City of Lordsburg
409 W. Wabash Street
Lordsburg, New Mexico 88045
Regular Meeting
March 18, 2026, at 5:30 PM

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND WELCOME:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Mayor Neave.

Present:

Mayor Martin Neave, City Clerk Irma Saenz, Finance Officer Dusti Conover, Councilor Margaret Chavez, Councilor Sean Lindsay, Councilor Albert Diaz, Mayor Pro-Tem Irene Galvan, Councilor David Tarango, and Councilor Ruben Gomez.

In Attendance:

City of Lordsburg Economic Development Specialist Emily Gojkovich, Mario Delgado, Senior Center Staff Caleb Saenz, Marilu Neave, Anneliese Kvamme, Kim Kvamme, City of Lordsburg Billing Specialist Becky Cabrera, Ramon Nieblas, Tommy Chavez, Tracy Chavez, Joseph Flores, Tisha Green, AJ Mora, Adelina Lindsaym, Jessica Mesa, Santana Valdieviezo, Jessica Lopez, Roxann Randall, Glenda Greene, Gloria Jarrott, Izayah Piedra, and John R Jarrott

a.) Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Neave.

b.) Approval of Agenda

Mayor Neave initiates the meeting by calling for the approval of the agenda. Councilor Tarango made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Councilor Gomez, all in favor. Motion carried.

II. MINUTES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a.) **January 21, 2026**

The approval of minutes for January 21, 2026, was discussed. Councilor Gomez raises a point about the wording in the first sentence, suggesting a discussion with the clerk. Councilor Gomez makes a motion not to approve the minutes for the January 21, 2026 meeting, stating difficulties in coordination with the clerk.

Mayor Neave clarifies that the discussion part is separate from the motion to approve, explaining the importance of reviewing and correcting the minutes before the meeting. Councilor Lindsay suggests making a secondary motion to amend the sentence to

reflect the correct wording and then explain the process of documenting the amendment and ensuring it is recorded correctly. Councilor Diaz made the motion to approve the minutes with the amendments, seconded by Councilor Tarango.
Mayor Neave confirms the motion with the amendments and calls for a vote.
Mayor Neave asks the clerk to poll the council for a vote on the amended minutes.
The clerk polled the council.

Councilor Chavez - Aye
Councilor Lindsay - Aye
Councilor Diaz - AYE
Mayor Pro – Tem Galvan - Aye
Councilor Gomez - Aye
Councilor Tarango – Aye

All in favor, motion carried.

b.) **February 18, 2026,**
Mayor Neave presented the minutes from February 18, 2026, for approval, without any discussion Councilor Tarango made the motion to approve the minutes from February 18, 2026, seconded by Councilor Diaz. All in favor, motion carried.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Section 10-15-1 the following matters may be discussed in closed session:

- **Motion and roll call vote to go into executive session and that, pursuant to New Mexico State Statute Section 10-15-1, only the following matters will be discussed in closed session:**
  At 5:37 pm Mayor Pro-Tem Galvan calls for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss limited personnel matters. for the hiring of the chief of police, finance officer, and temporary employees, seconded by Councilor Tarango.
  Mayor Neave asks the clerk to poll the council for the Executive Session.
  Councilor Chavez - Aye
  Councilor Lindsay - Aye
  Councilor Diaz - Aye
  Mayor Pro – Tem Galvan - Aye
  Councilor Gomez - Aye
  Councilor Tarango - Aye

  a.) Limited Personnel Matters 10-15-1 (H) (2).
  Regarding the hiring of the Chief of Police, Finance Officer and temporary employees.

- **Motion to return to regular session.**
  At 6:57 pm Mayor Pro-Tem Galvan made the motion to return to open session, affirming that only the matters discussed were discussed in Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Lindsay. Mayor Neave asks the clerk to poll the council to return to the Open Session.
  Clerk polled the council.
  Councilor Chavez - Aye
  Councilor Lindsay - Aye
  Councilor Diaz - Aye
  Mayor Pro – Tem Galvan - Aye
  Councilor Gomez - Aye
  Councilor Tarango – Aye
  All in favor, motion carried.

