



# County of Los Alamos

## Minutes

### County Council – Work Session

Los Alamos, NM 87544  
www.losalamosnm.us

\* Note – These minutes are **not the official minutes** and are subject to approval by the County Council.

*Theresa Cull, Council Chair; Suzie Havemann, Council Vice-Chair;  
Melanee Hand, Ryn Herrmann, Beverly Neal-Clinton,  
David Reagor, and Randall Ryti, Councilors*

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Tuesday, March 18, 2025

6:00 PM

Fire Station No. 3  
129 State Road 4 - White Rock

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#### 1. OPENING/ROLL CALL

The Council Chair, Theresa Cull, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Cull made opening remarks regarding the procedure of the meeting.

**The following Councilors were in attendance:**

**Present: 7 – Councilor Cull, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Hand, Councilor Herrmann,  
Councilor Neal-Clinton, Councilor Reagor, and Councilor Ryti**

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by: All.

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. James Alarid, Deputy Utilities Manager - Engineering, spoke.

#### 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilor Havemann, seconded by Councilor Neal-Clinton, that Council approve the agenda as presented.

**The motion passed by a show of hands with the following vote:**

**Yes: 7 – Councilor Cull, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Hand, Councilor Herrmann,  
Councilor Neal-Clinton, Councilor Reagor, and Councilor Ryti**

## 5. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND RECOGNITIONS

### A. Presentation from Ted Wyka, NNSA Los Alamos Field Office Manager

Mr. Ted Wyka presented.

Public Comment:  
None.

**No action taken.**

### B. Presentation to Council by Jerry Cowan, Vice-Chair of Parks and Recreation Board

Mr. Jerry Cowan presented.

Public Comment:  
Ms. Michelle Altherr spoke.

**No action taken.**

### C. Briefing Presentation to Council by Michele Altherr, Vice Chair Library Board

Ms. Michele Altherr presented.  
Ms. Gwen Kalavaza, Library Manager, spoke.

Public Comment:  
None.

**No action taken.**

### D. Presentation and Discussion of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and How it Relates to the Los Alamos County Code of Ordinances

Mr. Juan Rael, Deputy County Manager, presented.  
Mr. David Martinez, Chief Building Official, presented.  
Mr. Kelly Sterna, Division Wildland Chief, presented.  
Ms. Anne Laurent, County Manager, spoke.  
Mr. Colorado Cordova, Acting Fire Marshall, spoke.  
Mr. Daniel Osborne, Housing and Special Projects Manager, spoke.

Public Comment:  
None.

**No action taken.**

## RECESS

*Councilor Cull called for a recess at 7:49 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 8:02 p.m.*

## 6. BUSINESS

### A. Action to Suspend Council Rules for Work Session

A motion was made by Councilor Reagor, seconded by Councilor Havemann, that Council suspend their procedural rules for this work session, March 18, 2025, so that formal action may be taken.

The motion passed with the following vote:

**Yes: 7 – Councilor Cull, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Hand, Councilor Herrmann, Councilor Neal-Clinton, Councilor Reagor, and Councilor Ryti**

**7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S)**

- A. Incorporated County of Los Alamos Code Ordinance No. 02-367, a Code Ordinance Amending Section 38-299 of Chapter 38, Relating to Distracted Driving

**Councilor Ryti introduced, without prejudice, Incorporated County of Alamos Code Ordinance No. 02367, Code Ordinance Amending Section 38-299 of Chapter 38, Relating to Distracted Driving and ask the staff to assure that it is published as provided in the County Charter.**

- B. Incorporated County of Los Alamos Ordinance No. 02-369 an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos by Adding to Chapter 38, Traffic and Vehicles, a New Article XV Relating to Automated Speed Cameras

**Councilor Havemann introduced, without prejudice, Incorporated County of Los Alamos Ordinance No. 02-369 an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos by Adding to Chapter 38, Traffic and Vehicles, a New Article XV Relating to Automated Speed Cameras.**

**8. WORKING GROUPS AND EXTERNAL ENTITIES REPORTS**

Councilor Hand submitted her report for inclusion in the minutes.  
Councilor Ryti submitted his report for inclusion in the minutes and highlighted some topics within the report.  
Councilor Cull reported on the Family Medical Leave Act currently in the legislature.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS

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Theresa Cull, Council Chair

Attest:

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Michael D. Redondo, County Clerk

