

**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO  
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
6:30 P.M., COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
June 27, 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  
PETRIA SCHREIBER, ASSISTANT 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 City Clerk. Clerk Hughs announced there was a quorum present. Invocation was given by Pastor Bill Heithold and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commission Turnbull.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Presentation of Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. *(Ray Vincent, Chairman of the Board)***

Chairman Ray Vincent spoke on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. He discussed the purpose of the Board. He said the Board is comprised of seven members, appointed by the Commission, two members are Alamogordo Public Schools representatives and one of those is automatically the Athletic Director. He announced current members of the Board as: Dale Lindley, Jerrett Perry, Paul Sanchez, Jerry Lott, Rita Robuck and currently they have one vacancy. He briefly discussed some recommendations and accomplishments. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meets quarterly on the second Wednesday, one coming up in July, at 6:00 p.m. at the Family Recreation Center. These meeting are always open to the public. (See Power Point in Blue Book)

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Michael Shyne commented on the following:**

He spoke on the billboards in the City on White Sands Blvd. and on the Relief Route. He asked the Commission to do a careful analysis of banning new billboards in Alamogordo and giving existing billboards a specific life. He discussed property rights issues and said these billboards are working against what our White Sands Beautification Committee is trying to achieve.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Acting City Manager Paluch made the following remarks:**

1. She said City staff is still in negotiations with Union Pacific Railroad regarding the requirements for the extension of Scenic Drive out to Mesa Village. The current request from the railroad would require the City to close the crossing at 8<sup>th</sup> Street, and in addition we would be required to fence both sides of the railroad tracks at 10<sup>th</sup> Street to 600 feet to the north, and extend the median, at the Walgreens property, to the west to prevent traffic from making a left turn. These are still preliminary discussions.
2. She said the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) public hearing will be held June 28, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room in the Library. The top three planned projects

recommended by staff are \$625,000 for a new fire truck, \$100,000 for police patrol vehicles and \$240,000 for playground shade structures. The public hearing is held for residents to comment on these projects. This is for possible State funding, and there is no guarantee the State of New Mexico will fund these projects.

3. She showed some pictures of two dogs available at Animal Control. She gave information on Loki, a one year old blue heeler mix and his adoption fee is \$53.65. The second dog is Popi, a one year old pit mix and his adoption fee is \$12.53. She said in May, Animal Control's out the door rate was 90 percent, almost considered to be a no kill shelter.

4. She said the City is taking blight very seriously. The Commission asked staff to identify other properties that could be designated as dilapidated. Chief LeClair brought to our attention that the property located at 508 Maryland. This property was foreclosed on by the City in 2015, however previous City staff did not update City or County records, so current staff did not know that we owned this property. Staff is currently obtaining a task order for asbestos and lead abatement. The test may be required before we can apply for a demolition permit to remove the structure. The Finance staff identified a small allocation of funds in the designated gift fund from a citizen that donated this money for blight removal. After the structure is removed, the Commission will see the land come before them for sale. Fire Chief LeClair has presented a list, to my office and the legal office, of all the properties that were designated as dilapidated. The City Commission will see that list on Friday.

5. The City's 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade will be held on Saturday July 1, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. starting at the Recreation Center and ending on New York Avenue. The theme is What Makes America Great Again. On July 4, 2017 the Fireworks display will be at the Space Museum. The parking lots at NMSU-A will be closed to the public.

6. She congratulated City Attorney Lauren Truitt on the arrival of her newborn baby.

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

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**Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez made the following comments:**

He thought they should really consider Michael Shyne's request. He added that the hospital parking lot will be closed for the Fourth of July fireworks display.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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2. Approve the minutes for the June 13, 2017 Regular meeting. *(Rachel Hughs, City Clerk)*

3. Consider, and act upon, award of Public Works Bid No. 2017007, Reroof Alamogordo Civic Center, to SRI of New Mexico, LLC in the amount of \$113,423.76, including NMGRT. *(Bob Johnson, Engineering Manager)*

4. Consider and act upon Airport annual maintenance grant from the state. Grant is 90/10 \$10,000 state \$1,000 city match. *(Jim Talbert Airport Manager)*

5. Consider, and act upon, the approval of Resolution No. 2017-17 requesting written approval from the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance & Administration, State of New Mexico for the revised budget figures computed as of June 27, 2017. *(Kathy Gilsdorf, Budget Analyst)* (Roll Call Vote Required)

