

**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO  
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
7:00 P.M., COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
June 25, 2013**

**SUSIE GALEA, MAYOR  
JASON BALDWIN, COMMISSIONER  
NADIA SIKES, COMMISSIONER  
ROBERT RENTSCHLER, COMMISSIONER  
JOSH RARDIN, COMMISSIONER**

**AL HERNANDEZ, MAYOR PRO-TEM  
JIM TALBERT, COMMISSIONER  
JIM STAHLE, CITY MANAGER  
STEPHEN THIES, CITY ATTORNEY  
RENEE CANTIN, CITY CLERK**

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

Mayor Galea called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll Call was taken by the City Clerk. Clerk Cantin announced there was a quorum present. Invocation was given by Commissioner Talbert and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Rardin.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Commissioner Rentschler moved to approve adding the addendum to the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Baldwin seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.**

**Commissioner Talbert moved to approve the agenda with the addendum added to the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Rardin seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.**

**PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Galea presented a proclamation to Misa Tran proclaiming Wednesday, June 26, 2013 as Misa Tran Day. Miss Tran is a New Mexico American Coed Junior Teen pageant winner and has volunteered at the Alamogordo Senior Center, St. Jude Catholic Church, Zoo Boo, Angel Tree Gift Drive and Cookies for Airmen. She has also achieved many honors such as Knowledge Masters, National History Day, Patriot Pen Writers, President's Education and Physical Fitness, Student Government and National Junior Honor Society.

- 1. Presentation related to conceptual plans for the Juniper Drive Improvement project.  
(Jason Thomas, City Engineer)**

City Engineer Jason Thomas addressed the Commission complimented with a Power Point presentation. He noted that in late March the City contracted with Souter Miller Associates from Roswell, NM to design the Juniper Widening Project. In early May, they were given notice to proceed with the first portion of this which was the preliminary engineering design. This would have resulted in about a 50% completion of design drawings. City Manager Stahle redirected the team to drop back and develop concept plan options and move the presentation date up from late July to tonight, almost a month earlier. He said we had to set design parameters for the project so the consultant could have some control of what needed to be designed. The first design parameter was to minimize impact to private property such as retaining walls and drive ways and to upgrade the water main and laterals. He pointed out some settling on the slides. Another design parameter was to hold the center line of the street and provide dedicated travel lanes and parking lanes. Based on some citizen comments, some design enhancements were to control speeds, improve pedestrian visibility and reduce crosswalk distances. City Engineer Thomas referred to the overhead in pointing out some of the crosswalks on Juniper. He said they wanted to try and save the existing trees and add to the landscaping. They also looked at sewer lateral upgrades because there are several areas of settlement in the street and some sewer laterals are failing. One issue with this is City Ordinance 28-02-090 that states, "Maintenance and repair of service lines is the property owner's responsibility", so that would have to be overcome somehow.

City Engineer Thomas next presented the Concept Designs beginning with Concept Alternate 1. The highlights of this plan were to create dedicated parking and travel lanes, add speed tables and valley gutters on both sides. The large trees would be removed. Valley gutters allow the design to hold the existing grade of the street especially on the east side of the street, and minimize the impact on private property. He showed what a typical speed table would look like and said they would be about 10' wide at the top, about 4" in height and have an approach of about 6' on each side. This is different than the ones on Mountain View which don't have a top distance. The valley gutter would be similar to what runs down the middle of N.Scenic, but would be on the edges of the travel lane and thus separate the travel lane from the parking lane. Valley gutters preserve pavement by allowing water to run off the pavement surface before it sinks in.