Meeting Transcribed by: Victoria L. Martinez, Elections Manager

**Working Group and Committee Status**  
Councilor Melanee Hand

3/18/2025

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	2025 Assignments	Date Last Met	Next meeting	Key Activities and Results	Action Items/ Follow Up	Comments/Notes
2	LAC LTAB (Lodger's Tax Advisory Board) Liaison	3/18/25 Cancelled due to lack of quorum	5/13/2025			
3	LAC Transportation Board Liaison	3/6/2025	4/3/2025	My Blue will connect with Atomic City Transit for expanded routes to north Pueblos and Espanola in April. Update on LAC Pedestrian Master Plan <b>preparing for presentation to Council. Final Council Review planned for 5/6</b> including Recommended Improvement Analysis to readdress more comments. NM 502 Trinity Dr Project Update - recommendations for more speeding control and Highway Safety Implementation Program (HSIP) funding. Barriers planned to separate vehicle traffic from Ashley Pond pedestrians. Temporary barriers to be installed more quickly at first, then possibly a longer term installation.		
4	Regional and State Working Group	2/18/2025	Pending	Paid NM FMLA bill did not pass committee.		Danielle Duran is reporting regularly on progress at the legislative sessions.
5	Regional Collaborations for Housing and Infrastructure	3/14/2025	TBD	Discussion on infrastructure to support housing.	LAC staff action items	Subset action items related to both NCRTD, NCNMEDD, and the Regional and State Working Group
6	Rules Working Group	Pending			Several proposed areas for additions and changes.	
7	Jail Inspection Team	Pending				
8	Juvenile Justice Advisory Board (JJAB)	1/15/2025	Elections in March	Sources of Strength Collaboration - teambuilding event held. Jessica Strong discussed budget expenditures (monthly report)	Creating Working Group to review JJAB policies and procedures for Committees. Feb 13th road show to report results.	

**Working Group and Committee Status**  
Councilor Melanee Hand

3/18/2025

	A	B	C	D	E	F
9	New Mexico Municipal League	Pending			Follow up on travel to annual conference and request funding approval at Council.	
10	NCNMEDD Board	3/13/2025	24-Apr-25	Community Economic Development Strategy: discussion was held as part as an initiative to shape the economic future of the NCNMEDD region, which consists of 8 NM Counties. A press release was distributed 3/18/25 to gather more input from the public.		
11	NCRTD Board	3/7/2025	4/4/2025	Passed: Proc. 2025-01 Blue Bus Transit Appreciation Week; Passed: Authorized Service Change Modifications that will include routes from Pueblos, Espanola, and Los Alamos. Passed: MOU w/NCNMEDD for funding a site study for Chama Ops Facility; Adoption of an Art in Transit Program Policy and new Art in Transit Program Subcommittee (LAC is invited participant and could coordinate with the LAC APP Board). Cuurrently watching progress through the House for SB213 NM Transit Yield to Buses sponsored by Sen. Roberto Gonzales, and SB 123 Law Enforcement Hires for Transit sponsored by Senator Leo Jaramillo. ED Recruitment Company selection announced to NCRTD 3/7/25: TransPro. Contract targeted for placement by 3/20/25.		
12	NCRTD Finance Subcommittee	3/21/2025	TBD			
13	NCRTD ED Succession	3/4/2025	Pending	Recruiting contractor notified. Contract should be ready around 3/18/25 for signature if not contested.		
14	NALWDB (Northern Area Local Workforce Development Board)	Pending				Councilor Havemann will notify the Board of my contact information and assignment for 2025.

<p>Item 8 March 18, 2025 County Council Work Session</p>
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**Local and Small Business Engagement Working Group.** Council members are Hermann, Reagor, Ryti; engaging with the business community, County staff, and other interested parties. We had a second meeting of the three Councilors on February 19 that included Dr Sasser. We had a discussion of the current and planned County initiatives, which also included Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) for retail. LEDA for retail is planned for a full Council discussion at the March 25 meeting. There has been some follow up with Cities Work, the Institute for Justice's non-partisan regulatory consulting initiative committed to increasing economic opportunity and fostering entrepreneurship in cities across the country. The Cities Work engagement process is being delayed until May after the new Community Development Director starts with the County. What level of interests exists among the full Council for the Cities Work support? We have attended two Local Business Coalition forums on Thursday February 13 and March 13 both at SALA. The first was a series of presentations from the LACDC, County, UNM-LA Small Business Development Center, and the Coalition and the second was a review of existing economic development plans. Recordings of both forums are on their webpage (<https://coalition.losalamos.com/>).

**MainStreet Futures.** Council members are Hermann, Reagor, Ryti. Other attendees include Jacquelyn Connolly, Alison Watkins, Patrick Moore, Jennifer Armstrong, Megan Bucklin, George Marsden, Juan Rael, Janice Krish, Donovan Price, Janet Lovato, Shanna Sasser, & Liz Martineau. We had our third monthly meeting on March 13 with updates on the MainStreet America conference, Coalition of MainStreet Communities, MRA (LA draft being revised, possible application in White Rock), economic transformation strategy, business accelerator, events, and subcommittee reports. One of the longer discussion topics was ScienceFest and how to best benefit from this as a business driver or simply a community event. Do Councilors attend ScienceFest and what is their impression of that event for business owners and the community? There was discussion about the CEDS meeting on March 13 and requests for community input. North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD) is seeking feedback from the Los Alamos County community for their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). More information on MainStreet is on their webpage (<https://www.losalamosmainstreet.com/>).

