

**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
6:30 P.M., COMMISSION CHAMBERS
JANUARY 31, 2017**

**RICHARD BOSS, MAYOR
JASON BALDWIN, COMMISSIONER
NADIA SIKES, COMMISSIONER
JENNY TURNBULL, COMMISSIONER
SUSAN PAYNE, COMMISSIONER**

**AL HERNANDEZ, MAYOR PRO-TEM
ERICA MARTIN, COMMISSIONER
MAGGIE PALUCH, ACTING CITY MANAGER
CANON STEVENS, INTERIM 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 Deputy City Clerk. City Clerk Rachel Hughs was absent. Deputy Clerk Barraza announced there was a quorum present. Invocation was given by Pastor Zach Bechtold and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez.

Mayor Boss recognized and welcomed special guests in the audience of the Otero County Commission.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deputy Clerk Barraza asked Item Number 10 be withdrawn on behalf of Housing Authority Manager Huff.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez moved to approve the agenda as amended.
Commissioner Baldwin seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation of Deep Borehole Drilling Project. (*Kenneth Fillman, CEO TerranearPMC, LLC*)

CEO Kenneth Fillman spoke on behalf of TerranearPMC. He gave a brief background of TerranearPMC. He said Otero County is one of four sites being considered for this Deep Borehole Project by the Department of Energy (DOE). The competitors are Quay County, New Mexico, Pecos County, Texas and Haackon County, North Dakota. He said the research they want to do here is to drill a borehole approximately 5 kilometers deep and do a variety of geological, geophysical, and geochemical tests to determine what the subsurface looks like and determine whether such a geological formation would be suitable for disposal of radioactive waste. He said this is not a radioactive disposal site, there is a commitment that there is not going to be waste at this site. The purpose is to evaluate the feasibility of disposal at such a site. The first step is to drill a very small diameter borehole to demonstrate a couple of things. The ability to drill a straight borehole of that depth, which he believes has to be 100 feet off center maximum at the bottom, and developing and testing characterization methods. He said they may be developing new tests and methods as they go through this process. The team will be collecting a huge amount of data. They have to organize this data so the people at Sandia National Lab have enough format where they can analyze and visualize the data and know what to do with it. The second step of the project, if the first step looks promising, would be to drill a larger borehole to test the emplacement of dummy waste canisters, to see; if the waste canisters can be emplaced in the hole, what type of surface facilities would be needed, what type of safety protocols would be required and what type of ceiling mechanisms would be required to fill the hole. They have an environmental protection plan for this site that will address error issues; what they will do with disposal drill cuttings, how they handle ground water. They are doing a NEPA Environmental assessment. The water resources they need for the site come from existing permitted

wells on the property. As they drill, they expect to hit water from anywhere from 100 to 300 feet and they will case this off. He said the Department of Energy is working into an agreement with the Otero County that will prohibit disposal or storage of waste at the site, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the State of New Mexico to prohibit waste at this site. He said over a year and half ago, they began an outreach program, which would continue during the project to give updates to the public. They have a commitment from the Department of Energy to pay for an independent advisor who will be on site providing review and reporting back to the County Commission. There are substantial benefits to the County. There will 3 to 4 million dollars in sub-contracting relating to the set up of this site. Workers will be provided with housing and food on the site. There will be sub-contracting opportunities for things such as; building roads, power, water, sewage disposal, maintenance requirements, security, and cooks. There are also several research opportunities. They have all the New Mexico Universities on their team. They will be providing internship and scholarship opportunities for both High School and College students. He introduced Katie Roberts as their Public Outreach Liaison and Peter Graham as their Program Manager and Senior Geologist. Their team is New Mexico based, mostly from Los Alamos and Albuquerque. He stated the DOE did not pick this site, but rather they picked this site. The Geology is more suitable here.