Concept Alternate 2 would maintain travel and parking lanes, add bulb-outs at intersections and mid-block, improve pedestrian visibility at crosswalks, reduce crosswalk distances, provide room for more landscaping and remove all of the large trees. Bulb-outs improve pedestrian visibility at crosswalks. He noted New York Ave. has bulb-outs and it makes the walking distance across the street shorter. The City Engineer showed that by choking down the street with these bulb-outs, a traffic calming effect is created by causing the driver to slow down. This Alternate proposes bulb-outs at 10<sup>th</sup> Street, the next street up and some others at mid-block further up the street. He said you would get the full effect at a complete intersection where pedestrian crossing distances in all four directions would be reduced. There would not be any parking at these bulb-outs.

Concept Alternate 3 would add landscaped shoulders in order to save mature trees, but the trade off would be losing your on-street parking in order to save the trees. This adds more of a choking effect on traffic. He pointed out how it would look on the overhead and showed how there would not be any parking where the mature trees remained. Any extra landscaping done would be xeroscape planting in order to be drought tolerant. The rest of the design is similar to Alternate 2.

City Engineer Thomas noted the original project budget was \$1.1 million and it stopped at Aspen, not tying into the splitter island. Items not included in the original budget were sewer laterals, concrete valley gutters, Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), landscaping and traffic calming devices, and in-house engineering fees. Items under-estimated in the original budget were the design fee, mobilization, private entrances/drive pads, water main and laterals, and pavement demolition and excavation. He showed the costs for the three Concept Alternates and how they were very close to being same – 1) \$1,831,000; 2) \$1,830,000; 3) \$1,827,000. The budget shortfall would be \$731,000 and some possible funding sources could be Fund 81 – Water/Sewer fund (utility upgrades only) of \$500,000 and Fund 118 – Fairgrounds Road P&P (re-scope to mill/overlay) of \$231,000. City Engineer Thomas said there would be an open house at the Civic Center on July 2, 2013 from 4:30-6:30 pm. The City staff and consultants will be there and people will be able to view the various plans and ask questions. Comment cards will be passed out and we will make these available to the Commission at a later date in July or August.

Commissioner Talbert asked if speed tables could be added to any of the projects, and City Engineer Thomas said they could be.

City Manager Stahle thanked Jason for an excellent presentation and expediting the project. He felt the community needed to understand what the options were on a project before going to 50% plans. He told the Commissioners they could expect to see these kinds of presentations in the future concerning major road projects. City Manager Stahle knew this project had been a sensitive one in the community and assured everyone that no one is more sensitive than the city manager. He gave City Engineer Thomas a goal that if the Commission decides to move forward on the project, he wants the community to see and appreciate the improvements. He realized not everyone would be happy, but he hoped the Commission and citizens would carefully study these proposed options. There could be some mix and match, such as speed bumps and/or removal of or leaving of trees. He hoped there would be as much flexibility in the planning as possible to meet the constraints identified by the Commission and the community. City Manager Stahle said we won't please everyone but our intention is to provide an option the Commission feels can be handled financially. We came up with

some options on how it might be done within the current budget. We wanted to make sure you had some options going in to the actual design where the big bucks start getting spent, of what you'd like to see done, if anything. He encouraged the community who might have any questions to come to the Open House. He regretted he could not attend because he will be out of town but knew City Engineer Thomas, along with the talented people working with him would do a fantastic job. He hoped the community would comment on this, especially those living on Juniper and those comments would be presented to the Commission for their consideration. He remarked he had not asked for any direction tonight on purpose. To his way of thinking, we need to provide options on how it might look and what the design options are, meet with the community to get their reactions and preferences, and then bring all that back for direction from the Commission. He pointed out the funding for this project has limits; it must be used or be lost by the end of calendar year 2014. We will be coming back the Commission in late July or early August for direction on this project. If you decide not to do something we will need to reprogram the money for other things.

