

**CITY OF AZTEC
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday August 25, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brett Lanier called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm at Aztec City Hall, 201 W. Chaco, Aztec NM 87410

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation led by Mayor Brett Lanier

United States Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Randall

New Mexico pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Randall

OATH OF OFFICE

New Commissioner Oath of Office Eduardo Chavez

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Brett Lanier; Mayor Pro-Tem Jason Cortez (VIA Phone); Commissioner Katie Buchholz; Commissioner Austin Randall and Commissioner Eduardo Chavez

Members Absent: NONE

Others Present: Interim City Manager Chief Troy Morris; Deputy Interim City Manager Ed Kotyk; City Clerk Karla Sayler; City Attorney Sofia Flores

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

Interim City Manager Chief Troy Morris acknowledged Library Director Angela Watkins for her hard work at the library. Mayor Lanier recognized Interim City Manager and Deputy Interim City Manager Ed Kotyk for stepping up and running the city.

PRESENTATION

Great Western Sports Fields Trevor Hatch

Mr. Hatch came before the Commission to give a presentation about his company, including what they do, their goals, and how they can help the city with maintaining sports fields and parks. He also discussed the process, including the scope of work, costs, and possible improvements to the fields and parks.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

MOVED by Commissioner Randall to APPROVE Agenda Items, SECONDED by Commissioner Buchholz

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Special Commission Workshop Minutes August 5, 2026
- B. Commission Workshop Meeting Minutes August 11, 2026
- C. Commission Meeting Minutes August 11, 2025
- D. Resolution 2026-1595 July Disbursements and Deposits
- E. Library 2024 General Obligation Bond Grant Agreement
- F. Resolution 2026-1596 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Companion Grants for South Apron Design and Bidding Project (Task Order 1)

MOVED by Commissioner Buchholz to APPROVE Consent Agenda Removing Consent Item B, E and F for discussion; SECONDED by Mayor Pro-Tem Cortez

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

- B. Commission Workshop Meeting Minutes August 11, 2026

Commissioner Buchholz mentioned that the adjournment time on the minutes needed to be corrected to 6:05 pm.

MOVED by Mayor Lanier to APPROVE Workshop Meeting Minutes August 11, 2026, as Amended; SECONDED by Mayor Pro-Tem Cortez

A Roll Call was Taken:

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

Those Voting Nay: NONE

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

E. Library 2024 General Obligation Bond Grant Agreement

The commission asked for clarification from Finance Director Jennie Achee that the grant was included in the budget, Jennie assured them it was.

MOVED by Mayor Lanier to APPROVE Workshop Meeting Minutes August 11, 2026 as Amended; SECONDED by Commissioner Buchholz

A Roll Call was Taken:

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

Those Voting Nay: NONE

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

F. Resolution 2026-1596 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Companion Grants for South Apron Design and Bidding Project (Task Order 1)

The Commission asked Finance Director Jennie Achee if the grant was in the budget. Jennie said it was not, so a budget adjustment would be needed. The Commission also asked about the deadlines and whether the grant money would have to be paid back if the deadlines were not met. Interim Deputy City Manager Ed Kotyk explained that this is a reissued grant. The first grant was budgeted for a certain amount, but the project went over that amount, so the grant had to be reinstated and increased. The Commission also asked if the match would be new to the budget, and Ed said it would be. The City Attorney also wanted to clarify that former Mayor Mike Padilla was still listed on the documents and that it should be Mayor Lanier and wanted to mention it so it could be changed.

MOVED by Mayor Lanier to APPROVE Workshop Meeting Minutes August 11, 2026, as Amended; SECONDED by Commissioner Randall

A Roll Call was Taken:

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

Those Voting Nay: NONE

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

CITIZENS INPUT

Jennifer Garlic 70 RD 2553 Aztec

Ms. Garlic came before the commission to express concerns regarding the water system in her neighborhood, which is in the first divide subdivision.

Regina Torres and Rebecca Dean, Vista Nueva High School

Ms. Torres and Ms. Dean, representing Vista Nueva, asked if the city would allow student volunteers to help clean up after the parade as part of a school project. Interim City Manager Troy Morris informed them that it would not be possible this year because all the required information had already been submitted to the State.

Yens Lang, 2013 Crystal River Trail Aztec

Mr. Lang reminded the Commission that he had previously spoken about creating a Public Utility Board and asked if there would be any feedback regarding its creation. He noted that there have been several workshops on utility-related issues and believes a board could help the Commission follow through on projects and initiatives.

Robert Garcia, Kokopelli Subdivision

Robert came before the Commission with questions about the arterial bypass and when it might be completed. He also asked about infrastructure in the Kokopelli area, stating that the roads are in poor condition. In addition, he asked about the flood plan that was discussed at a previous meeting.

BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Appointments of Commissioner to Boards & Committees

After discussion the boards that are changing were decided as follows:

- Commissioner Chavez Airport and Lodgers Tax
- Commissioner Randall Personnel Committee

MOVED by Commissioner Buchholz to APPROVE Appointments of Commissioner to Boards & Committees; SECONDED by Mayor Lanier

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Five to Zero

B. Final Adoption of Ordinance 2026-572 Allocating Economic Development funds for 102 S. Main Ave. Aka Main Street Pit Stop Aztec LLC

The Commission wanted to make sure the agreement had been reviewed by the City Attorney. They also asked if the agreement included a payback clause if the business closes within five years. Andrew stated that it does, and that the agreement also includes a transfer clause. The City Attorney also mentioned that there is a provision allowing the City to choose not to transfer the agreement.

MOVED by Commissioner Buchholz to APPROVE Final Adoption of Ordinance 2026-572 Allocating Economic Development funds for 102 S. Main Ave. Aka Main Street Pit Stop Aztec LLC; SECONDED by Mayor Lanier

A Roll Call was Taken:

Those Voting Aye: Commissioner Chavez
Commissioner Randall
Commissioner Buchholz
Mayor Lanier

Those Voting Nay: NONE

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Four to Zero

C. Aztec Soccer Club Agreement

The City Attorney reviewed the agreement and updated the insurance policy requirement and indemnity language. She explained that the city is covered for any conduct that takes place on the fields related to the sport being played or the organization using the field.

MOVED by Mayor Lanier to APPROVE Aztec Soccer Club Agreement; SECONDED by Commissioner Buchholz

A Roll Call was Taken:

Those Voting Aye: Commissioner Buchholz
Commissioner Randall
Commissioner Chavez
Mayor Lanier

Those Voting Nay: NONE

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Four to Zero

D. Aztec Youth Sport Agreement

The City Attorney reviewed the agreement and updated the insurance policy requirement and indemnity language. She explained that the city is covered for any conduct that takes place on the fields related to the sport being played or the organization using the field.

MOVED by Mayor Lanier to APPROVE Aztec Youth Sport Agreement with Amended language on the signature page; SECONDED by Commissioner Buchholz

A Roll Call was Taken:

Those Voting Aye: Commissioner Randall
Commissioner Buchholz
Commissioner Chavez
Mayor Lanier

Those Voting Nay: NONE

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Four to Zero

E. Transformer Purchase

The City Attorney stated that the procurement policy had been reviewed and that there are legal options available for purchasing the transformer. Electric Director John Wheeler said he would choose to use the electric generation act to purchase the transformer as state statutes allow it as long as we meet the certain conditions.

Mayor Lanier had more extensive questions for John Wheeler;

-Transformer has a 2-year warranty and is BABA certified, do you have original service history? Do you know the reason it was removed from service, do you have failure/repair history, do you have confirmation that it's impedance & protection characteristics work with Aztec's system and is suitable?

John answered yes and said he believed it was moved out of service because it would not carry the load for the entity that had it and he does not know where it was prior.

-The commission is effectively being asked to start a project whose transformer price is known but the complete installed price isn't known. What are the estimated costs, crane/wiring/freight/modifications/testing/etc?

John said he has the contract engineer looking at the possibilities of what it will cost to install the transformer at our substation, it will need a pad expansion as

well as a breaker and circuit switcher installed. This could cost another million dollars but he is hoping it will come in around \$300,000.

-Can our people install the transformer?

No response from John Wheeler

-Cancellation provisions are aggressive. I asked for due diligence in the workshop to be done, have they been done in the last 2 weeks? For the Record are you 100% confident this unit will work with City of Aztec grid system?

John answered that he is absolutely confident it will work.

-What is the realistic, worst case all installed cost?

John Wheeler stated that the worst-case scenario would be two million dollars.

MOVED by Mayor Lanier to APPROVE Transformer Purchase; SECONDED by Commissioner Buchholz

A Roll Call was Taken:

Those Voting Aye: Commissioner Randall
Commissioner Buchholz
Commissioner Chavez
Mayor Lanier

Those Voting Nay: NONE

All Voted Aye: Motion Passed Four to Zero

COMMISSIONER, CITY MANAGER, DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mayor Pro-Tem Cortez reminded the commission of the Chamber of Commerce's upcoming events.

Commissioner Buchholz informed the commission she attended the ECHO and Senior Center board meetings.

Commissioner Chavez suggested asking the Vista Nueva students to help clean up for the upcoming events in the city.

Mayor Lanier updated the commission on the following items:

- Council Of Governments meeting

- Tiger Summit
- And the upcoming policy commission workshop on September 1st

Manuel Martinez presented the commission information regarding a new program OUTIFI. This is new utility notification program that the electric department will be implementing regarding outages, water leaks and other planned maintenance.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Commissioner Lanier to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm



MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Alisha Jaramillo, Administrative Assistant

ATTEST:

Karla Saylor, City Clerk