CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
7:00 P.M., COMMISSION CHAMBERS
MARCH 11, 2014

OUTGOING COMMISSION

ROBERT RENTSCHLER, MAYOR
SUSIE GALEA, COMMISSIONER
NADIA SIKES, COMMISSIONER
JIM TALBERT, COMMISSIONER
JOSH RARDIN, COMMISSIONER
JASON BALDWIN, MAYOR PRO-TEM
AL HERNANDEZ, COMMISSIONER
JIM STAHLE, CITY MANAGER
STEPHEN THIES, CITY ATTORNEY
RENEE CANTIN, CITY CLERK

INCOMING COMMISSION

SUSIE GALEA, MAYOR
JASON BALDWIN, COMMISSIONER
NADIA SIKES, COMMISSIONER
JENNY TURNBULL, COMMISSIONER
AL HERNANDEZ, COMMISSIONER
ROBERT RENTSCHLER, MAYOR PRO-TEM
VACANT, DISTRICT 6 COMMISSIONER
JIM STAHLE, CITY MANAGER
STEPHEN THIES, CITY ATTORNEY
RENEE CANTIN, CITY CLERK

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

Mayor Rentschler 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 Pastor James Forney and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Galea moved to approve adding the addendum to the agenda. Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin seconded the motion. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0-0.

Commissioner Galea moved to approve agenda. Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin seconded the motion. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0-0.

CANVASS OF ELECTION

1. Consider, and act upon, declaring the results of the Official Canvass of the Election of March 4, 2014.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin moved to approve the results of the Official Canvass of the Election of March 4, 2014. Commissioner Sikes seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

2. Administered by Magistrate Judge James Scott Newton, District II.

Division II Magistrate Judge James Scott Newton administered the ceremonial Oath of Office to Nadia Sikes, Commissioner, District 2; Jennifer Ann Turnbull, Commissioner, District 4; and Susie A. Galea, Mayor At-Large.

PRESENTATION

3. Presentation of Appreciation Plaques to outgoing Elected Officials, including Commissioner Jim Talbert and Commissioner Joshua Rardin.

Commissioner Rentschler presented a plaque to former Commissioner Josh Rardin and his girlfriend Michelle Salas.

Mayor Galea presented the plaque to former Commissioner Jim Talbert and his wife Janice.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin thanked both former Commissioner Rardin and former Commissioner Talbert for giving of their time. Commissioner Sikes also thanked former Commissioner Talbert and former Commissioner Rardin.

REORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION

4. Selection of Mayor Pro-Tem.

Commissioner Sikes nominated Commissioner Rentschler for Mayor Pro-Tem. Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin seconded the nomination.

Mayor Galea nominated Commissioner Sikes for Mayor Pro-Tem. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Baldwin moved to close the nominations with Commissioner Rentschler as the only nomination. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. Mayor Galea said no vote was needed since Commissioner Rentschler was the only nominee.

Mayor Galea congratulated Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler asked him to be seated in the Mayor Pro-Tem chair. Commissioner Sikes thanked Commissioner Jason Baldwin for serving in the capacity of Mayor Pro-Tem.

5. Selection of Seating Order. *(Rule 16, Rules of Conduct for City Commission Meetings)*

Mayor Galea said the seating order would be determined by seniority and noted Commissioner Hernandez had been on the Commission six years including a previous term, Commissioner Baldwin had two years, Commissioner Sikes had one year and eight months, and Commissioner Turnbull was the newest. She asked Commissioner Hernandez how he would like to be seated and he remarked he would like to remain where he was which was closest to the door. The rest decided to remain where they were and whoever would be appointed to District 6 would be between Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler and Commissioner Turnbull on the dais.

6. Determine Order of Business. *(Rule 6, Rules of Conduct for City Commission Meetings)*

Mayor Galea said she liked the stated order of business and would like it to remain as is and asked for a motion.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL
INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
APPROVAL OF AGENDA
PRESENTATIONS
PUBLIC COMMENT
CONSENT AGENDA (Roll Call Vote Required for Ordinance or Resolution)
ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA
PUBLIC HEARINGS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
PUBLIC COMMENT (Continued if needed)
CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
REMARKS AND INQUIRIES BY THE CITY COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE SESSION (Roll Call Vote Required)
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hernandez moved to approve the order of business as it is. Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler seconded the motion. Motion carried by a vote of 6-0-0.

Mayor Galea then asked for a recess at 7:15 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 7:33 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS

7. **Presentation on the proposed Otero County Juvenile Justice Board.** *(District Judge Angie Schneider, Division IV)*

Judge Angie Schneider made a presentation to the Commission. She said this Board had been formed last month and she was the newest district court judge in Alamogordo. She gave some of her background and said it was important to her that the City be involved in every phase of this vision for Otero County in order to provide more services for juveniles in our community and all communities in Otero County. She will report on all phases of this as it goes along so the Commission can stay apprised and contribute input.

She has worked with kids and families in crisis her whole career and spent the last 10 years in Lincoln County as an attorney working with troubled youth in both the juvenile justice system as well as the abuse and neglect system. She has been a member of the Lincoln County Juvenile Justice Board for 10 years prior to taking the bench. They were able to access funds through CYFD to bring some wonderful programs to the community and she watched how those resources benefited the community. Fewer kids were going to detention, the county was saving money and you could feel the positive impact of that throughout the community. We all care about kids and are aware the adults in our justice system generally began as juveniles in the delinquency system, so we need to do whatever we can to divert youth from that path. Governor Martinez had appointed her to the Juvenile Justice Advisory Commission which has 16 governor-appointed members who come from different career fields. They then advise the Governor and CYFD on how to spend money for kids in the State. Once a year, bids are taken from the different continuum sights and Otero County does not have one. That's what the Juvenile Justice Boards are; there are 21 Continuum Sights out of the 33 New Mexico counties. These 21 Continuum Sights fill out an application once a year for the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC), the organization she is on, asking for money for their community for various programs. The Governor and CYFD fund those programs and Otero County does not have that, and we need it. She has come to realize, as an attorney working with abuse and neglect and as a judge, we are limited on our resources here. This is not a commentary on this community; everyone is strapped for money. She knows there is money in Santa Fe to get these programs here, and that is one of the purposes of bringing this board together. The other purpose is to know what is out there and have key fighters in the system and at the same table where we will talk and keep from duplicating resources; it is a more efficient way of doing things.

She went on to explain where they are with the program. We form the board which has 15 members at this time and we are hoping for some more who are key players. She named some of the members like the district court judge, juvenile probation, District Attorney Dianna Marquette, a member of the Public Defender Department, a child advocate who works with abuse and neglect kids, therapists, community members, Commissioner Sikes, and the Mayor of Cloudcroft. She wanted representation from the cities of Cloudcroft, Tularosa, Chaparral, a voice from every community. The next phase will be getting funds, hopefully from CYFD to do a community assessment and find what the needs are. She noted having not been here very long and she doesn't know what all the needs are. At the last

meeting they had formed sub-committees to gather statistics and pull the numbers together. With funding from CYFD, they can do an assessment with members ready to minimize that cost and find out what programs are needed and where the money is best spent in the community. Additionally, they hope to hire a part-time coordinator since everyone has regular jobs and can't do that.

She thought they could get enough money to get started on that ground level and the next time they do an application to JJAC for the real funds will probably be in February. Between now and February, there are some great things we can do and she is hopeful to get the Juvenile Drug Court started again which she would volunteer her time to do. There are things we can do for minimal amounts of money and some really cool programs can be brought to this community. She knows that this works and comes to the Commission in order to let them know what is being done and to give updates as things go along. She felt the Commissioners care about the community or they wouldn't do what they are doing, and she wanted their input and any questions as well as representation on this Board. She stated she was overwhelmed by the energy in this community to help kids.