Commissioner Payne wanted to know how long this project would last. CEO Kenneth Fillman gave a timeline for the different phases of the project, and said they are looking at a minimum of 14 months. Commissioner Payne said that this could potentially be well over 2 years, CEO Kenneth Fillman said yes. Commissioner Payne said they are drilling the holes just to test the technology and not necessarily for a place to put waste, CEO Kenneth Fillman said not at all. They will be running multiple tests at a given levels of the well to determine which test works to gives them data that they want. There would be much more requirements if this was to be a waste disposal site. He included they are doing a NEPA Environmental Assessment for this project. If they were any thought of doing disposal, this would be an Environmental Impact State, which is a whole greater level of effort than an Environmental Assessment. Currently the DOE is looking at four different technologies for disposal waste. Deep borehole is only one, and it is further behind on the research curve than the other ones. This is a long ways from being accepted as a technology that they are committed to.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez asked if they are going to case the hole. Program Manager/Senior Geologist Peter Graham answered yes, the borehole will be cased in 3 principal zones all the way down to the basement rock. Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez asked what type of casing this will be. Program Manager/Senior Geologist Graham said there will be a very detailed engineering specification developed for casing the borehole, but they anticipate using standard oil field casing types. Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez asked once the project is completed, who will own it. CEO Fillman answered there are basically 3 options; the first is DOE has the rights to take over the lease, if they want to continue research, the second is if the Universities wish to maintain this as a research property, they can take title to the lease, the third is they close it, plug it, clean it out and go away. Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez asked if there is money set aside for any future maintenance of the area, CEO Fillman said yes this is already included in their contract.

Mayor Boss asked why these select areas that are remote and sparsely populated. These are large areas and they will have to haul equipment a long way. He asked why Alamogordo would be on their map. CEO Fillman said the DOE established a number of criteria. They did not want it near any oil and gas exploration, any mineral exploration or near any faulting. Mayor Boss said his point was the logistics of it. If they went to a larger area with the same geological structure, it would be a lot easier to hire people and equipment would come easier and there would be more contractors available. He asked if he knew why North and South Dakota turned the project down. CEO Fillman stated South Dakota now has the support of the Governor and the County Council. Mayor Boss asked if there are any others. CEO Fillman said the Quay County Council and the Governor of Texas have come out in support of the Quay County site. Mayor Boss asked if there are some that have turned it down. CEO Fillman said there was a site in Alabama. He wanted to talk about the site in North Dakota and said the DOE had made some mistakes with that site and so did their contractor. He said discussion of this project, here in Otero County, began a year and a half ago, where in North Dakota, none of this was

done. He stated the DOE made a sudden announcement that they were doing this project in North Dakota. Honestly, there is an issue of distrust with Government and this announcement just set it over the edge in North Dakota. He said getting back to the question of why it is in a remote area. They did not want to have a project that was going to be disruptive to people. He reiterated that they selected this site. Mayor Boss discussed the possibility of seismic activity fracturing the casing for the water. Program Manager/Senior Geologist Peter Graham said the risk of encountering fractures at great depth that would have potential to communicate principally with water at much shallower depth is exactly why they have to do this type of research. This is a risk that needs to be identified if they were going to use this site for disposal in the future.

Mayor Boss said he wanted to make a personal statement, this is him personally and not the Commission.