- **Motion and roll call vote that matters discussed in closed session were limited to those specified in motion for closure, and that no final action was taken, as per New Mexico Statutes Section §10-15-1.**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a.) **Discussion / Action – Brick Memorial Monuments for Shakespeare Cemetery by Hidalgo County Heritage Society**

Mayor Neave introduced Kim Kvamme President from the Hidalgo County Heritage Society. Mr. Kvamme requested approval to build two brick memorial monuments for Shakespeare Cemetery. Mr. Kvamme explained the improvements planned for the two entrances to the Shakespeare Cemetery, including the placement of two brick memorial monuments. Councilor Diaz asked if the families would be purchasing the plaques? Mr. Kvamme responded that one plaque has already been purchased. The Hidalgo County Heritage Society would like to add the project to their Department of Energy grant statement of work. Emily Gojkovich provided an update on the DOE grant, stating that construction has not started yet, and the grant agreement is pending. Mr. Kvamme discussed the potential cost of the memorials and the possibility of donations for engraved bricks. Mr. Kvamme explained the need for coordination with the city's public works group. Mayor Neave asked for a motion to approve the request to build the two brick memorial monuments. Motion made by Councilor Gomez, seconded by Councilor Chavez.

Clerk polled the council.

Councilor Chavez – Aye
Councilor Lindsay – Aye
Councilor Diaz – Aye
Mayor Pro – Tem Galvan - Aye
Councilor Gomez - Aye
Councilor Tarango - Aye

All in favor, motion carried.

b.) **Discussion / Action – Approval for the City of Lordsburg to pay for bronze Plaque for Shakespeare Cemetery by Hidalgo County Heritage Society**

Mr. Kvamme requested that the City of Lordsburg approve payment of a second bronze plaque in the amount of $3,798.33 for Shakespeare Cemetery.

Mr. Kvamme reported that the first plaque was ordered in December 2025, authorized by then-Mayor Greene, and paid for using the Lodgers Tax Operational Fund.

Councilor Lindsay stated that in May 2025, the Heritage Society requested funding from Lodgers Tax, but no funding was formally approved by Council at that time. He further reported that in approximately September 2025, Mayor Greene authorized $10,000 for the Heritage Society without Council approval, of which approximately $3,800 was expended, based on available documentation. Councilor Lindsay recommended waiting until after the next fiscal year's budget process before approving additional funding.

Discussion was held regarding email correspondence related to the ordering of the second plaque between Mr. Edmund Saucedo and City of Lordsburg staff. It was noted that Mr. Saucedo ordered the second plaque in approximately February 2026.

Mr. Kvamme explained the process of ordering and paying for the plaques and discussed the need for future fundraising efforts to support similar projects.

Mayor Neave called for a motion to approve payment for the bronze plaque for Shakespeare Cemetery.

Motion made by Councilor Lindsay to deny the approval of the City to pay for the 2nd bronze plaque, seconded by Mayor Pro -Tem Galvan.
Clerk Polled the Council

Councilor Chavez – Aye
Councilor Lindsay – Aye
Councilor Diaz – Aye
Mayor Pro – Tem Galvan - Aye
Councilor Gomez - Aye
Councilor Tarango - Aye

All in favor, motion carried.

c.) Discussion – Intergovernmental Services Agreement between the City and County

Tisha Green Hidalgo County Manager discussed the services agreement between the city and the county, including dispatch, EMS, and detention housing services. Annual budget $5000k for dispatch, last fiscal year 80% of calls are for Lordsburg dispatch and EMS calls. Approximately $850,000 for ambulance services, and approximately $2.9k for detention center.

Mayor Pro Tem Galvan requested a work session to discuss the agreement in detail, and Tisha agrees. Ms. Green provided an overview of the budget for dispatch, EMS, and detention housing, highlighting the financial impact on the city. Ms. Green reported on the need for a joint meeting to discuss the monetary contribution of the senior center and other agreements.

d.) Discussion – Senior Center Partnership with County by Tisha Green

Ms. Tisha Green, Hidalgo County Manager, discussed the ongoing partnership between the City of Lordsburg and the Senior Center. She emphasized the need for a joint effort to update the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) and stated her intent to present the ICIP priorities prior to the upcoming budget process so that Council would be fully informed.

Ms. Green explained the grant application process and stressed the importance of clear communication between the City and County regarding funding sources, project responsibilities, and financial commitments.

Ms. Green also reported that all associated vehicles are currently insured by the City and discussed the expiration dates of existing vehicle lease agreements, noting that the lease is set to expire on June 30, 2026. She stated that a joint meeting will be necessary to address these agreements prior to expiration.

It was further noted that the city will continue to provide maintenance for the Senior Center building. Ms. Green emphasized the importance of maintaining clear and defined budget allocations related to the Senior Center partnership and other intergovernmental agreements.

