

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Gallup City Council, City of Gallup, New Mexico held in the Council Chambers at Gallup City Hall, 110 West Aztec Avenue at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor DePauli.

Upon roll call, the following were present:

Mayor: Marc DePauli

Councilors: Linda Garcia
Sierra Yazzie Asamoa-Tutu
Sarah Piano
Ron Molina

Also present: Erika Pirotte, Deputy City Attorney

Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items:

Mayor DePauli outlined the process and procedures for public comment on Non-Agenda Items.

Peter Campos, Gallup McKinley County Chamber of Commerce, regarding the proposed data center, reaffirmed the Chamber's traditional pro-business stance, raised specific concerns regarding local industry and job growth and established a position demanding a fully informed, fact-based decision-making process and the continuation of the current administrative review before a decision is made.

Richard Anderson provided comment regarding his background of overcoming homelessness and building a productive life, recounted a workplace incident from three years ago involving a hate crime prompting him to write a letter to the city's previous mayor. Mr. Anderson expressed his grievances for not receiving an apology or any communication from the previous administration. He explained his efforts to secure employment with the City of Gallup have been unsuccessful due to a mandatory driver's license requirement and his belief that the requirement is unconstitutional.

Marilyn Taylor spoke in opposition of the proposed data center based on unfulfilled industrial promises in Memphis. Ms. Taylor detailed how a previous data center failed to meet its targets for job increases, utility rate protections, smoke stack implementation, gray water restrictions and localized noise and odor issues. She advised the governing body against naivety when dealing with corporations willing to make extensive promises to secure agreements.

Tommy Hawes, President of the Greater Gallup Economic Development Corporation (GGEDC), addressed the Council regarding the deferred vote on the legal assignment of effluent water rights. Mr. Hawes outlined the administrative process that will proceed once approval is granted, detailed potential economic benefits a data center could bring to the municipality. He clarified the status of water rights previously assigned by the city

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compared to the future assignments currently under consideration. He urged the Council to sustain the review process and avoid making determinations based on inaccurate information. He emphasized the rigorous nature of industrial site selection and cautioned that rejection before proper vetting is complete sends a damaging message to the broader economic development field.

Patty Lundstrom, representing the Greater Gallup Economic Development Corporation (GGEDC), addressed the Council to clarify public misconceptions regarding the active Water Rights Agreement, provided an overview of the existing corporation's legal rights under the current contract, clarified that approving the immediate item does not constitute an approval of a data center project and emphasized strict provisions included in the agreement are designed to maintain administrative control for the City of Gallup. Ms. Lundstrom highlighted the necessity of maintaining procedural transparency, fully explaining the contractual mechanics and honoring the established agreement.

JoAnn Benenati acknowledged the community's critical need for economic opportunity, local investment and the development of outdoor venues, hospitality and retail sectors while generating sustainable employment and resident income. Ms. Benenati referenced a historical regional legacy of economic loss rooted in mining and extractive industries, presented specific details regarding a past venture by Rhino Industries, noting that despite substantial city and state support, the company failed to fulfill its initial promises. Ms. Benenati stressed the importance of securing definitive proof, ironclad financial guarantees and strictly enforceable legal consequences to protect natural resources prior to the approval of any industrial developments.

Daniel Berg, provided public comment opposing the development of a data center, cited a national trend where AI data facilities have failed to fulfill operational promises, raised concerns regarding the significant consumption of natural resources against the City of Gallup's limited resource infrastructure. Mr. Berg cautioned the Council against adopting policies that might cause Gallup to replicate the negative outcomes observed in other New Mexico municipalities, urged leadership to move forward by pursuing alternative industries and highlighted the target of rural areas due to perceived weaker oversight. He requested fully enacted rules and regulations prior to Council's approval.

State Representative District 6 candidate Priscilla Benally provided comment highlighting her position as the only representative for McKinley County, underscored the significance of the matter and expressed gratitude for Council's detailed discussion.