He stated "He spent many hours researching why the Department of Energy is pursuing this technology for disposal of high level nuclear waste. This Country spent billions of dollars to develop a storage facility in Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Americans were told that this investment would be a long term solution to the critical problem of high level waste, nuclear waste disposal. From about 2002 until 2008, the U.S. had invested 9 billion dollars in the Yucca Mountain Project. Close to one half billion dollars of that amount was spent on a special chamber drilling tool. That special designed equipment is parked in one of the tunnels of Yucca Mountain. During the 2008 Presidential Campaign, President Obama promised to abandon the Yucca Mountain Project to enlist the support of Senator Harry Reid in the 2008 Primary Campaign and he honored that pledge, he defunded that project when he became President. Harry Reid and others were against nuclear waste in the Nevada desert. This is the classic "Not in my Back Yard". In 2010, with the support and request of Senator Reid, then President Barack Obama signed an executive order to stop development of Yucca Mountain as a high level nuclear waste depository. The program was simply defunded with the whisk of a pen. President Obama directed the DOE to come up with an alternative site or method for disposal of high level radioactive waste. In October of 2011, a workshop was held in Albuquerque. The workshop attendees were scientists from Sandia National Lab and other facilities and Universities in our Country. The workshop, I believe, solidified the deep borehole concept for disposal of high level nuclear waste. As a result of that workshop and other discussions, we are here tonight, hearing why we should support a deep borehole in our backyard. The estimated cost of this project is 35 million dollars. I don't believe Otero County would receive that much of an economic benefit. Our part will be minimal. I could not find an estimated total cost of the overall deep borehole disposal method, but I am sure it is a very large number. Currently, high level radioactive waste from nuclear power utility plants is stored on-site, in pools of water contained in a heavy fortified steel and concrete cast. The high level radioactive waste and government waste creation, remains at their respective research labs. The waste is piling up at an ever increasing rate. There have been cases where waste has leaked into our environment. The Department of Energy said that even if deep borehole disposal becomes a reality, it will still want to construct the traditional geologic repository to replace something like Yucca Mountain. I am not a nuclear scientist or geologist, I am merely a retired accountant and home builder, and however, I have seen our Government in action over many years. I have seen the power of the pen in the President's hand. An executive order can override almost any directive or agreement entered into by our Government. We have seen the use of the pen by our recently passed President, and we are seeing it now by our current President. Quite frankly, I would have very little confidence that an agreement signed by the DOE guaranteeing that the disposal of test borehole would never receive high level of nuclear waste. My thoughts regarding this matter are much like Senator Reid's and others. I don't want to Google Alamogordo, New Mexico on my computer and read "Home of the first test borehole or high level nuclear waste". I do believe the hole would eventually be used for waste disposal, in spite of the promises and agreements. I don't want to pick up the Alamogordo Daily News and read the headline article, like what happened in our WIPP site in Carlsbad, NM, about an accident in handling the waste, or an accident from the source of the waste to the disposal site. In conclusion, I personally do not support the proposed Deep Borehole subsurface research project in Otero County. I believe a better option would be for our current President Trump, to pull out his pen, reactivate Yucca Mountain storage facility. Instead of the pen, a novel approach would be to Congress as deemed by our

Constitution, this is a disposal infrastructure that already exists, Yucca Mountain is. Many billions of tax dollars would be saved, the savings could be utilized to reduce our debt, build new roads, repair dams and bridges, support our Veteran's in war. I believe New Mexico has contributed its share of support to nuclear programs. We provided a site for transuranic waste at WIPP in Carlsbad. We have provided a place for Sandia Labs to develop and research nuclear technologies. We provided a site for the first test of the Atomic bomb in 1945. We've done our share".

CEO Fillman said he respects the Mayor's position and understands it. What they are talking about is a research project.

Mayor Boss said this was his personal thoughts. He said if the Commission would desire more comment or would like to make a decision to support the project, they could certainly talk about it at a later date.

2. Presentation by property owners Ken Driscoll, Marilyn Kite, and Diana Driscoll concerning the City of Alamogordo Ordinance to charge property owners for access fee for water on vacant properties. (Marilyn Kite, Ken Driscoll, and Diana Driscoll, Property Owners)

Ken Driscoll wanted to voice his concerns about the new policy or procedure of water billing. He said the City activated an account, in which he did not request, for an empty lot that has not had service in over twenty years. He said prior to this ordinance, owners would have to pay an impact fee. His argument about this Ordinance is he has already paid for the availability of the water and sewer by paying his impact fee. Mayor Boss said this is not a new policy or Ordinance, this was passed years ago. We are simply trying to catch up with what is provided in the Ordinance. Mr. Driscoll asked the Commission a few questions about the Ordinance, and Acting City Manager Paluch said we could certainly answer any questions he may have, through a public records request. She said this is under Presentations and this is his time to express his concerns. He wanted a breakdown of what each base charge for water and sewer, pays for in the operating budget. He said the City should not activate services in his name without permission. He wanted to know what the \$25 connection fee pays for. He said he would like the Commission to address his concerns at a public meeting sometime in the future.