A work session to further discuss these matters was scheduled for April 13, 2026.

e.) **Discussion / Action – 5th Anniversary of Darian Jarrott's E.O. W. Event**

John Jarrott requested funding for the purchase of t-shirts for the 5th Anniversary of the Darian Jarrott End of Watch (E.O.W.) 3.30K Memorial Walk/Run and Cornhole Tournament, scheduled to be held on April 11, 2026, at the Special Events Center.

Mr. Jarrott stated that the event is held annually and was previously hosted in Las Cruces but will be held in Lordsburg this year. He requested $3,000 to cover the cost of t-shirts for event participants.

Mayor Neave asked Finance Officer Dusti Conover whether funding was available for this request. Ms. Conover confirmed that funds are available.
Councilor Diaz made the motion for the approval of $3,000 for the purchase of t-shirts for the Darian Jarrott event, seconded by Councilor Gomez.
Clerk polled the council.

Councilor Chavez – Aye
Councilor Lindsay – Aye
Councilor Diaz – Aye
Mayor Pro – Tem Galvan - Aye
Councilor Gomez - Aye
Councilor Tarango - Abstain

All in favor, motion carried.

f.) **Discussion / Action – Approval of NM True Match**

Emily Gojkovich presented a request for funding for the third annual participation in the New Mexico True marketing campaign, which includes billboard advertising, still photography, and social media promotion.
Ms. Gojkovich reported that Council approved $16,000 last year as the required local match for the campaign. She stated that the $16,000 match leveraged nearly $60,000 in advertising value promoting Hidalgo County. She further reported that, through the third quarter, the campaign generated approximately 1.1 million impressions, indicating significant visibility through billboard advertising.
Ms. Gojkovich requested $16,000 for the 2026 campaign, noting that funding has traditionally been paid from the Lodgers Tax Operational Fund. She also reported that a portion of the required match has been requested from Hidalgo County.
Ms. Gojkovich advised that the grant application deadline is April 7, 2026, and emphasized that without the match funds, the New Mexico True campaign cannot be executed. She encouraged Council members to follow the New Mexico True campaign on Facebook and Instagram to view current promotional efforts.
Motion made by Councilor Tarango to approve $8,500 for New Mexico True Match seconded by Councilor Lindsay.
Clerk polled the council.

Councilor Chavez – Aye
Councilor Lindsay – Aye
Councilor Diaz – Aye
Mayor Pro – Tem Galvan - Aye
Councilor Gomez - Aye
Councilor Tarango - Aye

All in favor, motion carried.

g.) **Discussion / Action – NM Clean and Beautiful Grant Application**

Emily Gojkovich reported that the New Mexico Clean and Beautiful grant application is due on April 2, 2026. Ms. Gojkovich stated that she met with Mayor Neave and Frank Madrid, during which they discussed potential project opportunities. Discussion included the refurbishment of Second Street and the possibility of utilizing the New Mexico Clean and Beautiful grant to develop a gateway improvement along Motel Drive.
Ms. Gojkovich explained that the New Mexico Clean and Beautiful grant requires a 25 percent match, which may include in-kind contributions such as employee labor hours, materials, and other eligible non-cash resources. Ms. Gojkovich requested Council approval to proceed with writing and submitting the grant application on behalf of the City of Lordsburg.

Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Galvan to approve the application of NM Clean and Beautiful Grant, seconded by Councilor Chavez.

Clerk Polled the Council

Councilor Chavez – Aye
Councilor Lindsay – Aye
Councilor Diaz – Aye
Mayor Pro – Tem Galvan - Aye
Councilor Gomez - Aye
Councilor Tarango - Aye

All in favor, motion carried.

h.) Discussion / Action – Economic Development Annual Report Presentation by Emily Gojkovich

Emily provided an update on the Lordsburg Main Street program. She clarified that Main Street is part of the City of Lordsburg, and that Main Street activities support overall city revitalization, beautification, and economic development.

She explained that the Main Street program operates under a national framework from Main Street America, through New Mexico MainStreet, and is guided by four core areas: Economic Vitality, Design, Promotion, and Organization. She further noted that Main Street communities are evaluated under six national performance standards, including community commitment, leadership capacity, sustainable funding, strategy-driven programming, preservation-based economic development, and measurable results.

Emily outlined the two transformation strategies adopted for Lordsburg Main Street: Community-Serving, focused on supporting businesses that serve residents and visitors and creating a welcoming downtown environment.

