City of Lordsburg
409 W. Wabash Street
Lordsburg, New Mexico 88045
Regular Meeting
April 22, 2026
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, Councilor Margaret Chavez, Councilor Sean Lindsay, Councilor Albert Diaz, Mayor Pro-Tem Irene Galvan, Councilor Ruben Gomez, and Councilor David Tarango.

In Attendance:

Adelina Lindsay, Robert Barrera, Mario Delgado, Martha Jimenez, Aaron Diaz from the Office of State Rep. Jennifer Jones, Norm Wheeler 6th DA office, Stephanie Madrid, Ricky Huerta, Judith Moore, Santana Valdiviezo, Ida Martinez, Valerie Martinez from the Senior Center, Tommy & Tracy Chavez from the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office and Hidalgo County Fire Department, Carolyn Whipple Municipal Court Clerk, Mollie Pressler, Marsha Hill Museum Director, Emily Gojkovich Economic Development Specialist, Mikey Saucedo, Tisha Green Hidalgo County Manager, Sundi Hendrix Rusty's Grill, Tommie Ruebush, Caleb Saenz, Glenda Greene, Andrew Arrendondo, Allyssa Esquivel, Nathaniel Palomarez, Kristy Wright, Sgt. Miguel Estrada, PD Officer Jamie Artiaga, PD Officer Tim Tavizon, and PD Officer Adrian Jones.

a.) Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Neave.

b.) Determination of a quorum

Mayor Neave conducted roll call to determine whether a quorum was present.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Chavez - Present
Councilor Lindsay - Present
Councilor Diaz - Present
Mayor Pro Tem Galvan - Present
Councilor Gomez - Present
Councilor Tarango - Present

c.) Approval of Agenda

Mayor Neave presented the agenda for approval; he requested to remove under NEW BUSINESS line item (c) Amtrak ADA Station Program upcoming work at Lordsburg Station. They are not here to present. Councilor Gomez requested to move New Business before the Old Business Mayor Neave accepted the change.
Councilor Tarango made the motion to approve the agenda with the changes, seconded by Councilor Diaz. 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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a.) March 18, 2026

Mayor Neave presented the minutes from March 18, 2026, for approval. Councilor Tarango made a motion to approve the minutes of March 18, 2026, seconded by Councilor Lindsay. Councilor Gomez requested for the clerk to send a copy of the audio recording when sending out the draft minutes. Clerk agreed.
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.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a.) Discussion / Action - Sundi Hendrix small concert event on Saturday May 9, 2026, requesting permission to have the beer garden.

Sundi Hendrix requesting permission to have a beer garden at the small concert on May 9, 2026. Mayor Pro – Tem Galvan asked if she has the schematic on where the beer garden will be put. Sundi responded that she has it but did not bring it with her. Mayor Pro-Tem Galvan stated that she needed to bring the information ahead of time so council can review it.
Councilor Lindsay made the motion to approve permission to have a beer garden at the May 9th, 2026, event, seconded by Councilor Diaz.
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 – Evidence locker discussion - Norman Wheeler

Mr. Wheeler is the District Attorney for the 6th Judicial District Court. He reported the issue with the evidence vault. How the evidence locker should be handled.
Mr. Wheeler has requested an outside audit, and the mayor has agreed to it. The last audit was done in 2021.

Officers will get some updated training.
District Attorney addressed council, noting positive collaboration within Hidalgo County.
Sgt. Estrada stated they do have new stronger policies in place.
Mayor Neave stated an audit was already scheduled.

c.) **Discussion - Amtrak ADA Stations Program upcoming work at Lordsburg Station**

Mayor Neave removed from the agenda. Will postponed for next month.

d.) **Discussion - Jennifer Jones**

Aaron Diaz, attending on behalf of Representative Jennifer Jones, introduced himself to the council. He read a memo from Representative Jones, who was unable to be present. The memo noted that Representative Jones serves Hidalgo County and encouraged the council to reach out to her office for any needs or concerns. Mr. Diaz informed the council that he will be traveling to Lordsburg monthly and plans to participate in the city council's regular monthly meetings. He provided his contact email: Aaron.diaz@nmlegis.gov.

e.) **Discussion / Action - Approval of Emergency hire Adriel Jaquez for Police Department**

Mayor Neave presented a request for approval of the emergency hire of Adriel Jaquez for the Police Department. She noted that the department currently has seven officers covering all shifts. The overtime has gotten out of control. Officer Jaquez is a local, home-grown officer who will reach his second year as a certified officer in June. His starting pay will be $24.00 per hour. Councilor Lindsay made a motion to approve the emergency hire of Adriel Jaquez at $24.00 per hour according to the pay scale, the motion was seconded by Councilor Chavez. 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.

f.) Discussion / Action - Approval of Resignation of Utilities Employee Martin Bednorz

