

**CITY OF GRANTS
EMERGENCY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, June 26, 2024
5:30 PM
MINUTES**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Garcia called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Mayor Erik Garcia
Councilor Fred Rodarte
Councilor Beverly Michael
Councilor Zachery Gutierrez
Councilor George Garcia

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Garcia asked that the Council consider amending the Agenda so that citizens may address the Council after the discussion and action item.

Motion: To approve the agenda moving citizens to address the council during Item 1.1.

Motion: George Garcia Second: Fred Rodarte Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

DISCUSSION OF CHARTER COMPLIANCE

No citizens wished to discuss charter compliance.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL:

Note: To all persons who wish to specifically address the City Council on any agenda item or an item not on the agenda please sign in before the start of the meeting and state your purpose in order to be recognized. Each Citizen will be allowed 3 minutes to present their topic.

*Citizens to address the Council was moved after Item 1.1 during the approval of the agenda.

1. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

- 1.1 Discussion/Action - Approval of Resolution No. 24-1851 Proclaiming an Ongoing Flooding Disaster

Mayor Garcia addressed the citizens and stated, "...many residents have suffered substantial losses...this recent event stands out in its intensity and its impact, and it is truly an act of god..." he then went over past projects such as the 1st Street Pump station which cleared the flooded roads within an hour of the flood. The Mayor then pointed out that the draining system has been overrun by shrubbery growth, which caused draining constraints, whereas he would like to enact an ordinance that provides the city with policies in maintaining the draining system. Mayor Garcia stated he called the emergency meeting to announce that the flood is a natural disaster, he has scheduled a future meeting with Governor Grisham to assess damages and to discuss potential assistance. Mayor Garcia urged citizens to refrain from ditches and drainage areas, 1st St. and 2nd St., which are dangerous during flooding conditions.

Councilor Michael thanked the Mayor for calling the Emergency meeting and acknowledged citizens whose homes and properties were affected by the flood; the councilwoman then thanked City crews for their assistance with the flooding disaster.

Councilor Rodarte thanked the city crews and Cibola County for handing out assistance packages and said he has received phone calls from frustrated citizens due to flood damage.

Councilor Gutierrez stated he was out of town during the flood, and instead of trying to point fingers, he noticed citizens coming together to help clean up.

Councilor Garcia stated that he was also out of town during the flood but did notice how fast the City workers responded. He then pointed out that all local government agencies did assist and that standing emergency plans should be reviewed.

Mayor Garcia pointed out that the City is in the middle of a drain key, and some of the drainage runs through private property, which the City cannot work on. He plans to ask Governor Grisham for monetary assistance to purchase heavy equipment to clear the ditches, but some of the land that needs cleaning is on private property. He then asked City Attorney Nixon for a solution to clear drainage issues that were on private property.

Mayor Garcia explained that the plans for a Bio Park would relieve flooding off of Nimitz. He then stated that the City needs to plan for similar future events.

Motion: Approval of Resolution No. 24-1851 Proclaiming an Ongoing Flooding Disaster
Motion: Fred E Rodarte Second: Beverly Michael Ayes: 4 Nays: 0

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL:

Michael Hatten took the floor, stating that the drainage system circling at the end of the Old Highway needs to be rerouted to prevent future flooding.

Solomon Arciniega took the floor, stating that his house was near Michael Hatten's. He is a licensed engineer and has noticed infrastructure issues that allow the water to settle, and the community is expecting an action plan and goals.

Harry Garcia took the floor, stating that the homes at the end of town have had issues due to no drainage areas for the flooding to lead to. Mr. Garcia noted that he feels for citizens who have lost everything due to flooding.

Kenneth Romero, city resident, stated that his home is three feet underwater and asked if residents would receive monetary assistance. He then stated that a culvert drain leads the water into his yard and that he has no route to the ditch.

Lisa Raines, a storage shed business owner, took the floor, stating that violent waters busted her security fence over. Mrs. Raines stated that her storage units were flooded and asked if anything would be done in the case of future flooding.

An unknown citizen addressed the Council, pointing out his concerns about the local business Junkyard Brewer. He feels that local contractors have blocked off the ditches and drains surrounding the brewery and that he has been trying to contact the city without any returned calls.

COMMENTS

Mayor Garcia stated plans are in the works to take aerial photos in order to work with engineers to fix the drainage issues.

Councilor Michael took the floor, pointing out that, hopefully, state funding could assist citizens who have suffered losses, and questioned if the City could enter private property in case of emergency flooding in order to clean out the drainage system. Attorney Nixon stated that she does not have an answer but will find out by tomorrow.

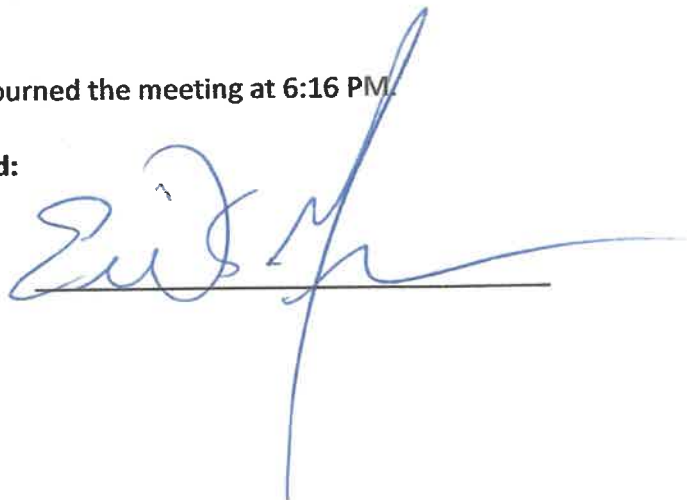
Councilor Michael asked if City crews could assist with maintaining the dike to route water out of citizens' properties; Manager Valencia replied that he currently has a plan for the properties mentioned.

Councilor Garcia stated that the problem lies in the area being a natural waterway, but some of the problem areas need to be coordinated with the county. The passed resolution enforces to Governor Grisham the need for assistance in the City. He then thanked citizens for attending the meeting and letting their voices be heard.

ADJOURN

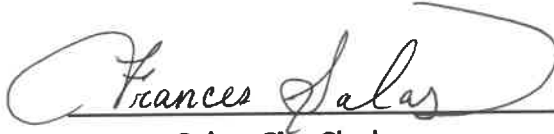
Mayor Garcia adjourned the meeting at 6:16 PM.

APPROVED Signed:



Mayor Erik Garcia

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances Salas". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the official seal.

Frances Salas, City Clerk

