



LOS ALAMOS

Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes - Draft

Virtual participation for the meeting was made available via Zoom.
The proceedings can be viewed at: <https://losalamos.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

**June 24, 2026
5:30pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Easton at 5:35pm. Roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

Members Present:

Karen Easton, Chair
David Hampton, Vice Chair
Jennifer Best, Commissioner*
Katherine Bruell, Commissioner
Robert Chrien, Commissioner
Rachel Grimm, Commissioner

Members Absent:

Marlon Brown, Commissioner
Ronald Nelson, Commissioner
Rebecca White, Commissioner

Staff Present:

Katie Thwaites, Deputy County Attorney
Danyelle Valdez, Planning Manager
Desirae J Lujan, Senior Planner
Kristen Klem, Associate Planner

Council Liaison:

Suzie Havemann, Councilor

** Attended virtually via Zoom*

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Chrien to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Hampton.

Motion Passed, 6 For, 0 Against, 3 Absent

4. PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of May 13, 2026, Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Bruell to approve the Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Easton.

Motion Passed, 6 For, 0 Against, 3 Absent

5. PUBLIC HEARING(S)

A. OR1129-26

Case No. ZCA-2026-0019. The Los Alamos County Community Development Department requests the Planning and Zoning Commission make recommendation to County Council to adopt Incorporated County of Los Alamos Code Ordinance No. 02-371, amending Chapter 16, Development Code, Article V (Administration and Enforcement), including updates to Sections 16-68 through 16-75, 16-79, 16-81, 16-83, 16-84, 16-91 through 16-93, and 16-98, to update neighborhood meeting and public notice procedures, clarify review and decision-making authority, and make technical corrections to improve clarity, consistency, and compliance within the Development Code.

Chair Easton opened the case and explained the meeting procedures.

Danyelle Valdez, Planning Manager, described the application request and presented the significant changes proposed to the Development Code through Ordinance No. 02-371.

Commissioners Easton, Bruell, and Grimm asked questions about proposed language changes throughout the ordinance, specifically, Section 16-72 (f)(5)(b)(10), Section 16-72 (g)(5)(e)(5), Section 16-93 (i), and Section 16-98 (a). Valdez responded and clarified the purpose and intent for each; changes were recommended.

Phil Gursky, 2025 E Jemez Rd, provided public comment regarding eliminating impact reports as an appealable action to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Additionally, he noted the proposed changes to the quasi-judicial procedures as they relate to testimony and cross-examination. Valdez responded.

The Commission discussed the decision criteria.

Commissioner Easton motioned to recommend that the County Council approve Case No. ZCA-2026-0019, a request by the Los Alamos County Community Development on behalf of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos, to amend the Los Alamos County Development Code through Ordinance No. 02-371 with the following changes:

1. Section 16-72 (f)(5)(b)(10): Change the timeframe for a written recommendation or final decision from days from 10-days to 60-days.
2. Section 16-72 (g)(5)(e)(5): Change the timeframe to provide a final decision or an appeal from 14-days to 60-days.
3. Section 16-93 (i): Clarify the alternate form of dust control.
4. Section 16-98 (a): Change the language within Penalty for Violation of code to be consistent with, and directly reference Section 1-8, of the Municipal Code: General Penalty.

Second by Commissioner Chrien.

Motion Passed, 6 For, 0 Against, 3 Absent

Roll Call Vote:

For:

Karen Easton, Chair
David Hampton, Vice Chair
Jennifer Best, Commissioner*
Katherine Bruell, Commissioner
Robert Chrien, Commissioner
Rachel Grimm, Commissioner

6. COMMISSION/DIRECTOR COMMUNICATIONS

A. *Department Report*

Valdez informed the Planning and Zoning Commission that the Comprehensive Plan has released their second public survey, which will conclude in two weeks. She asked that they complete it and share with others.

B. *Chair's Report*

Chair Easton welcomed Commissioner Best to the Planning and Zoning Commission. She shared that she recently presented the Planning and Zoning Commission's annual report to County Council.

C. *Council Liaison's Report*

Councilor Havemann gave a brief overview of the Work Session on June 23, 2026. This included reports from the Arts in Public Places, Traffic regarding the new all-way stop on North and Urban, the Housing and Development plan for increasing housing in Los Alamos, a LEDA petition for CB Fox, and a LEDA petition for The Rock. The Drone Show contract was updated for the 4th of July show. The Council is co-sponsoring a nuclear energy initiative.

D. *Commissioners' Comments*

Commissioner Hampton clarified that the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting scheduled for July 8, 2026, is canceled because there are no applications for consideration. The next meeting is July 22, 2026.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comment

8. ADJOURNMENT

6:48pm