Janice Peterson, McKinley County resident, provided comment concerning municipal communication, regional fairness and social conditions. Ms. Peterson noted a lack of public information regarding city affairs among nearby residents and requested a clear explanation of how the proposed industry would improve the city, local schools and the homelessness crisis. She further requested that the city make an effort to extend

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information to include Navajo Nation residents to ensure they are not exploited by outside industries for profit

Nathan Stanish outlined critical technical and operational parameters for the council to evaluate regarding the proposed development. Mr. Stanish explained that utilizing effluent water does not automatically minimize the overall environmental footprint and noted high resource demands associated with open-loop cooling systems. He highlighted the absence of an established track record for the specific company, expressed concerns over the ambiguous presentation, urged Council to maintain skepticism toward inexperienced firms and ensure understanding of safeguards and regulatory boundaries governing the permitted use of the City's water.

Sergeant Nicola Martinez-Collins delivered a public announcement regarding Police Week, an annual observance dedicated to honoring the courage, sacrifice and dedication of law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Sergeant Martinez-Collins emphasized the importance of providing continuous support to active-duty officers who routinely risk their lives to maintain public safety within the City of Gallup, as well as support to their families. She reported that memorial ribbons have been displayed throughout the City to mark the occasion and announced that the Gallup Police Department will host a commemorative community run this Sunday.

Bill Lee asked the Council to instruct all attendees to stand in order to visually demonstrate the total number of individuals present in support of, opposed to, or neutral toward a proposed data center.

Chris Saucedo provided comment via telephone concerning the implementation and utilization of License Plate Readers (LPR) by law enforcement agencies, provided technical context regarding the system's operational efficiency, emphasized that the technology would increase active officer safety, noted civil liberties with regard to the expectation of privacy in public and briefly noted additional benefits.

Christine Eason provided comment via telephone regarding the City of Gallup's Charter, as it pertains to the legal requirement for a city-appointed attorney. Ms. Eason noted that the position has remained vacant for over a month and highlighted the role the city attorney plays in maintaining local governance. She stated that continuing council operations without filling this mandatory seat is highly questionable and urged the Council to fill the vacancy immediately.

Mayor DePauli directed all meeting attendees to stand to visually demonstrate the total number of individuals present who supported, opposed or held a neutral position regarding the proposed data center project.

Presented to the Mayor and Councilors were the following Consent Agenda Items:

1. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meetings on March 10th and 24, 2026 and the Work Session on April 6, 2026

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2. Budget Adjustment from Non-Capital to Capital for Equipment Purchases
3. Budget Adjustment from Fund 280 Cannabis Tax
4. Budget Action Related to Best of the Best

Councilor Molina made the motion to approve items 1 through 4 of the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Molina, Garcia, Piano, Yazzie and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

Presented to the Mayor and Councilors were the following Discussion/Action Topics:

1. Mutual Aid Agreement with the Navajo Nation Police Department – Erin Toadlena-Pablo, Chief of Police and Erika Pirotte, Deputy City Attorney

Ms. Pirotte presented a proposed mutual aid agreement to allow Gallup Police Officers and Navajo Nation Police Officers to voluntarily respond to requests for emergency assistance from either agency. She clarified it does not alter the existing jurisdictions or the sovereign authority of either government under the law, reported that the framework is standard practice for the Navajo Nation and marks the first time the City of Gallup has entered into an agreement with the tribe to improve interagency communication and cooperation. She emphasized that finalizing the agreement requires the city's standard approval process, the approval of the Navajo Nation and an addendum executed in compliance with New Mexico State Statute for the Governor's approval of mutual aid agreements.

