

**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL (WORK SESSION) MEETING MINUTES
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 1376 E. NINTH STREET
6:00 P.M., COMMISSION CHAMBERS
JANUARY 25, 2001**

MAYOR DON CARROLL COMMISSIONER DON COOPER

MAYOR PRO-TEM JOHN VAN DOREN COMMISSIONER ED COLE

COMMISSIONER INEZ MONCADA CITY MANAGER PAT McCOURT

COMMISSIONER RON GRIGGS CHF DPTY CLK TERESA GUTIERREZ

COMMISSIONER STEPHEN EASLEY

Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Absent was Mayor Pro-Tem John Van Doren, and Commissioner Inez Moncada.

1. Discussion of Budget Priorities.

Finance Director LeeAnn Nichols made a mid-year presentation, outlining revenues and expenditures, and City Manager Pat McCourt followed up with goals for the FY 2001-2002 budget. Mr. McCourt asked the Commission to seriously consider adopting the proposed 4 percent merit pool.

Mayor Carroll said that even though Mayor Pro-Tem Van Doren could not be present tonight, he had submitted a memo outlining a request he had for one additional Animal Control Officer position to be reinstated in the budget.

Commissioner Easley felt that each division that is subsidized from the General Fund needs to really study ways in which they can increase their revenues. Some suggested areas included, but were not limited to, the Senior Center meals and transportation, Desert Lakes Golf Course, Alameda Park Zoo, and the Public Library.

Commissioner Griggs stated that there is still a real need to amend and adopt a new Subdivision Ordinance. If additional staff is needed to accomplish this, then perhaps staff could be moved around to other positions, even if a temporary assignment, as opposed to hiring additional staff to accomplish it. Also, staff needed to look at the possibility of using volunteers, such as developers, who would be interested in contributing to the process.

Commissioner Cooper felt it was not practical to raise prices at the Senior Center because the people who utilized it were those people who helped to build this City to what it is today. He felt the same way about the Library, as it was meant to be free for public use. Also, if the City raised its rates and fees too much, it would make things to where nobody would utilize our facilities at all.

Mayor Carroll reminded the Commission that each service the City offered had a constituency behind it and, of course, that constituency would prefer no fee increases at all. He suggested to staff to not let any rate or fee increase go for too many years before one was put in and then it would have to be a large increase. It may be better to gradually increase fees each year.

Mayor Carroll said specifically for the Public Works Division, the City needed to continue to expand its waterline replacement program to avoid liability for continuing lawsuits.

Commissioner Cole outlined his requests for this year's budget formulation, including a certain percentage of reduction in costs from each department; a reduction in staffing patterns through attrition; reducing the use of contracting out of work and/or RFP's which could be done in-house, especially in the area of Engineering; revisiting of the flood control project, especially for the northern part of the project, to see if it can be redesigned and done at less expense or perhaps not done at all for now; and for the City to not contribute \$20,000 to the Otero County Economic Development Council this year since the new one-eighth of one percent Gross Receipts Tax was passed for their use.

Commissioner Cooper suggested that changing the name of the Civic Center to the "Alamogordo Auditorium" or something similar might be helpful in the City obtaining Federal funding to help run it. Mayor Carroll said perhaps a name with the words "Convention Center" in it would be helpful in that endeavor.

Commissioner Cole requested a report back from the City Manager on all of the suggestions given by each Commissioner tonight.

Ms. Betty Voss, member of the Parks and Recreation Board, said she would like to see the Board get into a position where they could present a five-year budget. They needed to look at replacing the various equipment, especially in the Recreation Center and Weight Room, as it broke. Also, she was extremely concerned about how long the bubble over the pool would last. She felt the City needed to get more money back through our State Legislature.

Public Works Director Jose Miramontes said he realized the Manager's direction was for each department to put together basically a flat budget, but he wanted to remind everyone of the increasing costs which would be reflected in every single budget. Those costs included the recent increase in the water rates, natural gas, electricity, fuel costs, health insurance premiums, contract services, solid waste

fees, and the recent determination by the State for Gross Receipts Taxes to be paid in some areas where they hadn't previously required them to be paid.

Commissioner Easley reminded everyone, while preparing their budgets, to not only look at ways of cutting costs, but to also look at ways to increase revenues.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Mayor Donald E. Carroll

ATTEST:

City Clerk Angie J. Rahn

(SEAL)

(Prepared by Chief Deputy Clerk Teresa Y. Gutierrez)

Approved at the City Commission Regular Meeting of February 13, 2001.



[City Of Alamogordo Home Page](#)

[Table Of Contents](#)

[Minutes Page](#)

[Return to City Clerk Home Page](#)