Commissioner Rentschler said the water/sewer fund increased significantly in these designs because the sewer taps are being replaced all the way to the curb. City Engineer Thomas said we are proposing that. Commissioner Rentschler said there are at least 3-5 that are failing and currently the property owner is responsible for that at \$3,500 - \$4,500, but this suggests we do that. He stated it would come out of Fund 81, which is money we generate each year to put into utilities. That money is to insure the utilities under the road don't fail a few months later and we have to cut the pavement. City Engineer Thomas agreed. He could see these are 60 plus years old and in danger of failing. He felt the three concepts were interesting, even though there were some things he didn't like, but that might be a good thing. It is a good example of the City trying to work with the citizens and the comments they have contributed. He hoped as many Juniper residents and constituents as possible would come to the meeting a week from tonight – from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Commissioner Rentschler said he would be there.

Mayor Galea thanked City Engineer Thomas for his presentation.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

---

### **A. Tiffanie Owen commented on the following:**

1) Ms. Owen thanked the Commission for letting her speak. She was aware a lot of discussion about Juniper has revolved around the logistics of planning, measurement and dollar amounts, but today she received a booklet produced in 2011 that was intended to improve the quality of life in Alamogordo. She wondered if we had been focusing so much on details that we had forgotten the big picture that Juniper Drive is a neighborhood within our community. The booklet referenced was the 'Otero County Prescription Trails Program – Walking Trails Guide'. It was intended to help citizens of Otero County find the places where people could walk safely and pleasantly within the community. She had been told there was a long range plan to eventually link all the walking paths around Alamogordo and make our town walkable. Ms. Owen had been given the book by Sharon Hodges, who was a member of the committee. Ms. Hodges had told her that during the research and planning of the booklet, the model used to determine the most pedestrian friendly street in Alamogordo was Juniper Drive. It is already a walkable, pedestrian friendly street. Ms. Owen did not feel she needed to go into the research of a healthy lifestyle, but she felt it important to remember that what we need to preserve on Juniper Drive is its neighborhood quality where people walk, ride bikes, skate board, talk to each other and most importantly walk to school. She told the Commission when she wakes up each morning she takes the time to listen to the silence and the sound of the birds, sprinklers going and the sound of children walking to school. She cringed to think those pleasant neighborhood sounds would be replaced with the sounds of jackhammers, trucks, and workers hollering back and forth as they move heavy equipment up and down the street. The original cost estimate for this project was \$1 million dollars, but had changed to \$1.8 million. Since the original estimate for the time to complete this project was one year, should we now assume we will battle construction for 1.8 years or more? Where will the children walk when the sidewalks are ripped out? How long will those in motorized wheel chairs have to go several blocks out of their way to access a safe street? How long will we struggle to back out of our driveways and find places for family and guests to park while we

wake up each morning to the vibrations and noise of heavy construction equipment? She told the Commission that a neighbor had posted a hand lettered announcement over a campaign sign for Pete Dominici in their front yard when she was born. She and her sister rode their bikes under the shade trees on Juniper Drive and sold peaches from a little stand in order to make money to buy snow cones from the ice cream truck that used to roam the neighborhood streets. These kinds of things are what make people want to move to Alamogordo and live in a neighborhood like this. Juniper Drive is not just a street it is a place where people live. We still have not been given a factual, logical, proven reason for the need to force this unwanted project on our neighborhood at huge expense to the citizens of Alamogordo. She expressed that if you are wondering why we are still here, it is because we are fighting for our neighborhood and our quality of life. She thanked the Commission for listening.

**B. Andrew Baker commented on the following:**

1) Mr. Baker said he lives at the corner of Juniper and Aspen. He said he was representing himself and two other residents who were unable to make it tonight. In the last two weeks he has seen two articles in the Daily News saying the original plans of the street widening had jumped from the original plan of going from Aspen - 10<sup>th</sup> Street to 10<sup>th</sup> Street - the median just north of Aspen on Juniper. In December he and his neighbors had received a letter from the City (he held up the letter to the Commission) stating the original plan was to go from the median where Juniper divides to 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Also, it was to cost \$1.1 million which included messing with the water/sewer lines. Since then, we were notified the water/sewer lines were fine and did not need to be replaced. He had been told one of the Commissioners commented if the cost of this project exceeded the estimated cost that he/she would change their vote. He wished this would happen because he didn't think the street needed to be widened. He felt they needed to slow down the traffic and thought the speed tables would be great. Mr. Baker told of how in May he had to call the police to investigate a street sign on Aspen that had been knocked down by a driver. While the officer was there, a car sped down the street and he stopped his investigation, chased the speeding car down and gave a citation for speeding. We like our neighborhood as it is and simply want to stop the speeding. He thanked the Commission.