6. Consider, and act upon, Resolution 2017-18 requesting the approval of HUD Form 52574 PHA Board Resolution Approving Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year 2018 budget *(Evelyn Huff, Housing Authority Manager)* (Roll Call Vote Required)

7. Consider, and act upon, Resolution No. 2017-19 supporting the New Mexico Department of Tourism Litter Control and Beautification grant for Keep Alamogordo Beautiful (KAB). *(Veronica Ortega, Community Services Director)* (Roll Call Vote Required)

**Mayor Boss asked to remove Item # 6 from the Consent Calendar.**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez asked to remove Item #3 from the Consent Calendar.**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez moved to approve items 2, 4, 5, and 7 of the consent calendar.**

**Commissioner Baldwin seconded the motion.**

**Roll call was taken for items No. 5 & 7**

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

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

**3. Consider, and act upon, award of Public Works Bid No. 2017-007, Reroof Alamogordo Civic Center, to SRI of New Mexico, LLC in the amount of \$113,423.76, including NMGR. (Bob Johnson, Engineering Manager)**

Engineering Manager Johnson said this project is to remove all the existing roofing system on the Civic Center, because it does leak. This is just for the lower side of the Civic Center and will not affect the metal round roof. He gave details of what was going to be removed and replaced.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez asked questions about the roofing system and said he is seeing failures in some of the roofs he has installed. He said the companies that were used are either out of business or will not warranty the product. He asked if this is a 15 or 20 year roof. Engineering Manager Johnson said it is a 20 year roof. Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez said he has seen a lot of failures because of our UV that we have here. He asked Engineering Manager Johnson if they have seen any failures in the ones they have now, he replied no. Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez asked how old they are, which one is your oldest. Engineering Manager Johnson said City Hall is the oldest one and it is about seven or eight years old. We have not had any significant leaks in this building. We have had a wide variety of different contractors do roofs on our buildings, and we've had no failures. Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez said all three of his are showing failures and they are all 15 or 20 year roofs. Engineering Manager Johnson said the contractor is directly responsible for the warranty of the roof, after 2 years we have to go to the manufacturer. Every TPO system that has been installed on our buildings has been a Firestone product. Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez said his duralast roofs are the ones that are failing.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez asked what brand they are proposing. Engineering Manager Johnson said we don't know, we listed six to eight different manufacturers. It just happens, that all the previous roofs have used the firestone product. Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez verified that the product is TPO and not rubber. Engineering Manager Johnson confirmed that the product is TPO. Mayor Boss asked if the TPO better than the rubber roof. Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez said it depends. He is seeing failures in his rubber roofs as well. Engineering Manager Johnson said they do not install rubber roofs. Mayor Boss asked if this company has done work for us before. Engineering Manager Johnson said no. Mayor Boss asked how long they have been in business. Engineering Manager Johnson said about 20 years. They are currently mobilized at Holloman doing quite a bit of work out there. If they can satisfy federal requirements, they can definitely meet ours. Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez said every manufacturer will back their systems up and for this cost, it is probably the best way you can spend your money.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez moved to approve.**

**Commissioner Turnbull seconded the motion.**

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

**6. Consider, and act upon, Resolution 2017-18 requesting the approval of HUD Form 52574 PHA Board Resolution Approving Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year 2018 budget (Evelyn Huff, Housing Authority Manager) (Roll Call Vote Required)**

Housing Authority Manager Huff said there was a correction on one of the forms. On the HUD Form 52574, the Resolution number is listed 2018-17 and should have been Resolution 2017-18. The corrected form has been submitted to the City Clerk's Office.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez moved to approve.**

**Commissioner Martin seconded the motion.**

**Roll call vote was taken.**

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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### **8. Consider, and act upon, Kid's Kingdom Rebuild Proposals. (*Veronica Ortega, Community Services Director*)**

Acting City Manager Paluch said there is two options for the Kids Kingdom rebuild. The insurance payout for Kids Kingdom was \$448,484. Both options are more than the money received from the insurance company. A portion of the bond refinancing that was originally allocated for the natatorium will be used to fund the rebuild.