Mayor Galea thanked her for her time.

8. Presentation related to an update from the Alamogordo Fire Department on recent and ongoing projects and initiatives. *(Mikel Ward, Fire Chief)*

Fire Chief Ward addressed the Commission as well as displaying a Power Point presentation. He covered the Fire Departments' major goals and said they were going along well. They had some progress recently on the Volunteer Program and hope to see more movement on that very soon. Morale seems to be high and all aspects of the PD/FD separation are going very well. We are continuing certification training and still have a long way to go. We are up to Firefighter Level II which certifies all our firefighters and puts us at the highest level needed for structural fires. There are specialty areas we need to work on such as officer certifications. He was proud to report they currently meet all State and National Standards for Firefighting. One of the major goals for our community is maintaining our ISO rating of 4, where we are now. There is a lot of work that goes into that. We are working our mutual aide agreements with the County, the automatic aide agreements covering some of the north and south end that provide services for them. Also, some things for us and the County where we can assist them out on the west and east side where we have faster access to the homes in the Thunder Road area; we can provide immediate assistance to those citizens who live up there and augment the County. Equipment purchases have come up several times this year and we in need of money to buy equipment; we are chasing that down. He invited anyone to come by the fire station to see the trucks and new/refurbished equipment. A big portion of the ISO inspection is purchasing and maintaining the proper equipment on all trucks and we are working on that. He stated he had visited each Commissioner concerning reorganization of our apparatuses. One of the big focuses for ISO is being able to provide the engine companies and truck companies everywhere we need in the City. We did some initial shifting around and put rescues where they needed to be, reallocated the assets we had so proper coverage was provided for the City, and now are working with the City Manager to put together a capital needs list for getting further funding. Some of this has already been in place and we are chasing some grant money that we are hoping to be successful with in the next few months.

Fire Chief Ward continued by saying a water study, an evaluation of our hydrant system needed for ISO is coming up. They go through and determine what the flow rate is throughout the City and the documentation allows us to evaluate our water system and fire suppression supply. We are looking at SOP's, Policies and Procedures and some of this will be coming to you in the near future; revamping our Rules and Regulations and Policies so we are operating in the most efficient manner. Under multi-agency partnerships, he said they are doing a lot now because this county has a lot of assets. There is a lot we can provide to the County and a lot they can provide to us. Outside this county, in Lincoln and Dona Ana counties area, we are sharing the training, money, resources and equipment in order to help each other out. We continue to train our Hazardous Materials Response Team in order to upgrade our skills and teams to be proficient in other areas besides fire suppression. Our main teams are the Haz/Mat Team, the Airport Rescue Firefighting Team and the Technical Rescue Team.

We've been successful and sent some employees off to school. We are now at a level where we can proficiently handle an incident of any one of these types which is a first for this community. We are at the minimal level and working up.

The Fire Chief next spoke about Code Enforcement which falls under the Fire Department. We've been revamping and he hoped the Commission was satisfied. This came about through both community and Commission input on how to improve things and make the City cleaner and more beautiful. We have been trying to put a direction into Code Enforcement since the reorganization of the PD/FD put this department under the Fire Department. Code Enforcement Manager Nelson has given us the tools to get started and to revamp. He explained some of the types of enforcement such as Citizen and Customer Complaints in which they have one staff member assigned to work with these complaints, doing main street patrols and handling follow-ups. We also have two officers assigned to pro-active patrol throughout the community. We are always on top and it has showed positive results. We have officers identifying and categorizing dangerous structures around town and then supervisors go out to look at the structures and compile a list so we can present them to the Commission. We work with the property owners to get these properties cleaned up and made safe. In the event where we are unsuccessful, and at this point we have not been unsuccessful, we will have the information the Commission will need to help them make decisions. Fire Chief Ward gave the statistics for Code Enforcement for this fiscal year: Total Violations Investigated were up 26%, Total Calls for Service were up 38% with Citizen Complaints down by 10% and Proactive Patrol Calls up by 48%. There are currently 13 Property Maintenance (IMPC) violations. He said the code enforcement staff were working hard and were out there a lot making customer/citizen contacts and educating the public. In some cases they have to deal with those who do not want to take care of their property.

Some of the things they had reorganized were to increase customer service by providing notices/contacts for first time or infrequent violations, reduced times for repeat offenders/frequent violations, reorganized the abatement process in order to make our money stretch farther to clean up the community, increased citizen contacts drastically and improving customer service, increased citizen compliance, increased the number of contacts while decreasing the need for abatement costs, and an added structure abatement process. They have added a citizen complaint email (codeenforcement@ci.alamogordo.nm.us) which has been very busy, have added office hours on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (he noted they are still working on this part), and making the supervisors and staff available for citizen complaints six days a week. We have not increased funding to do any of this and we hope to find resolutions to issues in a positive manner for them and the City. He showed some pictures of successful abatements of properties on both Cuba Ave. and Ridgecrest which the owners paid for instead of the City.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler asked how it's going with volunteers and Fire Chief Ward said it is going well and we have seen some recent progress. There was some hold-up and there are a lot of factors concerning how these people will work with the City and in what capacity we are to treat them. Our Human Resources Department and Legal Department have been working hard on this. The non-paid portion issues are more limited so we will move forward with that end of it. Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler asked him if we had any volunteers on yet and Fire Chief Ward told him no, just the five we started with.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler asked the Chief what we needed to get to the next step as far as the ISO was concerned. Fire Chief Ward said that was a very involved question and said we are evaluated on a number of things. Some of our major needs are staff increases and we are working on that. We are also working on getting our trucks properly equipped as required by ISO. Record keeping is another thing we are working on as well as standard operating procedures. Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler said nothing major as far as equipment or that kind of thing so that's a good thing. Fire Chief Ward remarked they do need another ladder truck and Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler said he had been hearing that. He confirmed with the Chief he was looking for another grant for that. Fire Chief Ward said our needs for a ladder truck are there because the community is expanding in both directions and as it does so our need to have that level of service has to be provided throughout the

