

**CITY OF AZTEC
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday March 10, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Michael A. Padilla Sr. called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm at Aztec City Hall, 201 W. Chaco, Aztec NM 87410

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation led by Commissioner Lanier
United States Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Pro-Tem Cortez
New Mexico pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Pro-Tem Cortez

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Michael A. Padilla, Sr.; Mayor Pro-Tem Jason Cortez; and Commissioner Brett Lanier; Commissioner Katie Buchholz

Members Absent: Commissioner Austin Randall

Others Present: Interim-City Manager Joe Gonzales; City Attorney Sofia Flores; City Clerk Karla Saylor

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

MOVED by Commissioner Lanier to APPROVE Consent Agenda, SECONDED by Mayor Pro-Tem Cortez

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Four to Zero

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Commission Meeting Special Meeting Minutes February 18, 2026
- B. Commission Meeting Regular Minutes February 24, 2026
- C. Resolution 2026-1554 LEPF Application-PD
- D. Bid Award for South Aztec Water Tank Replacement Project
- E. Bid Award for Riverside Park Bank Stabilization Project

MOVED by Commissioner Lanier Randall to APPROVE Consent Agenda PULLING Item D for discussion, SECONDED by Mayor Padilla

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Four to Zero

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

D. Bid Award for South Aztec Water Tank Replacement Project

The Commission had questions for Interim Public Works Director Jeric Jaramillo regarding the project timeline and the material for the tank. Jeric stated that the project is expected to take about 12 months and that the tank would be constructed of concrete, as it is believed to better withstand vandalism and provide greater longevity. The Commission noted that they had initially requested a steel tank and asked that the cost for a steel tank option be provided.

MOVED by Commissioner Lanier Randall to TABLE Bid Award for South Aztec Water Tank Replacement Project, SECONDED by Mayor Padilla

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Four to Zero

CITIZENS INPUT

Dr. Ashley Seyfarth owner of Kare Drug in Aztec and Bloomfield

Dr. Seyfarth presented a power point comparing utility rates between her businesses in Aztec and Bloomfield. The comparison focused on the cost of electric utility rates and their negative impact on other local businesses as well. She requested the Commission to evaluate affordability and consider potential changes to utility rates.

BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Special Budget Resolution 2026-1553-Finance

MOVED by Commissioner Lanier to APPROVE Special Budget Resolution 2026-1553; SECONDED by Commissioner Buchholz

A Roll Call was Taken:

Those Voting Aye: Commissioner Lanier
Commissioner Buchholz
Mayor Pro-Tem Cortez
Mayor Padilla

Those Voting Nay: NONE

Those Absent: Commissioner Randall

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Four to Zero

B. Amended Transmission Agreement with City of Farmington

The Commission had questions for Electric Director John Wheeler regarding the agreement. They asked whether the City Attorney had reviewed it. John confirmed that it has been reviewed and stated that per the commissions request he will note this in the updated staff summary agreement for the next meeting.

MOVED by Mayor Padilla to TABLE Amended Transmission Agreement with City of Farmington; SECONDED by Mayor Pro-Tem Cortez

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Four to Zero

QUASI JUDICIAL HEARING

A. Oil and Gas Permit: OG-26-01 Rhonda Abrams 2P

Mayor Padilla opened the quasi-judicial hearing, reviewed the hearing procedures, and swore in all parties interested in testifying. He then asked if any members of the Commission had a conflict of interest, bias, or had engaged in ex-parte communication. None were reported.

Community Development Director Andrew DiCamillo reported that no testimony opposing the application. He noted that certified notices were sent in accordance with the city ordinance and return receipts were all received.

He mentioned that there were no public comments or concerns from the public about the letters submitted.

Ramon Hancock, representing Hilcorp, presented a slideshow to the Commission regarding the proposed well. He stated that work is estimated to begin in March and be completed by the end of May. Mr. Hancock also informed the Commission that the city will receive 12.5% in royalties.

Bill Albert, 517 French Drive, Aztec, came forward and stated that he supports the drilling project.

Mayor Padilla MOVED to APPROVE OG 26-01 Rhonda Abrams 2P, SECONDED by Commissioner Buchholz.

A Roll Call was Taken:

Those Voting Aye: Commissioner Lanier
Commissioner Buchholz
Mayor Pro-Tem Cortez
Mayor Padilla

Those Voting Nay: None

Absent: Commissioner Randall

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Four to Zero

COMMISSIONER, CITY MANAGER, DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mayor Padilla thanked staff and members of the community for checking on him during his recent surgery.

Commissioner Lanier thanked the business owners for attending the meeting and voicing their concerns regarding the utility rates. He attended a Growth Management Plan meeting and gave an update on the water levels at Lake Powell.

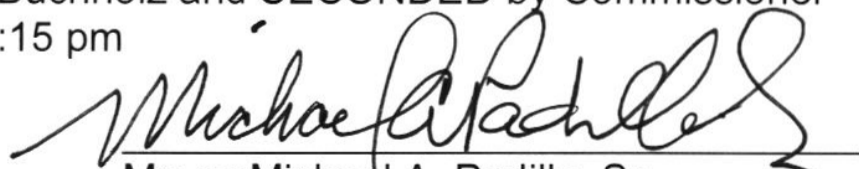
Mayor Pro-Tem Cortez mentioned attending the Mayors Ball and San Juan County Stake Holder meeting.

Community Development Director Andrew DiCamillo gave an update on the new businesses that are coming into the city.

Electric Director John Wheeler also addressed the lake levels and discussed the impact they could have on electricity generation.

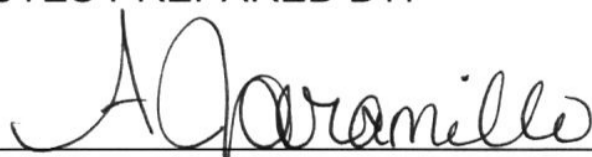
ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Commissioner Buchholz and SECONDED by Commissioner Lanier to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm



Mayor Michael A. Padilla, Sr.

MINUTES PREPARED BY:



Alisha Jaramillo, Administrative Assistant



ATTEST:



Karla Saylor, City Clerk