Chief Toadlena-Pablo noted that the development of the structural framework had been underway for approximately eighteen months and stemmed from two specific occurrences, including an incident at a Ceremonial Parade and at Red Rock Park, which involved an armed individual who crossed jurisdictional lines, creating complications processing evidence and conducting interviews. Chief Toadlena-Pablo clarified the emergency parameters covered under the scope of the agreement, emphasized the necessity of regional interagency teamwork and stated that the agreement will serve as a vital operational asset to the Gallup Police Department.

Discussion followed comparing the legal framework of Cross-Commissioning and Mutual Aid Agreements, services within checkerboard areas and the inclusion of departments operating under the Public Safety sector of the Navajo Nation.

Councilor Molina made the motion to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with the Navajo Police Department. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Molina, Garcia, Piano, Yazzie and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

2. Write-Offs of Past Due Accounts with Budget Adjustment – Denise Yazzie-Menera, Customer Service Manager

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Ms. Yazzie-Menera presented a utility write-off proposal totaling \$92,797.79, specifying that the outstanding balances primarily stem from accounts terminated in 2020 and 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic, a period marked by restricted municipal collection efforts and widespread customer financial hardship. She provided a comprehensive breakdown of residential and commercial accounts, noting that electrical services comprised the largest portion of the write-offs at \$49,900.91, while also identifying the largest individual account balances within the report. Ms. Yazzie-Menera clarified that the proposed action is an accounting procedure to clear uncollectible balances from active ledger books and does not constitute debt forgiveness for the affected customers. She emphasized the importance of consistent collections, outlined active outreach to help delinquent customers recover financially, mentioned future collection strategies and requested approval for the utility write-offs and the corresponding budget adjustments.

Discussion followed regarding properties red-tagged for lacking utility services and the tracking mechanisms used to project future past-due trends, the impact of Chapter 11 bankruptcy filings on commercial accounts, the collection protocols for residential accounts compared to commercial accounts, the Lexington property, the potential to hire a third-party collection agency, the historical data compared to current accounts, the administrative sequence triggered once a customer is placed on the delinquency list and the post-finalization workflow managed by active past-due account specialists.

Patty Holland, Chief Financial Officer, explained the budget adjustment amounts.

Councilor Piano made the motion to approve the write-offs of past due accounts and budget adjustments. Seconded by Councilor Molina. Roll call: Councilors Piano, Molina, Garcia, Yazzie and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

3. Resolution No. R2026-16; Approving FY 2027 Preliminary Budget – Patty Holland, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Holland presented a PowerPoint regarding the 2027 Preliminary Budget. She included balances for General Fund revenues and expenditures, employee retention data and the number of full-time employees (FTE) for the upcoming year. She provided financial overviews for utility funds, including the revenues and expenditures of the Solid Waste, Water, Electric and Wastewater Departments. Ms. Holland noted that cash balances constitute the single changing element between the preliminary draft and the initial budget, noted the necessary cash-on-hand requirements and clarified all proposed net amounts.

Discussion followed concerning the 2027 Preliminary Budget format, a proposed summary to streamline the review process for the public and elected officials, public notice and review time, the budget's complexity, Council's system access privileges, payroll funding allocations and employee benefit packages, concerns over FLOCK

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systems and clarification on capital project allocations; specifically, the proposed contract for the municipal security system.

Suzanne Hammons provided clarification regarding concerns over license plate readers and the right to privacy in public spaces. She stated that law enforcement agencies currently utilize existing systems that comply with applicable laws and do not sell private information. Ms. Hammons noted citizens do not have an option to opt out of data collection tracking when it comes to automated license plate readers and concerns regarding the sale of private information to other agencies.

Councilor Garcia made the motion to approve Resolution No. R2026-16; approving FY 2027 Preliminary Budget. Seconded by Councilor Piano. Roll call: Councilors Garcia, Piano, Molina, Yazzie and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

4. An Ordinance to Amend Section 8-6-2(B)(6) of the Gallup City Code Clarifying the use of Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project Surcharge – Erika Pirotte, Deputy City Attorney

Ms. Pirotte provided an overview of Ordinance C2014-5, which was previously passed by Council to fund specific project costs. She highlighted the ordinance's restrictive language and funding needs, provided information regarding surface water delivery delays prolonging the city's groundwater dependence and explained the proposed amendment to expand the scope of the current surcharge. She stated the adjustments align with the original purpose of the ordinance while granting the operational flexibility necessary to navigate project delays.

