

**LINKED MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO, HELD IN THE JANELL WHITLOCK
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX BUILDING ON MARCH 24, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

Present:	Richard D. Lopez	Mayor
	Lisa A. Anaya Flores	Councilor
	Edward T. Rodriguez	Councilor
	Karla Niemeier	Councilor
	Anthony Foreman	Councilor
	Mark C. Walterscheid	Councilor
	Jason O. Chavez	Councilor
	Jeff Forrest	Councilor
	Mary Garwood	Councilor

Absent:

Also Present:	Wendy Austin	City Manager
	Ken Ahrens	Deputy City Manager
	Barbara Hodgson	City Attorney
	JoAnne Jaure	Deputy City Clerk
	Jalynn Dominguez	Open Meetings Act Manager
	Dina Navarrette	Community Services Director
	Angie Barrios-Testa	Director of Grant Programs
	Mike Abell	Director of Utilities
	Melissa Salcido	Finance Director
	Tony Souza	Fire Chief
	Kyla Gonzales	Deputy HR Director
	Wayne Hatfield	IT Director
	Allan Henrik	IT Technician
	Jeff Patterson	Planning Director
	Adrian Rivera	Police Captain
	Randy Galindo	Safety and Compliance Director
	Patrick McManus	Grant Compliance Accountant
	Patrick Brownfield	Police Officer
	Denise Green	Carlsbad MainStreet
	Clayton Bradley	Bradley Law Office

Time Stamps and headings below correspond to recording of meeting and the recording is hereby made a part of the official record.

0:00:00 **Call Meeting to Order**

0:00:03 Invocation – Pledge of Allegiance

0:00:32 **1. CITY OF CARLSBAD PROJECT UPDATE: FACILITY
MAINTENANCE BUILDING**

KC Cass said the Facility Maintenance Department does not have a designated area for their staff. He said this building will replace the old San Jose Senior Center. He said this facility has a larger area for storage. He said this building is budgeted and a purchase order is being created for approximately \$1.3 million. He said this building will be an asset and it is more convenient for the department to have their own facility instead of scattered throughout other City buildings. **Mayor Lopez** asked what the estimate for the roof repair of the old building was. **Mr. Cass** said it was about \$400,000.

0:03:17 **2. CITY OF CARLSBAD FINANCIALS – FEBRUARY 2026**

Ms. Salcido reviewed the revenues and expenditures as of February 2026 for the General Fund and selected Enterprise and Special Funds contained within the City Budget.

0:04:49 **3. ROUTINE AND REGULAR BUSINESS**

- A. Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on March 10, 2026
- B. City Personnel Report
- C. Monthly Reports
 - 1) Building Department February 2026
 - 2) Community Development Department February 2026
 - 3) Municipal Court Department February 2026
 - 4) Planning & Regulation Department February 2026
 - 5) Public Works Department February 2026

0:05:13 **MOTION**

The motion was made by Councilor Forrest and seconded by Councilor Anaya-Flores to approve Routine and Regular Business.

0:05:25 **VOTE**

The vote was as follows: Yes - Forrest, Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Garwood, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Absent - None; the motion carried.

0:05:39 **4. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A PERMIT APPLICATION
SUBMITTED BY KINETIK NEW MEXICO GAS GATHERING LLC, TO
CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A TWENTY-FOUR (24) INCH NATURAL GAS
GATHERING PIPELINE REFERRED TO AS THE FRED GABAGOOOL PIPELINE
PROJECT**

Mr. Patterson said the Fred Gabagool natural gas pipeline will connect Permian Resources oil and gas well, on the North side of E. Greene St to a compressor station on the South side of E. Greene St. He said this pipeline will allow for the collection of natural gas, providing treatment and delivery of the gas into a transmission line that will transport the gas to downstream markets. He said the pipeline is approximately

