

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, April 14, 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: Frank Chiapetti, City Manager

Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items:

Eric Gonzales, Millennium Media Sales Manager, presented a service coverage map demonstrating signal reach extending beyond city limits and requested clarification on statutory restrictions regarding the local expenditure of lodger's tax funds. Staff directed Mr. Gonzales to schedule a meeting with Mr. Chiapetti for further information regarding the matter. Mr. Robinson recommended further review of the lodger's tax provisions, noting that local spending is authorized, contingent upon the inclusion of necessary justifications as stipulated in the regulations.

Brendon Rich, representing the Gallup Journey and Dog House Media, provided data regarding local publication, nationwide subscriptions and international digital reach. He presented the "Grassroots Tourism" concept, suggesting that marketing efforts target family reunions and class reunions to supplement traditional tourism demographics. He requested a course correction regarding the 2020 Lodger's Tax regulations, advocating for a return to the frameworks utilized in 2024 or 2025. Mr. Rich stated that the current regulations act as a barrier to the event economy and proposed that the City prioritize collaboration with local marketing professionals. He recommended the promotion of local seminars and professional training to increase hotel occupancy and utilize organizations like the Gallup-McKinley County Chamber of Commerce to ensure local business involvement in policy decisions. Staff advised Mr. Rich to schedule a follow-up meeting for further clarification regarding his concerns.

JoAnn Benenati, local resident, addressed the Mayor and Councilors regarding acoustic and audibility issues during public meetings when viewing the meetings online. Ms. Benenati cited specific difficulties hearing staff during the April 6th Work Session at the El Morro Events Center and within the Council Chambers, specifically Council and/or staff located on the eastern portion of the dais. She encouraged all speakers to utilize the microphones minimal to ensure all comments are captured for the record and audible to viewers watching from home.

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Presented to the Mayor and Councilors were the following Presentation / Information Items:

1. Legacy Leadership Presentation – Team Seedlink Members

Rich Austin, President of Team Seedlink from McKinley Leadership Academy, and Seedlink members, presented a proposal for a new disc golf course as a required graduation capstone project. Mr. Austin identified sustainability as a core requirement of the project, noted the sport's year-round availability and low user fees. Mr. Austin highlighted economic development opportunities through tournament hosting and global app recognition and provided technical details including a \$15,000 estimated cost for baskets with a 15-to-20-year lifespan, similar to equipment used in Farmington, New Mexico. He stated land for the course was provided by private donors and a designer in Grants has been identified for the project.

Discussion followed regarding the sport's concept, basket sponsorship opportunities, possible allocation of Councilor Garcia's discretionary funds to help with funding the project, clarification regarding equipment, long-term maintenance and upkeep of the course. Gordon McGehee provided a brief historical overview of the property to be used for the proposed course, noting donation of the property by Bob and Brenda Rosebrough. Mr. Rosebrough stated that the land is well-suited for the proposed project, noting minor preparatory tasks that might be needed for better access.

Presented to the Mayor and Councilors was the following Consent Agenda Item:

1. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting on February 10, 2026

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

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

1. Budget Adjustment for Capital Overhead and Capital Underground – Chuck Nourse, Electric Director

Mr. Nourse requested a budget adjustment to Capital accounts, specifically an increase of \$4,500 for Capital Overhead and \$10,000 for Capital Underground. He stated these accounts fund new construction and line extensions, driven and paid for by customers. Mr. Nourse emphasized both accounts face potential shortfalls based on their current utilization, noting Capital Overhead at 83% and Capital Underground at 92%, while typical utilization for this period is approximately 75%. He further detailed the requested adjustment would recalibrate the projected utilization rates to approximately 78% for Capital Overhead and 79% for Capital Underground.

Discussion followed regarding the number of new customers.

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Councilor Molina made the motion to approve the budget adjustment. Seconded by Councilor Piano. Roll call: Councilors Molina, Piano, Garcia, Yazzie and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

2. Recommendation of Award for (ITB-2614) New Sunshine Substation Transmission Construction - Chuck Nourse, Electric Director

Mr. Nourse presented the bid results for the new Sunshine Substation Transmission Construction project, including structure placement and reconductoring utilizing and installing previously procured equipment and materials. He announced High Voltage Inc. was the lowest responsive bidder, out of two (2) bids the City received, in the amount of \$601,147 including labor, equipment, gross receipts tax and a 5% contingency of \$26,858 for temporary access roads necessary due to rugged terrain in the area.