Placemaking, focused on walkability, wayfinding, gateway enhancements, façade improvements, and improved connectivity between downtown and nearby truck stops.

She reported that Lordsburg has been officially designated a New Mexico Main Street community following completion of the Acceleration Program. Requirements included establishing a 501(c)(3) organization, preparing a budget, defining downtown district boundaries, and developing partnerships.

Emily stated that the City's required annual $25,000 Main Street commitment is fulfilled through her salary, with no additional cash contribution required, and that at least 50 percent of her time is dedicated to Main Street activities.

She also reported that a downtown property survey has been completed and entered Main Street America's national data platform. Once finalized, this data will provide metrics regarding vacant and occupied properties, housing units, commercial units, and redevelopment opportunities.

Recent activities included a Valentine's Day street dinner at the museum and the ongoing Entrepreneurs' Class, currently at session six of twelve, serving three existing business owners. A business pitch presentation is scheduled for April 9.

Upcoming projects include:

Murals and potential metal art installations at Exit 22

Cleanup and improvement of the Highway 70 underpass

Landscaping and gateway improvements in coordination with partner organizations and NMDOT. Emily concluded by acknowledging the support of the Main Street board and their involvement in program activities.

i.) **Discussion / Action – Approval of Ena Mitchell Senior Center Positions**
Mayor Neave stated that Council approval is required for the hiring of Senior Center employees as permanent employees.
Finance Officer Dusti Conover reported that, in accordance with City policy, all permanent positions must be publicly advertised and filled through an interview process prior to hire.
Mayor Pro-Tem Galvan made a motion to approve advertising for the Senior Center employee positions. The motion was seconded by Councilor Diaz. All members voted in favor, and the motion carried.

j.) **Discussion / Action – Approval of hiring PD Certified Officer Adriel Jacquez**
Mayor Neave stated that Adriel Jacquez was selected to return to work for the Police Department. He is a three-year certified officer. The mayor explained that police officers often move between the City and County, and if Officer Jacquez leaves City employment in the future, he will not be eligible for rehire; this condition will be documented in his personnel file. Officer Jacquez will start at a rate of $25.75 per hour.
Mayor Pro-Tem Galvan requested a copy of the meeting minutes and a copy of the new pay scale. Councilor Tarango made the motion to table the item due to pay scale concerns, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Galvan.
Clerk polled the council.
Councilor Chavez – Aye
Councilor Lindsay – Aye
Councilor Diaz – Aye
Mayor Pro – Tem Galvan - Aye
Councilor Gomez - Aye
Councilor Tarango - Aye
All in favor, motion carried.

k.) **Discussion / Action – Approval of hiring PD Certified Officer Miguel Armenta**
No discussion was held; council tabled due to requesting a copy of the minutes and new pay scale. Motion made by Councilor Tarango, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Galvan.
Clerk polled the council.
Councilor Chavez – Aye
Councilor Lindsay – Aye
Councilor Diaz – Aye
Mayor Pro – Tem Galvan - Aye
Councilor Gomez - Aye
Councilor Tarango - Aye
All in favor, motion carried.

l.) **Discussion – Lordsburg Little League**
Santana Valdiviezo discussed the preparation needed for the Little League fields, including cleaning up the area and fixing the fences. Councilor Lindsay mentioned the need for dirt and the process of preparing the infield. Councilor Gomez provides quotes for affordable fences and mentions the community's effort to clean the field. Mayor Neave emphasized the importance of having the fields ready by the second week of April for the Little League season. Discussion was held on the cost of gravel at $194 a ton and the need for two 4022-ton loads. Councilor Lindsay mentioned finding a spreader.

Councilor Gomez called Jason, discussing the city and league ability to host the event. An estimated 4,000 people are expected to attend the Little League games each weekend, creating a significant need for community support.
Mayor Neave inquired about the frequency of hosting the tournament, two weekends in June and a rotation of every three years. Councilor Gomez mentioned another company from El Paso that supplies red clay dirt specifically for infields. The need for EMS, handwashing station and bathroom facilities on site was mentioned by Jason.
Councilor Tarango discussed the cost of red dirt at $98 a ton and the need for delivery. Councilor Gomez suggested getting two quotes, one from El Paso and one from a local supplier, to purchase the red clay. This would benefit Lordsburg and Animas residents. Jason mentioned to specifically ask for red baseball dirt when calling for quotes. Santana discussed the need for a fence to qualify for Little League standards. Councilor Lindsay confirms that insurance is covered for the event anything that is broken is covered by the insurance. Councilor Gomez suggested attending discussion meetings for better coordination. The need for 30 to 35 volunteers will be needed to coordinate the games.