Diana Driscoll said she is completely against the City's policy to activate any accounts in her name against her wishes. She believes if she should have to pay this bill, it is only fair that everyone should have to pay their share. There should be no special consideration or favoring of Developers and Contractors. She said if one receives a grace period then all should receive a grace period. She hoped that the money generated from these fees are applied to the betterment of the water system and not used for frivolous expenditures.

Marilyn Kite commented on the City's policy to re-activate accounts in the property owner's name and proceed to charge them a utility base rate charge on vacant homes or lots even if utilities have not been used there for years. She said this is done without the owner's consent. She said some citizens have been paying this base rate charge for over 10 years, where others just started paying last year. If charges are not paid by the owner, a lien will be filed on the property. She quoted Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez, from the October 20, 2016 Commission Meeting, as to saying "he would like to see the Commission look at this policy, because he felt that they were using this as a revenue generator."

PUBLIC COMMENT

Patty Galea commented on the following:

Ms. Galea read a letter that she previously sent to the Commission and thought it was important, the view she is expressing be included into the record. "Mayor Boss, Commissioners: Baldwin, Sikes, Payne, Turnbull, Hernandez and Martin. After the first presentation of the increase in fees, I made a few comments to Mayor Boss. I've intended to send you my thoughts however, I procrastinated a bit. I read today some less than friendly comments about this topic arising again this week. I pondered enough and I am sending you a different view than what you will probably hear on Tuesday evening. I

too listened intently to those individuals who are adamant about the damage these costs will inflict on them personally, and on their businesses. I understand their concerns and to each of them they are very, very real. My comments are based on a value we teach our young women at church. The program is centered on several values; integrity, good words, virtue, knowledge, faith, Devine nature, individual worth, and choice and accountability. My favorite value is choice and accountability. Why? Because at age 12, the girls are all about choosing good over evil. By 18, they realize that not all choices are as clear cut as good or bad. They suddenly are making choices between good, better and best. Nothing is clear cut, but the one certainty is when you make a choice you must be accountable for your actions. As I listened that night to each individual who spoke, some things began to nudge at me. One person was concerned with apartments, which are very fluid in changeover, especially with Military. As she spoke, it occurred to me that I rented at Las Ventanas for two years. They have had even shorter turnover, since they house the International students who frequently lived above me, for short terms and they are here for training. I had no water bill while I lived there. I am sure that my rent included a fair share, but as a business, the management arranged something so they were not getting assessed these fees at occupancy changeover. Both apartment complexes made choices; one to encompass the billing and the other to have the tenant to pay the water bill. With each choice comes accountability. One apartment has no fees and the other finds them to be a great problem. I fully recognize there are people in this community who own multiple properties and count on occupancy for income. I find it difficult to believe the person renting multiple properties does not have an account used strictly for repairs or incidental charges. I can't believe that an individual would spend all income and not have sufficient funds for those incidental charges. Again, choice and accountability. Choose to spend everything, but you must be accountable for the stress when the incidental charges arise, if that is the case. In our family, as our children were being raised there were times when one child would not want to do something the family was committed for. Our kids were taught they were part of a family and sometimes what the family wanted or needed would override what one individual would feel was important. I know that each of you are responsible for the needs of the people in each of your districts. I also recognize you have a city-wide responsibility for balancing the budget and making decisions which are best for all. I hope that if the fee is a necessary assessment for the good of the City, some of the people who are adamantly negative about it will be able to recognize their part of the community family. I wish you all well and hope you are able to make your own choice and accountability the best that you can chose. I thank you for your service and I thank you for your time tonight."

