

**City of Lordsburg
409 W. Wabash Street
Lordsburg, New Mexico 88045
Regular Meeting
May 28, 2025
5:30 pm**

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Mayor Glenda Greene.

Present: Mayor Glenda Greene, City Clerk Irma Saenz, Finance Officer Dusti Conover, Councilor Irene Galvan, Councilor Sean Lindsay, Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo, Councilor DeLaO, Councilor Neave.

Absent: Councilor Montenegro

In Attendance: Jason Watkins, Bob Ashley, Dr. Gordon Schuett, Ralph Jimenez, Santana Valdiviezo, Skyann Jacquez, Albert Diaz, LuEmma Floyd, Jamie Diaz, DJ Saucedo, Margaret Chavez, Erica Valdez, Johni Gandara, Vanessa Haynes, Jacob Ornelas, Sundi Hendrix, Eddie Lopez, Tisha Green, Joni Kerr, Mya Young, Yvonne Young, and Eric Lazos.

- a.) The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Greene.
- b.) Approval of Agenda
Councilor Lindsay requested to move Executive Session after New Business line d.)
Mayor Greene entertained the motion. Motion made by Councilor Lindsay, seconded by Councilor Neave. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes

- a.) Approval of Minutes
 - 1. Special Meeting March 4, 2025
 - 2. Regular Meeting April 16, 2025
 - 3. Special Meeting April 28, 2025Mayor Greene entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 4, 2025 Special Meeting, April 16, 2025 Regular Meeting, April 28, 2025 Special Meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo made a motion to approve the three sets of minutes, seconded by Councilor Neave. All in favor, motion carried.

Finance Department

a.) Discussion/Action- Finance Summary & Bank Statement for April 2025

Finance Officer Dusti Conover reported that for the month of April 2025 the overnight account earned an interest of \$9,569 and the LGIP account earned an interest of \$21,467. No questions or comments by Council. Mayor Greene entertains a motion for approval. Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo made a motion to approve the finance summary, bank statements, and bills paid for April 2025 as presented, seconded by Councilor Neave. All in favor, motion carried.

b.) Discussion/Action- Bills paid for April 2025

New Business

a.) Discussion / Action – Pyramid Heights Bid Award Stantec - George Esqueda

George Esqueda presented the bid recommendation for Pyramid Heights Roadway & Drainage Improvements. NM DOT project fund. Bids were received on May 14, 2025 at City Hall. There was a total of four bidders, but one was deemed as non-responsive because of not meeting NMDOT pre-qualification status, so that left three bidders. The lowest bidder was from Deming Excavating in the amount of \$863,105.30, with added tax the total is about \$930,000. George reported funding is over one million dollars for this project Bid lot one is the actual roadway and drainage portion of the project to include curb gutter within the Pyramid Heights loop. Bid lot two is the sidewalk along the outer portion of the loop. Bid lot three is the sidewalk within, within the inner part of the loop. If Council accepts the bid recommendation as presented, plus tax, and you subtract that from the amount of available funding, the City of Lordsburg would still have an approximate balance for construction contingency of a little bit over \$80,000. Stantec made the recommendation to award Deming Excavating with all three bid lots. Councilor Neave asked a question about the rising cost of materials. George stated that \$80,000 in construction contingency would cover that. Another question from Councilor Neave was: What would be the start date for the project? George responded: If awarded and all documents are submitted, the project could be starting at the beginning of July with a 90-calendar day project. Mayor Greene entertained a motion to approve the recommendation from Stantec. Councilor Galvan made a motion to approve the Pyramid Heights bid award to Deming Excavating, seconded by Councilor Lindsay.

The Clerk polled the council:

Councilor Galvan – Aye
Councilor Lindsay – Aye
Councilor Montenegro - Absent
Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo – Aye
Councilor DeLaO – Aye
Councilor Neave – Aye
All in favor, motion carried.

b.) Discussion - Project Updates from Stantec- George Esqueda

George provided project updates to the Council. The Master Services Agreement with the City of Lordsburg will end as of May 2026, for general engineering support. George has listed task orders that are assigned under that master services agreement.