Mayor Galea stated the increased cost of the project is because of the sewer laterals. She asked the City Manager if he had any comment on the sewer structure. He told her he did not and thought City Engineer Thomas had done a good job of outlining the differences between the original cost estimate and what we are seeing today. He said we can plug numbers in for each one of those items for everyone to see. He reminded her that estimates are just that.

**C. Shelley Jones commented on the following:**

1) Ms. Jones lives at 1300 Juniper and she has concerns about removing the trees. She said they are part of our charm and those who walk down the street on a hot day take a break by sitting on her wall under the trees. It would be a travesty to lose the trees. She said all of this has been a hassle for months and months and been stressful for us all. We have provided facts, letters, figures and signs on the street and in our yards; we have written letters and made phone calls, but it doesn't seem to matter because it has fallen on deaf ears and blind eyes. Her question was that if this money was coming from the citizens of Alamogordo, why wasn't it put to a city-wide vote so the people could decide where to spend this \$1.8 million. It was in place before we even knew of or were advised of it. She noted this has stressed the neighborhood terrifically and we have gone over and over everything. She said there wasn't anymore to say other than they love their neighborhood the way it is and want it to stay that way, other than the speeding. Speed bumps would solve the problem and would save a lot of money. She told the Commission the only thing positive to come of this was they had banded as a neighborhood and have become friends. She thanked the Commission.

Mayor Galea answered her concern of why there wasn't a city-wide vote concerning this project. She told Ms. Jones the estimated \$1.1 million for the project is not funding requiring a bond issue. Funding has already been approved and the Commissioners, who each represented a district, decided where to spend the funding. Bond money was not required and it was approved city-wide at one time.

**CONSENT AGENDA** (Roll Call Vote Required for items No. 5, 6, &7)

---

1. **Approve a bid award of IFB No. 2013-15 Janitorial Services – City Hall, to Kleen -Tech, in the amount of \$26,447.86 including NMGRT. (Barbara Pyeatt, Purchasing Manager)**
2. **Approve Minutes of the June 11, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Alamogordo City Commission. (Renee Cantin, City Clerk)**
3. **Approve statement related to the Executive Session of June 11, 2013. (Renee Cantin, City Clerk)**
4. **Approve granting a waiver of the permit fee for a Special Fireworks Display Permit for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Display at the New Mexico Museum of Space History. (Renee Cantin, City Clerk)**
5. **Approve final publication of Ordinance No.1442 specifying times when the parks of the City of Alamogordo shall be open and providing a penalty for the violation thereof. [Roll call vote required] (Michelle Reeves, Assistant City Attorney)**
6. **Approve Resolution 2013-21 requesting written approval from the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance & Administration, State of New Mexico for the revised budget figures computed as of June 25, 2013. [Roll call vote required] (Kathy Gilsdorf, Budget Analyst)**
7. **Approve Resolution No. 2013-22 approving the New Mexico Department of Tourism Litter Control and Beautification grant. [Roll call vote required] (Erik Marion, Parks Supervisor/KAB Director)**
8. **Approve an Agreement with Alamogordo Public Schools related to School Resource Officers. (Robert Duncan, Police Chief)**
9. **Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Alamogordo and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local 3818. (Stephen Thies, City Attorney)**
10. **Approve an Agreement between Otero County and the City of Alamogordo related to Housing of City Prisoners at the Otero County Detention Center. (Robert Duncan, Police Chief)**
11. **Approve the Monthly Lodger's Tax Expenditures and Promotional Items for Tourism. (Jan Wafful, Promotions Board)**
12. **Approve the award of Public Works Re-Bid No. 2013-008 related to Concrete and Asphalt Installation and Replacement at the Alta Vista Housing Complex, to White Sands Construction Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$38,551.28, including NMGRT. (Evelyn Huff, Housing Authority)**
13. **Approve a variance to reduce the required distance between the front lot line and the residence for a proposed carport for Susan Britt at 305 Plainview Drive. (Marc South, City Planner)**
14. **Approve the final plat for Quivira Park Subdivision for James and Glenda Sears and Lawrence Makinson, located at 1440 Highway 70 West (between Airport and Collins Roads on Northwest side of Hwy 70), a 23 lot mixed use residential and commercial full subdivision. (Marc South, City Planner)**

