

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Michael A. Padilla Sr. called the workshop to order at 5:00 pm at Aztec City Hall, 201 W. Chaco, Aztec NM 87410

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

Members Absent: NONE

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

A. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Discussion

Mayor Padilla opened the workshop and turned it over to City Manager Jeff Blackburn, who then passed the discussion to the Finance Director Jennie Achee. Jennie presented a PowerPoint to the commission, comparing salaries with 2%, 3%, 4%, and 5% cola increases, along with utility costs.

Police Chief Joe Gonzales presented the commission with a projection of a new pay plan for the Police Department.

Some of the other topics Jennie covered included;

- Increases covered by the city for health insurance benefits
- Write offs for utility billing
- Liens on landlords who own dwelling units that utility bills are in their name and past due
- New employees requested for departments for FY26

Mayor Pro-Tem stated he is not in favor of adding new employees to any departments other than a greeter in the City Hall lobby.

Jennie requested guidance from the commission on what they would like to see discussed at the next budget meeting. The commission expressed interest in reviewing the insurance rate increases for both 80% and 75% city coverage, combined with the 4% and 5% COLA increase to include the one new employee and those current positions that are requested to move from part-time hours to full-time hours.

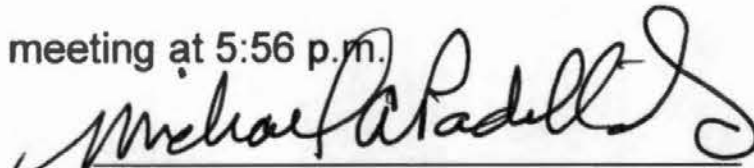
Public Works Director Ruben Salcido mentioned that the city currently has only two-level III operators at the water and wastewater plants, and according to state

regulations, there must always be a minimum of two operators on duty. If one of the level III operators is out on leave or calls in sick, the city would be in violation of these regulations. The commission has requested that Ruben return with the specific state regulations regarding this requirement. Ruben suggested that he could arrange for the state regulator to attend a meeting and present the commission with the relevant regulations. Mayor Padilla noted that during the last meeting, it was proposed to split the water and wastewater plants and public works department into separate entities. The City Manager confirmed that this is already established in the city code, and the City Attorney referenced Article 3, Section 2.71 of the code, to support this.

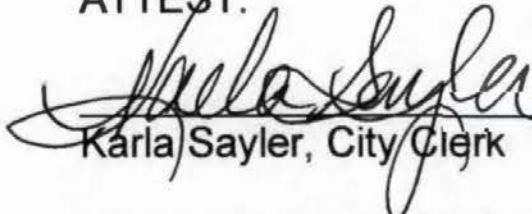
Commissioner Crowley asked about the two loans he had mentioned in a previous meeting. He asked if there is any possibility of securing lower interest rates on them.

ADJOURNMENT

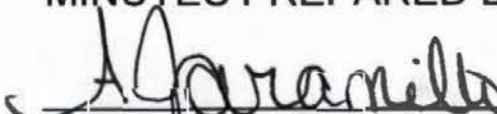
Moved by Mayor Padilla to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m.


Michael A. Padilla Sr., Mayor

ATTEST:


Karla Sayler, City Clerk

MINUTES PREPARED BY:


Alisha Jaramillo, Administrative Assistant

