

**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO  
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
6:30 PM, DONALD E. CARROLL COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
March 10, 2026**

**SHARON MCDONALD, MAYOR  
JOSHUA RARDIN, MAYOR PRO-TEM  
BAXTER PATTILLO, COMMISSIONER  
STEPHEN BURNETT, COMMISSIONER  
WARREN ROBINSON, COMMISSIONER**

**AL HERNANDEZ, COMMISSIONER  
MARK TAPLEY, COMMISSIONER  
STEPHANIE HERNANDEZ, ACTING CITY  
MANAGER  
DARRELL MORI, CITY ATTORNEY  
RACHEL HUGHS, CITY CLERK**

**CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

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Mayor McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Roll Call was taken by the City Clerk. City Clerk Hughs announced there was a quorum present.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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The Invocation was given by Pastor Dusty Marshall of The Well Church, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Tapley.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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**Commissioner Robinson moved to approve.  
Commissioner Rardin seconded the motion.  
Motion Passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 0.**

**PRESENTATIONS**

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**1. Alamogordo Police Department presentation and update of ACOMM Center (Dispatch). (David Kunihiro, Police Chief, and Hilton Chapman, ACOMM Manager)**

Police Chief Kunihiro and ACOMM Manager Chapman gave their presentation.

**Staffing**

Commissioner Robinson asked where the dispatchers got their certification training. Police Chief Kunihiro said the most recent group went to Santa Fe for a three-week academy, but there are other satellite academies around the state. Commissioner Robinson asked when everyone should be certified. Police Chief Kunihiro said they had one year from the date of hire to become certified.

**Digital Trunk Radio System (DTRS)**

Commissioner Hernandez asked who would be on this radio system. Police Chief Kunihiro said the Alamogordo Police Department and the Alamogordo Fire Department. Commissioner Hernandez asked if there was a secondary system in case they needed to reach out to someone. Police Chief Kunihiro said our backup system is the traditional LMR system we already have. For example, for the Sheriff's Office, we can switch a channel and be on the LMR system. Commissioner Hernandez asked if that included AMR as well. Police Chief Kunihiro said yes.

**Emergency Services IP Network (ESINET)**

Commissioner Pattillo asked how the tech support would work for this. ACOMM Manager Chapman said this is all done via Motorola. Everything is in the cloud, and Motorola watches in real-time. We can also submit trouble tickets for trouble. If the 911 system does go down, there are multiple backups that can be set up anywhere in the state.

**Carbyne**

Commissioner Burnett asked if this worked with multiple languages. ACOMM Manager Chapman said yes sir. I believe it is around fifty languages. Commissioner Hernandez asked if this was a computerized voice or an actual voice. ACOMM Manager Chapman said it would be a computerized voice, like an AI voice. They are in the process of making it sound like the caller's voice. Commissioner Hernandez said those can sometimes be hard to understand. ACOMM Manager Chapman said when they did a demo for it, there was an issue where the caller would also hear your voice in English as well, but they have since gotten rid of that. Now it is just the AI translator.

### **Priority Dispatch**

Commissioner Burnett asked how many past dispatchers came back. ACOMM Manager Chapman said four. Commissioner Robinson said that if we received a bomb threat, would this system allow us to determine where the caller is calling from? ACOMM Manager Chapman said no, that would be something through the 911 system, which pumps information directly into Carbyne. We would get additional information. Police Chief Kunihiro said that does not always prevent the criminal element from disguising itself, so it is not always one hundred percent accurate. Commissioner Robinson asked if this was one of the best systems in New Mexico. ACOMM Manager Chapman said not just in New Mexico, but also internationally. Regarding bomb threats, within the next week, we are going live with our Genesis System. When the bomb threat happened, I was able to send out a notification to anyone within the Genesis System, and anyone signed up with the App would have gotten that notification. We will be able to push that information out in real-time to the citizens of Alamogordo.

### **Other Questions**

Commissioner Pattillo asked what challenges have been experienced or foreseen with the transition. ACOMM Manager Chapman said initial challenges were just dealing with the County due to differences of opinion. Now things are smoothing over with the current Acting Director of TBRDA.

Commissioner Hernandez asked if this project's budget was on track. ACOMM Manager Chapman said yes sir.