community. Presently, we are only able to provide that service to the core function. We are working with vendors all over the country to obtain good pricing. Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler said we are still holding your toes to the fire to remain budget neutral and Fire Chief Ward replied he is working as hard as he can.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler asked about working with the County and confirmed with Fire Chief Ward he had Firefighter II for all paid personnel. He asked if he was using the County facility to facilitate that or if everyone had to go to Socorro, and the Chief told him they did both. The Firefighter II level certification was maintained by the State of New Mexico Fire Marshall's Office. The testing procedures have to be facilitated at Socorro, but we train at the County facility almost every other week. We also do a lot of training with them at their facility or other areas of the City. Last week we discussed doing more training with Cloudcroft and we are looking at going to Ruidoso to do some Wild Land Preparation training.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler asked if we are getting our Airport Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) through HAFB. Fire Chief Ward said they are a partner with us on this. We sent two guys to a nationally accredited school for ARFF certification and they brought that back. We are working with Socorro to get a training program certified in-house so we can start training our own people. A portion of certification requires they do an initial flammable liquids burn with an aircraft prop, and annually they have to do the same repetitive training. The State Fire Academy lost their certification to do that, but we can train with HAFB.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler asked about abatement and wondered if they had enough money for abatement. Did he feel the Sierra Apartment abatement a success because at one point in time the City had been looking at tearing those apartments down. Fire Chief Ward told him they had not spent any money on that property at all. After they met with the owner of that property, he hired someone to come in and clean the property and make the structure safe. We appreciated what they did but also explained this structure will continue to need addressing. Their goal is to renovate those buildings and turn them back into a business.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler said many of us on the Commission had been getting questions concerning what we should do about the outskirts of our city. Some of it is still kind of blight. He had explained to them the City only goes so far and then it is County. He asked the Fire Chief if he had a relationship with the Otero County Code Enforcement or if there was such a thing. Fire Chief Ward said there is such an entity but they respond on a complaint-only basis and do not do any pro-active enforcement like we do. He knew his staff and the County staff have a relationship, but he has not made contact with them; it is on his to-do list. He told Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler that part of the reorganization process was insuring everything was getting looked at frequently. We are speeding up the number of customer contacts so we are identifying the areas not being cleaned up. One of the successes in that area is the old Wal-Mart which former Commissioner Rardin brought to our attention. We are working with the business owners along that end of the building as well as the Highway Department and our own Maintenance Department to clean that area up. We are cleaning up the building, the alleys and the easements along the highway so the whole thing looks nice. He was hopeful that we would see more along the edges of our community within the city limits and then outside the city limits as the County is able to address their area. Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler said he did want the County involved.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler asked Fire Chief Ward a question that had been asked of him. If there was a catastrophic event in or around Alamogordo or at HAFB, anything from terrorism to a natural disaster, do we have an evacuation route out of Alamogordo? Fire Chief Ward told him there are several local emergency plans; we have an approved local emergency plan that Deputy Chief LeClair and himself are updating. The local Emergency Planning Committee is constantly working on and updating those issues. Emergency Management is one of those things we are playing catch-up on, as well. We do have plans in place and are working on our All Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan that was a contract you approved at the last meeting. We will meet with that contractor on Friday and as those plans are approved there will be a lot of public information we will share at Public Hearings in

order to get the information out to the community.

Commissioner Hernandez thanked Fire Chief Ward and noted he worked closely with him and the Fire Department through his job. Things have drastically changed in how we do our inspections and re-inspections when we have them come out. Another thing we were missing was the Fire Hydrant testing which is very important and now being done. We have to have those records on hand if we get inspected. Concerning the Code Enforcement side, Commissioner Hernandez works closely with them and they are very responsive. Many times they already know what's going on and are on it. He appreciated their help.

Mayor Galea thanked him for the presentation, all his work so far and all he will continue to do.

9. Presentation of the operations of the Alamogordo Police Department. *(Robert Duncan, Police Chief)*

Police Chief Duncan gave a presentation with a Power Point showing. He told the Commission he was pleased to tell them some good things about the APD. The Mission Statement and Core Values of the Alamogordo Police Department were to be committed in keeping all citizens of Alamogordo safe by providing professional, competent, and effective services. This Mission is obtained by upholding four Core Values: Duty, Honor, Courage and Respect. In order for police officers to do their job they must believe in these values; it is so important to us that we redesigned our patch. The patch used to say the Department of Public Safety and now it says the Alamogordo Police with the Core Values embedded in the patch. Duty means we will fulfill our responsibilities as police officers despite multiple challenges we face every day. Honor means we will never betray our profession, our integrity, or the public trust. We will also talk about transparency and accountability and he wanted the PD to be held accountable. Courage means we will hold ourselves and other accountable for our actions. To wear this uniform takes courage, as it does for the Fire Department. Respect means we will have dignity and treat others the way we want to be treated. This department has a Vision to strive to maintain the highest standards of excellence in all we do utilizing sound traffic enforcement, crime prevention strategies and animal control services, and continue as a state leader in law enforcement. He said that firearm instructors Lt. Tim Keelin and Officer Funk went to Santa Fe and helped design an Active Shooting Class involving how you approach a vehicle and if there were shots fired. Now, every law enforcement agency in the State is doing what we trained them to do. He congratulated these two officers and noted it takes team effort and he thanked everyone. He had taken over a department that had some challenges, but we have overcome those challenges. He introduced Capt. Lawrence, Capt. Trujillo and Mary Gillsdorf, who were in the audience, as his staff who have helped him do some great things and he thanked them.

He gave every member of the City Commission and employees of his agency the goals, strategies and measures. He wanted to be held accountable so he gave them all six goals and strategies. The first was to reduce crime and the threat of crime; 2) promote and enhance community partnerships; 3) enhance traffic safety, and we are working on that with traffic crashes rising to 14%; 4) promote multi-agency partnerships; 5) enhance professionalism and organizational satisfaction; and 5) promote the State Accreditation Program. It is important we have these goals, strategies and measures to ensure we remain focused on the needs of our city and citizens. He wants to have the safest city in the State. It is equally important that we maximize our resources and work collaboratively as a team to achieve all that is expected of our organization. Next he noted the PD had 87 employees comprised of 59 Police Officers, 11 Dispatchers, 11 Administrative staff and 6 Animal Control Officers (ACO). The employment history is as follows: in 2013 they hired 23% of the total workforce. That means a quarter of his PD was brand new, but we've done well. We have hired 10 Police Officers, four Dispatchers, three ACO's and three Administrative Personnel. In 2013 three police officers retired, he had to terminate a couple of officers and one resigned in lieu of an internal investigation. He remarked he has high standards and tough policies, but that's what the public expects. Three employees resigned because they moved out-of-state; one resigned for health reasons; one had another job offer; and one officer was injured at the Police Academy. Nobody resigned in 2013 to join another agency. Police Chief Duncan noted the Department had a good mix of ages: 16 officers were

the ages 24-30 (27% - a quarter of the PD); 18 officers were 31-40 (31%); 15 officers were 41-50 (25%); 9 officers were 51-60 (15%); and one officer was 67 (2%). This last employee, Don Reynolds, retired and then came back to be a Station Officer. There are 51 male and 8 female employees. The Police Chief had a chart showing the experience of the PD and remarked that half the department has been there five years or less; a very young but aggressive department. Twenty percent have been there 6-10 years; another twenty percent 11-15 years; eight percent 16-20 years; and two percent (one officer – Capt. Trujillo) 21+ years.

Massive changes have been made in the recruitment process. The application has gone from four pages to 40 pages and includes questions about drugs, questions about your criminal history, and questions about how much you are in debt and your credit history. This is because we want officers who have a balance, pay their bills and are not apt to be on the take; we have raised the bar. They also have to go through a polygraph test which is free of charge and costs the City nothing. The Dona Ana Sheriff's Dept. in Las Cruces does this for us. We are going to hire good, quality applicants and become the model for the State. Applicants also have to go through a thorough background check conducted by Detectives or Lieutenants, and then the Chief has to recommend or deny the background. There is also a physical fitness test that mirrors LEA standards. Our standards used to be lower but when an officer went to Santa Fe they were unable to pass the PT test. We want good, fit cops. The Field Training Officer Program has been completely revamped. Two senior Sergeants are in charge of the FTO Program and are using updated checklists. The Daily Observation Reports have increased from 10 to 38 areas for evaluation and each topic is more detailed. The rookie now critiques FTO when they are done and gives it to their Sergeant. Evaluations are now across the board and are standardized according to rank or position. Every officer now has a digital recorder and is required to record all public contacts. We did this to keep both the public and the police officers accountable, because we had a lot of frivolous complaints from the public.

Police Chief Duncan told the Commissioners the PD lost their accreditation in 2011 for unknown reasons, but they will fix it and become accredited. They have hired an Accreditation Manager/Crime Analyst. This person had thirty years experience in designing computer programs for insurance companies and then became a cop. After four years, he decided he didn't want to do that anymore and so Police Chief Duncan offered him this position. Accreditation will save us 5% in risk liability insurance. Accreditation will strengthen our accountability both within the agency and the community, through a continuum of standards that clearly define authority, performance and responsibilities, as well as facilitate our agency's pursuit of professional excellence.