Discussion followed regarding clarification of the contingency fee and its inclusion in the project cost not written into the contract, High Voltage Inc.'s industry experience level and cost difference between the two responsive bids received.

Councilor Molina made the motion to approve the award. Seconded by Councilor Yazzie. Roll call: Councilors Molina, Yazzie, Garcia, Piano and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

3. Recommendation of Award for (ITB-2616) New Sunshine Substation Battery Bank and Accessories – Chuck Nourse, Electric Director

Mr. Nourse presented the bid results for the procurement of battery bank accessories, highlighting that this is the final item needed for the new Sunshine Substation control house based on engineering specifications. He explained that the battery system consists of approximately 95 individual DC batteries mounted on a rack along with an AC-to-DC charger. He stated that under normal operations, the charger converts incoming AC power into DC power to continuously operate relays, protection systems and metering equipment while simultaneously keeping the batteries fully charged. He noted that in the event of an AC power loss, the system automatically provides an uninterrupted DC power transfer to maintain safe operations and respond to faults. He reported that the City received three (3) bids and identified Border States Industries as the lowest responsive bidder in the amount of \$64,454. to be charged to the Sunshine Substation project.

Discussion followed regarding the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System and the project's completion.

Councilor Piano made the motion to approve the award recommendation. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Piano, Garcia, Yazzie, Molina and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

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4. Resolution No. R2026-12; Amended and Restated Power Pooling Agreement with UAMPS – Chuck Nourse, Electric Director and Ed Reyes

Mr. Nourse reported that, at the request of Deputy City Attorney Erica Pirotte, the beginning of the proposed resolution was amended to change the City's designation from participant to limited participant. Mr. Nourse introduced the City's Transmission Consultant, Ed Reyes.

Mr. Reyes clarified that the proposed agreement establishes Gallup as a limited participant in potential power supply projects without immediate fiscal obligations to the City. He stated that this limited participant status with UAMPS does not create a conflict with the City's existing long-term power supply contract with Guzman Energy, highlighting Guzman Energy's right of first refusal for any new project constituting 20% or more of the City's total power supply. He noted that if Guzman Energy declines or is unable to service a prospective project, the City can legally participate in the agreement and noted the City's operational obligations through active participation on operating committees.

Discussion followed regarding the operational and financial implications of remaining a UAMPS member, effects on the city's forecast planning or preparation, procurement alternatives for obtaining power from other suppliers in the event that Guzman Energy is unable to support potentially large electrical loads, purpose of the proposed contract amendment, official termination date, the right to participate in future energy projects, approximate electricity costs and the ongoing impacts for market strains on the regional power grid.

Councilor Piano made the motion to approve Resolution R2026-12. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Piano, Garcia, Yazzie, Molina and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

5. Budget Adjustment Request: Completion of City Hall & GJU Door Access Project (SP2602) – Suzanne Begay, IT Director

Ms. Begay presented a proposed adjustment request in the amount of \$14,100 to the Information Technology's (IT) Facilities Operating expense account to facilitate the final installation of door access readers and controllers. She provided information regarding locations where readers need to be installed at City Hall and the GJU building.

Discussion followed regarding the original cost and the importance of upgrading the security systems to promote overall facility safety.

Councilor Molina made the motion to approve the budget adjustment. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Molina, Garcia, Piano, Yazzie and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

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6. Request for Proposal 2025/2026/03 NGWSP – Gallup Regional Water System SCADA System Upgrade and a Budget Adjustment Approval – Jan Boone, Water Superintendent

Mr. Boone requested approval of the proposed contract award to upgrade the Gallup Regional Water SCADA System in the amount of \$1,287,141.34, requested a budget adjustment to cover the funding shortfall and explained the enhancements needed on the system.

Discussion followed regarding remote access and real-time data, clarification regarding the specific water system and the \$250,000 shortfall as it relates to the Navajo Gallup Water Supply project cost cap.

