

**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 1376 E. NINTH STREET
7:30 P.M., COMMISSION CHAMBERS
DECEMBER 9, 2003**

**MAYOR DON CARROLL
MAYOR PRO-TEM RON GRIGGS
COMMISSIONER INEZ MONCADA
COMMISSIONER ED COLE
COMMISSIONER DON COOPER**

**COMMISSIONER JOHN ROBERTSON
COMMISSIONER MARION LEDFORD
CITY MANAGER PAT McCOURT
CITY ATTORNEY KEN MCDANIEL
CHIEF CLERK ANGIE RAHN-BROYLES**

Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Mayor Don Carroll was absent. The Invocation was given by Mrs. Dotti West, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner John Robertson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Griggs mentioned the passing of Congressman Joe Skeen and Mrs. Dottie O'Dell, and made the following remarks: "Alamogordo is a sadder place today with the passing of two people who have played large roles in the life of our community. Congressman Joe Skeen passed away on December 7th and is mourned not only by our City, but by our State, Nation and many others throughout the world. He was a larger than life figure in New Mexico. First elected as a write-in candidate, he served eleven terms in the U.S. Congress. He was a champion of our military and worked tirelessly on behalf of the Second Congressional District, of which Alamogordo is a part. We send our condolences to his wife Mary and to his family. Congressman Skeen was a good man and a good friend of Alamogordo. Should anyone wish to go to his funeral, it will be in Roswell on Thursday at 2 o'clock at Grace Community Church. A little closer to home, many of us in Alamogordo are saddened by the death of Dottie O'Dell. Dottie had called Alamogordo her home for all of her life. She was actively involved in many community organizations. She wasn't always out in front, but her vitality and for lack of a better word, her twinkle, had a great influence on those organizations and on our community. Her kind, gentle, and loving spirit will be greatly missed but not forgotten. We extend our sincerest sympathies to her son, Harold, and her daughter, Charlene, and their families. Dottie's funeral is Friday at 10 a.m. at Grace United Methodist Church here in Alamogordo."

Mayor Pro-Tem Griggs presented a plaque to City Manager Pat McCourt for five years of dedicated service to the City of Alamogordo.

Ms. Susan Flores, Executive Director of Keep Alamogordo Beautiful, mentioned that last week they had attended the "Keep America Beautiful 50th National Conference" in Washington, D.C. and they had won a few awards. They received a first place National Award for Beautification and Community Improvement for Keep Alamogordo Beautiful, and a first place Affiliate Award for Keep

Alamogordo Beautiful. Commissioner Cooper, City Manager McCourt, and two KAB program interns had attended the conference with Ms. Flores and were present to receive the awards. Ms. Flores thanked the Commission, the City Manager, and her fellow employees for their support on the program. City Manager McCourt mentioned that the program had a great deal of support and volunteers, and Commissioners Cooper and Cole were very active in the program, but the spark plug that really made it all go was Susan Flores. He said she had done a tremendous job with the program and he wanted to thank her on behalf of the entire community.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Presentation by Mr. David Gottula, Vice Chairman of the Committee of Fifty, regarding the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process of 2005.

Mr. Gottula gave a Power Point presentation which has been made part of these minutes as Attachment "A". His presentation had to do with the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure Commission) process of 2005, which was currently underway in the Nation and could have a severe impact, positive or negative, on Alamogordo. Mr. Gottula's presentation included information about the BRAC 2005 process; military assets in the Tularosa Basin and the impact to the local economy; and strategies the Committee of Fifty was employing to keep Holloman Air Force Base and White Sands Missile Range open and increase missions at the bases. He stated that this BRAC was different because not only could they shut down the base, but they could mothball it, which was even worse than shutting down the base.

He explained the timeline for the BRAC process of 2005 which was as follows: 1) the preliminary criteria will be published by December 31, 2003, and that would be what the DOD (Department of Defense) would use to rate all of the bases and determine which would remain open and which would close. That criteria would be published, for comment, by the DOD for Congress. Congress would then give comments back to the DOD or just vote it down. 2) In February of 2004, the final criteria would be published, along with the "Detailed Force Structure Plan and Inventory of Infrastructure Requirements", which was a plan of what facilities the DOD needed to accomplish a mission in the next 20 years. Mr. Gottula noted that the timing of the BRAC was all designed around congressional and presidential elections. 3) In March of 2005, the BRAC Commission, which was appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, would convene. 4) On May 16, 2005, the DOD will report to the BRAC Commission which bases it wants to close or realign. 5) In the summer of 2005, community meetings with all of the affected communities would be held. It would include bases that are to be closed, mothballed, or would be gaining missions in the future. 6) In September of 2005, the BRAC Commission would issue its report to the President. The President could reject the report and send it back to the Commission. 7) The final report

would go to the President in November of 2005 and then Congress would have to either vote to approve or deny, and amendments won't be allowed.