Mayor Neave reported that Martin Bednorz resigned, he went to work on the border wall. Councilor Lindsay made the motion to approve the resignation of Martin Bednorz, seconded by Councilor Tarango. Councilor Diaz asked if the position would be reopened. Mayor Neave stated that he will discuss it with the utility's supervisor. Mayor Pro Tem Galvan stated that the position will have to be advertised and approved by the council
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.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

a.) Discussion / Action - Mayor's appointment of Interim Chief of Police

Mayor Neave presented a recommendation to appoint Mr. Robert Barrera to the interim position of Chief of Police. Mr. Barrera has 35 years of law enforcement, 23 years of law enforcement management. As interim he will be employed for 9 months. Mr. Barrera stated he is not requesting benefits. Salary for the position would be set at $85,000 per year, classified as a supervisor position. Mayor Pro-Tem Galvan asked whether Mr. Barrera is certified; Mr. Barrera responded that he is certifiable. Mayor Pro – Galvan asked if an advertisement would be done for Police Chief? Mayor Neave stated no, he is talking to a couple of people. Councilor Diaz asked if we were going in the same direction.
Mayor Neave stated that the council keeps dragging the city through the dirt road, this is hurting the city not me. We must do the right thing for the city. The mayor called for a motion to approve Mr. Barrera. Councilor Lindsay made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Barrera as Interim Chief of Police. With no second, the motion failed. Mayor Neave stated that the matter will be postponed.

b.) Discussion / Action - Mayor's appointment of Finance Officer

Mayor Neave presented a recommendation to appoint Shaun Bivens as Finance Officer. He reported on Ms. Bivens having 15 years of professional experience, her certification as an accountant, and her demonstrated qualifications for the position. Motion made by Councilor Tarango, seconded by Councilor Gomez. Councilor Diaz asked about the start date, Mayor Neave stated she will start on Monday. Starting pay is negotiable at $23.00 per hour. Clerk polled the council.

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

Motion carried.

c.) Discussion / Action – Aclarian Software Follow up

Mayor Neave asked the council for their thoughts on transitioning from Cassell software to Aclarian software for government operations. She inquired whether the council preferred to move forward with the change or remain with the current system. Councilor Diaz made a motion to postpone it for two months, allowing the new Finance Officer to review the options. Motion seconded by 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.

d.) Discussion – Lordsburg Little League Follow up on Field

Santana Valdievzo reported that approval has been granted to host two tournaments, scheduled for June 19 through June 21 and June 26 through June 29. Councilor Tarango presented a proposal for the addition of red dirt to the two fields, and Mayor Neave indicated his support for moving forward with the proposal contingent upon review and approval by the finance officer.

Mayor Neave further reported an issue with the backstop fence, noting that there is a gap between sections that require repair. Councilor Diaz inquired about the timeline for these repairs, and Mayor Neave responded that he would coordinate with Randy to address the matter as soon as possible. Councilor Gomez emphasized that the fields must be fully prepared by June 1. Councilor Gomez also inquired about the readiness of the swimming pool.

Additional discussion included the need for general maintenance, specifically landscaping and weed control, as well as ongoing efforts to improve the appearance of the Special Events Center to ensure it is clean and presentable. Councilor Lindsay stated that, if financially feasible, improvements should be made permanent.

V. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

a.) **Discussion / Action – Approval of Bills paid for the month of March 2026**

Mayor Neave presented the bills paid for the month of March 2026 for council approval. Councilor Chavez questioned the payment made to Cuddy & McCarthy in the amount of $6,000. Mayor Neave stated he does not have that information but would get detailed information for that bill. Mayor Neave stated that we will be non-complaint with DFA due to no finance officer. Councilor Lindsay made a motion to postpone approval of the March 2026 bills until the new Finance Officer is available to address questions. Seconded by Councilor Tarango. 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

Motion carried.

b.) **Discussion /Action – Approval of Senior Center Reconciliation for March 2026**

Mayor Neave presented the approval of the Senior Center Reconciliation for March 2026. No discussion or question were asked. Mayor Pro – Tem Galvan made a motion to postpone the approval of the Senior Center Reconciliation, seconded by Councilor Lindsay. 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.

VI. 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.

1. Emily Gojkovich announced the Community Clean up Friday April 24 at Short Park. The mayor and city has agreed to pick up large items, please place them on the curbside.
2. Irene Galvan stated that the potholes are still a problem and they are getting deeper. Can the potholes be filled with dirt?
3. Allyssa Esquivel reported that the need for collaboration between the county, school board, and city was discussed as a way to increase funding and complete more projects. It was clarified that the $800,000 allocation is going to the city, as Congressman Vasquez believed

an MOU was already in place between the schools and the city, which is not the case. Although the funding is directed to the city, it will still benefit local youth. It was emphasized that stronger collaboration could bring in additional funding beyond this amount and better serve the community.
Future work sessions were suggested to bring stakeholders together, including Jennifer Jones, Gabe Ramos, and Congressman Vasquez, to strengthen partnerships and create a shared vision. Capital outlay funding is not expected in July, which affects project timelines. For example, the school board had advocated in January for improvements to the girls' softball field, but funds were directed to the city due to the MOU misunderstanding.
Congressman Vasquez is also connecting the group with additional resources, including a contact named William and a potential discussion with Julio. A collaborative sports park project in Anthony, New Mexico, was shared as a model for what could be achieved locally through stronger interagency cooperation.

4. Stephanie Madrid advocated stronger evidence handling of the evidence vault at the Police Department.

VII. Adjourn With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 26TH DAY OF MAY 2026.

Martin Neave Mayor

CITY OF LORDSBURG
INCORPORATED
1911
HIDALGO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

ATTEST:

Irma Saenz

Irma Saenz City Clerk