Commissioner Tapley asked when everything would go live. Police Chief Kunihiro said he did not believe everything would be going 24/7 by April 1st. We do not have the staffing for it. My recommendation is the June 1st timeframe, which will get us through a second academy in April. There are other challenges with vendors and the timelines of things installed. Commissioner Tapley asked how that affected TBRDA. Acting City Manager Hernandez said City Attorney Mori would be writing a letter, but there is better cooperation now. I do not think that should cause any issues. They are low on staffing as well, so our dispatchers helping theirs is mutually beneficial.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rardin asked what the total cost of the transition was. Police Chief Kunihiro said he did not have information regarding salaries and benefits, but we are at \$2,500,000 for everything. Mayor Pro-Tem Rardin asked if that would be an annual recurring expense. Police Chief Kunihiro said there will be recurring costs, but a lot of that is already in the \$2,500,000 for two or three years, depending on software and maintenance fees. We tried to do two to three-year commitments, whereafter if there needs to be changes, we can do that. Acting City Manager Hernandez said we had the choice in some costs to do it either all up front or over a few years. Doing it over a few years came with things like warranties and having people who would do troubleshooting. We are spreading costs over two to three years. Mayor Pro-Tem Rardin asked if we currently owed Otero County any back money on TBRDA. City Attorney Mori said some of this will be an executive session item, but there is some dispute as to what the City and County feel about what has been owned or paid. Legal discourse needs to happen between the City and the County. Mayor Pro-Tem Rardin asked for a ballpark amount. Acting City Manager Hernandez said we owe for this year; there is no doubt about that. There are legal matters I cannot discuss on the record right now.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rudy Contreras said he was here to advocate for the appointment of Acting City Manager Hernandez to City Manager. The other candidate is from Texas, does not have any connection to Alamogordo, and does not have a squeaky-clean record. He served as the City Manager of Dickinson, Texas, from July 21st to February 25th. He left because of different controversies and allegations.

Kim Great White Owl Murillo asked Commissioner Hernandez to step down if his agenda was not for the greater good. I support Dr. Hernandez to be City Manager. I also raise concerns about the Police and \$1,000,000 dashboard cameras, and why they turn off at certain times.

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

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### **Acting City Manager Hernandez made the following comments:**

1. We have once again received the Altus Award, marking our second recognition. The first in 2023 and now again in 2025. This award reflects the strong relationship between the City and Holloman Air Force Base, not only at the leadership level but through the close connection between our airmen, their families, and our community. I also want to recognize the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce for its work on the application. The Altus submission is a heavy lift with over one hundred pages with extensive documentation and community input. The Chamber took on the responsibility of compiling the application, which removed a considerable burden from both the City and Holloman. We anticipate hosting a celebration at the Civic Center on May 21, pending confirmation of the generals' availability from Washington. Once confirmed, I will send a calendar invitation.
2. The City is wrapping up negotiations with the APSOA union. The negotiating teams have reached an agreement, and I understand that the APSOA membership has voted to ratify the contract. Our employment law attorney, Dina Holcomb, will attend a future Commission meeting to present the agreement for formal approval. In previous years, Fire and Police were represented under APSOA. However, last fiscal year, the Fire Department selected to separate and establish its own union under the International Association of Fire Fighters. Negotiations with the fire union are still ongoing. The transition and separation of representation created some delays in the negotiation process for both unions.
3. Since January 2025, staff have been working on updates to the subdivision ordinance and the broader Planning and Zoning ordinance rewrite. One of the consistent concerns raised during outreach has been the complexity of the development process, including the number of departments developers must work with. At the same time, we have faced ongoing recruitment challenges, including multiple unsuccessful recruitments for a Civil Engineer, City Planner, and a second Assistant City Planner. Based on stakeholder feedback, consultant recommendations, and a cost-benefit review, we are in a good position to re-establish a Community Development Department that would oversee Engineering, Planning, and Zoning to streamline the development process. A formal item will come before the Commission in a future meeting.
4. At the next meeting, several things will happen. Clinton from the New Mexico Municipal League will be present to provide Commissioner training. We will also have Mike Bradley give a presentation about the current status of the Golf Course. Bidders will present their proposals regarding the Golf Course. Under New Business, the Commission will have the opportunity to consider and potentially award the bid.

## **REMARKS AND INQUIRIES BY THE CITY COMMISSION**

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Commissioner Tapley said that the owner of the local McDonalds, Josh Ramsey, wished to express his gratitude to the Fire Department for responding so quickly this morning. Acting City Manager Hernandez said she would let them know. Commissioner Tapley said the bowling recently had their first tournament, and it was highly successful. Mayor Pro-Tem Rardin said Mr. Ramsey also reached out to me and praised the Fire Department. He said they were very professional, and it was a design flaw.