Mayor DePauli further explained effects of Navajo-Gallup surface water delivery delays on the City's finances and water supply, noted additional well-drilling with regard to disruptions in maintenance timelines on existing water tanks, pipes, and pumps. He highlighted the City's continued funding of the project without receiving surface water, the intent of the amendment and funding to rehabilitate the Rehoboth Tank, replace cast-iron waterlines and repair aging utility production facilities.

Ms. Pirotte clarified the amendment does not change the surcharge amount and only amends the language for the use of the surcharge.

Discussion followed regarding the Repayment Contract negotiations and the duration of the surcharge, the Operations Maintenance and Replacement Contract, terms of the increase and aging infrastructure in need of maintenance.

Councilor Molina made the motion to approve an Ordinance (No. C2026-1) to amend Section 8-6-2(B)(6) of the Gallup City Code Clarifying the use of the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project Surcharge. Seconded by Councilor Piano. Roll call: Councilors Molina, Piano, Garcia, Yazzie and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

5. Lodger's Tax Discussion – Matt Robinson, Tourism and Marketing Manager

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According to Council's request to present the Lodger's Tax Grant Program (LTGP) applications as individual agenda items, Marketing and Tourism Manager Matt Robinson initiated a discussion regarding the Lodgers Tax budget.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding proposed changes to the cash reserve policy, the original intent of the reserves, the long-term impact of reserve spending on future funding, concerns regarding the Council's final allocations that deviate from the volunteer Committee's recommendations, potentially undermining the integrity of the established processes and the significance of openly discussing changes to the budget. Staff clarified that a \$47,000 allocation would be drawn from a previously used reserve from Lodger's Tax being reimbursed, not a new deduction in addition to the existing \$200,000 reserve draw. Further discussion followed regarding the difficult decisions made by the Lodger's Tax Committee to fund events with consideration to budget limitations, Fiscal Year 2027 advertising strategies, state matching support and funding flexibility for new events, appreciation for the committee's hard work, awarding funds based on availability not merit, importance of fund solvency, details of the State's 60/40 spending mandate, use of a financial forecasting models and lodger tax and convention center fee predictions for FY 2027. This item was for discussion only. No action was taken by the Council.

6. Lodger's Tax Grant Recommendation – 104th Annual Gallup Inter-Tribal Ceremonial – Matt Robinson, Tourism and Marketing Manager

Mr. Robinson reported that the Gallup Inter-Tribal Ceremonial Association initially requested an estimated \$50,000 for their event and reduced the requested amount during the committee meeting on April 27, 2026. After a detailed review of each line item, the Committee accepted the modification and approved the recommendation of \$30,000.

Mayor DePauli reviewed the grant criteria, noting the maximum award amount of \$40,000 or 25% of the total anticipated revenue and proposed to modify the final award from the committee's recommended \$30,000 to the maximum amount of \$40,000.

Councilor Molina made the motion to approve the awarded grant recommendation in the amount of \$40,000 to the Ceremonial. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Molina, Garcia and Mayor DePauli voted yes. Councilors Piano and Yazzie voted no. Motion carried.