Eugene Downer commented on the following:

Mr. Downer wanted to give a pat on the back to Mayor Boss for his statement. He also wanted to give a pat on the back to "My Mother's Place", a restaurant on White Sands Boulevard, for painting their building. He pointed out the City of Albuquerque passed some policy on abandoned commercial buildings, and stated that no one here has followed up on this policy. He asked the Commission if they choose to make more housing, to not use property designated for a park, but encouraged the Commission to revitalize residential areas of the City for new housing projects. He acknowledged that the City is considering an agreement with Bethel Development for low cost housing. He said it was his understanding that Bethel Development owns their Construction Company. He urged the Commission to use a local Construction Company for such projects. He criticized the City of Alamogordo for not having packets available to inform citizens of Bethel Development's Plan.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Acting City Manager Maggie Paluch made the following remarks:

1. She discussed the topic of NMDOT closing of Highway 82 at Mile Marker 10 for some construction. She said thankfully they have changed their plans and now plan on keeping one lane open during the closure. Dates of construction are scheduled for February 6 through February 10, 2017. If any information changes, we will be able to distribute that information via our website.
2. She said the City has received re-proposals for a complete Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan will address several areas including; a review of our current zoning map, transportation, infrastructure, and needs and assessment of required services based on our

population growth. The RFP Committee will look at the 3 proposals and we should expect to see an award of the Comprehensive Plan at the 2nd meeting in February.

3. She said the City received 2 Proposals for the Management Services of Basin Lanes, and hopefully we will see this awarded at the 2nd Commission meeting in February.
4. She said budget season is upon us. Departments have already entered the budget into our financial software, and within the next couple of weeks, Department heads, the Finance Director and the City Manager will meet to discuss their proposals. The Commission will have hearings in May.
5. She thanked Ronnie Ortega, Community Services Director, for holding down the fort while she was out this past week. She is thankful for the wonderful Directors and City staff.

REMARKS AND INQUIRIES BY THE CITY COMMISSION

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Approve the minutes for the January 10, 2017 Regular meeting. *(Rachel Hughs, City Clerk)*

4. Review Resident Parking Only, Mobility Disabled Resident Parking Only, and Commercial Mobility Disabled Parking Only sign locations for the purpose of determining continuance of each location. *(Eric Barraza, Deputy City Clerk)*

6. Consider, and act upon Ordinance 1533 for final publication for a map amendment to the official zoning map of the City of Alamogordo to rezone the property located at 805 Alaska Ave. from- R1 – Single Family Dwelling District to R4 – Multiple Family Dwelling District. Case Z-2016-0005(A) *(Stella Rael, Planning and Zoning Administrator)* Roll Call required

7. Consider, and act upon, the Lodger's Tax Expenditures for Tourism & Travel. *(Jan Wafful, Special Events Coordinator)*

9. Consider, and act upon, release of liens past the four year statute of limitations. *(Lauren Truitt, City Attorney)*

10. Consider, and act upon, Resolution No. 2016-46 requesting approval of a local contribution from the Housing Authority of the City of Alamogordo to Alamogordo Housing, LLC for a proposed low income housing tax credit application *(Evelyn Huff, Housing Authority Manager)* Roll Call Required **(WITHDRAWN)**

11. Consider, and act upon, final publication of Ordinance No. 1534 Repealing Ordinance No. 1495 which approved a local economic development project for secured financial assistance by Orogrande Garnet, LLC *(Lauren Truitt, City Attorney)* Roll Call Required

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez asked to remove Item #5 from the Consent Calendar. Commissioner Payne asked to remove Item #8 from the Consent Calendar.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez moved to approve items 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 11 of the consent calendar. Commissioner Baldwin seconded the motion.

Roll call was taken for items No. 6 & 11.