The project under Architectural is for the Special Event Center. There are two CDBG grants totaling approximately 1.5 million. And have capital outlay balance of around \$98,000. Another award of \$500,000 through the Community Project Funding (federal funding). The project is 100% designed. Currently working with CDBG on finalizing the environmental assessment for that project and coordinating with the Department of Finance and Administration on requirements associated with the funding.

The Maverick, Pyramid and Chester St roadway / drainage project update. George reported the plan to have it fully designed by mid-June and closed out by the end of June because funding expires June 30, 2025.

Maverick, Pyramid, Chester and 2nd Streets design. Survey and design of roadways, drainage, sidewalk and ADA improvements. Maverick – Motel Dr to 2nd St, Pyramid – Motel Dr. to 7th St, Chester – Motel Dr. to 7th St.

The Design of Various Streets Project update. Design of various streets withing the northern portion of the town. Planning and design of roadways, drainage, ADA & sidewalk improvements on:

- (1) West St – A, B, to E St.
- (2) Center St – A St. to H St.
- (3) East St. - A St. to D St.
- (4) Silver St. – A St. to H St.
- (5) A St. – Gold St. to Silver St.
- (6) B St – Gold St. to Silver St.
- (7) C St. – Gold St. to Silver St.
- (8) D St. – West St. to Silver St.

The streets being designed, we have until June 30, 2026, to expend those funds. George will schedule a meeting with Frank to go over the preliminary design plans for the project. That project, design wise, will consist of the new roadway surfacing, curb gutters, ADA ramps at intersections, valley gutters and possible sidewalks.

NMDOT COOP – Design Various Roadway Improvement project funding in the amount of \$50,000 that expires December 31st, 2025. Those funds have been

earmarked for Power Plant Rd; A St. Animas St. and West St. Priority work is A Street from Silver St to Highway 70.

Water / Wastewater projects: Second Street and Mary D KIPP, that project is fully designed, and will be officially awarded at the end of June. The funding for construction of those improvements through the Colonias project. That project starts off in front of the baseball fields and moves all around. Those plans are 100% designed.

The next project is Highway 70 Main realignment and do Utility permit. This one's tied to the project that will be combining over. The City of Lordsburg received Colonias funding for construction of a new force main from the lift station out to Highway 70, North to an alley by C Street, tying into a manhole. In the process of getting the DOT permit, there was an encounter: the fact that the DOT right away, or it's the highways there, the highway is within state land property, the DOT only has an easement for a Highway 70 portion of the roadway from Butcher Rd North. DOT is saying that the existing force main was installed in trespass. DOT may require back payment for that line going back to when it was installed but we are working with them and trying to get all those items worked out so that the project is ongoing. We have until February 14, 2027, to expend those funds.

North Side Water Phase 1 and Phase 2 Colonias project. This project was awarded to J&S Plumbing, this project will start June 16, 2025. They will be installing a new water system, distribution service lines, gate valves, and fire hydrants.

2025 Funding Applications – Roadway Drainage

NMDOT COOP Project- This project is for crack seal, chip seal and fog seal improvements for various streets.

West St- Motel Dr to 2nd St,

Noce St – Motel Dr to 2nd St

C St – Hwy 70 to Wood St.

NMDOT MAP project for Ash St, Poplar St. and Zinc St. for survey and design improvements Phase 1 was not awarded.

The NMDOT Transportation Project Fund is the Chester St – Motel Dr to 7th St construction. That application will be upgraded to the DOT by Cerisse Bucha at the Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments. The City should find out first part of September if it gets awarded. That project is marked as pending.

2025 Funding Applications -Waste Water Planning Project. All 3 applications were awarded. Official letters should be issued in July, once documents are submitted. The three that are listed were 2025 Colonias applications for design of water system improvements, at the south end of town, across the Pyramid Heights, Cholla St, Ash St, Poplar. That was awarded, but not officially, until it goes before the New Mexico Finance Authority Board on June 26 it should get approved, and then they will send an award letter that following week.

2025 Colonias – Water – Construction.

2nd St and Mary D Kipp water improvements.

The application went in as an 80% grant and 20% loan for each one of those grants. The City should receive an official award letter in the first week of July. There are some documents that need to be submitted prior to October 31, 2025. Once those documents are submitted, NMFA will begin processing the grant loan agreement, which typically takes 60 to 75 days.

