

CITY OF AZTEC  
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday March 8, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Michael A. Padilla Sr. called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm at Aztec City Hall, 201 W. Chaco, Aztec NM 87410

**I. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- A. Invocation led by Barbra Utz
- B. United States Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Michael A. Padilla Sr.
- C. New Mexico pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Michael A. Padilla Sr.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Michael A. Padilla, Sr.; Mayor Pro-Tem Ken George; Commissioner Austin Randall, Commissioner Colby King; Commissioner Jim Crowley

Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Paul Eckert; City Attorney Steven Murphy; City Clerk Karla Saylor

**III. PRESENTATION**

**1. Water Presentation - Mark Lewis**

Former Commissioner Mark Lewis serves on the San Juan Water Commission Board. He presented to commission on the Colorado River Water Users Association conference that he attended in Las Vegas Nevada in December 2021. He mentioned that the focus on the conference was the water shortages and changes around the western states. He mentioned that there were water samples from Southern California to taste. He mentioned that the four corners area is implementing a drought release operation agreement and how they are going to share water during the drought. He mentioned that they came up with some prospects one of that is there may be some money for Aztec to build a fourth reservoir, second is to possibly expedite reservoir one. He mentioned that maybe we can encourage citizens to conserve water voluntarily. He mentioned that Aaron Chavez Executive Director of the San Juan Water Commission was named President of CRUWA for the next two years. He also mentioned that Aaron was appointed to the interstate stream commission by the Governor of New Mexico for this area, so we have a voice on our needs. Mayor Pro-Tem George asked what the current snowpack is and Mark mentioned the last time he checked it was at 80 percent. Mayor Padilla thanked Mark for his report and continuing to be on this board.

**2. Legislative Session Summary - Representative Ryan Lane**

Representative Ryan Lane reviewed some items from the Legislative Session. He reviewed House Bill 2 the State Budget stating that this has been the largest budget in State's History which is \$8.7 Billion and said we have the largest reserve the State has ever had which is \$2.5 Billion. He mentioned that about 60 percent of the budget is devoted to education. He mentioned changes on the educational front which were salary increases for teachers depending on the Tier that they were in. Pay increases for State Police Officers and discussion to come on Judges salaries. He mentioned that there is funding for our local hospital to help with increased costs during COVID. He mentioned changes to Social Security taxes, veteran taxes, and changes to retired teachers and how long they can be retired before they can come back to teach. He mentioned that because of the shortage of teachers there is help for students with education to become teachers. He mentioned that there was money put aside to help invest more in technical education as well. He worked closely on a bill called the police retention fund which will give police officers a five percent bonus for whatever their salary level is at 4, 9, 14 or 19 years if they stay for one additional year. This is to encourage officers to stay with the agency that they are in. He also cosponsored the police officer's survivor fund which is if you are killed in the line of duty your spouse or children will receive \$1 million dollars which was increased from \$250,000. He talked about bills that were not passed as well, one which was going to allow 16-year olds to vote and an absentee system and automatic voter registration and some gun bills as well did not pass. Ryan mentioned the funding that was allotted to the City as follows: Capital Outlay for parks equipment, \$150,000 for police vehicles and \$75,000 for a school resource officer. Mayor Padilla thanked Ryan for the work he does for the city.

### 3. Aztec Museum Annual Report - Debbie Klein

Debbie presented commission with a power point presentation on the following for the Aztec Museum Report:

- 2019-2020 Fall and Winter Season days and hours of operation and visitor counts
- 2019 School Visits, Museum events, and community events
- Painted Piano events, music events and an Apron presentation
- Outdoor movies at the Museum and Aztec Sparkles

#### IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

MOVED by Commissioner Crowley to approve the agenda; SECONDED by Commissioner Randall

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

#### V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Commission Meeting Minutes February 22, 2022
- B. Approval of Purchase for Pole-Mounted Distribution Transformers
- C. Resolution 2022-176 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment
- D. Award of Bid 2022-799 NM 173 Waterline Relocation Construction Services

MOVED by Commissioner Crowley to approve the Consent agenda with the exception of Item A and C for further discussion; SECONDED by Mayor Pro-Tem George

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

#### **VI. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Commission Meeting Minutes February 22, 2022

Commissioner Crowley mentioned that the minutes had some additions made to them and MOVED that the record placed in front of the mayor be approved SECONDED by Mayor Pro-Tem George.

Moved by Mayor Padilla to approve January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 minutes AS AMENDED

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

- C. Resolution 2022-176 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment

Mayor Padilla mentioned that the Resolution should not be a budget adjustment it should be a mid-year financial report. Finance Director Anthony Bolling stated that the City is required to submit quarterly financial reports. He mentioned that it goes over GRT funds for the year.

MOVED by Commissioner Crowley to Approve Resolution 2022-176 Mid-Year Financial Report As AMENDED; SECONDED by Commissioner Randall

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

#### **VII. CITIZENS INPUT (3 Minutes Maximum)**

NONE

#### **VIII. BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. Intent to Adopt Ordinance 2022-522 Amending Chapter 1, Section 1-12 Mandatory Penalty and Fees

MOVED by Commissioner Crowley to approve the Final Adoption of Ordinance 2022-522 Amending Chapter 1, Section 1-12 Mandatory Penalty and Fees; SECONDED by Commissioner Randall

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

**IX. QUASI JUDICIAL HEARING**

**X. COMMISSIONER, CITY MANAGER, DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Commissioner Randall apologized for not making the in-person Strategy Session due to work. He mentioned the Mayor's Ball that was attended by Commission. There will be a Library Board Meeting the following day that he will give a report on next meeting.

