

**CITY OF AZTEC  
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday March 25, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Michael A. Padilla Sr. called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm 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 Mayor Padilla  
New Mexico pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Padilla

**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; Attorney Sofia Flores

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

MOVED by Commissioner Randall to APPROVE Agenda PULLING Business Item B and MOVING Closed Session after Commissioner, City Manager, Department reports and discussions, SECONDED by Commissioner Crowley

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Commission Meeting Workshop Minutes March 11, 2025
- B. Commission Meeting Minutes March 11, 2025
- C. Resolution 2025-1481 Approving Disbursements and Deposits for February 2025
- D. 2024 Volunteer Firefighters Annual New Mexico Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) Report
- E. Resolution 2025-1483 Disbursements of Law Enforcement Retention Funds

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

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

NONE

**CITIZENS INPUT**

John Faverino 640 Pioneer Avenue

Mr. Faverino addressed the commission to voice his support for the city manager, expressing that he believes the city manager is doing a good job.

Randy Hodge 326 Mesa Verde

Mr. Hodge also appeared before the commission to offer his support for the city manager.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. Award for ITB 2025-866 Rebid Hartman Park Field Lighting

The Mayor Pro-Tem expressed concerns that the bid was once again awarded to Sychar and requested that staff explore other methods to generate more bids for projects. Staff clarified that there was only one bid submitted for the project.

MOVED by Commissioner Kling to APPROVE Award for ITB 2025-866 Rebid Hartman Park Field Lighting, SECONDED by Commissioner Randall

A Roll Call was Taken:

Those Voting Aye:

Commissioner King  
Commissioner Crowley  
Commissioner Randall  
Mayor Padilla

Those Voting Nay:

Mayor Pro-Tem George

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Four to One

B. Special Budget Resolution 2025-1482 Payment to Farmington Electric Utility System for Ancient Trails Sub-Station Design

PULLED FROM AGENDA



### C. Street Maintenance Work, Preparation for Micro Surfacing

Commissioner Randall pointed out that the CES number on the quote referenced a 2023 figure and asked for clarification to ensure that it was a current contract. The Public Works Director assured him that it is, in fact, a current contract.

Commissioner Crowley asked if there was a priority list for roads that require infrastructure improvements. Ruben responded that these roads are included in the FY26 list of the 10-year plan. Commissioner Crowley also asked if any of the streets would need to be dug up, Ruben confirmed that they had checked and determined that it should not be necessary.

MOVED by Commissioner King to APPROVE Street Maintenance Work, Preparation for Micro Surfacing, SECONDED by Commissioner Crowley

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

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

Jeff reported to the Commission updates on the following;

- GRT report
- HB 450 infrastructure bill allocated \$630,000 for the water and wastewater plant clear well

Electric Director John Wheeler provided an update to the commission on the status of the Farmington Electric Utility invoice for the Ancient Trails substation. Following the advice of the city attorney, he read a letter outlining all the negotiations related to the matter. The commission requested that John prepare an agreement with the City of Farmington to terminate the MOU and present it to them for approval so they can move forward.

Mayor Padilla informed the commission that he had a report to share regarding a conversation with the city attorney. She conveyed that the elected body has no authority over the actions of the city manager. She also expressed the opinion that the commission is in violation of city codes, procedures, and policies. Mayor Padilla clarified that the commission was not elected by the city manager or the attorney, but by the citizens of Aztec. He emphasized that the city manager and attorney are appointed by the board of directors, which is the commission itself.

He believes the commission should be kept informed about the actions and decisions being made, particularly when it comes to budget matters. He provided the example of change orders on projects, stating that the commission should be notified about these, as they are ultimately responsible for budget-related



decisions. He expressed that it is unacceptable for the commission to be unaware of final costs and that they should not have to regularly request financial updates on the city's projects. He suggested that if current policies prevent the commission from receiving this information, those policies should be revised.

Mayor Padilla made it clear that he does not expect every change order to require commission approval, but the commission should have the necessary information to make informed decisions on matters that come before them. He also mentioned that if there are any policies stating that the city manager does not need to inform the commission about projects, those policies should be immediately addressed and corrected. He emphasized that the commission is not trying to interfere with the day-to-day responsibilities of the city manager.

Additionally, he expressed concern about outdated policies and mentioned that morale within the city that it is at its lowest point. He indicated that this issue starts with leadership and emphasized the need to understand why it has reached this point. While the city attorney suggested updating the investment and utility policies, Mayor Padilla noted that these are just a small part of a larger issue. He concluded by stating that if the commission needs to take action to update these outdated policies, it should be treated as a priority that requires immediate attention.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

#### **A. Closed Session Pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(2) Limited Personnel Matters-City Manager**

Mayor Padilla called to go into closed session at 6:43 Mayor Padilla misread the State Statute citing Pursuant to State Law Section 10-15-1(H)(7) pertaining to threatened and pending litigation and then cited the correct State Statute, Pursuant to State Law Section 10-15-1(H)(2) Limited Personnel Matters City Manager.

A Roll Call was Taken:

All Voting Aye:

Mayor Padilla

Mayor Pro-Tem George

Commissioner King

Commissioner Crowley

Commissioner Randall

Mayor Padilla called to come out of closed session at 8:02 Pursuant to State Law Section 10-15-1(H)(2) Limited Personnel Matters City

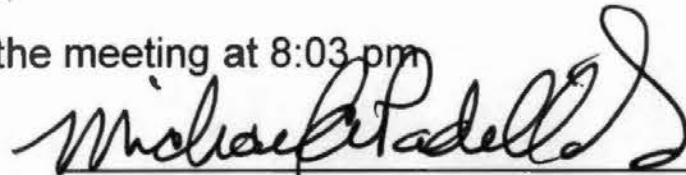
Manager and stated that no other items were discussed, and no decisions were made.

A Roll Call was Taken:

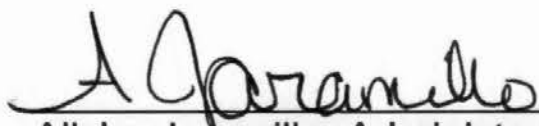
All Voted Aye:  
Mayor Padilla  
Mayor Pro-Tem George  
Commissioner King  
Commissioner Crowley  
Commissioner Randall

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Mayor Padilla to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm

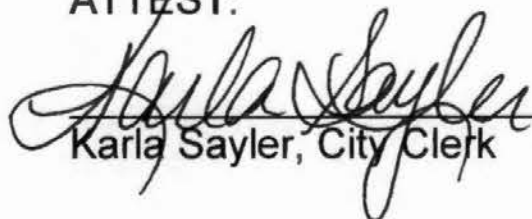
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Michael A. Padilla, Sr.

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alisha Jaramillo, Administrative Assistant



ATTEST:

  
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Karla Sayler, City Clerk