2025 Funding Applications Water / Wastewater continued

2025 New Mexico Unit Fund - Pending

Wastewater Treatment Plant Preliminary Engineering Report.

Asset Management Plan

This will be improvements through the New Mexico Unit fund. The New Mexico Unit fund is only available to Hidalgo, Grant, Luna and Catron County, for water associations, water districts, county governments and local governments within the four-county area. Two applications have been submitted. The first round of funding is for planning type projects. There will be another round of applications available in the fall of this year, for actual construction projects. Those are still pending.

c.) Discussion / Action – Approval to advertise RFP for 2022 CDBG

George stated that CDBG is required to advertise RFP for professional services because of the federal funds. George will be assisting with the preparation of the RFP and submitting it. Dusti will work with Priscilla from the Southwest Council of Governments on the RFP. Mayor Greene entertained a motion for approval. Councilor Galvan made the motion for the approval to advertise for RFP for 2022 CDBG, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo. All in favor, motion carried.

d.) Discussion /Action – Approval to advertise RFP for Animal Shelter

Mayor Greene stated that we received capital outlay last year to construct a new animal shelter. This RFP is for a prefab Animal Shelter kennel. Mayor Greene stated

that this was brought this up in the past, and Council's consensus was to ask George. The last time our concern was the location, it was coming from the Midwest and a lot of moving expenses. George's response with it being a prefab building, it will have specifications regarding the size of the building, number of kennels, offices, restrooms, things of that nature. The prefab building will need earth work, and the site work associated with the building, and leveling off the property. George will work with Dusti to provide guidance throughout the process. Mueller, out of Anthony or Tucson was mentioned as a possible supplier for the prefab building, Mayor Greene entertained the motion for approval to advertise RFP for the Animal Shelter. Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo made the motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Neave. All in favor except Councilor Galvan opposed the motion. Motion carried.

Executive Session

At 6:10 P.M. Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss Limited Personnel Matters:

- a.) Police Department
- b.) Maintenance Department
- c.) Utility Department

as Authorized pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section §10-15-1 (H) (2).

Councilor Lindsay seconded the motion. The Clerk polled the council.

Councilor Galvan – Aye

Councilor Lindsay – Aye

Councilor Montenegro - Absent

Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo – Aye

Councilor DeLaO – Aye

Councilor Neave – Aye

All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to return to regular session:

At 6:26 P.M. Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo motioned to return to regular session. Motions 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 Seconded by Councilor Lindsay. The Clerk polled the Council.

Councilor Galvan – Aye

Councilor Lindsay – Aye

Councilor Montenegro - Absent

Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo – Aye

Councilor DeLaO – Aye

Councilor Neave – Aye

All in favor, motion carried.

New Business (CONTINUED)

- e.) Discussion – Chiricahua Desert Museum - Bob Ashley and Gordon Schuett
Jason Watkins introduced the museum staff, Bob Ashley, and Dr. Gordon Schuett. Discussion on the convention coming in July. Bringing about 300 people to the county, and about 150 of them will stay in Lordsburg. Reservations have been made. We're going to try to keep them here as long as possible, either before the conference or after the conference, to look for snakes and lizards.
- f.) Discussion - Lordsburg Little League All Stars – Ralph Jimenez
Ralph Jimenez, Little League District Seven Administrator for Southwest New Mexico. Santana Valdiviezo asked Ralph to come down and talk to the Council. Ralph discussed the importance of the City's involvement in maintaining and improving the fields. The council mentioned the need for better communication and coordination with Little League Board. Ralph suggests regular meetings with City Council to ensure timely support for future tournaments. Mayor Greene and the Council express a willingness to support the Little League efforts.
- g.) Discussion – HMS Update
Mayor Greene requested not to put anything in on the HMS funding. A lunch meeting was scheduled with the board president. The day of the meeting I informed the Board President that I was bringing County Manager Green and Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo because we all had questions, immediately she canceled on me. She just flat out said "I don't think it's a good idea, I thought this was an informal meeting between the two of us?" Mayor Greene stated " So with that information, take what you want out of it whenever you consider HMS funding!" I also talked to one board member and I was given the phone number to their compliance officer. I was told they will tell you everything that you need to know. I have yet to be able to get in contact of that compliance officer.
- h.) Discussion / Action – Lodgers Tax committee recommendations
Mayor Greene discussed that the Lodgers' Tax Committee met on May 27, 2025. She informed the committee that they had \$92,500 to allocate. A list of organizations with their requested amounts was given and the amounts that the Committee recommended.
 - 1. The first recommendation was for the Hidalgo County Chamber of Commerce, they asked for \$72,900. The committee is recommending \$10,000. And that \$10,000 to is to be allocated strictly to billboards. Mayor Greene spoke with the Chamber director and was told that she has six billboards on I-10. Each billboard costs her \$4,000 per year, so she's going to