Finance Director Hall explained on July 1, 2016 we did refinance our Gross Receipts Tax Revenue bonds in the amount of \$6,870,000. Those bonds were refinanced as a loan. That loan was used to pay off the old bond, our Bond Council and our Financial Advisors. There was also money allocated for flood control, and the remaining \$2,075,731 is for the natatorium project. This loan is a reimbursable loan, meaning we payoff the expense and then we request reimbursement from the New Mexico Finance Authority. We did have one payment application on the natatorium to the Architect in the amount of \$61,092. This amount has been paid and we have been reimbursed for it. This leaves a balance of the natatorium project of \$2,014,640. She read the purpose and dedication of these funds, from the loan document. We can use it for other projects, but we should go through the New Mexico finance Authority to have an actual rededication of the funds created. That process would work like this: If you approve one of the options, we would then send the meeting agenda and the minutes to our Bond Council, he would then create the ordinance to rededicate those natatorium funds for a portion of Kid's Kingdom and whatever potential projects we might want to use it for. That ordinance would then come before the Commission in the first publication, and then the second publication so that we could have public comment or input, if needed. Once that ordinance has been approved by the Commission, we then take that project and the ordinance to the New Mexico Finance Authority Board meeting for their approval.

Finance Director Hall said we have three years from the date we closed on the loan, which was July 1, 2016. Our bond council could request an extension through NMFA, if needed.

Acting City Manager Paluch said with both options, you are going to see multiple projects running at the same time because of the short time frame that we have to spend that money.

Community Services Director Ortega thanked City staff who played a large role in helping to get pricing for these options. She also thanked the Community Services staff for their dedication in getting these options together for the Commission's review. She presented option one as a playground with a Splash Park. She briefly went through and described the equipment and site improvements to be included in the playground. She said the proposed Splash Park is 56,000 square feet. She described how the Splash Park would work and said the park would use potable water which would be recaptured through a recirculation system that could potentially have a recovery rate of 80 percent. This will require a Certified Pool Operator (CPO) and we currently have 3 on staff with Public Works to monitor the system. The process to keep the water clean is much like the process required in a swimming pool. We are proposing a seasonal operation from Memorial Day to Labor Day, with hours from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. If you select this option it would require City Commission waiver of Ordinance number 28-03-033, the water conservation policy. She described the recurring operating requirements for the Splash

Park. She also said the estimated water usage would be 66,600 cubic feet per month or approximately 500,000 gallons of water. It will require a two inch meter and it would be a tier 5 charge, including sewer charges, the monthly bill would be approximately \$6,600. She showed the conceptual layout and said the goal was to work around the existing trees. The estimated costs are: for the Splash Park is \$525,000, for the playground is \$225,000, and for site improvements is \$247,000. The subtotal is 997,000 and we added a 10 percent contingency for a grand total of \$1,096,700. Less the insurance recovery funds of \$448,484, we would request \$648,216 of the natatorium bond funds. Mayor Boss said we are estimating a half a million gallons of water a month, which would be virtually be evaporation. Community Services Director-Ortega said 80 percent we would capture and about 20 percent would be evaporation. This is a guess, because it is going to depend on the bathing load, so however much bathing load is how much we backwash the water, so that always costs a lot of water in evaporation. (See Power Point in Blue Book)

Community Service Director Ortega proceeded to present option two. She showed pictures and described the playground equipment and site improvements to be included in this option. She said the estimated cost for the playground is \$225,000 and for the site improvements is \$247,000. The subtotal is \$472,000 and a ten percent contingency of \$47,200 for a grand total of \$519,200. Less the insurance recovery funds of \$448,484, we would request \$70,716 request from the natatorium bond funds. (See Power Point in Blue Book)

Community Services Director Ortega went over all the goals of this project. She also showed other available project options which are available to be paid for by the remainder of the natatorium bond funds. She said for the playground with the Splash Park, they would be able to fund 10 of the 14 other projects and would leave a balance of \$180,000. This would exclude: playground shade structures, picnic pavilions, zoo parking lot and the dog park. If option two was selected, it would fund all other projects and would leave a remaining balance of \$160,077. This remaining balance could be used for other projects not shown or discussed in this presentation. (See Power Point in Blue Book)

Acting City Manager Paluch commended Community Services Director Ortega and staff for the amount of work put in. The Commission was expecting to see this sooner, but I directed Community Services Director Ortega to make sure the estimates were as accurate as possible, so that we do not find ourselves in a situation that we have been in the past. These estimates are very accurate. She thanked the entire Community Services staff. She said this evening we are looking for discussion, comments, questions and hopefully a decision that can be made for direction to the next Commission meeting on what type of projects you would like to see. Mayor Boss asked if it was just discussion for tonight and no action to be taken. Acting City Manager Paluch said no, we need for you to act upon either option 1 or option 2, or if the Commission would like to suggest a third option, they can certainly do that as well. We do need an action tonight, so that we can send the recommendation to the Bond Council so they can write a new Ordinance for your next meeting.