Commissioner Talbert asked to correct the sub divider's contract in Item #14. He noted at the second 'whereas known as subdivision name', the actual name of the subdivision needs to be entered. City Manager Stahle said it was a scrivener error that could easily be solved.

**Commissioner Hernandez moved to approve Addendum #1 as well as items #2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, & 14 of the consent calendar. Commissioner Rentschler seconded the motion. Roll call was taken for items #5, 6, & 7. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

---

15. **Consider, and act upon, the first publication of Ordinance No. 1437 amending Section 18-02-030 of the Code of Ordinances increasing the salary of the Municipal Judge to be effective after the March, 2014 election. (Stephen Thies, City Attorney)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez moved to approve the first publication of Ordinance No. 1437 amending Section 18-02-030 of the Code of Ordinances increasing the salary of the Municipal Judge to be effective after the March, 2014 election. Commissioner Talbert seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 6-1-0. Commissioner Rardin voted nay.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

---

16. **Consider, and act upon, the first publication of Ordinance No. 1444 an amendment to Ordinance No. 1425 & 1272 related to the Water Project Fund Loan/Grant Agreement (WTB-80) with the New Mexico Water Trust Board and the New Mexico Finance Authority, to extend the funding period for an additional eighteen(18) months to November 21, 2014. (Brian Cesar, Public Works Director)**

Mayor Galea noted Public Works Director Cesar had met with the Water Trust Board along with Eddie Livingston and herself.

Public Works Director Cesar told the Commission they had discussed Drinking Water Loan 2881 at the last commission meeting. There were a number of questions at that time. He explained this loan was for the transmission lines for the new Desalination Plant. We are in Phase III, the last phase and we were not able to complete this phase due to the delay on obtaining the BLM permit. This permit has now been secured and we were successful in obtaining an extension of the loan. Public Works Director Cesar was asking the Commission to approve that extension tonight.

Commissioner Rentschler asked if he can describe what this is. Public Works Director Cesar said Phase III, which is the last of the WTB-80 loan, will extend transmission lines to each of the wellheads or where the wellheads will be in the Snake Tank well field. Commissioner Rentschler said this will connect the wellheads up there and then go across to the Bonito line. Public Works Director Cesar said it would take them to the State right-of-way. The Drinking Water Loan 2880, which we'll bring to you in approximately 3-3.5 months, will complete that connection across the state right-of-way – Highway 54, and into the Bonito line along with equipping the wells, as well as the Mobile Desalination Facility. Commissioner Rentschler asked if this funding paid for that, as well. Public Works Director Cesar asked him if he meant the WTB-80 and Commissioner Rentschler said yes. Public Works Director Cesar said the WTB-80 will only pay for the pipeline in the well field – Phase III, and that will deplete the funding in WTB-80.

Commissioner Rentschler said as long as we are talking water, and looking down the road a little bit, how soon until the million gallon-a-day Desalination skid gets installed? Public Works Director Cesar said in two commission meetings from now we have the second publication for the DW 2881 - the planning, permitting and design for the Mobile Desal. Between now and second publication we will go out on a RFQ for engineering services so that at the following meeting we will be coming back for award for design services. He went on to say that design will take approximately three months,

permitting up to nine months, so we are looking at approximately one year. Commissioner Rentschler asked if approximately one year from now we will see desalinized water coming from the La Luz treatment plant, and the Public Works Director said if all goes as planned, yes. He said there is that permitting component.

