

**CITY OF AZTEC  
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday April 28, 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 Commissioner Randall  
New Mexico pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Randall

**ROLL CALL**

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

Members Absent: NONE

Others Present: City Manager Julian Ruybalid; City Attorney Sofia Flores;  
City Clerk Karla Saylor

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS**

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

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Commission Meeting Special Workshop Minutes April 7, 2026
- B. Commission Meeting Special Workshop Minutes April 8, 2026
- C. Commission Meeting Workshop Minutes April 14, 2026
- D. Commission Meeting Regular Meeting Minutes April 14, 2026
- E. Resolution 2026-1566 Approving City Disbursements and Deposits for period ending March 2026

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

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

## **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

NONE

## **CITIZENS INPUT**

Kasey McCune 2001 Lover Lane Aztec  
Hannah Rankin 316 Karlin Ave Aztec

Ms. McCune and Ms. Rankin came before commission to express their concerns over new Hilcorp well site near Aztec High School. They would like more information to be sent out prior to allowing the wells being approved by the commission.

Zachary Pettijohn 507 Lovers Lane

Mr. Pettijohn thanked Captain Morris for always being available when they call or text him with concerns.

Luke Durham 1144 Graceland Aztec

Mr. Durham wanted to introduce himself to commission as the new president of the Aztec Soccer Club.

Jens Lange 2013 Crystal River Trail Aztec

Mr. Lange suggested that the commission consider establishing a Public Utility Advisory Board to assist with decision-making related to utilities.

Tinessa Lee 3323 JF Scott Aztec

Ms. Lee informed the commission of a billing error that has been occurring since October and that she was only recently made aware of. She stated that there should be stronger checks and balances within the utility billing office.

Jessica Anderson 501 Sutton St Aztec

Ms. Anderson also raised a concern regarding utility billing, stating that her bill doubled in the past month and would like an explanation for the significant increase in rates.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

A. Special Budget Resolution 2026-1565

MOVED by Commissioner Randall to APPROVE Special Budget Resolution 2026-1565; SECONDED by Commissioner Randall

A Roll Call was Taken:

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

Those Voting Nay: NONE

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

B. Intent to Adopt Ordinance 2026-566 Amending Chapter 16 Fee Schedule

There was discussion regarding the wording in the ordinance concerning which fees would be reinstated. It was clarified that the fees would revert to the 2024 fee schedule.

MOVED by Commissioner Buchholz to APPROVE Intent to Adopt Ordinance 2026-566 Amending Chapter 16 Fee Schedule; SECONDED by Mayor Pro-Tem Cortez

A Roll Call was Taken:

Those Voting Aye: NONE

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

All Voted Nay: Motion Failed Five to Zero

C. Intent to Adopt Ordinance 2026-567 Amending Chapter 26, Article III. Supplementary Regulations, Division 7, Cannabis Regulations

MOVED by Mayor Pro-Tem Cortez to APPROVE to Adopt Ordinance 2026-567 Amending Chapter 26, Article III. Supplementary Regulations, Division 7, Cannabis Regulations; SECONDED by Commissioner Buchholz

A Roll Call was Taken:

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

Those Voting Nay: NONE

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

- D. Intent to Adopt Ordinance 2026-568 Amending Chapter 2, Article V. Division 8. Economic Development Advisory Board

MOVED by Mayor Padilla to APPROVE Intent to Adopt Ordinance 2026-568 Amending Chapter 2, Article V. Division 8. Economic Development Advisory Board; SECONDED by Commissioner Buchholz

A Roll Call was Taken:

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

Those Voting Nay: NONE

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

- E. Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Aztec and Aztec Farmers Market

Aztec Farmers Market Director presented a PowerPoint overview covering who they are, the benefits of the market, its history, programs, community engagement, special events and fundraisers, and their connections. They also discussed the proposed location change to North Main Street.

MOVED by Commissioner Randall to APPROVE Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Aztec and Aztec Farmers Market; SECONDED by Mayor Padilla

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

- F. Bid Award for South Aztec Water Tank Replacement Project

Mayor Padilla asked Interim Public Works Director Jeric Jaramillo how many gallons the tanks will hold, Jeric stated that it is 750,000 gallons.

MOVED by Mayor Padilla to APPROVE Bid Award for South Aztec Water Tank Replacement Project; SECONDED by Commissioner Randall

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

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

Commissioner Buchholz commented on projects around the city, thanked the senior center staff for their preparations for the Chamber Gala, and noted the water line break at Tiger Park and thanked Tristan and his staff for the quick response.

Mayor Padilla informed the commission that Chief Joe Gonzales has provided his retirement date effective April 30 from his position.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cortez thanked Captain Morris for his communication and Chief Gonzales for his service. He also mentioned attending the Chamber Gala and noted that the library is hosting a celebration for the 250th anniversary of America.

Commissioner Lanier discussed issues with utility billing errors and said he would like to review policies on retroactive billing, possibly adding a cap. He questioned whether the system needs an upgrade and suggested options like dual verification or more audits. He said that if the error is on the City's part, the City should be held accountable.

He also noted that no funds have been used from the repair and replacement fund and suggested either stopping collection for it or evaluating how it is used. He asked for more information on how the City's base fees are determined.

City Manager Jar Ruybalid gave department and city updates on the following:

- Angela Watkins citizen of the year for the Chamber Gala
- Electric shut off Friday from 12:00am to 2:00am
- Chief Gonzales retirement date
- Captain Troy Morris will be interim Chief
- Water tank replacement
- Junior High incident
- Trash bin issue at Tractor Supply
- Restriping Chaco and Main and Tiger Park
- Hartman Park repairs
- The amount for purchases will stay at \$60,000 anything over will go before the commission for approval
- No dogs allowed at Riverside signs

- The meeting with Bloomfield about the waterline, there may be a possible workshop with them before the June 9 meeting
- His meeting with County Manager Mike Stark regarding increasing funds for the Senior Center from the county for meals
- Complimented Connie and the senior center staff on the Chamber Gala
- Creation of a priority list of projects so they can start using the repair and replacement funds

Mayor Padilla mentioned that there will be a budget workshop before the next commission meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Commissioner Lanier and SECONDED by Commissioner Randall to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 pm



Mayor Michael A. Padilla, Sr.

MINUTES PREPARED BY:



Alisha Jaramillo, Administrative Assistant



ATTEST:



Karla Sayler, City Clerk