1.6 miles in length, with approximately 6/10 of a mile to be constructed within City limits. He said the remaining length will fall outside of the City limits into Eddy County. He said the pipeline will be buried in a minimum depth of 48 inches and will operate of an average pressure of 80 psi. He said it will not exceed 285 psi. **Mr. Patterson** said the pipeline will cross privately-owned properties within City boundaries and it will not cross any property owned by the City. He said City staff has reviewed the permit application, and per the Ordinance, the City retained a qualified person to act as inspector in reviewing the permit application. He said the qualified inspector is Clayton Bradley with Bradley Law Office. He said the inspector recommends approval of the permit application with certain conditions, which is outlined in the technical legal report provided by Mr. Bradley. He said the conditions include final approval and sign-off by the City of Carlsbad Water Department Superintendent for municipal waterline crossings; the applicant must stay in contact with the City's appointed inspector throughout the course of construction and installation; and the submission of as-built GPS coordinates upon completion of the installation. **Mr. Patterson** said City Council has several options in considering the permit application. He said Council can approve the permit application with the expressed conditions, approve the permit application with additional expressed conditions, or deny the permit application.

0:08:18 **Mayor Lopez asked if anyone would like to speak regarding the permit application. No one appeared.**

0:08:30 **Councilor Rodriguez** asked what the September deadline stated on the permit application is. **Clayton Bradley** said his initial thought is that the deadline is related to the permit issued to the operator of the well. He said the permits issued by the City of Carlsbad are valid for one year. He said if the project has not commenced within one year, then the permit is expired. **Mr. Rodriguez** said the deadline states September 2025 and it is in the Agenda packet. **Mr. Bradley** said if there was a deadline set, it would be related to the State. He said he would look into it more and report back to Council.

0:10:29 **MOTION**

The motion was made by Councilor Forrest and seconded by Councilor Niemeier to approve of a Permit Application submitted by Kinetik New Mexico Gas Gathering LLC, to construct and operate a twenty-four (24) inch Natural Gas Gathering Pipeline referred to as the Fred Gabagool Pipeline Project.

0:10:43 **VOTE**

The vote was as follows: Yes - Forrest, Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Garwood, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Absent - None; the motion carried.

0:10:57 **5. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2026-18, A
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO
THE NEW MEXICO TOURISM DEPARTMENT FOR THE FY27 NEW MEXICO
CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL GRANT PROGRAM**

Councilor Garwood said due to a conflict of interest, she is recusing herself from Agenda item 5, Consider Approval of Resolution 2026-18, a Resolution authorizing the submission of an application to the New Mexico Tourism Department for the FY27 New Mexico Clean and Beautiful Grant Program, and Agenda item 6, Consider Approval of Resolution 2026-19, a Resolution supporting a Public-Private Economic Development MainStreet Project and a Biennial Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Carlsbad, New Mexico MainStreet Program, Carlsbad MainStreet, and Pearl of the Pecos Arts and Cultural District.

0:11:37 **Mrs. Barrios-Testa** said this Resolution will support litter prevention. She said it is part of Keep America Beautiful initiative and it is approved through state statute. She said the request is for \$26,553 in grant funds and it has a 25% match of \$6,638.25, for a total project cost of \$33,191.25. She said the match can include cash or volunteer hours. **Mrs. Barrios-Testa** said the proposed activities that the City of Carlsbad is requesting are for youth litter cleanups, the community mural project, RiverBlitz advertising and outreach, Keep America Beautiful membership dues and conference attendance, and the AirCon training and travel.

0:13:48 **MOTION**

The motion was made by Councilor Niemeier and seconded by Councilor Anaya-Flores to approve of Resolution 2026-18, a Resolution authorizing the submission of an application to the New Mexico Tourism Department for the FY27 New Mexico Clean and Beautiful Grant Program.

0:13:59 **VOTE**

The vote was as follows: Yes - Forrest, Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Recusal - Garwood; Absent - None; the motion carried.