have to eliminate three of the billboards to stay within the \$10,000 budget for billboards. Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo made the motion to approve \$10,000 to the Chamber of Commerce for billboards, seconded by Councilor Neave. All in favor except Councilor Galvan voted Nay. Motion carried.

2. LEAP they asked for \$29,900. The committee is recommending \$1,650 to be allocated strictly towards posters and T shirts for railroad days. Councilor Neave made a motion to approve \$1,650 for posters and T shirts for Railroad Days, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo. All in favor except Councilor Lindsay voted Nay, motion carried.
3. Hidalgo County Heritage Society is asking to repair the old arch, purchase benches and metal grave markers. They asked for \$21,001. The lodgers tax committee recommended zero. To discuss with the city further about possible operational Lodgers tax. Mayor Greene explained what operational Lodgers Tax is. It's a portion of lodgers' tax that the city puts in our coffers for specific things like the pool. We have a pump that went down at the pool that's going to cost us \$100,000 so this fund will help cover the cost. Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo stated "just for the record, my brother, like your sister, serves on that Heritage Board. I have no financial interest in what they do or don't do. I have nothing to gain from it, but I was reminded of an old adage that says a graveyard reflecting the character of a community suggests that the upkeep and condition of a cemetery are indicative of the people and values of the surrounding area, a well maintained cemetery with cared for grounds might suggest a community that values respect tradition remembrance can be a place where people connect with their history and heritage." Having said that I would make a move that we award at least \$5000 out of lodgers, tax operational to repair that. Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo made a motion to award \$5000 to the Heritage Society, No second motion dies for lack of second. Mayor Greene asked for a motion to approve the recommended amount of zero. Councilor Lindsay makes the motion to approve the recommendation of zero, seconded by Councilor DeLaO. All in favor except Mayor Pro -Tem Saucedo voted Nay, motion carries zero.
4. Jason Watkins Publishing, 60 second commercial to highlight the city and the county. He was asking for \$2,500 board recommends \$2,500 contingent on the county paying the other half of 2500 so if the County doesn't pay anything, the City won't pay anything, just be shown. Councilor Neave made a motion to approve the recommendation of \$2,500, seconded by Councilor DeLaO. All in favor, motion carried.

5. Jason Watkins Publishing withdrew application for the L. Hightower highlight publication.
 6. Desert Museum requesting \$21,000. The Committee recommends \$18,500 for everything except sound / lighting, video slideshow, and admin supplies. Councilor Neave made the motion to approve \$17,000 instead of the \$18,500, seconded by Councilor Lindsay. All in favor except Councilor Galvan voted Nay. Motion carries.
 7. Bootheel Annual Music Festival by Sundi LaMarca Hendrix. Requesting \$39,500. The Committee recommended \$10,000 for marketing, design and entertainment. Councilor Neave made the motion to approve \$10,000, seconded by Councilor Lindsay. Councilor Neave, DeLaO, and Lindsay voted Aye, Mayor Pro-Tem abstained, and Councilor Galvan voted Nay. Motion carried.
 8. Hidalgo County Cancer Walk requested \$21,460. The committee recommended \$10,000 for mariachi bands. Councilor Lindsay made the motion to approve \$10,000, seconded by Councilor Galvan. All in favor, motion carried.
 9. Jesse Darnell 3 on 3 Tournament requesting \$17,100. The committee recommended \$17,100 for all expenses. Councilor Galvan made a motion to approve \$12,000, seconded by Councilor Neave All in favor, motion carried.
 10. Hidalgo County Fair Rodeo Committee Erica Valdez requesting \$32,600. The Committee recommends \$10,000 approved for Ranch rodeo, and Jr. rodeo. Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo made the motion to approve \$10,000 seconded by Councilor Galvan. All in favor, motion carried.
 11. Hidalgo County Fair Board Joni Kerr requested \$10,000. The committee recommended \$10,000 approved for mud-bogs, T-shirts, prizes and entertainment. Councilor Neave made a motion to approve \$10,000. seconded by Councilor Lindsay. All in favor, motion carried.
- i.) Discussion / Action – Approval of opening CDBG Bank noninterest bearing account.
- Dusti explained that we're working on CDBG grant, and we need to meet the requirements set forth. One of the requirements they are requesting is that we open a non-bearing, a noninterest bearing account at Western Bank. This is just for the funding for CDBG to be deposited into our bank. Once these projects close out, they require us to close the account. Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo made the motion to approve the opening of the CDBG Bank Non-interest-bearing account. Seconded by Councilor Lindsay. All in favor, motion carried.