7. Lodger's Tax Grant Recommendation – Lion's Club – Matt Robinson, Tourism and Marketing Manager

Mayor DePauli reported the Lodger's Tax Committee's grant recommendation in the amount of \$20,000 for the Lion's Club's downtown and rodeo events compared to their initial request of \$30,000. and suggested calculating awards based off a 25% expenditure match. He outlined the applicants' expected revenues and expenditures

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and recommended a \$4,000 grant award for the downtown event and a \$34,000 grant award for the rodeo, totaling \$38,000. for both events.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the applicant's initial request, staff's efforts to award the entire requested amount, complications related to increasing the awarded amount and how the additional funds would be applied during the reimbursement process, advertising and Red Rock Park rental fees, civic contributions and community involvement, cuts made during the Lodger's Tax Committee Meeting on April 27, 2026, Lions Club's support of Red Rock Park's conception and lodger's tax guidelines.

Further discussion followed regarding a request for Council's guidance when applying the additional funding during the reimbursement process, application revisions in accordance with the revised award recommendation and the significance of upholding committee recommendations and financial responsibility.

Councilor Molina made the motion to approve the Lodger's Tax Grant recommendation in the amount of \$38,000 to the Lion's Club. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Councilor Garcia made the motion to approve the award of a Lodger's Tax Grant in the amount of \$34,000; \$30,000 for the rodeo and \$4,000 for the downtown event. Seconded by Councilor Piano. Roll call: Councilors Garcia, Piano, Molina, Yazzie and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

8. Lodger's Tax Grant Recommendation – Route 66 Desert Challenge – Matt Robinson, Tourism and Marketing Manager

Mayor DePauli outlined the event's revenues and expenditures and the requested amount of \$3,150.

Councilor Garcia made the motion to approve the Lodger's Tax Grant Award in the amount of \$3,150 to the Route 66 Desert Challenge. Seconded by Councilor Piano. Roll call: Councilors Garcia, Piano, Molina, Yazzie and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

9. Lodger's Tax Grant Recommendation – TDFL – Matt Robinson, Tourism and Marketing Manager

Mayor DePauli announced management changes since the passing of Sammy "C" Chioda, outlined their initial request for \$19,300, their eligibility of \$20,750 based on their expenditures and recommended a grant award in the amount of \$20,000.

Discussion followed regarding the Lodger's Tax Committee's initial recommendation to fund the applicant's requested amount, concerns regarding the grant award increases and the applicant's calculations included in each line item of the application and the Council's intentions to avoid over-allocating Lodger's Tax.

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Councilor Piano made the motion to approve the award of a Lodgers Tax Grant in the amount of \$19,300 to TDFL. Seconded by Councilor Yazzie. Roll call: Councilors Piano, Yazzie, Garcia, Molina and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

10. Lodger's Tax Grant Recommendation – Arenacross & Mud Bog Show – Matt Robinson, Tourism and Marketing Manager

Mayor DePauli reported the applicant's request of \$3,600. and their eligible amount of \$7,828.

Andrew Gallegos reviewed past attendance numbers and noted that a large portion of participants travel from out of town. He mentioned past lodger's tax funding, noted that children under 11 will now attend for free and clarified the requested amount of \$30,000., including \$10,000. dedicated to renting the facility.

Discussion followed regarding the event's budget and historical funding, clarification on a typo included on the fiscal impact, details with regard to the applicant's \$31,000 request, last year's recommended award of \$5,000. and concerns that the applicant's request was significantly higher than the Lodger's Tax Committee's recommendation.

Councilor Molina made the motion to approve the Lodger's Tax Committee's recommended amount of \$3,600 to Arenacross & Mud Bog Show. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Molina, Garcia, Piano, Yazzie and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

11. Lodger's Tax Grant Recommendation – Route 66 Roping – Matt Robinson, Tourism and Marketing Manager

Mayor DePauli reported the event's total expenditures in the amount of \$31,500., eligible amount of \$7,875. and their request of \$3,000.

Walt Eddy explained the requested lodger's tax were for advertising and venue fees, noting promotional items were not included. He highlighted the County Commission's efforts to improve Red Rock State Park, mentioned difficulties obtaining lodger's tax funding and events effected and concerns regarding diminishing Red Rock Park events that could hinder the County's running of the park.

