

CITY OF AZTEC
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday April 11, 2023

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation led by Chief Heal

United States Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Austin Randall

New Mexico pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Austin Randall

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: NONE

Others Present: City Manager Jeff Blackburn; City Clerk Karla Sayler; City Attorney Steve Murphy via zoom

PRESENTATION

A. Police Badge Ceremony

Chief Michael Heal presented Officer Jacob Harris with his Sergeant badge.

B. Council of Governments

Evan Williams and Mike Sage came before Commission to update them on what projects they have planned for the City of Aztec.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

MOVED by Mayor Pro-Tem Kenneth George to Approve Agenda Items as presented,
SECONDED Commissioner Randall

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Commission Meeting Workshop Minutes March 28, 2023
- B. Commission Meeting Minutes March 28, 2023
- C. Resolution 2023-1343 Authorizing Submittal to the State of New Mexico for Outstanding Checks

D. Resolution 2023-1344 Special Budget Transfer

MOVED by Mayor Pro-Tem George to Approve Consent Agenda with the EXCEPTION of Item C to be PULLED for discussion; SECONDED by Commissioner Randall

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

C. Resolution 2023-1343 Authorizing Submittal to the State of New Mexico for Outstanding Checks

Mayor Pro-Tem George inquired about the outstanding checks that were on the list for submittal to the State.

Finance Director Jennie Achee informed him that the checks are outstanding dating as far back as 1996 and per state statute they have to be submitted to the State. The Finance Department will try to contact the names and get checks re-issued within 60 days and if no response they will submit as required by the state.

MOVED by Mayor Padilla and SECONDED by Commissioner Randall to Approve Resolution 2023-1343 Submittal to the State of New Mexico for Outstanding Checks

A Roll Call was Taken: All Voted Aye

CITIZENS INPUT

Michael Padilla 506 White Ave. Aztec, NM 87410 informed Commission they are trying to arrange an event for the Spring on the UFO Symposium and try to raise funds for scholarships for students at Aztec Schools.

BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Final Adoption of Ordinance 2023-527 Amending Chapter 8 Fire Prevention and Protection, Article II Technical Codes

MOVED by Mayor Pro-Tem George to Final Adoption of Ordinance 2023-527 Amending Chapter 8 Fire Prevention and Protection, Article II Technical Codes, SECONDED by Commissioner Randall

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

COMMISSIONER, CITY MANAGER, DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mayor Pro-Tem George voiced concerns from residents that have reached out to him concerning the article in the newspaper about the City audit not being turned in yet and us being on the naughty list and said it is embarrassing for our City. He asked staff why the audit has not been turned in and stated that he would like this to be taken care of as soon as possible because he is concerned that DFA could hold funding for projects in the City until this is corrected.

Commissioner Randall acknowledged missing the library meeting and then thanked staff for their help with an issue that he had going on that got taken care of right away.

Commissioner Crowley added to voiced concerns from residents who reached out to him regarding the auditing issue. He thanked staff for working towards getting this taken care of.

Mayor Padilla commented on the company working on Reservoir 1, they have done a great and efficient job and said it was completed today.

Jeff Blackburn presented the Commission with the budget preview; Commission agreed that they would hold a workshop on April 27th @ 3:00pm to discuss the early work on what is being worked on. He updated the Commission on the funding the Governor signed off on for the City, all the funding anticipated was approved. He sent the Lobbyist list to Commission, there may be some items that they may like to discuss. He stated the audit issue is being addressed, it can be resolved quickly but could cost \$25,000.00 and could possibly be completed by May 15th. Jennie updated the commission on the audit. She reviewed the costs and payments that have been paid to the audit firm. She feels that if we pay the amount that is being requested, they will deliver the audit by mid-May. She is asking for direction which way to proceed with this situation. Jeff is taking full responsibility for what is going on with the audit but stated that there have been a multitude of errors that have happened during this audit that are related to transition that are related to people quitting and people we had to fire for not doing their job related to Jennie coming into the middle of this related to our naivety of this but also that the firm has not treated us well. Jeff mentioned that this is not an unusual situation we've been told by their senior partner that many of their clients are suffering from the same kind of deal. He also said that the previous director switched us out of a contract that we had that one more year with that was already familiar with our books and that we had a relationship with, and we went into another contract with another firm that had more liability because of taking on a new client which they knew nothing about and have put us through the ringer. Jennie also reported that she was working with an auditor when she got here that is no longer around and a new auditor has stepped in and another one has gotten involved. So there have been changes that are not in our control. Jeff also reported that they are seeing some anomalies that were happening not with our previous director but the previous director that there were no separation of duties and there's no definition of policy that's clear enough for them and that we are dealing with problems from years ago that now because we have switched to a larger firm, and we started off on a bad foot everything has come out. Jeff apologized to the citizens of Aztec, but it is just not as easy as just networking. Mayor Pro-Tem said he has said that to more than one person since this hit the news. The Commission is unable to give any direction to staff at this time until they can discuss this with the City Attorney. The City Attorney voiced via zoom that the commission should do nothing at this time until we get a deal that we can look at. Jennie said she will contact the State Auditors office to let them know where we are with the Audit to keep them updated.

Jeric Jaramillo updated Commission, Reservoir One is done, also he is meeting with ONRT on Thursday regarding the Gold King Mine money. They are ready to go to bid for Phase II for the rest of the project.

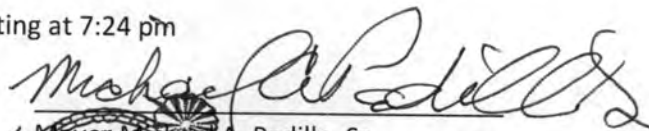
General Services Director Charles Dobey announced the water is turned on in the parks, sports are starting up, the May 20th block party, and construction on the Senior Center will be starting April 24th. He informed Commission, Electric Director Denver DeWees is working on a packet regarding the City trash issue, they will bring it before Commission as soon as it is complete. The Splash Pad is currently being worked on; it should be opening the second week of May.

Ruben Salcido presented Commission with a report pertaining to problem storm water areas, they are looking to update the GIS system to be more transparent.

Mayor Pro-Tem asked Judge Gray about a bill that the Governor signed removing all court costs, Judge stated that it affects the court fees that are currently charged.

ADJOURNMENT

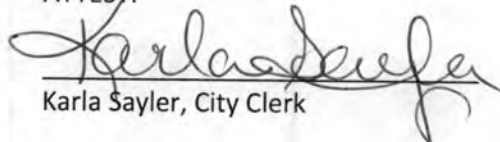
MOVED by Mayor Padilla to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm



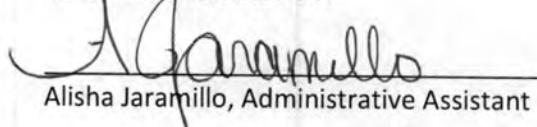
Mayor Michael A. Padilla, Sr.



ATTEST:


Karla Saylor, City Clerk

MINUTES PREPARED BY:


Alisha Jaramillo, Administrative Assistant