

**CITY OF AZTEC
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday June 24, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Michael A. Padilla Sr. called the meeting to order at 6:05pm at Aztec City Hall, 201 W. Chaco, Aztec NM 87410

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation led by Commissioner Randall
United States Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner King
New Mexico pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner King

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: NONE

Others Present: City Manager Jeff Blackburn; City Clerk Karla Sayler; City Attorney Nann Winter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

MOVED by Commissioner Randall to APPROVE Consent Agenda, SECONDED by Mayor Pro-Tem George

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Commission Meeting Minutes June 10, 2025
- B. Resolution 2025-1497 Approving City Disbursements and Deposits for the period ending May 31, 2025
- C. 2025-1500 Write Off of Uncollected Utility Accounts
- D. 2025-1501 Authorizing Submittal to the State of New Mexico for Unclaimed Property
- E. 2025-1502 2025 Authorizing the Certification of the City of Aztec 2025 Capital Asset Inventory
- F. Roping Arena Agreement

MOVED by Mayor Pro-Tem George to APPROVE Consent Agenda Pulling Item F for discussion, SECONDED by Commissioner Crowley

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

F. Roping Arena Agreement

The Commission had some questions regarding the agreement. They would prefer to revise the term from two years to one year. Additionally, the insurance aggregate amount needs to be set at \$2 million. The Commission also discussed the possibility of relocating or rebuilding the arena. The San Juan Gymkhana Association agreed to both the revision of the agreement term to one year and to increase the insurance aggregate amount to \$2 million.

MOVED by Mayor Pro-Tem George to APPROVE the Roping Arena Agreement for one year, contingent upon updating the insurance aggregate limit to \$2 million; SECONDED by Commissioner Crowley

A Roll Call was Taken:

Those Voting Aye: Commissioner King
Commissioner Crowley
Commissioner Randall
Mayor Pro-Tem George
Mayor Padilla

Those Voting Nay: NONE

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

CITIZENS INPUT

NONE

BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Special Budget Resolution 2025-559 Amending Chapter 30, Article 1, Section 30-1-6

MOVED by Mayor Padilla to APPROVE Special Budget Resolution 2025-559 Amending Chapter 30, Article 1, Section 30-1-6; SECONDED by Commissioner Crowley

A Roll Call was Taken:

Those Voting Aye: Commissioner King
Commissioner Crowley
Commissioner Randall
Mayor Pro-Tem George
Mayor Padilla

Those Voting Nay: NONE

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

B. Irrigation Repair Discussion

The Commission discussed the ongoing maintenance and repair of irrigation ditches by the City, which may be a violation of current City code. While the City has piped many of these ditches in the past, leading to the assumption that it was responsible for maintaining them, it's now unclear who owns them.

There was discussion about the City continuing to maintain the ditches but starting to bill for the services as stated in city code. City Manager Jeff Blackburn mentioned that the City is already working with a consultant to explore billing options.

Mayor Padilla said the city needs to give directions to the City Manager to update the ordinance. City Attorney Nann Winter explained that the current ordinance recognizes that the ditches are privately owned, so it's important to determine who owns them. She also raised the question of who owns the water in the ditches and suggested contacting the appropriate associations. Without that information, making repairs could potentially be considered trespassing.

Nann said she will begin working with the New Mexico Department of Justice (NM DOJ) to investigate the status of the ditches. The Commission gave Jeff direction to work with legal and City staff to address the issue. In the meantime, they would like staff to fix the issue at Basin Surveying and continue responding to calls even if they aren't in the adjudicated area until the ordinance and code can be updated for billing.

COMMISSIONER, CITY MANAGER, DEPARTMENT REPORT

Commissioner Crowley expressed ongoing concerns regarding the current weed management process for homeowners. He noted that he has previously raised this issue with the City Manager and would like to see efforts made to streamline the process.

Mayor Padilla informed the Commission that the motocross facility has received a donated awning. In addition, Hilcorp has donated two new awnings for the Senior Center.

Mayor Pro-Tem informed the Commission that he has reviewed the employee morale surveys. He reminded staff that they may address the Commission, but only for matters related to policy or the budget.

Commissioner King requested a closed session to discuss the City Manager's contract, to be scheduled for either the July 8th or July 22nd meeting.

Finance Director Jennie Achee was asked whether Waste Management could assume responsibility for billing their services. She confirmed that they could.

Commissioner King and Mayor Padilla reported that they attended the Chamber of Commerce event, where the Senior Center was honored with the Volunteer of the Year Award.

City Manager Jeff Blackburn provided the Commission with updates on the following items:

- A code compliance issue
- The Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) report, noting that annual collections exceeded projections
- The revenue report
- The expense report
- Recognition of the Employee of the Quarter
- Solid waste operations

Electric Director John Wheeler had updates on the current projects;

- Solar farm producing 960kw
- No rate increases from WAPA
- Hartman lighting should be complete July 21st
- City of Farmington settlement check was delivered
- The tap design of the 345 line
- 140 poles had to be changed since pole testing from 2019, they have 7 left to replace
- 145 maintenance items that need to be complete
- 2 new apprentices have been hired

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Mayor Pro-Tem George and SECONDED by Commissioner Crowley to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 pm



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael A. Padilla, Sr.", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Michael A. Padilla, Sr.

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "A. Jaramillo", written over a horizontal line.

Jaramillo, Administrative Assistant

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karla Sayler", written over a horizontal line.

Karla Sayler, City Clerk