

ALAMOSA CITY COUNCIL

Wednesday December 3, 2014
Minutes of the Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Alamosa City Council was called to order on the above date by Mayor Josef Lucero at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Present at roll call: Mayor Lucero, Councilors Greg Gillaspie, Jan Vigil, Rusty Johnson, Charles Griego, Ty Coleman and Michael Stefano. A quorum was declared. Also present: City Manager Heather Brooks, City Attorney Erich Schwiesow, and City Clerk Kristi Duarte.

AGENDA APPROVAL. It was moved by Councilor Griego and seconded by Councilor Vigil to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT

A. Audience Comments.

Ron Brink of Alamosa spoke in regards to the recent paving project on Clark Drive and hoped it would have been the whole block rather than just 2. He also commented on the restaurant at the Golf Course and encouraged everyone to go out there and enjoy dinner as it is superb.

Stephane Atencio of Alamosa spoke in regard to the closing of Cottonwood Drive.

B. Follow Up. Ms. Brooks advised that the paving that was done on Clark Drive was due to a Special Improvement District project that property owner's paid for. There will be discussion later on in the agenda in regard to the closing of Cottonwood Drive.

CONSENT CALENDAR A. It was moved by Councilor Vigil and seconded by Councilor Stefano to approve Consent Calendar A as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Item:

C. 7. a. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting November 19, 2014

REGULAR BUSINESS

C. Presentations

1. **Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve, Superintendent Lisa Carrico.**
Topic: Proposal to change entrance fees at Great Sand Dunes.

Ms. Carrico, Superintendent of the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, along with Kathy Faz and Tom Warren presented the City with a plaque thanking them for their appreciation with the launching of the new quarter.

They also presented information to Council on the proposed fee increase to the Park in the upcoming years. They encourage citizens to leave feedback on the proposed fee increase by emailing comments to: grsa_feechanges@nps.gov, or mail comments to: Park Superintendent, Great Sand Dunes National Parks and Preserve, 11500 Highway 150, Mosca, CO 81146 or to stop by the park's visitor center between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to fill out a visitor comment card form. She advised if you would like more information and a list of frequently asked questions to visit the park's website at: www.nps.gov/grsa/parknews/index.htm.

1. Business Brought Forward by City Staff

8. **City Manager/Legal**

a. Consideration of Closure of Unimproved Cottonwood Drive.

Ms. Brooks advised Council that staff has been approached by Mr. and Mrs. Atencio regarding their desire to close the unimproved section of Cottonwood Drive. They have expressed concerns related to vehicles traveling too fast for a dirt road, extreme behaviors such as mudding and suspicious vehicle. This section of the road is also used in a lawful manner, which staff has observed citizens watching birds or enjoying a peaceful lunch. Staff's recommendation that a barrier could be erected to closed the section, but that would only prevent the lawful use and those who we are attempting to keep out will find an alternate entrance.

Discussion was held on this matter and the consensus of Council spoke in favor of closing the road to motorized vehicles.

It was moved by Councilor Griego, seconded by Councilor Gillaspie to put up a barrier on both ends of the unimproved section of Cottonwood Drive to not allow access to motorized vehicles. However, emergency vehicles, along with public foot access would still be allowed. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Committee Reports

Councilor Gillaspie reported on the Golf Board meeting. The golf course along with the Pro Shop closed on December 1st for the winter. The restaurant will be open year round.

Councilor Coleman reported on the Economic Development Group meeting.

F. Staff Announcements

Heather Brooks gave an update:

- Ms. Foote withdrew her request for annexation
- Reminded Council of the work session on December 17th at 6:15 p.m.
- Christmas Lights Parade on Main Street on December 19th at 6:30 p.m.
- Alamosa Ice Fest will be held January 30-31, 2015

Amanda McDonald advised Council that the on-line utility billing will go live at the beginning of the year. They will be sending "cheat sheets" out for our customers in January's water bills. Staff will be training on the system during the next few weeks.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Coleman commended our City for the "Shop Small" weekend. He encourages citizens of Alamosa to support our downtown merchants and small business owners.

Council Johnson commented about the three minute time limit that is allowed for citizens to speak during the meeting. He advised that it is rude to have the beeper going off while citizens are speaking. Mayor Lucero advised that he will do a better job of advising the citizens of the three minute time limit. He will listen for the bell and will advise the citizens when their three minutes are up.

Councilor Stefano reminded Council about La Puente's fund raiser play Friday night.

Councilor Griego commented about the Center Police Department's new drug dog. He hopes they will work together with the Alamosa PD to address the drug issues in the Valley.

Mayor Lucero commented:

- About how he is sensitive to the deer and pedestrians in our area and for citizens to be aware of them on the roads.
- He is concerned about the ASU students that have to cross 1st Street by ASU East Campus (old Evans). He would encourage staff to conduct a traffic study in the area.
- Advised that Christmas is coming and to enjoy the rest of the year.

Councilor Stefano thanked Chief Oakes for the good work that they are doing.

ADJOURNMENT. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Kristi Duarte, City Clerk

Josef P. Lucero, Mayor