Mr. Gottula explained what criteria would be used for selecting the bases to be closed. He then listed the military assets in the Tularosa Basin, the biggest asset being that the DOD owned the airspace in New Mexico. He said that would be the one thing they would be marketing to the DOD because it is the largest block of area where the military owns both the land and the airspace.

Mr. Gottula reported that the total economic impact on Holloman Air Force Base would be \$361.2 million in direct aid. He explained that the Committee of Fifty had two courses of action, to play offensively to gain additional missions, and to play defensively to keep off the base closure list. The offensive strategy was to increase missions at Holloman AFB that would be non-intrusive to the DOD, such as: 1) Continue multi-year efforts to increase infrastructure both on and off the base, 2) Market to DOD the unique military and community assets that exist here, and 3) Aggressively pursue leads on new missions that the DOD identifies as complimentary to Holloman AFB's unique assets. The defense strategy was to communicate two major themes to the DOD, such as: 1) Each area base (Holloman AFB, White Sands Missile Range, and Ft. Bliss) have a high value on its own, but taken together create a unique world class operating, training, research, test and evaluation military complex that can't be recreated anywhere in the world, and 2) Holloman AFB and Alamogordo contribute and will continue to contribute to the transformation of DOD into the 21st century based on the 20 year Force Structure Plan. Mr. Gottula explained what their plans were for getting their two courses of action accomplished (listed in detail on the attached Power Point presentation).

Mr. Gottula mentioned one thing that would be handled differently from other BRACs was that all information being requested will go through the OCEDC, in particular Susan Moss, and then Susan would collect the information being requested and send it to the DOD. He pointed out that they were already preparing for the BRAC hearings that would be held in the summer of 2005. If the hearings are held in El Paso, their plan was to get a couple hundred to a thousand people to attend the hearings. They needed to show up in force and maybe all wear the same T-shirt, or something like that.

He noted that if on May 16, 2005, they happened to be on the base closure list, the OCEDC and the Committee of Fifty already has a plan to have one team to aggressively analyze the data and find out how they ranked with the other bases, and the other team would be ready to go with an implementation plan for redevelopment. However, they were optimistic that they won't be on the base closure list. In closing, Mr. Gottula mentioned the various organizations that they would be participating in (listed in detail on the attached Power Point presentation).

Mr. John Garst asked what the chance was of Holloman getting the F-22. Mr. Ed Carr replied that the F-117 was slated to stay around until 2018, but due to the cost overruns and production of the F-22, there was a slim chance that they would come to HAFB. However, he said the one thing that would help HAFB was that they had supersonic airspace, unlike other bases that did not. Most of the airspace that was supersonic was over water, so they had a premiere place to base any of the next generation fighters.

2. Presentation by Mr. Ed Carr, OCEDC, regarding the "Incentives for Jobs" 2004 Legislative Agenda, and adoption of Resolution No. 2003-43 supporting the legislative agenda.

Recommendation: Approve the Resolution.

Mr. Ed Carr briefly reviewed the eight items listed on the Legislative Agenda. He pointed out that OCEDC had gotten on the list for item number six, which was a tax relief for research and development activities. It would provide tax relief to DOD related activities that are tested at

White Sands Missile Range and by the 46th Test group.

Mr. Carr mentioned that 1-800-FLOWERS had used the job training incentive program, item number one on the list, to train their personnel. The third item, New Mexico Economic Development Partnership, would help with out of state recruiting. The fifth item, Incubator Certification Program, might help create a business incubator in Alamogordo if they decided to do that. They also might participate in the Rural Enterprise Initiative, which was the last item. Mr. Carr pointed out that although the eight items were written at the State level, they would benefit Alamogordo and Otero County.

Mayor Pro-Tem Griggs questioned whether it was true that for the next Legislative Session Representative Marquardt would be introducing legislation that would rectify the issue relating to tax deduction for military base retention. Mr. Carr replied that Rep. Marquardt would be introducing HB13 which would address only the compensating tax portion of that issue. He noted that approval of the Resolution would lend support to his effort.

