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Consider, and act upon, approval of Change Order 1, in the amount of \$134,439.12, excluding NMGR, to Crosstown Construction, for waterline replacement, additional concrete work for medians and additional boring. (Justen Boyle, Senior Project Manager)

Commissioner Rardin asked if this work was bid on in the original scope or if this was a legitimate change order. Senior Project Manager Boyle said it was part of the scope, but we ran into some problems. As they were digging the asphalt, they stopped so they could get the subgrade ready. About two days later, water started exploding from the ground because it was an old AC line. Utility Maintenance came out, dug it up, and fixed it. However, we realized how shallow it was. When AC is dug out, it is really hard to compact, especially when it is only a foot below grade. So, part of the change order is to replace the water line and drop it lower. That way, when they vibrate on it, it will not explode again. No one touched this line, and it still broke. Another part was that I had to push this out immediately because of a grant. We would have lost the grant in June if I had not put it out in time. While getting it to bid, I had a traffic study done for the intersection. When they did the traffic study, they realized that we needed to move the poles west, on the other side of south New York. The boring part is to get the conduit in there for a future project. Once this project is done, I can get the poles up for the Hawk system. It would be impossible to do this entire project, go back and tear it, and bore again under the street. It would be a waste of time and money. It is good to do now when everything is out of the way. The extension of the median was part of the traffic study as well. Extending the median to Delaware Avenue would be wise because of the potential for U-turns. Now, it is going to be a stand-up curb instead of a rollover. These are the three things in the change order right now. There may be one more. These have nothing to do with the pricing of what was done in the bidding; they have to do with what we are running into.

Commissioner Burnett asked how far the water line needed to be dropped. Senior Project Manager Boyle said it would be from eastbound 10th Street to after the Pool Hall, approximately one hundred and fifty feet at most. Commissioner Robinson asked how far the water line should be underground. Senior Project Manager Boyle said it should be three feet underground. Right now, it is one foot. Commissioner Robinson asked if we were still on schedule with all these setbacks. Senior Project Manager Boyle said yes, we are still projected to have this completed at the beginning of December. They work fast and are ahead of schedule.

Commissioner Rardin asked what the additional traffic control would be for. Senior Project Manager Boyle said when they do the water line, they will have to detour away from that area for a week or two because they are crossing the entire street. Commissioner Rardin asked if 10th Street would be closed. Senior Project Manager Boyle said we are hoping for only one week to be closed, but we are saying two weeks to be safe. There is a seven-day minimum curing time to drive on the concrete. Commissioner Burnett asked if this meant we could not turn from Delaware Avenue to the west. Senior Project Manager Boyle said correct. We will try to get it done as quickly as we can. Commissioner Burnett asked if the curb was running all the way to Delaware Avenue. Senior Project Manager Boyle said right on the west side of that crosswalk, yes.

Commissioner Rardin asked if one more change order was anticipated. Senior Project Manager Boyle said yes. Commissioner Rardin asked if it would be as big as this one. Senior Project Manager Boyle said it would still be part of the scope of work. This project's design was done three years ago, but I had to put it out. The difference is, this one is going to be for striping and signage on the north side of 10th Street. The design is almost done. It should have all been one project, but unfortunately, it is not. This was also part of the traffic study, which showed us how to eliminate certain parking and how we are going to exit onto White Sands Boulevard from 11th and 12th Streets.

Commissioner Burnett said so once this is complete, there will be no turning north from 10th Street to New York Avenue. Senior Project Manager Boyle said that on the south side of 10th Street, you will be turning south, and it will be southbound. On the north side of 10th Street, you will be going northbound. Commissioner Burnett said so if you are heading west, you cannot turn north onto 10th Street? Senior Project Manager Boyle said you cannot turn. Commissioner Burnett said so you can go south. Senior Project Manager Boyle said correct. Commissioner Rardin said if you are heading east up 10th Street, you cannot turn north. Senior Project Manager Boyle said correct.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve.

Commissioner Rardin seconded the motion.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Rardin moved to adjourn at 6:50 PM.

Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion.

Motion with a vote of 6 - 0 - 0.

ATTEST:



City Clerk Rachel Hughes


Mayor Susan Payne

(Prepared by Dylan Aleshire, Deputy Clerk)

Approved at the Regular Meeting held on March 25, 2025.