Councilor Piano made the motion to approve the Lodger's Tax Committee's recommendation for Route 66 Roping. Seconded by Councilor Molina. Roll call: Councilors Piano, Molina, Garcia, Yazzie and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

12. Lodger's Tax Grant Recommendation – Soundwave Festival – Matt Robinson, Tourism and Marketing Manager

Mr. Robinson presented the two-day music festival at Red Rock State Park, noting the event has never requested or received lodgers' tax funding, reported approximately 30

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volunteers and an estimated attendance of more than 2,000 spectators and reported the Committee's recommendation of \$3,600.

Discussion followed regarding the requested \$34,000 appropriation compared to the Committee's recommendation, intent of lodger's tax, concerns that the recommended allocation would be insufficient for operational success, proof of venue not a requirement, administrative flexibility during this first year of new regulations, potential award increase between \$5,000 and \$10,000 and reluctance to increase allocation without historical data.

Councilor Piano made the motion to approve the Lodger's Tax Grant Award for the Soundwave Festival in the amount of \$10,000. Seconded by Councilor Yazzie. Roll call: Councilors Piano and Yazzie voted yes. Councilors Molina, Garcia and Mayor DePauli voted no. Motion failed.

Discussion followed regarding alternative funding amounts to be considered for the Soundwave Festival.

Councilor Molina made the motion to approve the Lodger's Tax Grant Award in the amount of \$5,000 for the Soundwave Festival. Seconded by Councilor Piano. Roll call: Councilors Molina, Piano, Garcia and Yazzie voted yes. Mayor DePauli voted no. Motion carried.

13. Lodger's Tax Grant Recommendation – Wild Thing Championship Bull Riding – Matt Robinson, Tourism and Marketing Manager

Mayor DePauli reported \$50,000. in eligible funding based on expenditures, noted the initial requested amount was \$20,000. and staff's final application review qualifying the full funding amount of \$40,000.

Larry Peterson, owner and organizer, stated that the event is entering its 33rd year and has functioned as the leading fundraiser for Manuelito's Children's Home for the past 25 years. He highlighted recent cost increases, thanked the Council for their attention and consideration and expressed appreciation for any help provided by the City.

Discussion followed regarding advertising and venue rental fees, concerns regarding things that would be considered promotional items, social media presence and economic benefits to the City.

Councilor Molina made the motion to approve Lodger's Tax Award Grant to Wild Thing Championship Bull Riding in the amount of \$40,000. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Molina, Garcia, Piano, Yazzie and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

14. Public Hearing on the Proposed Transfer of Ownership of Dispenser Liquor License No. DIS-000552 to Burnt Corn Holding, LLC D/B/A Virgie's Restaurant & Lounge – Tanisha Cooke, Burnt Corn Holdings, LLC and Jerry Hamm, Transfer Agent

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Mayor DePauli instructed all individuals intending to provide testimony to stand and be sworn in, noting for the record that no witnesses were present in the audience or via Zoom. He explained that public hearings function as quasi-judicial proceedings similar to a court of law trial. The Mayor detailed the order of business, stating that the applicant, Burnt Corn Holding, LLC, would present testimony and evidence to support the application, during which time the Council and the Deputy City Attorney could ask questions. He noted that any additional testimony would follow the applicant's presentation and instructed witnesses to avoid repetitive testimony and stated that opponents to the application would subsequently be instructed to testify in the same manner. Mayor DePauli explained that following both presentations, the Council could request a summary of the provided information and clarified that the objective was to ensure the proper application of transfer laws based strictly on the facts of the case. He clarified Council must base its decision on the applicant's satisfaction of statutory and regulatory requirements and whether the proposed location complies with State and local laws or poses a detriment to public health, safety, or morals. He clarified denial based on moral grounds must be specific to the location or the applicant, supported by substantial evidence proving a community detriment and not based solely on the general negative effects of alcohol and requested that the applicant and participants limit all testimony and evidence to matters relevant to the Council's decision. Mayor DePauli instructed any Council members to recuse themselves or disclose conflicts if their impartiality might be questioned due to personal bias or prejudice. He stated that this directive applied to any member who had commented publicly regarding how they planned to vote on the matter, would personally benefit from the outcome, was closely related to any involved party or maintained a connection to the party that would influence their decision on the matter. No Councilor requested recusal and the applicant was not present to request a recusal.