Mayor McDonald said that when we previously went up for Otero County Days in Santa Fe, I followed up with our ICIP letter about what the City was asking for. They won't announce that until next week, but I wanted to let the Commission know that I sent it to everyone on the Panel. Once the announcement goes out next Friday, we will know what the City of Alamogordo will be awarded, like fishing access and day-use reopening at Bonito Lake, maintaining and beautifying the exterior of City buildings, procurement of Police Department vehicles and equipment, a plan-design-construct of the Zoo perimeter, including fenced-in runs as needed, and Dry Canyon Arroyo Improvements Phase 1. On March 2nd, thirty-nine honorary Holloman Air Force Base Commanders were named from the City of Alamogordo, which included myself, Acting City Manager Hernandez, and former Commissioner Sikes. I attended the Sendero Apartments Groundbreaking Ceremony on March 3rd. It will be able to house ninety airmen by the end of this year. While there, I was put in contact with the Regional Finance Manager for Southeastern New Mexico, who stated they are looking for developers, contractors, and non-profit organizations to apply for State funds of \$100,000,000. We wish to see what we can do here, like the MRA, to see what our City needs to grow, or the Comprehensive Plan for the City. Last Friday, I attended the 2025 Annual Wing Mania Ceremony at Holloman

Air Force Base. Contractors were awarded recognition. I can really see the relationship that Alamogordo has fostered with Holloman Air Force Base.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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2. Approve the minutes for the Regular Commission Meeting on February 24, 2026, and also the Special Commission Meetings on March 2, March 3, and March 4, 2026. *(Rachel Hughs, City Clerk)*

3. Approve the statements related to the Executive Closed Sessions of the Special Meetings held on March 2, March 3, and March 4, 2026. *(Rachel Hughs, City Clerk)*

4. Investment Report for the quarter ending Dec 31, 2025, in accordance with the City of Alamogordo Investment Ordinance. *(Evelyn Huff, Finance Director)*

5. Consider, and act upon, acceptance of a grant agreement between the State of New Mexico, Department of Finance & Administration, and the City of Alamogordo, in the amount of \$120,000, to purchase and install a columbarium at Monte Vista Cemetery. *(Debbie Osborne, Grant Coordinator)*

6. Consider, and act upon, acceptance of a grant agreement between the State of New Mexico, Department of Finance & Administration, and the City of Alamogordo, in the amount of \$550,000, to plan, design, renovate and construct a building at the Alamogordo Family Recreation Center. *(Debbie Osborne, Grant Coordinator)*

7. Consider, and act upon, acceptance of a grant agreement between the State of New Mexico, Department of Finance & Administration, and the City of Alamogordo, in the amount of \$1,064,700.00, to purchase and equip body cameras and to purchase and install dashboard cameras for Alamogordo Police Department. *(Debbie Osborne, Grant Coordinator)*

8. Consider, and act upon, Resolution 2026-07 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 March 10, 2026. *(Evelyn Huff, Finance Director)* (Roll Call Vote Required)

9. Consider, and act upon, Resolution No. 2026-08, authorizing the Submission of an Application to the New Mexico Department of Transportation Project Fund for the South Florida Avenue Construction and Construction Management Project (Panorama Boulevard to 1st Street) for the FY2026 Funding Cycle. *(Jimmy Vargas, Public Works Director)* (Roll Call Vote Required)

Mayor Pro-Tem Rardin moved to approve the Consent Agenda.  
Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion.  
Motion Passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 0.

### **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

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None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

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10. Consider, and act upon, appointing a board member and alternate to the Southeast Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SERPTO). *(Rachel Hughs, City Clerk)*

City Clerk Hughs said SERPTO is asking for the appointment of a board member and alternate for the next two years. The Representative position became vacant when the former City Planner retired. When a vacancy occurs, the member reverts to the Mayor until someone is appointed. Commissioner Tapley currently serves as the Alternate

position. The meetings are held in rotating locations every two to four months. Past locations have included Ruidoso, Roswell, Carlsbad, and Vaughn.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rardin asked if it needed to be a staff member or a Commissioner. City Clerk Hughs said it could be either. Acting City Manager Hernandez said it was typically one Commissioner and one staff member, but it could be two Commissioners or two staff members. Mayor Pro-Tem Rardin asked if we had any staff member in the department who could do that. City Clerk Hughs said they meet at the same times as the New Mexico DOT and District Two meet. Each municipality designates representatives and alternates, who are typically representatives or public works staff.