The PD had four evidence vaults at three fire stations and the NEU. One of the fire stations (FS-7) is now cleared of evidence and a City building has been designated for another vault in order to clear Fire Station 4. In the past 13 years the PD has destroyed 2,528 pieces of evidence, but in 2013 we destroyed 3,442 pieces of evidence. Storing that much evidence in the fire stations is going to change. Concerning equipment, Police Chief Duncan has established a take-home unit program in order for officers to take the units home and have them parked throughout the City as a deterrent to crime. Alamogordo hasn't ever had that before. His goal is to obtain five more units in order to have one-to-one. We are beginning to place mobile data terminals (MDT's) in each police car but we are having a problem trying to link-up to Santa Fe. We are also trying to gain funding to achieve this goal. He next spoke about the 1033 program. This program permits the Secretary of Defense to transfer without charge, excess DoD property to LEA's. We received a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle for our SWAT Team like is used in Afghanistan. We have the only SWAT team within 60 miles and we got a robot with camera for the SWAT Team to use as well as a HUMVEE that we simply had to drive back from El Paso.

Concerning traffic safety, they are equipping each patrol unit with radars and hope to have that completed by 2015. AR-15's are now being issued to all officers in case something drastic happens. We have changed 30 PD policies in order to raise the bar. Animal Control had a goal of 65% animal live rate and we are already at 89%. Police Chief Duncan noted he cares about animals and so when we take in an animal they are adopted and not put down. When it comes to Multi-Agency Partnerships/Operations, we have done a sex offender compliance check in order to let sex offenders

know we are watching them and we want a safer community. When we did an operation we found a sex offender with female juveniles at his residence smoking dope and drinking beer and he went to jail. We have had U.S. Marshal Warrant Roundups, DEA Warrant Roundups and OCSO Warrant Roundups, and he wanted to do another MOU with the OCSO. The City used to have a major crime unit in the City and County about seven years ago and he wants to do this again. We also work with the Union Pacific Railroad because there have been a lot of fatalities here. We've had Active Shooter exercises with the Alamogordo Public Schools (APS) and NMSU, working with the US Air Force Security Forces, NMSP, OCSO and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. There will be a big operation soon to test our preparation. He said they now have a BOLO Alert system like the FBI has, where if there is a suspect they are trying to find, they can send the alert out to the U.S. Air Force Security Forces, APS, NMSP, OCSO, Border Patrol, Cloudcroft PD and Tularosa PD. The PD has taught five self defense classes for women and Police Chief Duncan noted Mayor Galea had attended two of them. He felt all women needed to go through this class to learn the simple techniques needed in case of an assault. He noted the Air Force had dropped the annual Oktoberfest celebration because of security problems and APD took it over and did a fantastic job. We hardly had anything happen and an after-party that occurred with the head of the German Air Force will not happen again next year. This was a multi-agency effort and went very well. We have the Alamogordo Theft and Crime Network (ATAC) website that businesses can register for that alerts them when crimes are being committed in the City that might concern their business.

Police Chief Duncan next went over the Crime Statistics they send to the FBI which compare 2012 to 2013 Violent and Property Crimes. He noted we don't have a lot of crime in our city because the Commissioners, Mayor, City Manager and Police Officers, along with the community as a whole work together. Rape is down 25%; Robbery down 28%; Agg Assault down 8%; DWI arrests are up 14%; Burglary is down 30%. He proclaimed these are astounding statistics and went on with the percentages. Larceny is up 3% - shoplifting has gone up because Wal-Mart and Lowe's have increased their shoplifting prevention. At this point he asked everyone to remember and lock their house doors and car doors. People feel so safe here in Alamogordo that they don't lock their doors, and we get calls all the time to unsecured vehicles. He went on to state Motor Vehicle Theft was down 22% and Arson was down by 50%. Traffic crashes are up by 14% and we are reviewing the traffic light delays at every major intersection and there are nine they want to focus on. Having the radars in the vehicles will help this by increasing traffic stops for speeding. There will be high visibility of traffic enforcement.

There is a new concept he will impose called Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) to reduce crime even more. It is a model that uses the integration of location-based crime and traffic data to establish effective and efficient methods for deploying law enforcement in 20 minute increments to certain parts of the City. When you put data on a map and overlay crime and traffic crashes, it will develop hot zones. It works and has worked in different parts of the country and will work in the City of Alamogordo. DDACTS Goals are to reduce the incidence of crime, crashes and traffic violations in a community and reduce social harm. The reasons for DDACTS is the increased demands placed on the City by the budget and manpower; limited resources for the officers; conflicting demands for services; crime and crashes occurring in close proximity – when you make high-volume stops you will get people with warrants, dope, guns and stolen property. High volume stops will lead to more arrests and less crashes. The advantages of DDACTS are that it is a collaborative effort; is grounded in community-oriented policing; is evidence based problem-solving; focused area for high-visibility enforcement; ensures accountability and there are fewer ethical and legal concerns because it works. Police Chief Duncan said it takes a team effort and he thanked the Commission for giving the PD the tools and resources to make an impact on crime. We have done great stuff and we want to do greater things, and he thanked his staff again.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Eugene Downer commented on the following:

1) Mr. Downer addressed the Commissioners concerning dead trees, dying trees, diseased trees, the need for more tree planting, and also about the irrigation systems. Now, in the past I have talked to

Commissioner Sikes, Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler and Commissioner Jardin [Rardin] and Commissioner Baldwin about trees on Indian Wells. Commissioner Sikes says please wait until the leaves come out before I give my input, so we'll do that. Now, there are some trees that are evergreens; if an evergreen is dead, you know it is dead because it's not deciduous. So, there is an evergreen, and people ask me 'Where are these dead trees'; well, one evergreen is next to the place where you put cardboard boxes at the Civic Center. It's dead, it's brown, and there is no chance of it being alive. And, the other one is also an evergreen which is dead. It is at the end of the median strip on Juniper between 1407 and 1408 Juniper Drive. If you stand on the median strip you will stand in front by that tree. So, I had, I thought let's, let's....there is no action. Let's see what the process is. Before I came to the meeting I drove by the Juniper tree, I drove by the Afghan pine, and they are still dead and they are still there. So, I would like to look at the process for which action takes place when a citizen from the public requests a service from a commissioner. Now, Nadia Sikes within three days had five trees taken care of at La Placita. She had two large evergreens cut down and three Italian cypresses trimmed. Now, what did you do that they didn't do? Commissioner Sikes, tell me what process did you go through that these gentlemen could be informed so they could do the same thing. Or maybe you did do the same thing so we need to look at why was there no action.

Commissioner Sikes said when Mr. Downer brought the complaints forward I simply spoke with our city manager who proceeded to take care of the problem, and I think that it's all done in an order that the complaints come in. So, we're probably still, there is probably still somebody out there with a hatchet working on trees for you. City Manager Stahle said chain saw. Commissioner Sikes said that's simply all I did, I didn't have to do anything more.

Mr. Downer replied he was really impressed when he drove by within a few days and saw the two evergreens cut down immediately and then within a few days he saw the cypresses topped. And, they said the cherry-picker was broke down and they couldn't do the topping on the Italian cypress, and I thought, oh, here we go, another excuse, the cherry-picker is broke down. But, within a few days they were taken care of. So, Commissioner Rentschler, what action did you take, and I mentioned this to you several times; once at a campaign meeting and then once here and that is on record in the meeting minutes. So, what happened?

Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler told Mr. Downer he watched our City Manager write it down and he was satisfied it was taken care of. Mr. Downer asked him to repeat that and Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler said he watched our City Manager write it down and was satisfied it would be taken care of. Mr. Downer asked if Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler had taken any action after he had made the request at this meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler said he did not. Mr. Downer said ok.

Mr. Downer than addressed Commissioner Hernandez saying he knew Mr. Hernandez loved trees because we talked about how he plants trees and what a good job he does. He is concerned about trees in the City, so what action did you take and what was the result.

Mayor Galea interrupted Mr. Downer saying she thanked him for coming to us again with the concern of dead trees; it is a big concern for the City and the Commission and she assured him that the City Commission, those that you've addressed, can usually get an email response to you, and she thought that would be most appropriate to respond to you by email. Mr. Downer said ok and thanked her. He went on to say that while he was driving up and down in front of the trees at the Civic Center, he drove up and down about seven times, and he noticed something was wrong with the irrigation system. There was like six inches of water in some, day after day after day after day after day, and the other, north part was dry. So, the dead tree always had six inches of water in the well, and a year ago he called Ms. Wade and informed her about a wacky sprinkler on Indian Wells that was squirting into the street. And, I drove by the other night and this same sprinkler was heading due north for about 20 minutes, so something's wrong with the irrigation system and he recommended to Mr. Stahle that they get an employee certified as an MOS-6 irrigation certification. He said that concludes his presentation and said congratulations to the Commissioners and welcome to newly-elected Commissioner Turnbull. He said there are dead and dying trees in her district. Commissioner Turnbull thanked him.

CONSENT AGENDA (Roll Call Vote Required for item No. 11)

10. **Approve Minutes of the February 25, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Alamogordo City Commission.** *(Renee Cantin, City Clerk)*

11. **Approve Resolution No. 2014-09 approving the submission of a Municipal Arterial Program (MAP) grant application to the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), authorizing the City Manager to act as the authorized representative, and providing a (25 percent) local match. [Roll call vote required]** *(Jason Thomas, City Engineer)*

12. **Consider, and act upon, the Award of Public Works Bid No. 2014-005 to Pate Construction Company related to the Pecan Drive Extension project in an amount not to exceed $965,389.25 including tax ($896,993.5+ $68,395.75 NMGRT)** *(Jason Thomas, City Engineer)*

A-1. **Approve Change Order No. 2, Public Works Bid No. 2013-005 to Mesa Verde Enterprises, Inc., Inc. related to Street Paving Improvements – Phase I N. Florida Avenue – 10th Street – 16th Street in an amount not to exceed $15,096.50, including NMGRT.** *(Edward Balderrama, Project Manager)*

Commissioner Hernandez moved to approve items # 10, 11, 12, & A-1 of the consent calendar. Commissioner Baldwin seconded the motion. Roll call was taken for item #11. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A-2. **Approve the Award of Public Works Bid Number 2014-004 project to Mesa Verde Enterprises, Inc. for the Panorama Boulevard / Hamilton Road Intersection Improvements in an amount not to exceed $241,992.26, including NMGRT.** *(Jason Thomas, City Engineer)*

Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler remarked he had talked with City Engineer Thomas over this and the problem Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler had was we are looking to spend Fund 118 money right now and we are bleeding red on 118 and going to 109 money which is Road Maintenance money. We have a lot of road maintenance to do and he believed this was a small enough project that we should hold it back until the end to see if we have enough money to do it without using Road Maintenance money. We need to look in our districts and decide which roads need to be repaved or whatever. He said he had knocked on a lot of doors in the last couple of months and said he was embarrassed to knock on an amount of these doors because of the condition of the roads. He hated to take money out of that for this.

Commissioner Hernandez said that although he knew this was a needed project, like Commissioner Rentschler, he had talked to a lot of different people and had walked and driven down a lot of different streets. A few meetings ago Reverend Forney had approached him and asked to have his road looked at because his folks couldn't get across the street with walkers, so Commissioner Hernandez went and looked. Sure enough, the street sweeper went through there and took the road with it. We spent plenty of money on the southeast corner of Alamogordo and it's time to spread it around.

Mayor Galea said this is not, from her understanding, a street improvement have or have-not in districts. It is about traffic management, a public safety issue to manage the traffic at an intersection. We are also looking at providing an opportunity so that in the future the conduits needed for a traffic

light, which we know according to our growth trends will be needed by 2017. This is a way of getting ahead of the project. She thought it would be prudent to put the conduits in now versus waiting until 2017 to re-dig, while we are already out there operating in this intersection. She had nothing against any of the districts and understood there were roads needing improvement throughout the entire City, but this is a public safety concern traffic management project.

Commissioner Hernandez remarked he has been doing road construction for 30 years on and off, and when he started they had to dig across the road, we went to Pierce Arrow across the road. Now they can set a machine up on this side of the road and tell that machine where to put that pipe on the other side of the road without hitting, touching or looking at anything. By 2017, that process will be upgraded so much and all be computerized like it almost is today, so he felt it would save us money to do it later with that type of technology.

Mayor Galea thanked him for his opinion but probably saving money in 2017 is not a fact; we do not know what technology will available to us in 2017. Commissioner Hernandez said it isn't an opinion, it is a fact. Mayor Galea said it would be prudent to do the work now while we can save money on the cost of inflation. She asked City Engineer Thomas if he had any comments he would like to add concerning this project.

City Engineer Thomas responded by giving some justification as to why the overlay was put into the project and the conduit was put into the project scope. He said we had a couple different warrant analyses done or traffic studies done in the area to try and figure out when a signal would be warranted. It is actually 2019 when we believe it will be warranted. Also, in November the site survey came back and we found that right in front of the Car Wash there is a flat spot in the road ground; if you look closely you'll see a large alligator-crack area. So, as I understand, some of you don't want the project at all but I just wanted to give you an explanation as to why we decided to overlay. He said we have to fix that drainage so when we add the turn lane the runoff actually gets to the gutter pan and doesn't stand in the intersection. New utility cuts to install street lights, not traffic lights, move water service and there will also be multiple pavement cuts from the concrete improvements. The pavement cuts will obviously introduce more water into the sub-grade and degrade wide quality. We did have a series of budget reductions through the project. Back in September when we discussed it, we were at about a half million dollars and you guys instructed us to scale it back. The final bid from Pillar Engineering was $255,000 and the low bid came in at $241,992, so we believe that is a good bid price. We'll save about $120,000 of the project budget and we plan to move that to, if you award it, Washington and First Street and that will immediately displace 109 money that we won't need to spend there on the next project. We open bids on that project, actually, a week from today, not this Thursday. That will be an immediate savings in 109 money that we would have, and his recommendation to them was to go ahead and award the project and let them continue with the project.

Mayor Galea remembered having discussed this project in a Work Session with you and the Commission this fall and there was no one against it at that time. Seeing that the City Staff has gone through the process to do the studies and put the bids out, she would like to see that we award the bid. She thought it would be malfeasance of the Commission to allow the Staff and members of the public to work on this bid, actually bid on it and be an approved project by the City Commission, and not move forward.

Commissioner Hernandez moved to not approve the Award of Public Works Bid Number 2014-004 project to Mesa Verde Enterprises, Inc. for the Panorama Boulevard / Hamilton Road Intersection Improvements in an amount not to exceed $241,992.26, including NMGRT. Motion died for lack of a second.

Mayor Galea said we must take action on this item.

Commissioner Sikes asked if we could possibly hold off on this until we get the bid openings for the next part of this. You were talking about a bid opening that was going to take place next week. City

Engineer Thomas said that was for the Washington/First Street project – a separate project. Commissioner Sikes said we could see how much that one is before we do this one. She asked if anyone would object to doing this. Mayor Galea said it was a good idea to look at what 109 money would be needed for that project. We have already bid out this project to consider and act upon awarding the bid that was the lowest and move forward with the project the Commission previously approved doing. City Engineer Thomas added we have already bought property from the Car Wash and we've entered into agreements with the affected property owners, and all the legal work has been done as well for the project.