Mayor DePauli instructed the applicant's representative testimony for Council's consideration.

Ms. Pirotte presented the application, the notice of publication and a certificate from the Planning and Development Manager certifying no zoning violations for Council's consideration.

Mayor DePauli confirmed no witnesses wishing to testify in support of or in opposition to the application were present.

Councilor Molina mentioned his acquaintance with the former owner of Virgie's Restaurant, noted Loren Cooke's history of local property acquisitions and recognized the extensive financial investments Mr. Cooke maintains throughout the City.

Councilor Piano expressed frustration regarding the applicant's absence from the public hearing, asked the specific method used to notify the applicant of the hearing, noted the importance of the hearing, expressed an interest in reviewing the applicant's plans and questioned the legal requirements surrounding the applicant's attendance.

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Ms. Pirotte provided information regarding Council's potential actions, explained that if Council takes no action within 30 days of the hearing, the Director will issue a final approval, noted that a Council approval of the transfer would result in approval by the Director, whereas a Council denial would result in a denial by the Director, which would then proceed to the court of appeals.

Brief discussion followed regarding Burnt Corn Holdings LLC's local status.

Councilor Yazzie expressed interest in the applicant's character and constructive work in the community and stated she would have liked to receive input from people who are personally acquainted with the applicant.

Mayor DePauli explained the final proceedings of the hearing, noting that the Council's final discussion regarding the matter could be conducted openly or in a closed session and requested any final statements by Councilors.

Councilor Molina made the motion to approve the proposed transfer of ownership of dispenser liquor license to Burnt Holdings LLC. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Molina, Garcia, Piano, Yazzie and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

Comments by City Councilor and Mayor

Councilor Garcia provided comments regarding the recent ArtsCrawl event and highlighted her attendance at the Route 66 exhibition hosted at the Rex Museum; encouraging public attendance, mentioned the Gallup Film and Media Expo, provided information concerning the City of Gallup Annual Clean-Up, recognized the efforts of the Solid Waste staff and announced the City's upcoming Meet & Greet event.

Councilor Piano provided positive feedback she received regarding recent events including the ArtsCrawl, the Gallup Film Festival and the UNM Job Fair and noted her attendance at several events during Economic Development Week.

Councilor Yazzie recognized Truckers Against Trafficking and Four Corners K-9 Search and Rescue group for their collaborative work on a recent coalition build event, expressed appreciation to local residents for their continued civic engagement, noted her support for a Work Session to discuss a local trade port and apologized for her absence while she chaperoned a children's field trip.

Councilor Molina acknowledged Adrian Marrufo, Solid Waste Director, and the department staff for their exceptional service efforts in the Mentmore area during the annual clean-up event, highlighted his attendance at the recent ArtsCrawl, commending all individuals responsible for organizing the community event and asked that everyone keep Mr. Chiapetti's mother in their thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

Mayor DePauli recognized Mr. Robinson for his contributions to the coordination of the Gallup Film Festival, issued an appeal to residents to prioritize yard maintenance,

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particularly with the support of the scheduled annual clean-up campaign and reported on the upcoming arrival of several New Mexico County representatives and the importance of leaving a good impression.

Comments by the City Manager and City Attorney

None

There being no further business, Councilor Piano made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Piano, Garcia, Molina, Yazzie and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.



Marc DePauli, Mayor

ATTEST:



Alicia Martínez, Deputy City Clerk