**Commissioner Rentschler moved to approve the first publication of Ordinance No. 1444 an amendment to Ordinance No. 1425 & 1272 related to the Water Project Fund Loan/Grant Agreement (WTB-80) with the New Mexico Water Trust Board and the New Mexico Finance Authority, to extend the funding period for an additional eighteen(18) months to November 21, 2014. Commissioner Rardin seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.**

- 17. Consider, and act upon, the first publication of Ordinance No. 1445 consenting to the annexation of 0.966 Acres requested by Mark Reeves located at Lot Number 1, Condito Subdivision Unit 2, at 2722 Scenic Dr. (Marc South, City Planner)**

City Planner Marc South presented this item to the Commission. City Planner South said this is an annexation application that is somewhat unusual. The general practice of the City is that we are not receptive to single lot annexations. This is the exception that may prove the rule. The annexation on Scenic Drive has very little to do with the land involved, and has a great deal to do with what is attached to the property. What is attached is an accessory structure that has a liquor license attached to it and is owned by Mr. Bill French. The liquor license used to be assigned to Shooters out between the Base and Town. Mr. French went to a great deal of effort to find property adjacent to the City that would allow through annexation for the liquor license to be brought into the City. At this precise point in time, the City has all the full liquor licenses it is allowed to have under New Mexico law. The only way to get another is to annex it in. That is the purpose of this annexation. Mr. French owns the license now and has pledged to both the Staff and the Planning & Zoning Commission that there is no intention to run a facility out of this accessory building or anything else constructed on this property that would be used for dispensing liquor. City Planner South said the point was to bring the license into the City and allow it to be sold. He felt this was not so much an annexation issue as an economic development issue. Staff and the Planning & Zoning Commission recommend this annexation be approved.

Bill French addressed the Commission saying he was owner of the liquor license attached to this building. He remarked he had gone through a great deal of process to find a building and lot that was up against the City. In order to move a liquor license in this state, you must have a structure that met the various zoning requirements. This building was the only one on the outskirts of the City that met the State requirements and was approved by the State. He had met with the County Board and was approved there. He would like final approval from the Commission of the liquor license annexation into the City. He reiterated what City Planner South had said about having no intentions to open a facility here. It was strictly a way to get the liquor license moved into the City and sell it to another business that could open a new business and create revenues for the City.

Mayor Galea thanked him for his presentation.

**Commissioner Rardin moved to approve the first publication of Ordinance No. 1445 consenting to the annexation of 0.966 Acres requested by Mark Reeves located at Lot Number 1, Condito Subdivision Unit 2, at 2722 Scenic Dr. Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.**

- 18. Consider, and act upon, the first publication of Ordinance No. 1446 rezoning Lots 3 & 4 Block 8, Haynes Addition (on 26<sup>th</sup> Street between Utah and Oregon) to MH-1 Manufactured Housing, from R-1 Single Family Dwelling District, property owner Russell W. Smith. (Marc South, City Planner)**

City Planner South explained the area in question fronts 26<sup>th</sup> Street and they will have numbers assigned to the lots pending tonight's action. He noted the important thing was almost all of the area

around the lots in question was already zoned MH-1, single manufactured housing units. This is nothing like a spot zoning exercise and is merely the conversion of the two lots into MH-1 housing. He pointed out the area owned by Habitat for Humanity for a frame of reference.