Commissioner Baldwin moved to approve the Award of Public Works Bid Number 2014-004 project to Mesa Verde Enterprises, Inc. for the Panorama Boulevard / Hamilton Road Intersection Improvements in an amount not to exceed $241,992.26, including NMGRT the project. Mayor Galea seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with a vote of 4-2-0. Commissioner Hernandez and Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler voted nay.

NEW BUSINESS

A-3. Consider, and act upon, Resolution No. 2014-11 declaring a vacancy for District Six City Commissioner due to the District 6 Commissioner, Susie Galea being elected as Mayor At-Large as a result of the March 4, 2014 Regular Election. [Roll call vote required] *(Renee Cantin, City Clerk)*

Mayor Galea asked the City Clerk to explain this process.

City Clerk Cantin noted the selection process was the next item so this is simply the Resolution declaring the vacancy as we had done for a couple of previous vacancies. The way the City Charter reads, we must declare it by resolution. So, step one is declaring by resolution that there is a vacancy.

Commissioner Baldwin moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-11 declaring a vacancy for District Six City Commissioner due to the District 6 Commissioner, Susie Galea being elected as Mayor At-Large as a result of the March 4, 2014 Regular Election. Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

A-4. Consider, and act upon, the selection process for filling the District Six City Commissioner Vacancy. *(Renee Cantin, City Clerk)*

City Clerk Cantin explained that in the future the Commission needs to establish by ordinance the process to fill a vacancy; we do not currently have an ordinance in place. She had looked at the last two appointments and there had been talk amongst the Commission on how to proceed with those. We have previously suggested that you establish a deadline for applicants to submit their paperwork containing a letter of interest, a declaration of candidacy and the property disclosure form, and then you scheduled a meeting where you made nominations. She went from the last time where all the Commission decided to hear interviews from all candidates and she left that one out and suggested the following timeline that the Candidate Packets would be available tomorrow and we would distribute them to our media list. The candidates would have until March 26th, the day after the next Commission meeting, and since the deadline to submit items for the next agenda is noon, she put 11:00 a.m. so we would have time to compile it all for the April 8th agenda. At the April 8th Commission meeting she suggested interviews of the candidates, done alphabetically last time, or you could have interviews in the order turned in. The final appointment would be by Tuesday, April 22nd; as you'll see earlier in the background it is stated the appointment must be made the first meeting following the 30 days after the adoption of the resolution, which would be the April 22nd meeting. This is a somewhat aggressive schedule to proceed or start your conversation as to how you want to fill the seat.

Mayor Galea said she thought it would be better if we had a commissioner in place on April 8th, meaning after the interviews of the candidates it would be opened up for nominations. She felt April 22nd was too far to go as a six member body versus seven.

Commissioner Hernandez asked when they would get the names and City Clerk Cantin told him they should be ready for that agenda book if the deadline was March 26th. You should have the names when the draft agenda goes out. He asked about the time frame and City Clerk Cantin said the candidates would have from March 12th to March 26th, two full weeks to return their candidate packets. Commissioner Hernandez asked how long the Commissioners would have the names and City Clerk Cantin told him they would get the names the Friday after March 26th which is March 28th for the April 8th meeting.

Commissioner Sikes said then we would do the interviews here and after those are complete we would vote. Mayor Galea said the floor would be open for nominations and then the vote would be taken in the order nominations were received. Mayor Galea asked if anyone would disagree with having interviews cast and voted on at the same April 8th meeting.

Commissioner Hernandez said he didn't have a problem with that but wanted the Commission to have the right to ask for more time if needed for one reason or another. He said he didn't see a problem with it, but didn't want to be stuck to it because we said tonight we would do that. His concern was not having the time if an issue comes up that one of us wants to look at further or there is an issue we want to double check or don't want to do in public.

Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler said the last couple of times this has happened, particularly the first time it happened without anything in the Charter or anywhere else to go by, the idea was we would give the district plenty of time to figure out what had happened and if we declare tonight that would give them approximately two weeks. The original was 30 days to give the district time to figure that out, so that would bring us to beyond April 8th, about April 11th. He was concerned the two week cutoff was a little bit short and he would rather it be a little longer, but if we could ask for more time on that first Tuesday it would be OK with him. He wouldn't want this to become a standard operating procedure; he wanted there to be enough time for the announcement to get out to the district. He asked City Clerk Cantin if we had 45 days for the Commission to appoint and did that come from the Charter.

City Clerk Cantin told him the Charter addresses just a little bit. It says when you had determined to interview each candidate and make the appointment at the first meeting following 30 days after adoption. Thirty days is less than, but the first meeting after would be April 22nd, and that part wasn't actually in the new Charter. Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler asked where it came from and City Clerk Cantin told him it was from a combination of what you have done the last two times. Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler asked again if it was in the Charter and she told him it was not; the Charter amendment provided the Commission may by ordinance establish a process. That ordinance has yet to be adopted.
Commissioner Hernandez asked the Staff to publicize this in any form we can and ask the Chamber and Schools to publicize in any way they can. We've had quite a few candidates step up during the last two elections and the last time we appointed we only had one, so he would like to see at least a couple or a few to choose from.

Commissioner Baldwin moved to approve the process as is so the final appointment will be made after candidate interviews at the April 8, 2014 meeting, reserving the right to extend the decision until the April 22, 2014 meeting if more time is needed. Commissioner Sikes seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

13. Consider, and act upon, a request to fill the Wastewater Plant Operator I position, to be assigned to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. *(Brian Cesar, Public Works Director)*

Public Works Director Cesar told the Commission this is a full-time, regular position funded in this fiscal years budget. We have a vacancy we need to fill at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Commissioner Hernandez moved to approve a request to fill the Wastewater Plant Operator I position, to be assigned to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Commissioner Baldwin seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

14. Consider, and act upon, a request to fill the Central Receiving Attendant position, to be assigned to the Purchasing Department. *(Barbara Pyeatt, Purchasing Manager)*

Assistant City Manager McNeile told the Commission we would like permission to advertise this opening in our Purchasing Department for a Central Receiving Attendant. This is budgeted 90% by Fund 81 and 10% by our Internal Service Fund. The opening is a result of the employee leaving the City.

Commissioner Hernandez moved to approve a request to fill the Central Receiving Attendant position, to be assigned to the Purchasing Department. Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

15. Consider, and act upon, initiating the Street and Facility Naming Committee to make a recommendation to the City Commission to name the Balloon Park on LaVelle Rd. the Ed Brabson Balloon Park. *(Al Hernandez, Commissioner)*

Commissioner Hernandez said some of the Brabson family members had asked him to bring this forward. He has worked very closely with Ed Brabson on several projects and has known him for several years. Commissioner Hernandez said we have a policy on how this is done, and reading through the policy, what we'll do first is take it to this committee where they will look at his bio and see if it fits within this realm. About a year and a half ago, we did a new policy on naming streets and buildings and one of the things we looked at was the person needed to be deceased. There is also a place allowing that the person does not need to be deceased – Item 5.3 – where it talks about someone who has given to the community and is deserving of that fact. He is proposing this under that item and is asking for the Commissions support to get this committee together and look at this and decide yes or no and bring back to us. At that time we will decide what we want to do.

