

**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
7:30 P.M., COMMISSION CHAMBERS
OCTOBER 26, 2010**

**RON GRIGGS, MAYOR
ED COLE, MAYOR PRO-TEM
MARION LEDFORD, COMMISSIONER
JOE FERGUSON, COMMISSIONER
ROBERT RENTSCHLER, COMMISSIONER**

**JOSH RARDIN, COMMISSIONER
AARON RANCE, COMMISSIONER
MARK ROATH, CITY MANAGER
STEPHEN THIES, CITY ATTORNEY
RENEE CANTIN, CITY CLERK**

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Griggs called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Roll Call was taken by the City Clerk. Commissioner Rentschler and Commissioner Rance joined by teleconference. The Clerk announced there was a quorum present. The Invocation was given by Reverend Jim Forney. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Rardin.

Mayor Griggs said before we move any further into tonight's agenda, we had a request come to the City concerning the relatives of individuals whose names are on the Vietnam Memorial Wall, and Commissioner Ferguson will be heading up an effort to find those individuals. He then turned the floor over to Commissioner Ferguson.

Commissioner Ferguson stated he contacted Harry Teague's office and they indicated that they have been very busy with the election, but after November they will be happy to help to try us in finding the families of the Veterans. Also, it is his understanding that the Mormon Church is very big into genealogy and it just so happens that his sister is a member of the Mormon Church and he spoke with her and she will contact the main church in Salt Lake City to try and get a list of all the names on the wall. Once we get that list, we can back track and find any relatives that live here in the area, Tularosa and possibly Carrizozo as well. That is his plan, and it may take a while to get this done, but he will start working on it and he will keep everyone informed on his progress.

Mayor Griggs thanked Commissioner Ferguson and added that it is one of the things the Daily News may be able to help us with in getting the word out to the public. Commissioner Ferguson asked the Daily News Representative that when she puts it in the paper to put his cell phone number in there and have them call him, because he does not want to miss anybody.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Griggs asked for a motion to approve tonight's agenda.

Commissioner Rardin moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ferguson seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

PRESENTATIONS

- 1. Presentation and donation of \$1,600 to the City of Alamogordo Recreation Center by the Tularosa Basin Wine Festival Committee on behalf of the Alamogordo, Tularosa, and White Sands Rotary Clubs. (Renee Cantin, City Clerk)**

Mayor Griggs read the agenda item and turned the floor over to City Clerk Renee Cantin.

Ms. Cantin began by saying it is her honor as a Rotarian, and she has served on the committee for the three local rotary clubs, to present a check to Assistant City Manager Matt McNeile in the amount of \$1,601. The check represents \$1 per person who attended the wine festival that was held on September the 18th and 19th. We do this to benefit the Rec. Center, because Parks and Recreation is

a big part of the wine festival; the employees and staff have always been helpful and have been right there to help us out whenever we need anything, be it setting up, or breaking down, they are always there to help us out. Another reason our rotary clubs want to do this, not only because of their dedication and hard work, is so it might be used for kids who may not otherwise be able to be a member of the Rec. Center or join in on some of the programs. It is her honor to present this check to the City of Alamogordo and their staff and to thank them for all of their hard work.

CONSENT AGENDA (Roll Call Vote Required for Item No. 5)

Mayor Griggs asked if there were any items on the consent agenda that any member of the Commission or audience would like to have removed for further discussion. Hearing no responses, he asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

2. **Approve Minutes of the October 12, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Alamogordo City Commission.** (*Renee Cantin, City Clerk*)
3. **Approve statement related to the Executive Session of October 12, 2010.** (*Renee Cantin, City Clerk*)
4. **Approve an Agreement with the NCNMEDD Non-Metro Area Agency on Aging Grant for the Senior Center Programs.** (*Matt McNeile, Assistant City Manager*)
5. **Approve Resolution No. 2010-29 requesting written approval from the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance & Administration, State of New Mexico for the revised budget figures computed on October 26, 2010.** (*LeeAnn Nichols, Finance Director*)

Commissioner Ledford moved to approve items # 2, 3, 4, & 5 of the consent calendar. Commissioner Rardin seconded the motion. Roll call was taken for item No. 5. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

6. **Discussion, and possible action, on proposed draft of Ordinance No. 1387 amending section 34-01-010 of the Code of Ordinances pertaining to signs and outdoor displays.** (*Matt McNeile, Assistant City Manager*)

Mayor Griggs read the agenda report and said this particular item came forward back in June and dealt with our beautification of the community. This was mentioned by Commissioner Rentschler along with the sign ordinance in Ruidoso. Staff has since put together an ordinance, which is very detailed, but the Ruidoso is still something that we should consider. He had the opportunity to read it and he thinks it is one that we could build on. He will open the floor for comments soon, but he thinks what we should consider doing is establishing a committee of Commissioners to work with Mr. McNeile and Mr. Marc South and take the Ruidoso ordinance, as well as the ordinance that Mr. South has developed and combine those and bring it back to us for consideration at a later date. He then asked Commissioner Rentschler about his opinion and thoughts.