**Commissioner Rardin moved to approve the first publication of Ordinance No. 1446 rezoning Lots 3 & 4 Block 8, Haynes Addition (on 26<sup>th</sup> Street between Utah and Oregon) to MH-1 Manufactured Housing, from R-1 Single Family Dwelling District, property owner Russell W Smith. Commissioner Talbert seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.**

**19. Discussion, and possible action, relating to the individual sale and use of fireworks as it pertains to the ongoing drought conditions. (Susie Galea, Mayor and Mikel Ward, Fire Chief)**

Mayor Galea said she had asked Fire Chief Ward to answer any questions after she had received a letter from Governor Martinez calling for each municipality to hold an emergency meeting to prohibit fireworks. Mayor Galea reminded everyone that would take an ordinance and there was not time to do so at this point.

Fire Chief Mikel Ward told the Commission the persistent drought conditions have left us in a very high fire danger area. That, added to the high concentration of flammable vegetation, high temperatures and high winds makes for high fire danger. Fireworks in the City still produce high ignition temperatures that would ignite these fuels. To remedy this we have generated press releases in the City Profile and media, as well as on our webpage and Facebook page. Notices will also be posted at each fire station and we will try to do some outreach in the community. We will make the public aware of the hazards and appropriate uses of fireworks. The City has invested a lot of money into their fireworks show and the fire department puts a lot of resources into making the show safe. He encouraged everyone to attend this show and forego the use of fireworks.

Mayor Galea asked if there was anything the Commission could do to help. Fire Chief Ward said this year we could use assistance in getting the media releases out to the public. He thought we might address this issue earlier next year, especially if the drought conditions persist.

Mayor Galea said we have an opportunity for media relations with the Fourth Friday Event coming up this Friday, a Pupfish game this Friday and the July 2<sup>nd</sup> Open House at the Civic Center.

Commissioner Rardin asked how many incidents we had last year with fireworks. Mayor Galea said Tularosa had one. Commissioner Rardin said he's been here his whole life and the residents are fairly safe. He hasn't heard of any major fires during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday and remarked the fire department does a good job of hosing down the area around the big fireworks show. Fire Chief Ward agreed the citizens have been very proactive and noted that in the last three years, fires related to fireworks have gone down.

Mayor Galea asked Fire Chief Ward to talk about the potential hazards of fireworks in a high brush area. Fire Chief Ward said one of their biggest concerns is fireworks going off in dry grass. Since fireworks have high ignition temperatures they are able to ignite low ignition temperature fuels like grasses, leaves, siding and wood fencing. We stand to lose a complete structure if fireworks land on a house – the potential is there. Anything we can do to limit the fire hazard and fire works is a good thing.

**20. Appointments to Boards & Committees. (Susie Galea, Mayor)**

Mayor Galea announced the Boards and Committees with current vacancies.

Mayor Galea did not reappoint Robert Ortega to a ninth term on the Cemetery Board. She spoke with him and thanked him for his service but let him know she would not be appointing him again so that someone else would have the opportunity to serve. She also appointed Stacey McDonald to the

Senior Volunteer Advisory Counsel. She told him his name would be Googled to look for any blemishes in his past and he told her that anyone could go ahead and Google him.

Mayor Galea told the Commissioners there had not been any mis-appointments to the Disability Council. When there have been volunteers come forward to serve she has suggested the Disability Council and they have been very willing. The City doesn't do background checks on any volunteers and she does not review the past but is grateful for the present and future of the volunteers willing to serve. She does not hold any past offences against any volunteers.

Commissioner Rentschler and Commissioner Rardin suggested she re-appoint Robert Ortega to the Cemetery Board. Commissioner Rentschler said he has known Mr. Ortega a long time and considers him a fine person. He suggested he knows a lot about the cemetery and has addressed the Commission before concerning the cemetery. Mayor Galea asked Commissioner Rentschler if his recommendation was for Mr. Ortega to serve a ninth term and he said yes. Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez agreed, and Commissioner Rardin thought so, too.