Councilor Piano made the motion to approve the proposal request and budget adjustment. Seconded by Councilor Yazzie. Roll call: Councilors Piano, Yazzie, Molina, Garcia and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

7. Gallup Tourism Office Budget Adjustment – Matt Robinson, Tourism and Marketing Manager

Mr. Robinson presented a proposed budget adjustment in the amount of \$800 to relocate an art installation that was required after concrete was laid at the original location, creating additional expenses to lay a new foundation and purchase supplies to complete the project.

Mr. Robinson invited everyone to attend the unveiling event.

Councilor Yazzie made the motion to approve the budget adjustment. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Yazzie, Garcia, Piano, Molina and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

8. Recommendation of Award for Bid No ITB-2617; Gallup Municipal Airport – Schedule I – Install AWOS III PT – NMDOT No. GUP-2403 to Bixby Electric Inc. of Albuquerque, NM – Kristie Johnson, Airport Grants and Contracts Manager

Ms. Johnson presented the proposed award recommendation for the construction and installation of a new FAA-certified Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS-III P/T). She stated the project includes all labor, materials, equipment, coordination, and incidentals necessary to fully install, integrate, test, and commission the system and reported the total cost of \$133,435.40, which was previously budgeted and was provided by a New Mexico Department of Transportation Aviation Grant.

Discussion followed regarding FAA funding and compliance, the construction timeline and clarification bidding details on the selection of Bixby Electric Inc. under the New Mexico preference.

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Councilor Molina made the motion to approve the award recommendation. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Molina, Garcia, Piano, Yazzie and Mayor DePauli all voted yes.

Comments by Mayor and City Councilors

Mayor DePauli pointed out that the agenda items focused heavily on technology, urging everyone to practice strict cyber security and announced that the local golf course is now open to the public. Mayor DePauli paid tribute to the return of Sergeant Celestino Chavez, Jr., a decorated U.S. Army Veteran and former Gallup resident who was listed as missing for decades after his death in the Korean War on November 29, 1950 and shared the upcoming burial arrangements.

Councilor Garcia provided updates on the upcoming Meet and Greet and announced the start of the ArtsCrawl events, urging everyone to participate and recognized the upcoming Administrative Appreciation Day event scheduled at Red Rock Park for city staff.

Councilor Piano noted her attendance at the recent ArtsCrawl and highlighted upcoming community events, including the Jack Rabbit sculpture unveiling and the Mother's Day Arts and Crafts Fair. She recommended that the public view the 3-D printer available at the library's Makerspace, issued a reminder for the Community Cleanup scheduled for next Saturday and recognized Animal Control and Solid Waste staff for their dedicated efforts.

Councilor Yazzie reiterated the announcement regarding the Community Cleanup next Saturday, discussed her recent site visit to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, acknowledged staff's efforts and advocated for community-wide awareness regarding water usage. She mentioned plans to attend the 2026 New Deal Art Tours and thanked residents for their continued involvement in local government through their in-person and digital attendance at City Council Meetings.

Councilor Molina asked for a moment of silence to recognize Sergeant Celestino Chavez, Jr. He extended his appreciation to all city employees for their contributions and relayed positive community feedback regarding staff performance over the past 6 months and encouraged employees to sustain their positive momentum.

Comments by the City Manager and City Attorney

Mr. Chiapetti wished Mayor DePauli a Happy Birthday, congratulated Matt Robinson on obtaining his FAA Drone Pilot License and requested Mr. Robinson provide an update on the Summer Concert Series.

Mr. Robinson provided details regarding the first concert of the year, announcing that the event will headline the band Over the Limit with James Mecale performing as the

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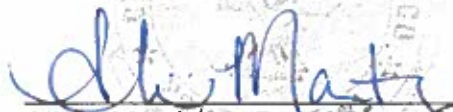
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opening act, explained that the concerts will be held at the Courthouse Square similar to previous years and noted that the upcoming events will feature an expanded selection of kid-friendly activities.

Mr. Chiapetti provided updates on the opening day attendance at the golf course, announced local graduate Antonio Reyna's 30-year anniversary concert at the El Morro Theatre, explained that Area 2 of the scheduled Community Cleanup will be split to allow staff's participation in a solid waste driver road-e-o event, noted former Councilor Schaaf's birthday, invited community members to the upcoming public budget hearings and highlighted the Dos de Mayo celebration at Courthouse Square.

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.

ATTEST:


Alicia Martinez, Deputy City Clerk


Marc DePauli, Mayor