Commissioner Sikes asked where the \$80,000 to maintain the Splash Park will come from. Acting City Manager Paluch said it would come from the general fund. Commissioner Sikes said with all of the other things that we would like to do with salary restructuring, how would that look, if anyone could predict the future. Acting City Manager Paluch said if the Commission chooses to fund the Splash Park with the recurring costs, then that would be a hit to the general fund. Moving forward, when we are talking about salary restructuring or any other projects, then those projects would suffer.

Mayor Boss asked when we had Kids Kingdom, how much did it cost to operate that park. Acting City Manager Paluch said Kids Kingdom did not cost anything to operate other than the minor maintenance that the Parks Department had to conduct on an annual basis, plus insuring that wood was oiled appropriately. The Big Give did that for us last summer, but it was a minimal cost. The material that staff is recommending would be extremely minimal to maintain. Mayor Boss said so the expense is in the Splash Park. Acting City Manager Paluch said yes, the major expense would be the water bill that we would have to pay monthly and the fact the Commission would have to approve a waiver of the water conservation Ordinance that we have.

Commissioner Payne asked how much it cost to operate the pool in the winter. Acting City Manager Paluch said that is a very difficult question to answer, because the electricity in the Recreation Center is not separated between the pool and the Recreation Center. It was very hard to estimate how much money we used to heat the pool itself. Commissioner Payne asked what the City's contribution to make up for the loss of the pool, in the winter. Acting City Manager Paluch said I believe, and asked Community Services Director Ortega to correct her if she was wrong, the estimated electricity cost in the winter for the entire facility was around \$400,000. Again, that was for the whole facility and not the pool itself. Community Services Director Ortega said it was actually \$61,000 that was budgeted.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez said when they closed down the hospital pools, the gas bill was \$5,000 a month to maintain. The electric was minimal because you just have some pumps that run on timers and the lighting. Commissioner Payne asked if it was only five months, I am just trying to figure out if it is a swap. Acting City Manager Paluch said I don't think either myself or Ms. Ortega can say it is an exact swap considering there are variables to each. If we have the Splash Park, then we have to have a CPO down at the Splash Park. It would be the same thing as operating the pool. The water cost would be there. Commissioner Payne said my point is this is not an additional expense. It might be trading an expense. I would suggest saving a little bit of money because of the salaries alone.

Community Services Director Ortega said the \$400,000 she was referring to earlier was the total expenditures for five months, the winter months of the pool.

Commissioner Martin asked if they could save by cutting the hours down. Community Services Director said sure, it is hard to gauge that amount because the water is not running continuously. Acting City Manager Paluch said the Community Services Director Ortega and staff toured multiple Splash Parks in other communities and that is where the numbers come from in usage. It is still a guess on our population, and our demographics and how much they are going to use it.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez asked if they considered or can they consider going back to the structure like the one they had before at Kids Kingdom. Acting City Manager Paluch said staff is not recommending another wooden structure because of the issues we had there. Kids Kingdom was something different than any other playground in Alamogordo. The staff took that idea and again wanted to provide something different that we don't already have. Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez said there was a lot of passion on both sides when the fire happened, and afterwards. He was concerned if we do not go back to something similar.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez said I like the idea of the water park, but I cannot support it in any fashion, because I can't spend this much money with all these other problems we have. I would like to do something else, maybe increase Kids Kingdom or do a community project. Acting City Manager Paluch said the only problem with having the community rebuild a playground, there are a lot of different safety regulations now, than there was in the early 1990s. You need to have people that are certified to put these things together. She said the Mayor does have a project through leadership Otero to resurrect the handprints at Kids Kingdom, and that is something we can get a lot of community support and involvement around.

Sikes said she has been looking at playgrounds and the most common place kids get hurt is at playgrounds. She said they have to be cognoscente when we build this playground. There are a lot of safety features to go into building a playground. She asked if we passed a waiver, are there unattended consequences of that, do we get anything for having a conservation plan. Acting City Manager Paluch said Public Works Director Cesar would be the person to ask this question, but I can certainly do some research. I wanted to be fully open, there is probably going to be public perception problem or questions. For example, our hotels have been denied because of the water conservation plan.

Commissioner Sikes said it also looks like, based on the numbers for our Desal Plant that every gallon produced will be going to the water park. She asked who will monitor all the security cameras. Community Services Director Ortega said Park staff. I really appreciate the projects beyond Kids Kingdom, they are really important for Alamogordo.

