

Public Safety Committee Meeting
Held in the Mike Mathews Conference Room
Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Notice of this meeting was given to the public in compliance with Section 10-15-4, NMSA 1978, and Resolution 26-12.

The meeting convened at 4:00 p.m., with Councilor Julianna Halvorson presiding. Present: Councilor Carlos Marrujo, Councilor Cristina Arnold, Councilor Bob Corn, and Councilor Angela Moore.

Ms. Sanders reported to the Chair that a quorum was present.

Staff present: Hess Yntema, City Manager; Amalia Martinez, City Clerk; Angela Garcia, Deputy Clerk; Karen Sanders, Emergency Management; Toby Franco, Community Development; Albert Aldana, Police Chief; Mike Taylor, Deputy Police Chief; Michael Fry, RPD; Ryan Craine, Deputy Police Chief; Steve Chavez, Fire Chief; Alison Herring, PVRCC Director, and Brittany Shannon, PVRCC Assistant Department Director.

Guests: Michaela Merz, Pecos Valley Public Services; Julius Smith; Maura Schanefelt, LifeHouse; Dr. Jess Spohn, LifeHouse; Charlie Nolen, Trans Aero; Teri Harber, Roswell Daily Record; and Rita Kane Doerhoefer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Arnold moved to approve the agenda; Councilor Marrujo seconded the motion. Chair Halvorson, hearing no objections, declared the motion passed 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1.. Councilor Arnold moved to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2026, Public Safety Committee Meeting; Councilor Marrujo seconded the motion. Chair Halvorson, hearing no objections, declared the motion passed 5-0.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Departments presented the committee with their monthly reports and answered any questions.

2. Emergency Management – Karen Sanders presented the monthly report and answered questions.
3. Community Development – Toby Franco presented the monthly report and answered questions.
4. Consolidated Dispatch – Alison Herring presented the monthly report and answered questions.
5. Roswell Fire – Chief Steve Chavez presented the monthly report and answered questions.

6. Roswell Police Department – Chief Albert Aldana presented the monthly report and answered questions.

Following the monthly department reports, Councilor Corn requested that the five departments provide their updated five-year plans, including any changes anticipated in the fall and upcoming fiscal year. Councilor Corn requested the information by November, even if a November Public Safety Committee meeting is not held. City Manager Hess Yntema asked that the plans be current and provided to all City Councilors with sufficient time for review.

REGULAR ITEMS

7. Recommend Resolution 26-XX Regarding A New Multi-Generational Area, The Spring River Zoo, Roswell Adult Center, and Peppermint Park.

Councilor Marrujo moved to recommend Resolution 26-XX Regarding a New Multi-Generational Area, the Spring River Zoo, Roswell Adult Center, and Peppermint Park; Councilor Arnold seconded the motion.

City Manager Hess Yntema presented the proposed resolution, reviewed a map of the area showing the potential location of a new recreation complex and adult center at the existing Spring River Zoo location, and answered questions from the committee.

FOR THE RECORD: The committee discussed the proposed resolution and received public comment regarding the item.

Rita Kane Doerhoefer expressed concerns regarding the location and accessibility of restroom facilities and the distance of the proposed parking areas from the facilities.

Geneva Martinez asked about the process for consideration of the proposed plan and opportunities for public input. The committee discussed the review process and opportunities for public involvement.

Julius Smith expressed concerns regarding transportation and parking and encouraged consideration of a broader variety of recreational activities, including alternatives to traditional sports.

The committee discussed the preliminary nature of the proposal and the process for further review.

Following discussion and public comment, Councilor Corn moved to table the item. The motion to table passed unanimously, 5-0.

NON-ACTION ITEMS

8. LifeHouse Roswell Update

Maura Schanefelt and Dr. Jess Spohn with LifeHouse Roswell provided an overview of the organization's programs and services and answered questions from the committee. Discussion included potential training opportunities with the Roswell Fire Department.

9. Update Real-Time Crime Center

Lt. Michael Fry provided an update on the Roswell Police Department Real-Time Crime Center and demonstrated the system's capabilities using live camera feeds. Lt. Fry answered questions from the committee.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Julius Smith commented on the proposed multigenerational recreation concept and encouraged consideration of recreational opportunities that would attract a broad range of users. Mr. Smith also spoke regarding succession planning and the development of future City leadership.

Michaela Merz with Pecos Valley Public Services provided an update on heat-relief outreach conducted during June and July throughout the City and County. Ms. Merz reported that approximately 600 individuals were assisted in July, some of whom required medical evaluation or transport. She also discussed outreach to members of the general public and the distribution of water and cooling supplies. In response to a question from Councilor Arnold, Ms. Merz stated that State-supported services are also anticipated to be available during inclement winter weather.

Geneva Martinez provided an update on the cooling center at Westminster Presbyterian Church, which also received State heat-relief funding. Ms. Martinez reported approximately 1,963 visits between June 1 and July 31 and discussed the variety of services and activities available at the center. She noted that the center serves individuals and families in need of relief from the heat, including residents without adequate air conditioning in their homes.

Charlie Nolen with Trans Aero MedEvac commented on improvements in ambulance transfer wait times following the transition of EMS services to the City. Mr. Nolen also provided information regarding Trans Aero's Chaves County resident program, which provides air medical transport without out-of-pocket costs to eligible Chaves County residents who request Trans Aero, with applicable charges billed to insurance.

Chaves County Commissioner Dara Dana provided additional information regarding the Trans Aero resident program and discussed City and County partnerships that benefit the community. Commissioner Dana commented on the new - New Mexico Department of Health facility, highlighting the community resources and training space available to residents. She also discussed the proposed zoo redevelopment project and encouraged consideration of smaller-scale recreational amenities that would provide shaded play areas and other family-friendly features for children.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.