Commissioner Rentschler agreed with that at this time and believes the ordinance is overly cumbersome and a little more extensive than it needs to be. He would like the opportunity to go through with this and revisit the Ruidoso ordinance again and see if we can't go through that and see if we can look at that and make it more suitable to what we require here in Alamogordo. He would be in favor of tabling this until time that we could come back with something more cohesive. He would certainly volunteer to serve on a committee that is formed to look into this.

Mayor Griggs thanked Commissioner Rentschler for his comments and asked if there were any

additional comments from the Commission; hearing none, he asked for a motion to table this item and bring it back at a later date.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cole moved to table the item. Commissioner Rardin seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

Mayor Griggs said Commissioner Rentschler has volunteered and asked if any other Commissioner's would like to volunteer. Commissioner Rardin also volunteered. Mayor Griggs added that he believes if they pull the Ruidoso ordinance and read through it, they will see a lot of good things would get utilized with that particular ordinance.

7. Consider, and act upon, the placement of a new Resident Parking Only Sign at 708 New York Avenue. (Renee Cantin, City Clerk)

Mayor Griggs read the agenda report and turned the floor over to Ms. Cantin.

Ms. Cantin began by saying you have before you a request to place a new Resident Parking Only sign at 708 New York Avenue. The application lists the reason for their request and they do meet the requirements, so we are asking for approval to place the Resident Parking Only sign. What will happen is once they pay the \$100 for the sign placement, we will send a work order to Public Works and the Street Department will place that sign.

Mayor Griggs asked if the cost of the sign is bore by the applicant. Ms. Cantin confirmed this.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cole asked how long that agreement is good for. Ms. Cantin explained we send a letter every year to each sign holder and ask if they still require the sign and if so they must return the lower portion of the letter with their name and address and if they still require it. During the same time frame, we send the Public Works Department a list of names and addresses of each sign placement and they verify that the signs are still there and notify us that they are. During the first or second Commission meeting in January, we submit the list to the Commission for sign approval for another year.

Mayor Griggs asked if there were any additional questions of comments on this item. Hearing none, he asked for a motion on this item.

Commissioner Ferguson moved to approve the placement of a new Resident Parking Only Sign at 708 New York Avenue. Commissioner Rardin seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

8. Appointments to Boards & Committees. (Ron Griggs, Mayor)

Mayor Griggs announced the Boards and Committees with current vacancies and appointed Lewis D. Jollett to the Airport Advisory Board and Geneva Wooten to the Mayor's Committee on Aging. He will hold off on appointing the P & Z Commission. He asked the City Clerk to notify these individuals.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Roath said staff has been working to put together information on our options to finance the first phase of our Waste Water Treatment Plant as wells as next years utility rates. We would like to have a meeting with the Commission on Thursday, November 11th if possible so that we can present this information and seek further guidance to the Commission on these two important issues. We would like to know if it would be possible for the Commission to meet on that evening beginning at 6:00 or 6:30, because it could be a lengthy meeting.

Mayor Griggs asked Commissioner's to contact him within the next day or so to see if they are available and get an e-mail out to everyone with the details. These are two items that will take awhile

to get through, and it would be a good idea to have a special meeting to discuss them.

REMARKS AND INQUIRIES BY THE CITY COMMISSION

Commissioner Rardin commented on the following:

- 1) He had talked to Chief Sam Trujillo last week about the weeds ordinance and we were talking about that burned out building off White Sands Boulevard. It seems like there is another avenue that we could pursue, we might be able to dismiss the warrant that is out for the guys arrest and then go down and clean it up and place a lien on the property. He wanted to bring that to everybody's attention. He doesn't know if that is something we can do because we would have to approve more money to abate it and clean it up, but it has been sitting there for a year and a half and it is a safety issue.

Mayor Griggs said he believes Chief Trujillo is coming before us on Monday to discuss the weeds and trash in Alamogordo. He asked Chief Trujillo if he would also address this item as well and we may be able to make a decision about it.

- 2) He also asked about the status of the Otero County Economic Development Council (OCEDC) Contracts. He thought we were going to be performing an audit on those.

City Manager Roath stated there was some discussion and he has been advised by the President that we are going to have a meeting in November. Members of the OCEDC Board and City will meet to discuss that contract. Commissioner Rardin asked which members of the City would be attending. City Manager Roath said it would most likely be himself and the City Attorney.

Commissioner Ferguson commented on the following:

- 1) He knows Chief Trujillo will be bringing up the weed ordinance, but he also wants to know the status of the fines and what decision we came to. Just reading this over, the fines are there, but we are giving the Judge leeway as to whether or not they pay it; he could find them guilty and not make them pay. He thinks we may need to change the wording where if they are found guilty of the violation, they have no choice but to pay. The only way some of these people who are fined for loose dogs, weeds and noise, they are just blowing them off because the Judge is not fining them or just letting it go. He would like to see us come up with something that will make people take these offenses seriously. A postman was attacked just last week by a stray dog, and something needs to be done.