0:14:20 **6. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2026-19, A
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A PUBLIC-PRIVATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MAINSTREET PROJECT AND A BIENNIAL MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO
MAINSTREET PROGRAM, CARLSBAD MAINSTREET, AND PEARL OF THE
PECOS ARTS AND CULTURAL DISTRICT**

Mrs. Navarrette said the City of Carlsbad has had a longstanding relationship with Carlsbad MainStreet. She introduced Denise Green, Executive Director of Carlsbad MainStreet. **Denise Green** said this renewal formalizes a partnership to continue the downtown economic development, and helps Carlsbad MainStreet keep their Arts and Cultural and MainStreet designation at the state and national level. She said the New

Mexico MainStreet Organization provides training, technical assistance, statewide resources, and potential funding. She said the City of Carlsbad provides the local support through the service agreement. **Ms. Green** said Carlsbad MainStreet implements the programs, events, and economic development efforts within the district. She said this renewal is required to keep Carlsbad eligible for state economic development support.

0:16:45 **MOTION**

The motion was made by Councilor Niemeier and seconded by Councilor Foreman to approve of Resolution 2026-19, a Resolution supporting a Public-Private Economic Development MainStreet Project and a Biennial Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Carlsbad, New Mexico MainStreet Program, Carlsbad MainStreet, and Pearl of the Pecos Arts and Cultural District.

0:16:58 **VOTE**

The vote was as follows: Yes - Forrest, Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Recusal - Garwood; Absent - None; the motion carried.

0:17:32 **7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2026-20, A RESOLUTION REQUIRING THE REMOVAL OF THE RUINED, DAMAGED OR DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES, RUINS, RUBBISH, WRECKAGE AND DEBRIS AT 806 IRVIN STREET OWNERS: LIBORIO AND BELIA MORALES**

Ms. Hodgson said this is a proposed Resolution requiring the removal of the trash and dilapidated structures, rubbish, wreckage, debris and weeds located at 806 Irvin Street. She said the record owners are deceased. She said Code Enforcement has visited the property starting in 2015. She said in 2017, a fire burned down the residence. **Ms. Hodgson** said the Fire Marshal has determined that this property is an extreme hazard for first responders and the community. She said the City of Carlsbad has not had any contact by any residents of this property. She said on March 17, 2025, a certified letter was sent to the owners, and a notice was posted on the property. She said this property has several code violations. **Mrs. Hodgson** said if Council approves the Resolution, the owners or their representatives will be given 30 days to correct the conditions on the property.

0:22:22 **Councilor Walterscheid** asked when the ten-day time frame begins. **Ms. Hodgson** said the time begins from the date the Resolution was mailed or published. She said if no work has been done on the property or an appeal has not been requested in ten days, the 30-day time frame begins. **Mayor Lopez** clarified the 10-day time frame is in order to get in contact with a representative of the property. **Ms. Hodgson** said yes, it is to give them an opportunity to either appeal or start cleaning the property.

0:23:46 **MOTION**

The motion was made by Councilor Rodriguez and seconded by Councilor Anaya-Flores to approve of Resolution 2026-20, a Resolution requiring the removal of the ruined, damaged or dilapidated buildings or structures, ruins, rubbish, wreckage and debris at 806 Irvin Street Owners: Liborio and Belia Morales.

0:23:57 **VOTE**

The vote was as follows: Yes - Forrest, Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Garwood, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Absent - None; the motion carried

0:24:12 **8. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS. ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RESPECTFUL AND COURTEOUS (THREE-MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER PERSON)**

Clayton Bradley addressed Councilor Rodriguez's question regarding the September deadline in the permit application for Agenda item 4. He said this deadline is not an expiration date. He said when this application was originally submitted, it was withdrawn by Kinetic New Mexico Gas Gathering LLC, because Permian Resources withdrew their application. **Mr. Bradley** said this deadline is a typo that did not get corrected.

0:25:23 **9. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

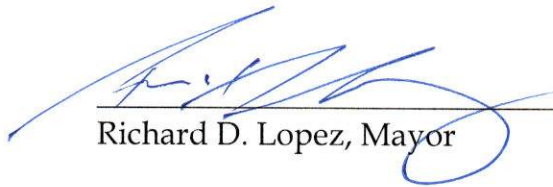
No reports.

0:25:31 **Adjourned**

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Lopez declared the meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.



ATTEST:


Richard D. Lopez, Mayor


Nadine Mireles, City Clerk