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

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

5. Consider, and act upon, Resolution No. 2017-02 requesting the approval of the Housing Authority Law Enforcement Officer Occupancy Plan (*Evelyn Huff, Housing Authority Manager*) Roll Call Required

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez asked about the procedure for picking officers and how many units are occupied by this plan. Housing Authority Manager Huff answered that HUD allows them one unit per development and we can request more than one, but we must be able to justify the request. Officers are asked by the Department if they would be willing to be participants in the program. Recommendations are sent back to them, and if they feel the Officer is going to help the property then they move forward with the leasing. They look at the need of the Officer and the need of the complex. This has been a positive program for the complexes.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez moved to approve.
Commissioner Sikes seconded the motion.
Roll call vote was taken.
Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.**

8. Consider, and act upon, award of IFB 2017-01 to General Hydronics Plumbing, LLC. related to the Family Rec Center Pool Heater Replacement in the amount not to exceed \$31,597.56. (*Larry Garner, Facility Maintenance Manager*)

Public Works Director Brian Cesar said this item would have been brought before the Commission earlier, but because the bubble was not going up this year they extended the period that the pool was open. On the Public Works side, they also wanted to extend it, because they wanted to have their new pool technician see the replacement of these parts. Unfortunately, they have not yet hired for that position, but they need the heater in place before they re-open the pool. Commissioner Payne asked if this is just a necessary replacement and nothing that was planned. Public Works Director Cesar said it was planned when they did the assessment of the pool. This part should have a life span of about 15 years. Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez asked if this new pool heater is repairable. Public Works Director Cesar answered yes. He stated that the old heater was also repairable, but there was so much damage to it, that it was more economically feasible to buy a new one. He said they were looking at \$20,000 to make repairs to the old heater, which may have extended the life of that heater maybe five or six years.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez moved to approve.
Commissioner Payne seconded the motion.
Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.**

NEW BUSINESS

12. Consider, and act upon, the installation of a signalized intersection located at 10th Street and Scenic Drive. (*Brian Cesar, Public Works Director*)

Public Works Director Cesar said this item was originally brought to the Commission in October 2016. and the time, direction was given by the Commission to bring this item back when the signal was warranted. He was asked to bring this item back to the Commission because of an accident that occurred in this intersection. The price that was given back in October was \$280,000, and now the price is about \$325,000. This light would be similar to the light going up at First and Florida. This will include the ADA improvements that would be required. What this price does not include is any potential property acquisition. They would also need to look at the closing of any businesses during the

installation of the light. At this time staff is asking for direction on this project. Commissioner Sikes asked if we have pulled any accident reports to show the history of this intersection. Public Works Director Cesar answered when the study was performed by HTR, they looked at a three year period from 2007 to 2009. In that time frame there were five accidents in that intersection. In talking with Police Chief Syling, his staff was able to report there were two accidents within the past twelve months.

Commissioner Payne said part of the issue is Heights Elementary School with kids walking home from school. She pointed out that Oregon Elementary will be shutting down and a new school will be built on Height's Elementary playground. This will happen in 2019, and when this increase enrollment happens, the Commission really needs to consider this.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez asked if this is a budgeted item. He said this is a high dollar item and this needs to be budgeted. He said any time something out of the ordinary happens, the Commission looks at throwing money at it. He said there are plenty of intersections that warrant studies. He pointed out the schools used to provide crossing guards and asked of their involvement in all of this. He questioned using the budgeted money (Fund 109) for this signal, when a majority of the streets in Alamogordo are in desperate need of repairs. He said there used to be a program for street repair maintenance, and asked where it is now. Acting City Manager Paluch answered there still is a program and pointed out the budgeted amounts allocated for the Street Maintenance Program. She said when the Street Maintenance Program comes to the Commission annually it is projected for a five year time period. Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez said he does not disagree with this, but thinks this much money needs to be a budgeted item. Acting City Manager agreed with Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez, but added that staff receives complaints and concerns and is why this was brought to the Commission to re-address these concerns. She stated copies of the traffic study are available at her office. She said this intersection does warrant a street light at this location further down the road, based on population growth. She said we are not at this point yet, but there are other considerations that we need to think about. Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez said population growth or changes in traffic flows. He said this is something they need to address with the schools, to see what they are doing for the safety of their kids.