Commissioner Cole asked Mr. Carr to explain, in layman terms, what "by reducing the interest taxpayers pay on tax deficiencies" meant. Mr. Carr said he was unable to explain that to him. Commissioner Ledford explained that the interest on tax deficiencies through NM had been at 15%, but the IRS interest followed the prime rate. So, they were asking to get that changed so they can make interest on tax deficiencies more in line with what interest rates are every place else.

Commissioner Cooper moved to approve Resolution No. 2003-43. Seconded by Commissioner Robertson. All voted "aye". Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6-0-0.

Call of the Consent Calendar:

Item Nos. 4 and 7 were removed from the Consent Calendar.

3. Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 25, 2003.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes.

5. Ordinance No. 1189 amending Chapter 8 of the Code of Ordinances pertaining to building codes and construction requirements.

Recommendation: Final adoption of the Ordinance. [Roll Call Vote Required]

6. Ordinance No. 1190 amending Chapter 29 of the Code of Ordinances relating to church signs [Case M030304 (A)].

Recommendation: Final adoption of the Ordinance. [Roll Call Vote Required]

Commissioner Cooper moved to approve the Consent Calendar, which included Item Nos. 3, 5, and 6. Seconded by Commissioner Robertson. All voted "aye". Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6-0-0.

4. Ordinance No. 1180 amending Chapter 7 of the Code of Ordinances regarding animals.

Recommendation: Final adoption of the Ordinance.

Commissioner Robertson had removed the item because he thought a gentleman in the audience had something to say about it, but the gentleman changed his mind.

Commissioner Robertson moved to approve final adoption of Ordinance No. 1180. Seconded by Commissioner Cooper. All voted "aye". Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6-0-0.

7. Statement regarding the 6:00 p.m. Executive Session of November 25, 2003.

Recommendation: Approve the statement

Mr. John Garst asked what the statement was about. Mr. McCourt explained that in New Mexico they had specific legislation that allowed them to discuss certain

items in closed session; however, when they exercised that option, they had to certify that they only discussed the item listed when the meeting was posted.

Commissioner Cooper moved to approve the statement. Seconded by Commissioner Robertson. All voted "aye". Motion carried by a vote of 6-0-0.

8. Appointments to Boards and Committees.

Mayor Pro-Tem Griggs appointed Mr. Kenneth E. Wallace and reappointed Ms. Ginna L. Sanders to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

UNSCHEDULED COMMUNICATION:

A) Commissioner Cooper mentioned his trip to Washington, D.C. and what an honor it was for Alamogordo to have won the awards. He also questioned why there were no safeguards in the area where they were tearing down the old hospital. Pat Vandergriff said they had very little control over that because it was County-owned, but he would contact OSHA in the morning and ask them to look into it.

B) Comments by City Manager Pat McCourt regarding:

- 1. Water report – said they were running behind last year but was not overly concerned because of the recent storm which would help.**
- 2. He had given each Commissioner a copy of a letter dated 12/8/03 that he wrote to the NM Legislators that would go with the capital improvement packet.**
- 3. Congressman Pearce had scheduled a visit here on Thursday but would not be able to attend because of Congressman Skeen's funeral the same day. However, he had offered to have one of his staff members come down. It was the consensus of the Commission to not have the staff member come down because the Congressman was scheduled to be here again in February.**
- 4. He mentioned that Brian McGuire was still working on trying to get in contact with the Railroad.**
- 5. In the letter he had written to the Commission regarding his trip to Washington, he pointed out that he had met with Senator Domenici, and other staff members of the other congressional delegation. He also met with the Bureau of Reclamation and found out that they had received a \$300,000 grant to assist with the desalination project. The grant would require matching funds. 6. He mentioned the newsletter Mr. John Garst had**

been producing, but will no longer be able to produce and wanted to thank him for his kind comments in the final edition.

C) Comments by Mayor Pro-Tem Griggs regarding:

- 1. Mentioned the letter from Mrs. Connie Scroggins thanking the Commission for the naming of the Civic Center after her brother.**
- 2. Congratulated all the City Employees who reached service milestones and received awards at the banquet the other night.**
- 3. Mentioned the article in the newspaper recognizing several Department of Public Safety officers for various things, and he wanted to let Chief Trujillo know that they appreciated all the hard work going on by members of his department.**

Commissioner Cooper moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Robertson. All voted "aye". The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Mayor Donald E. Carroll

ATTEST:

City Clerk Angie J. Rahn-Broyles

(SEAL)

Approved at the City Commission Regular Meeting of December 18, 2003.



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