Commissioner Crowley mentioned meeting with an EDAB member, and she was very helpful with understanding funds that the State has available, many are for businesses. He mentioned attending the second of two meetings about hydrogen hub, the Department of Energy has appropriated over nine billion dollars for hydrogen hubs within the United States. He mentioned the discussion about how suited the City is to be one of the hubs, and how do we put together what is needed to be selected. The Federal Government is going in the direction of using natural gas to create hydrogen. He mentioned San Juan College and the different programs that could help train people for all the positions needed for the hubs.

Mayor Pro-Tem thanked all City staff for the Strategic Planning meeting. He mentioned the hydrogen hub meeting as well, because oil and gas is being pushed away the City may be able to get involved with hydrogen. He stated that in the future he is hoping the Federal Government will choose the City for the hub as well.

Mayor Padilla mentioned the meeting that was attended with Secretary Sandoval regarding the Arterial Route. There was some information still needed from the City but staff got on it right away and the funding for the Arterial Route will be allocated to the City. Mayor Pro-Tem mentioned the six-million-dollar funding from the State will be distributed from the Farmington MPO and back to the City of Aztec.

City Manager Eckert thanked the Commission for their input and help on the Strategic Planning Meeting.

Animal Shelter Director Tina Roper presented her departments Strategic Vision which was rescheduled due to time constraints. She stated that her employees feel that they are partway between a new facility that is doing ok and partway between an old facility that desperately need replacing. There is one building and a kennel that are very old and need replacement or repair. She mentioned they are making great strides with their live release rate which went from 65% to 85%. She mentioned what a great asset it has been being able to hire new personnel, but they are still short staffed. She mentioned the lack of a vet, an animal control officer, being able to go to the schools and offer educational programs, and they are not able to fully focus on the community cat program. She stated that they would like to be a more positive asset to the community, and to do that they need to be out and interactive. They would like to be able to help with affordable low cost spay and neuter programs and to focus on emergency type situations. The department would like to start doing off site adoption events and start going into the schools or have them come to the shelter for educational purposes. They would like to focus on the feral cat program since it helps the live release rate. In five years, they would like to increase live releases to at least 90% and have at least one animal control officer. They would like to also hire one full time kennel tech to allow staff in assisting the public more. She also mentioned trying to get out to the schools, hire one or two vets to do surgery 7 days a week and to host more community events. Mayor Padilla stated that the City is fortunate for the staff and all that they do. Mayor Pro-Tem inquired about the current vet situation; Tina stated that they have one vet that comes on her day off 1 day a week. They currently have 230 animals in the shelter which are mostly dogs. City Attorney Murphy asked Tina if she has reached out to the University of Colorado to see if

they had students in the vet program who may be interested, Tina mentioned that they have, and it is posted at the University. Commissioner Crowley inquired about reservation animals; Tina stated they are not getting very many from the reservation.

Judge Carlton Gray presented his departments Strategic Vision which was rescheduled due to time constraints. He mentioned the courthouse was built in 1994 and does not have its own water source or bathrooms, they share with the PD. The staff would like an addition to the building to accommodate those services. He mentioned the more immediate change they would like to see is a City run probation program, rather than going through Farmington to have a more hands on approach. He mentioned they would need a probation officer, a facility big enough and a budget to operate the program. He mentioned that he has two full time clerks and one part time clerk. He would like to increase the hours for the part time clerk and hire a probation officer that would also double as court security. Commissioner King inquired about the cost of having Farmington run the probation program, Judge Gray stated there is \$25,000 a year budgeted.

Public Works Director Stephen Morse mentioned the Reservoir 1 project, he had a meeting with the design team, and they are moving forward. They expect it will be out to bid in November after the design team finishes up the plans. City Attorney asked if they had vetted the construction company for 173, Stephen said they did as best they could as they looked at financial statements and they were viable. There is a bid bond in place, and they will have to have a performance and payment bond if they are awarded the contract.

Electric Director Denver DeWees had an update on the meeting with BLM on the Aztec Go Green Solar 2 site, they did a walkthrough with the City consultants. BLM will have a checklist for the consultants to do but overall, it was a positive outcome.

#### XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

POTENTIAL FUTURE CITY COMMISSION ITEMS- (Appearing on the Agenda within 30-90 days):

Item	Meeting
New Commission Strategic Plan - Half Day Special Meeting	March 17
North Main Progress and Funding Update	March 22
Blanco Arroyo Culvert Replacement Project Design Firm Approval	April 12

#### XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Padilla moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm



Mayor Michael A. Padilla, Sr.

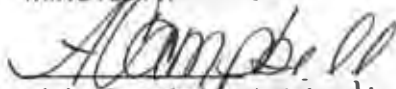
ATTEST:



Karla Saylor, City Clerk



MINUTES PREPARED BY:



Alisha Campbell, Administrative Assistant