Commissioner Turnbull said she was happy to see this back on the Agenda as the intersection is near her work. She knows what is reported on the traffic reports, but can hear the screeching of the tires and the slamming of the brakes all day long. There are a number of close accidents that are not on the report. She said they need to address this because something has to change. She thinks the schools are going to have to get involved.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez said there are other streets that people are using just to avoid this intersection, and this needs to be addressed as well.

Mayor Boss said there were other options explored. He said possibly one option is a 15 mile per hour zone, by slowing people down would be helpful. Acting City Manager Paluch said she could not think of another school zone with a four way stop that does not have a light.

Commissioner Turnbull said many drivers pull up over the crosswalk and if they could stop before the crosswalk it would make it safer. Commissioner Martin asked if we could price a crosswalk similar to the one located at the College on Scenic. Acting City Manager said the only concern with this type of crosswalk is the lights dim over time. Public Works Director Cesar said this crosswalk was around \$42,000 and the College paid for some of the materials. This does not include the solar panel that powers it, which he thought was an additional \$8,000 or \$9,000. He said they could extend the school zone, which would start 150 feet prior to each sides of the intersection. Recently, they installed a new school zone which cost was about \$12,500 and included 2 lights. He said this school zone would require 3 lights.

Commissioner Payne mentioned her daughters were nearly in accident at this intersection. She asked about a lighted stop sign. Public Works Director stated there is a lighted stop sign at North Florida and Highway 82. Commissioner Payne said part of the problem is with people not familiar with the area. People that travel this area every day know there is a stop sign there.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez said maybe we could post signs that state "Change in Traffic Patterns". He reiterated the schools involvement in this process.

Commissioner Sikes mentioned when Florida and Fairgrounds Road installed a light, this significantly reduced the number of accidents. She also asked about installing signs that state "Do Not Block Crosswalks" and painting the crosswalks. Public Works Director Cesar said the crosswalks have recently been painted. She also suggested putting a speed monitoring system on Scenic.

Commissioner Turnbull wanted to echo Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez's concern for the schools involvement in this process. She said it would help to have someone from the school up at this intersection.

Commissioner Baldwin wanted to applaud his fellow Commissioners for coming up with alternatives rather than having to pay \$300,000 for a light. He said they should not be as reactionary, but need to explore all of their options available.

Mayor Boss said instead of giving any direction, get a summary of options they have, so they can make a recommendation at a later time.

No motion was made on this item.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez said every Item brought before them is addressed in its full entirety. He does not believe that any Commissioner is cut short, and questions are asked that they feel need to be asked. They may not always agree on every item, but they do their due diligence. They spend all the time necessary to make decisions that they feel are best for the citizens of Alamogordo. Commissioner Baldwin added that going out and getting additional information is always helpful to this process.

Commissioner Baldwin commented on a statement given, earlier in the meeting, which compared the City to a prostitute. He understands the frustration of Citizens with the water billing system and the old Ordinance that is now being enforced. There are a number of good men and women that work for the City and did not need to be raked through the mud. He recognized that comment was born in frustration. As Commissioner's they take it on the chin as often as need be, this is part of what there job is. He believed the comment was directed to the employees of the City of Alamogordo. He said he would not stand for this, and hopes she realized what she did and would apologize to the employees. In reference to this Item on the Agenda, they have all received phone calls and they are taking this issue very seriously and stated staff is looking at the issue. They see some inconsistencies in the billing processes. There were some things that were brought to his attention during the presentation, which he appreciated, though he did not agree with them. He hopes that the City can come to a conclusion that works for everybody. He understands that tensions are running high on this issue.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez moved to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. Commissioner Turnbull seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.




City Clerk Rachel Hughs


Mayor Richard Boss

(Prepared by Eric Barraza, Deputy City Clerk)
Approved at the Regular Meeting held on March 14, 2017.