Commissioner Payne said she has been inundated with people that really want a splash park. I think this is a great way to change our image and become more current. As far as the playground, I am conflicted because the concept of Kids Kingdom was nice, however there were problems with that design. Although it was a great idea, there were a lot of issues with it.

Mayor Boss asked Community Services Director Ortega what splash parks she visited. She said Las Cruces and El Paso. Mayor Boss asked what other communities have one. Community Services Director said Artesia, Carlsbad and Albuquerque.

Commissioner Sikes asked what kind of usage the splash pad at the Recreation Center gets. Community Services Director Ortega said it is very popular when the pool is open.

Commissioner Baldwin said he was leaning toward option two because of the totality that we can accomplish. I believe our job is to rectify the issue with Kids Kingdom being burnt down with the insurance money. The Splash Park is a great idea and is possibly something we can look at for the future, but the cost is a little too much. It is kind of overstepping the idea of replacing what we are supposed to be replacing with the insurance money. Maybe when the City Manager completes the Comprehensive Plan, if the splash park was a part of it, and we had better planning or funding in place, I would lean more toward going that direction. This does fall in the common theme of making Alamogordo look more modern. He said he would be cautious and hope the City would make a bigger plan, because making the renovations to all these various projects, there is still not a plan for fixing the parks. As we move forward, if we go with option two, I would recommend that a park renovation plan be brought to us. Community Services Director Ortega said with the increase in budget for Fiscal Year 18 we are going to see nice change and improvements to the parks.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez said people think the money from the insurance was theirs. He stated he had a serious issue with not involving the community on this.

Commissioner Turnbull said she supports option two. The recurring costs this will have on the general fund, and she receives a lot of calls with the time we allow people to water. If we allow this we will have a headache with that.

Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Board Ray Vincent said the Board strongly supports adding a splash park. He believes there is a trade off in closing the pool for six months. The cost was estimated high, but the water will not be used continuously. It is better to overestimate than underestimate the costs. The splash park would be something to add to our community as we are trying to progress.

Mayor Boss mentioned to personnel out at Holloman, the potential of having a splash park and they are excited for the possibility.

Commissioner Turnbull asked what the tradeoff is between the pool and the splash park. Acting City Manager Paluch said we do not know the exact cost to operate the pool in the winter time. Will there be a reduced expenditure if we put a splash park in versus keeping the pool open year round with the bubble that we currently have, yes that is probably true.

Commissioner Payne said if we did the splash park, there would be four other projects that we would not be able to do. The biggest other project for her is the HVAC system in the gym at the Recreation Center. She agreed with the Mayor, I have received so many comments about wanting a splash park. I agree that it is a lot of money, but I don't know if we are going to get another opportunity like this. We have this bond money, and I would like to see us take the opportunity. Mayor Boss said it's not like we

are not going to do a lot of those other projects. We will have \$648,000 to do many of those other projects. Acting City Manager Paluch asked Mayor Boss to see page 87 of the Agenda Book. This will show the playground with the splash park and the other projects available. There are four other projects that we will not get. There is a remaining balance of \$180,000. Community Services Director Ortega said the actual remaining balance would be \$148,000 because of a current bid. Acting City Manager Paluch said there is a contingency fund. If some of those projects came in under the estimate, then you would probably be able to do one of those additional projects. It would depend on the bid results. Commissioner Sikes asked if could be any combination of those projects. Instead of the four projects that are said that we cannot get, could we substitute. Acting City Manager Paluch answered yes.

Mayor Boss said personally I think we should go with the splash park. I say that not just for the kids of Alamogordo, but I am also thinking for Holloman. I think it is important, right now, that we provide some extra things for the Air Force Base. Commissioner Sikes said I am curious as to why there are not more people speaking out in favor of the splash park. There were many people that came out and spoke when we were dealing with Basin Lanes. We have to think about what the entire community will be looking at. Mayor Boss said I am not just looking at this just for Holloman, but also for the kids in Alamogordo. They have these parks in other communities and they continue to build them, so apparently they are popular for children. Acting City Manager Paluch said the Park and Recreation Board is a huge proponent of the splash park. When we say where are those people, I can tell you in the Park and Recreation Board meetings, that I have attended, they are a big proponent of the splash park. We have heard from the community citizens, that they would like the splash park. We have seen it on Facebook on the surveys that they like the splash park. Staff is comfortable with either option.