Commissioner Baldwin moved to approve initiating the Street and Facility Naming Committee to make a recommendation to the City Commission to name the Balloon Park on LaVelle Rd. the Ed Brabson Balloon Park. Commissioner Sikes seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

16. Consider, and act upon, selecting members of the City Commission to represent the City on various outside agencies boards and committees. *(Renee Cantin, City Clerk)*

City Clerk Cantin explained we have put together a list of some of the external boards and committees, along with your input, of who is currently serving on some of those. With this change, we thought it would be good to freshen up those appointees and review each board as to who may want to serve.

She began with the Otero County/Greentree Solid Waste Authority (OCGSWA) explaining the first annual meeting was usually in March and the meeting coming up would be March 27th. It was confirmed the meetings are held at night.
2014 OCGSWA: Robert Rentschler, Susie Galea, Al Hernandez, City Manager Stahle, Public Works Director Cesar.

South Central Regional Transit District (SCRTD) was next discussed and Mayor Galea asked to have her name removed because Otero County has opted out. Commissioner Sikes didn't see the point of serving since we have opted out.
2014 South Central Regional Transit District (SCRTD): No representation at this point.

Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District (SNMEDD) & Southeastern Regional Planning Organization (SERPO) was explained by Commissioner Hernandez who said these two alternate their meetings and there are about eight a year.
2014 Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District (SNMEDD) & Southeastern Regional Planning Organization (SERPO): Al Hernandez & Alternate Susie Galea.

2014 Otero County Economic Development Council (OCEDC) & Chamber of Commerce Board: OCEDC rep: Robert Rentschler; Chamber rep: Jason Baldwin; Alternate: Jenny Turnbull.

2014 Eastern Area Workforce Development Board (EAWDB): Susie Galea and Alternates: Nadia Sikes and Robert Rentschler.

2014 Consortium for High Tech Investigations in Water & Wastewater (CHIWAWA): Susie Galea & Alternate: Nadia Sikes. Meetings are held in El Paso and Las Cruces and focus on regional water issues.

17. Appointments to Boards & Committees. *(Mayor)*

Mayor Galea said she had been privileged to attend a Business Impact/Government Relations meeting this morning and she had mentioned to those in attendance the number of vacancies on our boards and committees. She announced the Boards and Committees which have vacancies:
Airport Zoning Board. Two (2) vacancies
No nominations received.
Alamogordo Disability Council. Three (3) vacancies.
No nominations received.
Cemetery Board, One (1) vacancy
The following existing board member is interested in being reappointed:
Mary Eastman – if appointed this will be her third term.
Community Development Advisory Committee, Two (2) vacancies
No nominations received.
Housing Authority Advisory Board Two (2) vacancies.
(This is a new board and anyone appointed will be new to this board)
The following individual has submitted an application and is interested in being appointed;
Rhonda Devine - if appointed this will her first term.
Promotion Board. One (1) vacancy
The following individual is interested in being appointed:
Douglas Gibson – if appointed this will be his first term.
Senior Volunteer Program, Three (3) vacancies.
No nominations received.

The Mayor appointed Mary Eastman to the Cemetery Board, Rhonda Devine to the Housing Authority Advisory Board, and Douglas Gibson to the Promotion Board. There were no objections from the Commission. She asked the City Clerk to notify these individuals.

PUBLIC COMMENT

B. Harv Hamilton commented on the following:
1) He thanked those who ran for office whether they won or not during this last election. He also thanked Public Works Director Cesar and City Engineer Thomas for being kind enough to come over to look and offer advice for a problem he had. He felt this was great public service.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

1) City Manager Stahle said he had learned through the news media this afternoon that our two US Senators have acknowledged that the Federal Government, specifically the Corps of Engineers, are recommending $6 million dollars to Flood Prevention Projects in the City of Alamogordo. That is good news and we are waiting to receive the official word from the Corps itself. We believe this will be

Phase 7 of our McKinley Wash Project; to put concrete sides and a bottom to the wash between White Sands Blvd. and up toward Madison where they just replaced the other bridge. We appreciate that good news.

REMARKS AND INQUIRIES BY THE CITY COMMISSION

Commissioner Hernandez commented on the following:
1) Commissioner Hernandez said he had a couple of residents, some of them lived in the County, actually it was a few residents and some lived within the City. He had spoken to our City Engineer, Jason, earlier and he knew we were doing an intersection change at Florida and Fairgrounds Road and he wanted an update. We had one accident last week that was pretty tragic and another one today that actually took out a stop sign. We've got cars blowing through those intersections and so he knew we were looking at doing something. He would like to see if we can get an update on what we are doing.

City Manager Stahle told him we are going to actually make a 4-Way Stop out of that. We did a warrant analysis which is required anytime we have a concern about safety of an intersection. That warrant analysis does justify a 4-Way Stop and I'll let Jason explain what is going on with that effort.

City Engineer Thomas told the Commission that is absolutely correct. We are working on installing a 4-Way flasher; it is the same type of flasher that's at Scenic and N. Florida. We are working with PNM because we need to guy-out their pole to suspend the wire. There is a process that you follow when you do a traffic change and we are working towards beginning the public service announcements and the advance notice by the end of this month to roll that out.

Commissioner Hernandez said that in the meantime, he noticed the stop sign we put up today was the standard-type stop sign for that intersection. Could we look at maybe going ahead and at least on Fairgrounds Road, going to the bigger ones because he was sure that would probably be what would end up happening or maybe whatever we are going to do at that point, just to maybe help. He thought that was what was happening that the folks coming off Fairgrounds were the ones going through and catching the ones coming up and down Florida. He said he actually saw that accident today and it was pretty bad. City Engineer Thomas said we can definitely look at putting larger signs up. Commissioner Hernandez thanked him.

Mayor Galea commented on the following:
1) The Mayor wanted to bring up for discussion, maybe for a future agenda item or maybe it can be handled here tonight amongst the Commission. The people just passed the bonding for two major projects – the intersection aligning Florida at First St. and also the $6 million dollar bond for the Family Fun Center. She had looked at how the Commission had approved major projects in the past like the Skate Park that was a $300,000 project, and it has taken over a year's time for that to materialize. She would like to bring up for discussion appointing a Ad Hoc Committee to maintain focus and so that the projects are done in a timely manner. For example, she knew that our bonds must be sold within a six month period and from that six month period that the bonds are sold for the Family Fun Center (FFC) we must complete the project within a three year time period. She hoped it would not take three years to complete the FFC.

City Manager Stahle interjected to say a couple of things. First of all, they had found out from our bond counsel, we actually have several years to sell the bonds and that's good news and puts a bit of relief on us. There are two separate, significant projects, obviously; one is the Intersection. Intersections, we have a very talented staff that can work toward that project. That's adding a pretty significant project to a long list that we are already pretty heavily involved in, but we have a pretty fair procedure for handling that. With regard to the vertical, meaning the FFC, that's a little different. He met with Staff today starting to formulate a plan of action on how to attack that. We are going to do some research and learn as much as we can, for example from other entities like us, that have done similar projects. His understanding was, of course we know Deming has already done one and he understood from some folks here that maybe Carlsbad is doing one, as well. So, we want to learn

from those processes and he didn't have a problem if the Mayor wanted to put together a Ad Hoc Committee to keep the whip and chair in our face and keep us moving on it. That's fine, but part of the conversation we need to have with you is what's the best process we want to use. Do we go ahead and search, for example, for an operator that can be involved with the design, because sometimes you make decisions on design that can effect operations. Do we want to hire an architectural firm that can do a Needs Analysis. What would make sense for the building to have; we know bowling alley. Bowling alleys usually come with some kind of libations, some service for restaurant, but what other things. Is it just a video, miniature golf, what is it? How is this thing going to look? How is it going to be built and how is it going to be operated are big questions. So, we are kind of working our way through some of this but we're trying to do it, quite honestly, at a very challenging time. We are putting together budgets and we're trying to keep those road projects that we have a burning desire to get done before the end of the calendar year completed. So, he asked for a little bit of patience and let us get through the budget process; we will of course budget accordingly, and he'd like to work with Staff to develop kind of our game plan, present that to you and have a conversation with you on how you would like to modify that schedule or do something different.