j.) Discussion – Pool Repairs

Mayor Greene reported that the pool needs repairs for \$100,000. We will have to pay for the repair of that piece of equipment which is budgeted into this interim budget that will be presented. Jacob Ornelas reported that the sand filter filtration system has a few leaks that need to be repaired. The pool inspection did pass today so the pool will be able to open. Three different quotes were given for the repairs. The cost starts at \$170,000 down to \$9896. If it isn't fixed this year it will not work next year. The council discussed the options for funding the repair, including reallocating funds from other projects.

k.) Discussion / Action - Approval of Interim Budget

Dusti presented the interim budget for the city, mentioning changes to revenue and expenditure. The council discusses the judicial budget with some members expressing concerns about the judicial salary request. Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo stated "We all know that constitutionally the Judicial branch has independence from the other two branches and it has its own powers and powers to be used or abused. I don't think it's fair at all in our small community, the judicial knowing that comparable people here at City Hall will only get \$1 an hour correct, and he requests \$3 an hour, which we cannot move up or down. But I just wanted to state that it's a matter of fairness, I believe the judiciary should have said will go along with comparable employees at City. That being said, I'd like that in the record please." The council also discusses the need for new software for Business licensing and approves the purchase. Councilor Neave made a motion to approve the Interim Budget, seconded by Councilor DeLaO. The clerk polled the council.

Councilor Galvan – Aye

Councilor Lindsay – Left meeting

Councilor Montenegro – Absent

Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo – Aye

Councilor DeLaO – Aye

Councilor Neave- Aye

All in favor, motion carried.

Old Business

- a.) Discussion / Action – Chamber of Commerce Contract
Mayor Greene presented the proposed contract with the Chamber of Commerce including five deliverables. The deliverables include housing business expos, promoting community events, and providing marketing support. The council mentioned the importance of supporting all businesses, not just chamber members. Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo made a motion to approve the Chamber of Commerce Contract, seconded by Councilor DeLaO. All in favor, motion carried.

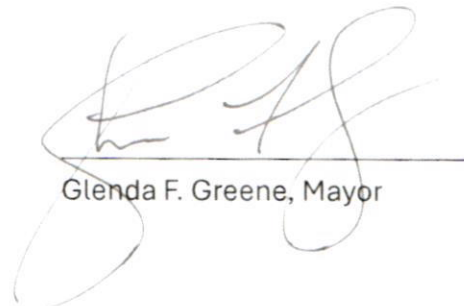
Resolutions

- a.) Discussion/Action- Resolutions 2025-15 CDBG Federal Requirements-Citizen Participation Required Elements
Mayor Greene reported the city’s efforts to meet CDBG requirements for fair housing, and the importance of community participation in the fair housing initiative. The city will be hosting events and creating educational materials to promote fair housing. Councilor Galvan made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-15, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Saucedo. All in favor, motion carried.

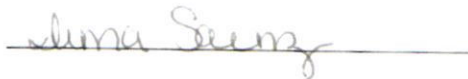
Adjourn

With no further business to be discussed the meeting adjourned at 7:53 P.M.

Approved this 18th day of June 2025.



Glenda F. Greene, Mayor



Irma Saenz, City Clerk