Commissioner Martin said as a mother of a four year old. It is hard to keep them occupied. We have driven to El Paso to go to their splash park. It gives our citizens the option of having something to do with their young kids. There are a couple of activities to do here in Alamogordo, but they cost money. There are a lot of people that cannot afford those activities for their kids daily. This offers something for our citizens to do with their young kids during the summer.

Mayor Boss said I do wish we had a poll of the community. Commissioner Baldwin said everyone here made a comment in reference to polling the community. Technically we are mouth pieces for our districts and the community. I think our job is to assimilate and make the best decision we can.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez said people were going to have a problem with spending a half a million dollars.

**Commissioner Baldwin moved to approve Option Two.**

**Commissioner Turnbull seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried with a vote of 4-3-0. Mayor Boss, Commissioner Payne, Commissioner Martin voted nay.**

#### **9. Consider and act upon APD SWAT Team Proposal. (*Daron Syling, Police Chief*)**

Chief of Police Syling spoke on the proposed SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) Team. He said in 2003, SWAT was called the Emergency Response Team or ERT. There were a lot of funding and training issues for the team, so in the team dissolved in 2015. He described what SWAT is and why this team is needed. He said there is not a designated team in the local area, so there is an extended response time. The incident that happened on Father's Day, I was told their estimated time of arrival was supposed to be 30 minutes and an hour and a half later they arrived on scene, from my initial request. It is time for us as a City to move forward and do what we need to do for our community and our residents. There were 8 incidents over the last year that would have activated a SWAT team. Depending on the situation, I may be put on a waiting list, because if Las Cruces, the New Mexico State Police, or if Border Patrol BorTact team is not available because they have other missions going on. Then I have to wait or make a decision to send my officers in there without the necessary

equipment and training. Eight times last year I made that decision and we did it anyway. Quite honestly I am tired of rolling the dice with the safety of my officers. Part of the things attached to a SWAT team is a Crisis negotiations or hostage negotiations. We have to be ready to deal with any actions that happen.

The estimated cost of \$110,000 to reorganize, equip and train a new group. There is a \$60,000 recurring annual operating cost. Funding would come from the general fund. I am asking for the money for what would be one position and I would eat one position because I believe strongly in this team and the need for this team, that funding be put back into my budget to pay for this team and fund it. We are looking for every Grant and piece of equipment that we can find. In your packet there is a proposal and a breakdown of the cost. We look to be a twelve man team. Under the National Tactical Officers Association Standards, we need to train 16 hours a month minimally.

Commissioner Martin asked when we have to call a team from Las Cruces, do we have to pay for that. Chief Syling said we do not have to pay for that other than the time we have to wait for them.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez said he was concerned in the past with the amount of training. Biggest thing is that we have enough funds in there to cover all the trainings. He wanted to see more training available for them, than just the minimum.

Acting City Manager Paluch said if the Commission approves a SWAT team, the budget will be setup different than the way it was before. This money will not be rolled into the regular police department training lines, equipment lines, because that's where we fell short in this program before. This will be setup just like the K9 program. It will have its own separate lines within the budget. Police Chief Syling said it is very important for my line officers who chose not to be a tactical team officer to understand that I am not taking any training money from them. I am trying to make an instructor in every field I can, so that we can teach our own right here in Alamogordo.

Commissioner Sikes stated she assumed they had SWAT team and she supports this 100 percent. She asked if we still own the M Wrap vehicle. Chief Syling said yes, but we have access to the new Bear Cat that the Sheriff uses, at any time. We do have those resources and the availability of that vehicle.

Commissioner Payne said the incident on Father's Day could have been resolved sooner had we had everything that we needed, instead of waiting for Las Cruces. Chief Syling said I absolutely believe that had we had the team from a few years ago, we would have had those people out of that building in less than 45 minutes. Commissioner Payne said in my opinion, we need to fix this problem.

**Commissioner Turnbull moved to approve.**

**Commissioner Sikes seconded the motion.**

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

#### **10. Appointments to Boards and Committees. (Richard Boss, Mayor)**

Mayor Boss read the openings and appointed Pete Desai to the Alamogordo Promotion Board, Albert Simon to the Community Development Advisory Committee, Lori Adam to the Parks and Recreation Board and Billy M. Power Jr. to the Senior Volunteer Programs Advisory Council. No one was opposed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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**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.**



*Rachel Hughs*  
City Clerk Rachel Hughs

*Richard Boss*  
Mayor Richard Boss

(Prepared by Eric Barraza, Deputy Clerk)  
Approved at the Regular Meeting held on July 11, 2017.