V. OLD BUSINESS

a.) **Discussion – Status of water line replacement project on Northside of town**
Mayor Pro – Tem Galvan requesting an update on the status of the waterline project, mentioning unpaved streets and missing lighting on barrels. Mayor Pro – Tem Galvan also requested for the contractors to fill potholes and add lighting to the barrels nothing has not been done. Frank Madrid explained that contractors are responsible for paving and lighting the barrels. He confirmed that the contractors will complete the project and restore the areas

b.) **Discussion / Action Mayor's appointment of Chief of Police**
Mayor Neave announced the postponement of the appointment of the Chief of Police until next month. Motion made by Councilor Lindsay to postpone the appointment of the Chief of Police until next month, seconded by Councilor Tarango all in favor, motion carried.

c.) **Discussion / Action Mayor's appointment of Finance Officer**
Mayor Neave announced the postponement of the appointment of the Finance Officer until next month. Motion made by Councilor Lindsay to postpone the appointment of the Finance Officer until next month, seconded by Councilor Gomez. All in favor, motion carried

VI. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

a.) Discussion/Action- Finance Summary, Bank Statements, and Bills paid for February 2026
Mayor Neave presented the finance summary, bank statements and bills paid for the month of February 2026 for approval from council. Ms. Conover had emailed the council with all the information. Councilor Gomez mentioned that they look nice, and very organized. No discussion or questions. Motion made by Mayor Pro – Tem Galvan, seconded by Councilor Diaz.
Clerk polled the council.
Councilor Chavez – Aye
Councilor Lindsay – Aye
Mayor Pro – Tem Galvan - Aye
Councilor Gomez - Aye

Councilor Diaz – Aye
Councilor Tarango - Aye
All in favor, motion carried.

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b.) Discussion / Action – Senior Center Reconciliation for February 2026

Mayor Neave presented Senior Center reconciliation for February for approval, and this information was emailed to council for review. Dusit Conover stated that the commissioners are doing amazing. A representative from Gabe Vasquez office is 100% in favor with us applying for funding opportunities. Councilor Lindsay made the motion to approve the Senior Center Reconciliation for February 2026, seconded by Councilor Mayor Pro – Tem Galvan.

Clerk polled the council.

Councilor Chavez – Aye
Mayor Pro – Tem Galvan - Aye
Councilor Lindsay – Aye
Councilor Gomez - Aye
Councilor Diaz – Aye
Councilor Tarango - Aye
All in favor, motion carried.

c.) **Discussion – Update on Grants**

Ms. Conover distributed a spreadsheet with information on all the grants. She stated that she could update it every month and then touch base with council on all the data presented. This would give you a status of where everything was at. Updates were given on the special event center, wastewater, Chester St. the maintenance vehicles, and softball fields. Mayor Neave asked for an explanation regarding the softball field fence, specifically why it was not purchased and where the allocated funds were used. Ms. Conover reported that the contractor who completed the field improvements repaired the scoreboard and the dugout, and a green screen was installed. The remaining funds were applied to additional field work to complete the project. It is important to avoid returning funds if money remains unspent; however, grant awards frequently do not cover the full amount requested. While the grant process had a relatively quick turnaround, rising costs between the bid submission period and the time the funds are ultimately used can impact the final budget. Ms. Conover asked the council "Does this give you a better understanding? I'll provide updates monthly. This reflects where we currently stand and gives you a clear picture of our overall status." Councilor Diaz responded, "this is exactly what he was wanting to hear."

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

During this portion of our meeting, we welcome your suggestions and want to hear your concerns. This is not a question-and-answer period; speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes. The City Council is not able to take action on matters discussed during public comments. Speakers are requested to state their name for the record.

Mario Delgado mentioned the possibility of installing horseshoe pits, picnic tables with benches and shade at North Park, as there is a need for more amenities like that in the area. I would also like to see additional improvements made at North Park. Mario suggested using John Deere equipment and tank for week control with a cost of approximately $12,000. It could also make a noticeable improvement for families and parents who use the park.

Mayor Neave announced upcoming meetings Budget Workshop on April 13, and Regular Council meeting on April 22, 2026.

VIII. Adjourn With nothing further to be discussed, the meeting has been adjourned at 9:36 pm.

APPROVED THIS 22nd DAY OF April 2026.

Martin Neave Mayor

ATTEST:

Irma Saenz City Clerk