Mayor Griggs asked Chief Trujillo if he was intending to address the dog issue that Commissioner Ferguson brought up. Chief Trujillo said he is scheduled to appear before you on Monday to discuss Code Enforcement Ordinance. In that, we are going to be discussing how the fine system works and how the court system works. Once specific we will be talking about is Animal Control fines and operations. He will try to meet with Commissioner Ferguson before then to see what concerns he has. Mayor Griggs suggested they talk about whether or not that can be incorporated or needs to wait until the following meeting concerning dogs.

Mayor Pro-tem Cole commented on the following:

- 1) He doesn't know how many Commissioners get the Government Magazine but you might want to read the alternate fuels article, like the ethanol fuels taking place out at White Sands, it's very interesting. It has been going on for four or five years and he didn't even know it.

Commissioner Rance commented on the following:

- 1) He said a couple of weeks ago; he wrote a letter to Mr. McNeile and Mr. Threadgill concerning

challenges throughout the City and would like an update on where we are on those issues. Mr. McNeile stated he can do that.

- 2) He would also like to address the communications when one of the Commissioners are out of the Commission Chambers and must call in.

Mayor Pro-Tem Cole thinks we need to sit down as a Commission and develop some type of procedure if we are going to have this type of Commission meeting with telecommunications with other Commissioners. He feels like, under normal conditions, if the Commissioners can not be here, then they are absent and that is it. If we are going to have this type of operation, he thinks we need to sit down and develop some guidelines. The way things have worked out tonight is an indication that it is not a positive thing and he thinks it detracts from the Commission Meeting. (A lot of feedback was heard for several seconds) He stated he thinks his point has been made.

Commissioner Ferguson said when he was gone; he could hardly hear the Commission at all. He was also on the internet to watch the meeting, and he doesn't know how Mr. Donald Yee gets the audio to come in clear when he is recording it, and although there was a three or four second slight delay, he could hear everyone perfectly. Whatever he is doing, we need to find out and it could improve the audio when we are doing a teleconference.

Mayor Griggs said we can look into that and asked the City Manager and Staff to do some research. He then asked Mr. Yee if he could come forward and address the Commission.

Mr. Yee came forward and said recently about a week and a half ago, he assisted the Alamogordo Public Schools by interviewing the candidates for the superintendent position. He coordinated with each candidate and we streamed them one at a time, and had a board room of 25 people. The board on the big screen was watching the candidate and Bob Flotte was asking the questions. The only thing is we have that delay of three to five seconds, but as far as that goes, we took care of business the way that we needed to. Anything he can do to help when a Commissioner is out of town or something, maybe we can find a way to work through that three to five second delay.

Mayor Griggs wants to look into it further and see how we can find a way to do it better than we have this evening.

Mayor Griggs commented on the following:

- 1) He reminded everyone that November 2nd is Election Day. Please get out and vote if you haven't done so.
- 2) He had a complimentary letter delivered to him concerning a Public Works employee. Up on Serrano Street, where there had been a break near the water meter and they were highly complimentary of the work the employee did. They stated that he had to go down into a big hole that they had dug twice, into water that was very cold, and the people who live at that address were very impressed that he did that.
- 3) He added that next Monday, November 1st at 10:00 a.m., there will be a Memorial Service at the White Sands Missile Range, for Fallen Soldier, Sgt. Brian Pedro, who was killed in action in Afghanistan. We have received an invitation to attend that and if there is any member of the Commission who would like to do so, the City Manager has the details and he has sent out an e-mail. If there are several, we could carpool and pay our final respects to this brave individual.
- 4) He had a chance to visit with the Mayor of Silver City; this ties somewhat into what Mayor Pro-Tem Cole said, but they have obtained and utilized electric vehicles for their meter readers.

As we move forward on our progression, we may want to look into something like that.

- 5) He had the opportunity last Friday to attend the Spaceport America Runway dedication and had the opportunity to see the White Knight fly over and actually land there. The hope is that the Spaceport is going to be quite the place and there was media there from all around the world and received a tremendous amount of publicity. He would like everyone to keep their fingers crossed that it is very successful and that some of that success flows over here into Alamogordo and Otero County.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Roll Call Vote Required)

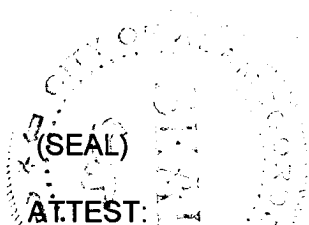
Adjourn into Closed Session in compliance with Section 10-15-1.H, NMSA 1978 (2001 Cumulative Supplement), to discuss:

Mayor Griggs said we do have the need to adjourn into executive session, and asked for a motion.

- Threatened litigation: ADA Compliance Review
- Threatened litigation: PSAP

Commissioner Rance moved to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss threatened litigation related to ADA Compliance Review & PSAP at 8:08 p.m. Commissioner Rardin seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT



Renee L. Cantin

City Clerk Renee L. Cantin

Ron Griggs

Mayor Ron Griggs

*(Prepared by Marsha D. Brady, Deputy Clerk)
Approved at the Regular Meeting held on November 16, 2010).*