

**CITY OF AZTEC
COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday January 09, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Michael A. Padilla Sr. called the workshop to order at 5:02 pm at Aztec City Hall, 201 W. Chaco, Aztec NM 87410

Members Present: Mayor Michael A. Padilla, Sr.; Mayor Pro-Tem Ken George (Via Zoom); Commissioner Jim Crowley; and Commissioner Austin Randall

Members Absent: Commissioner Colby King

Others Present: City Manager Jeff Blackburn; City Clerk Karla Sayler

A. Economic Development Funding Process

Mayor Padilla opened the workshop to discuss the Economic Development Funding Process. Mayor Padilla turned the discussion over to City Manager Jeff Blackburn.

Jeff informed Commission that Community Development Director Andrew DiCamillo has been working on the Economic Development Funding Process.

Andrew presented the Commission with a map showing all the areas in the City, and the new MRA expansion that the Commission approved. By statute and under the MRA and the LEDA fund the district must be drawn to include the properties before they can do revitalization or economic activity. Andrew mentioned that there is an anti-donation clause that restricts private-public involvement but that there are special regulations created to be able to have a private-public relationship.

Mayor Padilla asked Andrew if the MRA extension is filed with the State or if it just stays in house, Andrew said that they will need to update it to the State as well as update the City Ordinance. Andrew said that the next step is funding, with the economic funding it is area and project specific, and they go through local government divisions at DFA and NMEDD. They have found how the funding works, and it depends on what the local government can provide, the City currently has a local economic fund of \$119,000.00. They are looking at providing more incentives to draw more businesses to the city such as a new hotel.

Andrew addressed Chapter 30 in our code and said it is dated, but it gives an overall allowance to provide economic assistance to individuals as well as large businesses. He said that the Local Economic Development Act first requirement by the State is to pass an ordinance. Within the ordinance they must pass another ordinance for any projects that are done. Andrew read the purpose of the ordinance to Commission as he believes that it is extremely important.

Andrew updated commission on the criteria and qualifications of the ordinance and mentioned that in the ordinance the city can decide what is considered a community asset. He mentioned the ordinance they plan to present on January 23rd will show how

they came up with the criteria for funding, what is being funded, fund disbursement, the return of benefits to the community and the project participation agreement all of which are in line with State statute.

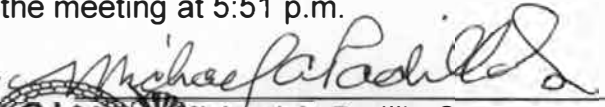
Andrew introduced Flo Trujillo who is the President of the Northwest New Mexico Arts Council, she informed Commission of the Arts and Cultural district she helped establish for Main St. in Farmington. She said there are a lot of programs and projects that can help the city develop an Arts and Cultural District. To establish an Arts and Cultural District the City would have to host one event that is a big draw for the area, she believes that the Highlands Games would be that event and there would need to be a Main Street board established with members from the Community.

Andrew mentioned that if the city becomes a Main Street Community it will allow the City and businesses to qualify for funding. There are many opportunities for funding to assist businesses to revitalize the old buildings on Main Street. Andrew mentioned that he and Jeff will be attending the New Mexico Main Street conference at the end of the month.

Mayor Padilla asked what the fiscal impact to the City would be to establish a Main Street Community, Andrew stated that if it is a non-profit or the City piggy backs on the Highlands Games non-profit, they would hire the director. The City would participate by making a contract for services agreement, where the City would make contract terms for the non-profit. The mayor asked where the local economic fund came from, Andrew said that it was a fund created by the City around 2017 to help businesses that meet the criteria.

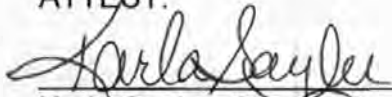
ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mayor Padilla to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 p.m.



Michael A. Padilla Sr.

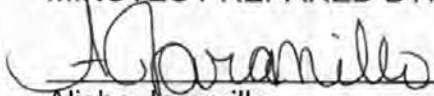
ATTEST:



Karla Sayler, City Clerk



MINUTES PREPARED BY:



Alisha Jaramillo