Commissioner Tapley said he would need to be removed from the Alternative position, but he would like to nominate Commissioner Robinson for that position.

Commissioner Burnett said he needed to know if it was during the day or on weekends. Acting City Manager Hernandez said it is usually during the day and week. City Attorney Mori said their website states that meetings are scheduled by the Committee at the end of each meeting. Meetings start at 10 AM unless otherwise specified on a meeting agenda. Commissioner Burnett said that rules him out. Acting City Manager Hernandez said putting Public Works Director Vargas in there as the Representative makes sense, and Commissioner Robinson can be the Alternate. Acting City Manager Hernandez said the Commission needs to vote to put in a Commission member as the Alternate, but I can just put in the staff member as the Representative.

**Commissioner Tapley moved to appoint Commissioner Robinson to the Alternate position of SERPTO.  
Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion.  
Motion Passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 0.**

**11. Consider, and act upon, appointing a board member to the Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District/Council of Governments (SNMEDD/COG) Board. (Rachel Hughs, City Clerk)**

City Clerk Hughs said this is an external board that is requesting a board member for the next two years. Mayor Payne was a previous board member. The meetings are quarterly and normally held in Roswell. For the last twelve years, the City of Alamogordo has annually contributed \$9121 to this. Their mission is to strengthen the region's economic base, which is responsible for providing quality jobs to the area residents. This is a nonprofit involved in business development, business retention, community and facilities planning, economic development, grant assistance, human resources development, landwater management planning, legislative initiatives, transportation planning and development, and urban and regional planning.

Acting City Manager Hernandez asked if it was necessary for us to be on this. I have not seen any benefit from it. City Clerk Hughs said it is not necessary, but we are paying a membership fee and contributions. Commissioner Robinson asked who the representatives were in the past. City Clerk Hughs said it was Mayor Payne, and before that, I believe it was Commissioner Hernandez. Commissioner Hernandez said if there is no one else, I will volunteer for this. I have done this for several years.

**Commissioner Hernandez moved to appoint Commissioner Hernandez as the board member.  
Mayor Pro-Tem Rardin seconded the motion.  
Motion Passed with a vote of 6 - 0 - 1. Commissioner Hernandez abstained.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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**12. Recess into Executive Closed Session in compliance with 10-15-1(H)(2) NMSA (as amended) to discuss: Limited Personnel Matters (Hiring of the City Manager) and 10-15-1(H)(7) Pending Litigation: Case D-1215-CV-2022-00434. (Roll Call Vote Required)**

**Commissioner Rardin moved to Recess to Executive Session at 7:45 PM.  
Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion.**

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

**RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**

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**Commissioner Hernandez moved Reconvene into Open Session at 10:11 PM**  
**Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion.**  
**Motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 0 .**

**13. Action, if any, related to Limited Personnel Matters. (Roll Call Vote Required)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Rardin said depending on the action taken tonight, do we have to vote? Or do we just give you direction based on what was discussed? City Attorney Mori said you do not have to take an action if there is no official action. You can give directions based on what was discussed in there. The decision does not have to be made at this point. Mayor Pro-Tem Rardin said let's say the consensus was to hire one of the candidates. Would the direction be for the staff to enter into contract negotiations with that candidate, and not to vote on that? Then, when the contract comes up, that is when we will actually vote? Commissioner Burnett said we would just have to vote on whether we are hiring or not. City Attorney Mori said my thought is, you would move to hire candidate A or candidate B. Mayor Pro-Tem Rardin said so it is an actionable item. City Attorney Mori said based on that, we will proceed. Then that's when the negotiation part proceeds regarding the type of offer you wish to make. Then it is up to the candidate to either accept or enter into negotiations. Mayor Pro-Tem Rardin said once that contract is put together, that is when it will be put on the next agenda to vote on. City Attorney Mori said yes.

**Commissioner Tapley moved to enter into a contract with Stephanie.**

Commissioner Burnett said no, hire. Mayor McDonald said hire. Mayor Pro-Tem Rardin said hire.

**Commissioner Tapley said to hire Dr. Hernandez.**

**Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion.**  
**Motion Passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 0.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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**Mayor Pro-Tem Rardin moved to adjourn at 10:16 PM.**  
**Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion.**  
**Motion Passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 0.**

ATTEST:

*Bern Cleaver For*

City Clerk Rachel Hughes

*Mayor Sharon McDonald*  
Mayor Sharon McDonald



(Prepared by Dylan Aleshire, Deputy Clerk)  
Approved at the Regular Meeting held on March 24, 2026.