Commissioner Sikes said that based on the fact we now know the selling of the bonds is going to be longer than we anticipated, there was a lot of work done during the campaigning, the selling of the FFC to the public. She, quite frankly, was surprised it passed based on history, but because of the work done by the people supporting it, and she was sure they had delved into a lot of things Staff may not have time to do, she liked the Mayor's idea and wondered how we'd do that if we decided to do a Ad Hoc Committee.

Mayor Galea said the City Manager brought up a number of variables. She thought since the people have voted for this, perhaps we can ask the people in a Public Hearing how they would like to proceed; if they want to look at the design with the engineers, if they want to look at the operator and have the operator come in and give their opinions, and then have the Ad Hoc Committee, because not withstanding the whip and the chair, she understood the City Manager had a lot on his plate and a Ad Hoc Committee can help minimize the stacks and piles that are on his desk. She said that is why she had proposed a Ad Hoc Committee to work with City Staff. She would also like to see a Public Hearing done so we can hear from members of the public what they would like to see in their FFC.

Commissioner Sikes interjected one quick thing just so it's on record. She is working on a project with the Freshman Academy at the Alamogordo Public High School. It is considered authentic learning, problem based learning. They are taking four subjects, four components – health, English, math and science, and the students have to develop a project. They are taking it very seriously in that they had City Engineer Thomas as one of the presenters. It was just amazing to listen to what Jason had to tell them about design and building and maps and measuring. They would like to have the opportunity to present what they come up with to City. There premise was, 'There is nothing to do in Alamogordo,' and they are looking at a Fun Center from the prospective of freshmen in High School. Maybe bowling isn't their bag and drinking came up, but we kept it quiet. They would like to do things like rock climbing and had some ideas that a Ad Hoc Committee would consider, but she wanted them to have the opportunity to become part of that. Mayor Galea said that is a great idea. Commissioner Sikes said we have two months to do the project and they are getting a big kick out of it. She publicly thanked City Engineer Thomas once again for that really good presentation.

Commissioner Hernandez commented on the following:

1) Commissioner Hernandez said Commissioner Sikes made him think about something. Could we look and see if there is some kind of a program out there where places like this have some kind of an exchange program. One of the things he knows is the kids get board with something and want to move on. Like the rock climbing deal, they make those things portable and he was sure there were other portable items out there, and there may be some kind of a municipality program where you use it for a couple of months or a year and then you trade it with another municipality for something else. He didn't know if it was available but it would be something to look into because that way it would keep our thing fresh all the time. Maybe also design the building to accept that if it is out there. Or maybe it's something we could get started.

Mayor Galea asked the City Manager that with a Ad Hoc Committee, would he take recommendations from the City Commission so that there is a variety, a well-rounded Ad Hoc Committee. City Manager Stahle said since you are the boss, yea probably. Mayor Galea said it would be a Ad Hoc Committee to help you, and City Manager Stahle said, 'Yes, ma'am, of course.' He went on to say what goes in this will be a big deal, and he was intrigued by the exchangeable activities that might be inside of it. He had never heard of that and thought it fantastic. He encouraged as much input as they could get and didn't dream of having a decision made by Staff and just telling you all. He was anticipating a great involvement by both the Commission and the community that has an interest.

Commissioner Baldwin commented on the following:
1) He said that in reference to the Family Fun Center bowling alley the City Manager had made a comment about lots of activities going on and lots of things on the agenda, and Commissioner Baldwin said this is one of the first things voted on by the public to be built so he wanted to throw caution to that priority. Some of our other projects may have to actually take a backseat to make sure this gets done in a timely manner. He actually wanted to see some timelines. In favor of the Committee and was a little ashamed not more was known about a bowling center before we floated a $6 million dollar bond to put one up, and now we are wondering what we want to do exactly. So the Committee will do the foot work up until, as he understood, we are through the Budget process, which is a decent enough timeline. The Committee will be appointed and put together by the City Commission and the Mayor as well, correct? Mayor Galea told him that was correct. Commissioner Baldwin continued saying that after the Budget process we need to have a pretty accountable timeline for the citizens of Alamogordo of what we are going to do, when we will bring a presentation, if we will have a Public Hearing, and it needs to happen pretty fast after that. That's my two cents.

Mayor Galea thanked him and said that was very value-added.

Mayor Galea commented on the following:
1) She said former Commissioner Talbert brought to her a flyer and she noted he is very passionate about family activities in our community. One that he wanted her to note for the community is on April 3, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the HAFB Commissary there will be a Family Math Night. It is for all school aged children and their families, and there will be a lot of fun things to do. There will be gift bags and free hot dogs and drinks. Now that there is 'Friends of Holloman' everyone has access to HAFB if they go to the HAFB Security Office and ask for a Friends of Holloman pass.
2) Mayor Galea wanted most of all to thank Mayor Pro-Tem Rentschler for his service as Mayor for the City of Alamogordo and for the time you spent serving and appearing at all the meetings. It was very value-added and she again thanked him for representing the Commission so very well.
3) She said she was ready to get to work with this Commission and for the good of the people of our entire community, she said she was committed to working very hard for the people. She asked the Commission to help her with something creative, to create something over and above what our Code of Conduct currently states; something other Commissions aren't doing. Help her to create an accountability program within, because she knows the power is with the people and not with the people that assume that they have the power. This would prevent any abuse of that by exercising any undue influence. She thought the people had spoken and they are tired of the days of turf wars and power grabs, and it is just time for us to work together as a community toward common future goals. In the future, she didn't want to be overbearing with too much information for the Commission, and so she vowed to not give more than her top five event list that she does. She knows she will be asked to attend a number of events, but she will not give more than five events at a Commission meeting. Her goal is to communicate with you daily through email and on Face Book. She only brings one event to the Commission tonight and that is she had the opportunity to attend the 54th Fighter Group Activation Ceremony of the F-16's. What a great community effort that was to bring about the F-16 activation and she was grateful to HAFB and their roll in our community. She was thankful for the people of Alamogordo that are active in our community. She said that was all she had.

Commissioner Sikes commented on the following:
1) She said that was almost a good transition into what she was going to ask City Manager Stahle and City Attorney Thies to help her with. She wanted to bring before the Commission, possibly at the

next Commission meeting, some sort of an ordinance or change in ordinance or whatever we have to do. It looks like we are the only city or one of the only cities in New Mexico who don't have a Full Disclosure for campaign contributions. Rather than continue any impropriety or rumors or what-have-you in social media explosions like she witnessed over the past week, she would love to see if we could go ahead and introduce something where all candidates running in a municipal elections in the City of Alamogordo have to proclaim who their contributors were. She thought Paul Sanchez's idea of full transparency was something we should all look at. It blends well with not only our New Mexico State Code of Conduct, but also with Codes of Conduct from the Municipal League or whatever. She would like us to possibly work on that, she would appreciate it, if nobody objects. Mayor Galea said there were not any objections, and Commissioner Sikes told her, 'Of course, not.'

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hernandez moved to adjourn at 9:41 p.m. Commissioner Baldwin seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

Mayor Susie Galea

ATTEST:

City Clerk Renee L. Cantin

(Prepared by Nancy Jacobs, Deputy Clerk)
Approved at the Regular Meeting held on March 25, 2014.