

**CITY OF AZTEC  
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday September 12, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Michael A. Padilla Sr. called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm at Aztec City Hall, 201 W. Chaco, Aztec NM 87410

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Invocation led by Electric Director Denver DeWees  
United States Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Pro-Tem George  
New Mexico pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Pro-Tem George

**ROLL CALL**

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

Members Absent: NONE

Others Present: City Manager Jeff Blackburn; City Attorney Steve Murphy

**PROCLAMATION**

Constitution Week

Commissioner Crowley read the Proclamation and Mayor Padilla presented it to the Daughters of the American Revolution representative Mary Hayes.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

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

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Commission Workshop Meeting Minutes August 22, 2023
- B. Commission Meeting Minutes August 22, 2023
- C. Intergovernmental Contract for Library Services & Agreement for Senior Citizen Services with San Juan County
- D. Special Budget Resolution 2023-1374
- E. Purchase Engineering Services for Hwy 173 Power Line Relocation

MOVED by Commissioner Randall to Approve Consent Agenda with the EXCEPTIONS of Item E;  
SECONDED by Commissioner Crowley

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

E. Purchase Engineering Services for Hwy. 173 Power Line Relocation

Commissioner Randall questioned the cost of the project, Denver DeWees replied that it is a bigger project than it seems. They are having to move the poles within a foot of the right of way, it must be vertical construction and be reengineered. NMDOT has many requirements that must be met for them to issue a permit. Denver stated that the amount to be approved would be a not to exceed amount and that they may come in below that. They are also working on the other issues that NMDOT has brought forth in that area including the fire hydrant.

Commissioner Crowley asked about doing the line underground, Denver stated that it is a single source feed without a lot of interruption so the cost would not benefit going underground. They will reallocate the funds from within their budget at this time and if needed it will be looked at again mid-year to see if they need a budget adjustment. Denver is estimating construction to begin next year.

Mayor Padilla asked if NMDOT gave a timeframe for the project, Denver said that they did as they understand that there is a lot of planning that must be done to get a permit. Denver stated that this project will not affect the BLM land that the City is trying to obtain.

City Attorney Steve Murphy had questions for Denver: what the total cost would be, Denver estimated it would be in the 6 figures. When the poles were placed was there a signed easement, Denver has not been able to find any documentation for any easements. If the poles had been there for at least 10 years, Denver said they have not been. Has there been consideration to future development, Denver said they are looking at that. Also if they were to repave the road would the lines have to be moved again, Denver stated they would not as it is part of the engineering agreement.

MOVED by Commissioner Crowley to Approve Purchase Engineering Services for Hwy. 173 Power Line Relocation; SECONDED by Commissioner Randall

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

**CITIZENS INPUT**

NONE

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. Intent to Adopt Ordinance 2023-535 Amending Chapter 26 Land Use, Article III

Mayor Pro-Tem George asked Community Development Director Andrew DiCamillo to give them a background on the Intent. Andrew stated that this was the Ordinance prior to 2020 but it was changed, he has received feedback from business owners that it hurts small businesses to have the requirement to pave instead of the option to use gravel. He mentioned that there

is also an ADA requirement that he has added to the Ordinance that was not referenced before. The Planning and Zoning Board voted in a 7-0 vote to pass the Ordinance with the changes.

Mayor Pro-Tem stated that the Ordinance changed in 2020 due to the City wanting the aesthetics in Aztec to look better. He said business owners can come before Commission for a Variance if they cannot afford to pave but believes that to keep the City looking tidy, he does not believe the Ordinance should be changed. Andrew said he has also gotten feedback that there is City property that is gravel but is enforcing paving on business owners.

City Attorney asked if they have looked at asphalt chips, Andrew said that is something that can be looked at. Steve also wanted to clarify that an ADA parking spot must be paved.

Commissioner Randall reiterated the Variance process for the businesses that can't afford paving right away.

MOVED by Commissioner Crowley to APPROVE Intent to Adopt Ordinance 2023-535 Amending Chapter 26 Land Use, Article III; SECONDED by Commissioner Randall

A Roll Call was Taken:

These Voting Nay: Mayor Padilla  
Mayor Pro-Tem George  
Commission Crowley  
Commission Randall

These Voting Aye: Commissioner King

Motion Failed Four to One

#### **COMMISSIONER, CITY MANAGER, DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Commissioner Crowley presented the Commission with an email he received from a Commissioner in Edgewood that he would like Commission to review on changes to the Mayor position.

Mayor Pro-Tem let Commission know that at the last MPO meeting the State announced they will be repaving some roads in Farmington this fall. He has not attended a Water Commission meeting yet as there will not be one this month. He also suggested that the City bring back the monthly department reports.

Mayor Padilla mentioned he attended the NMML Annual meeting and learned more on Parliamentary Procedure.

City Manager Jeff Blackburn presented Commission with the GRT for May-July, the June-August disbursements, and the utility and general fund expenditures. Mayor Padilla would like to address the new Cannabis laws regarding hiring laws. Jeff stated that drug tests would be waived other than in safety sensitive positions and random tests would still apply to employees with CDL's.

Electric Director Denver DeWees informed the commission that there is a light blinking and that they have contacted DOT to fix, and they will be doing work at Mesa Verde and Church so there will be an outage for 8 hours on 9/13/2023.

Community Development Director Andrew DiCamillo reported to the Commission that the Planning and Zoning Board would like to do an overall revamp of zoning in some areas.

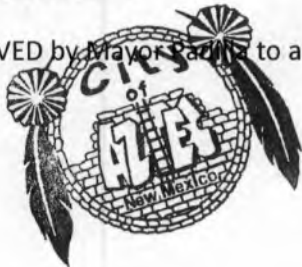
Interim Police Chief Joseph Gonzales updated Commission on personnel happenings at the Police Department. PD hired an Administrative Assistant, and they will have interviews on Monday for a PT front desk clerk. The Department has received a lot of interest in the Certified Officers positions that are currently open, they now have 14 officers. Joe expressed appreciation to Commission, Jeff, and staff for all the support and help while being interim-chief.

Judge Gray has been elected President of the National Judges Association. The Court will be making changes with the new rules that will be going into effect in July.

Library Director Angela Watkins reported to the commission that the library is going to be offering a new service for remote court appearances for those who cannot make it in person to court. She has also been nominated for another leadership award.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Mayor Padilla to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm



Mayor Michael A. Padilla, Sr.

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

  
Alisha Jaramillo, Administrative Assistant

ATTEST:

  
Karla Saylor, City Clerk