Mayor Galea re-appointed Robert Ortega to the Cemetery Board. She said she would call him to let him know this, and she thanked the Commissioners for helping her with this decision. She asked the City Clerk to notify these individuals.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

---

None

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

---

1) City Manager Stahle announced he, the Mayor and Public Works Director Cesar attended the Lincoln County Commission Meeting today in order to try and gain support for the military operations in our region. They have significant concerns about putting any zoning conditions on properties in their county. It points to an opportunity for the military to continue sharing their mission and how it is accomplished with the various organizations in this region. It also points to an opportunity for us to continue to share with them what we are doing. He remarked Public Works Director Cesar did a fine job of informing them about what's going on at Bonito Lake. They obviously have grave concerns about this lake and opened the door for a conversation about buying the Lake from us. He said he put a swift end to that conversation saying he didn't believe our jurisdiction was interested in selling. Addressing the fire hazard, City Manager Stahle remarked it is here and everywhere in the area. He wished everyone a safe July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Galea asked City Manager Stahle to make a time to meet with La Luz Water Board trustees. They applied for colonias money this year and were not granted funding for water utility lines. The Mayor wanted him to ascertain if there was a need and if so perhaps we could discuss this and our ability to help.

Commissioner Rardin said we have our own water problems and he doesn't know why we should help them because we don't have any water to give away. Mayor Galea said they have 3,000 water users where we could expand operation costs. Commissioner Rardin asked again if we have water to give away and the Mayor said no, they have their own water. He felt it was their problem. If the Snake Tank project was on line we would have a better ability to help, but it wasn't.

Mayor Galea said they have an abundance of water rights and perhaps they could relinquish some of these rights in return for water we could provide to help maintain their utility lines. Their 3,000 users would then become a part of the City's distribution and would reduce water rates for everyone. Commissioner Rardin said he would like to see if they were wet water rights or just paper ones. He remarked we have a lot of water rights but they are mostly paper ones and not actual water we can use. La Luz still uses a ditch system and he didn't know if we would want to assume that responsibility. Mayor Galea thought communication would be great.

City Manager Stahle said we are always looking for opportunities to help each other.

### **REMARKS AND INQUIRIES BY THE CITY COMMISSION**

---

#### **Commissioner Talbert commented on the following:**

1) He told the Commission the New Mexico Senior Olympics were held 1.5 weeks ago in Roswell and he showed a medal given which had a space ship and alien that spun around in the middle. He said we have been looking for a city symbol and he thought this was neat. He went on to report 50 athletes from Alamogordo participated and won many medals. It was a good time and will be held in Roswell again next year. He was told by a 93 year old gold medal winner that the secret of winning medals was to outlive your competition.

#### **Mayor Galea commented on the following:**

1) She had attended the Lincoln County meeting on behalf of the City, Otero County and HAFB to ask them to consider spot zoning that would prevent future transmission lines and windmills from popping up and interfering with the air training space of the German Air Force Tornados as well as the F-16's that fly low at night with instruments. The private land owners have the air rights, but through spot zoning it would create a process where they have to request a variance to put up any windmills. The Military would be notified and the land owner could place windmills in a mutually strategic location. This would be good for all. They were not agreeable to this and the ranchers are looking to add more wind farms to their property. In doing so it would choke us out of HAFB missions. She thought this was an important issue that could use some community focus.

2) She was on vacation last week but took time to go with the Committee of 50 to visit the Pentagon where they did a great job representing Alamogordo. They met with generals who make strategic air placement decisions. She noted they worked hard on our behalf.

2) The Mayor met with Governor Martinez on June 20<sup>th</sup> at Bonito Lake. She hopes to meet with the Governor again in July to show her the Desalination Plant in El Paso. That is a \$90 million plant and we only need a third of that in order to be ready to go.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

---

**Mayor Pro-Tem Hernandez moved to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. Commissioner Rentschler seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0-0.**

  
ATTEST:  
  
City Clerk Renee L. Cantin

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Susie Galea

*(Prepared by Nancy Jacobs, Deputy Clerk)  
Approved at the Regular Meeting held on July 9, 2013.*