**Energy Communities Alliance (ECA).** Ryti Treasurer, Executive Board, Board. We had the monthly Executive Board meeting, reviewing and approving invoices and expense reimbursements. We also had a full Board meeting at the Waste Management conference. We had remarks from Roger Jarrell, Office of Environmental Management and from Kristen Ellis, Office of Environmental Management. We also discussed maintaining funds to cover regular expenses and discussing how to fund initiatives. Federal travel is currently restricted, and this could impact attendance at the upcoming meetings like the New

Nuclear Forum in Idaho Falls (April 23-25 2025) and the National Cleanup Workshop in Washington DC (Sep 24-26 2025). The New Nuclear Forum is proceeding, and a decision will be made soon on the National Cleanup Workshop. Main mission for ECA has been to secure funding for environmental cleanup and productive re-use across the DOE complex. More recent initiatives for nuclear energy and interim/permanent geological repositories for nuclear waste. To that end ECA develops white papers on relevant topics like “Ensuring Long-Term Success: Recommendations for the Next Administration on the U.S. Department of Energy’s Environmental Management Mission.” Ryti was a panelist at the Waste Management session on “Reusing US DOE Sites to Support Mission and Economic Opportunities.” More information is available on their webpage (<https://www.energyca.org/>).

**National Association of Counties (NACo).** Ryti attended the Federal legislative conference in March 2025. Ryti is the Chair of the Energy subcommittee of the Environment, Energy, and Land Use (EELU) Policy Committee. I was a co-sponsor of a policy statement supporting regulatory reform. EELU also supported legislation to limit County liability as non-producers of PFAS. This is typically related to wastewater treatment plant effluent. There was also a statement supporting local engagement for the National Interest for Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC) DOE project. One corridor covers all of the Counties in eastern New Mexico. I attended the Resilient Counties with updates on Federal administration transition and a short session on best practices in communication. How often should information be updated during an emergency? Every Councilor can get an account with NACo and this will be useful for seeing of the reports and information available (<https://www.naco.org/>). I encourage Councilors interested in NACo consider joining one of the policy committees.

**Environment, Energy & Land Use (EELU) Policy Steering Committee.** Member since February 2023 and Vice Chair of Energy Subcommittee in 2024 and Chair of Energy Subcommittee in 2025. Successful interim policy statement in support of energy communities infrastructure funding, and changes to platform to clarify support for consent-based siting of nuclear waste. Co-sponsor of regulatory reform interim policy statement. EELU has monthly meetings with a different speaker each month. The policy steering committees meet in person before the Federal legislative conference and annual meeting with speakers in the morning and policy resolutions in the afternoon.

**Resilient Counties Initiative.** Member in 2025. Attending meetings to hear lessons learned on natural disasters and mitigation planning best practices from around the country.

**New Mexico Counties (NMC) Board of Directors.** Elected to represent Los Alamos County in 2025. Entire board meets roughly quarterly. We vote to support or oppose legislation

prior to and during the State Legislature sessions. Other meetings presentations on topics of interest to NMC and approve recommendations on changes to NM State Law. There are also affiliate groups for County elected officials (Commissioners, Clerks, Assessors, Sheriffs, Treasurers) and some non-elected (Managers, Attorneys). There was a meeting of the full NMC Board on February 22, which if after all legislation has been introduced. The NMC Executive Board requests support of action they have taken on 34 bills and the full Board voted to support, oppose, or remain neutral on 19 other bills.

**New Mexico Counties Insurance Authority (NMCIA).** Appointed to represent Los Alamos County in 2023. One annual meeting for the full board annually. Los Alamos County gets its worker's compensation insurance through NMCIA. The NMCIA votes for members to the Executive Board at the annual meeting. The annual meeting approves the financial statements and gets a summary of relevant legislation. See the webpage for more information (<https://nmcountyinsuranceauthority.org/>).

**New Mexico Municipal League Self-Insurers Fund Board of Trustees (NMML SIF BOT).** Elected to Board in 2019. This Board meets roughly quarterly and reviews/adopts updates to policy, receives information on the SIF initiatives, approves financials and rate schedules. We get most of our insurance through the SIF. Los Alamos County was one of the founding members of the SIF. We had a BOT meeting on February 27 in Santa Fe to elect a new Trustee (filling a vacancy), approve some mid-year budget adjustment, approve FY26 rates, discuss the Roswell flood event, hear the loss control reports, and enact modified resolutions. There was approval of contracts and other matters in Executive session. More information is available on their webpage (<https://nmml.org/161/Insurance>); meetings of the Trustees are public, and information packages can be found on the calendar.

**Coalition of Sustainable Communities New Mexico (CSCNM) Executive Board.** The Executive Board has been meeting annually and the CSCNM is in progress of re-structuring as an independent 501c3. It has been a project under the Santa Fe Community Foundation. CSCNM has workshops for members and reviews legislation that are relevant to sustainability initiatives in the state. We had the quarterly meeting on February 21, weekly updates on the 60-day session on Fridays, and monthly member discussion sessions on February 14 and March 14. See the webpage for more information (<https://www.coalitionscnm.org/>).

**Technical Work Group (TWG).** Monthly presentations and discussion on technical aspects of the environmental cleanup in Los Alamos. Hosted by N3B and EM-LA. Last meeting on February 5 was a presentation on the hexavalent chromium conceptual site model review by the Independent Technical Review expert panel members.