



Regular Monthly Meeting
10 a.m. Wednesday, April 2, 2025
Mayors' Council Conference Room
Hagåtña, Guam

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER: *President* Mayor Jesse L.G. Alig called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL:

ALIG, Jesse L.G.	Mayor	Piti
ALVAREZ, Dale C. P.	Mayor	Santa Rita-Sumai
ARROYO, Richard B.	Mayor	Agana Heights
BAUTISTA, Jessie P.	Vice Mayor	Barrigada
BENAVENTE, Peter John S.	Mayor	Dededo
○ BLAS, June U.	Mayor	Barrigada
BLAS, PEDRO	Vice Mayor	Yigo
CHAMPACO, Franklin J. Q.	Mayor	Malesso'
CHARGUALAF, Anthony P.	Mayor	Inalåhan
○ FEJERAN, Christopher J.	Vice Mayor	Hågat
○ GUMATAOTAO, Michael T.	Mayor	Hagåtña
* HOFMANN, Robert RDC	Mayor	Sinajana
○ LEON GUERRERO, Ann S. SA	Vice Mayor	Dededo
* LIZAMA, Frances S.	Mayor	Yigo
○ PACO, Rudy A.	Mayor	Mongmong-Toto-Maite
* QUINATA, Johnny A.	Mayor	Humatak
RIVERA, Louise C.	Mayor	Tamuning
SALAS, Frankie	Mayor	Asan-Maina
SANTOS, Wayne SN	Mayor	Chalan Pago-Ordot
SUSUICO, Kevin J.T.	Mayor	Hågat
TAITAGUE, Vicente S.	Mayor	Talo'fo'fo'
TERLAJE, Brian J.	Mayor	Yaña
○ TOSCO, Edward J. D.	Vice Mayor	Mangilao
TOVES, Albert M.	Vice Mayor	Tamuning
* UNGACTA, Allan R.G.	Mayor	Mangilao

○ = ABSENT * = LATE ** = OFF ISLAND R = REPRESENTATIVE V = VIRTUAL

Nineteen (16) members present at time of roll call. A quorum was established.

III. NATIONAL ANTHEM / GUAM HYMN

IV. 001-25	GUEST SPEAKERS – Jerome Aguon – Tax Payer Services Administrator, Department of Revenue & Taxation Dr. Kenneth Gofigan Kuper, Jimmy Santos Teria, & Siñot Cody Lizama – Young Men’s League of Guam (YMLG), Cultural Committee on Cultural Preservation, Lani Carillo, Owner / Sole Proprietor - Positive Pathways Consulting
A.	Maria Lizama, Acting Director of the Department of Revenue and Taxation, introduces herself and her colleague, Jennifer Untalan. Lizama discusses the difference between nonprofit organizations and those with tax-exempt status. She explains the requirements for maintaining tax-exempt status, including annual Form 990 filings. Lizama highlights the importance of updating the list of nonprofit organizations with tax-exempt status on the Guam tax website. Lizama talks about the application process, compliance for tax-exempt status and details the application process for obtaining tax-exempt status, including forms available at the Business Privilege Tax (BPT) branch. She emphasizes the thorough review process, which can take up to six months. Lizama advises organizations to contact the BPT branch if their tax-exempt status has been revoked to understand the missing requirements. She stresses the importance of filing annual returns and updating information with the BPT branch to maintain tax-exempt status. Lizama brings up the topic of related activities and event planning. She discusses the requirements for events involving admission charges or alcohol, including the need for approval from the Compliance Branch. She advises organizations to plan events well in advance to ensure they are on the agenda for the next Compliance Board meeting. Lizama provides contact information for various departments within the Department of Revenue and Taxation, including the call center. She encourages organizations to reach out directly if they have specific questions or concerns. The discussion on non-profit organizations and tax-exempt status, Mayor Alig raises a question about the difference between municipal planning councils and mayor's offices in terms of nonprofit status. Lizama and Jennifer Untalan clarify that government agencies under the Mayor's Council must adhere to governmental regulations. They emphasize the importance of understanding the requirements for tax-exempt status and the need for proper documentation. The discussion highlights the need for clear communication and proper application processes for nonprofit organizations.
B.	The Young Men's League of Guam presents on the status of the Chamorro language and steps to promote it. Dr. Kenneth Kuper and Siñot Cody Lizama discuss the decline in Chamorro speakers and the urgency to act within the next five to ten years. They highlight the importance of creating more spaces for Chamorro language use and increasing the number of speakers. The presentation includes examples of successful language revitalization programs and the need for community involvement. Siñot Cody Lizama encourages individual meetings with villages to discuss and implement

	language programs. He provides examples of successful programs, such as the University of Guam's master-apprentice program. The discussion includes the need for safe spaces for Chamorro language use and the importance of community engagement. The presentation concludes with a call to action for the community to recognize the severity of the Chamorro language situation and take collective action. Mayor Benavente raised a concern and asks about the possibility of having Chamorro language classes in high schools, similar to Japanese and Spanish classes. Mayor Louise emphasizes the need for more promotion of Chamorro as the official language of Guam. Mayor Arroyo shares her experience with an after-school program at Heights Elementary School and invites the presenters to visit and see the progress.
C.	Stephen Cahill, Guam Tsunami Program Manager, provides an overview of tsunami preparedness and the importance of recognizing natural warning signs. He explains the different types of tsunamis (local, regional, and distant) and the response protocols. Cahill discusses the importance of evacuation maps and the need for better communication systems during emergencies. He addresses questions from mayors about the effectiveness of the current siren system and the need for additional sirens and evacuation plans.
D.	Lani Carrillo from Positive Pathways Consulting discusses her background in grant writing and community development. She highlights the importance of completing a culturally resonant community needs assessment to identify specific needs and write for grants. Carrillo provides examples of successful grant applications she has secured in the past, emphasizing the need for collective efforts. She encourages mayors and village leaders to reach out to her for assistance in writing grants and building community programs.
	Mayor Alig thanks all the guest speakers and participants for their contributions to the meeting. He emphasizes the importance of continued collaboration and communication among mayors and village leaders. The meeting concludes with a call to action for mayors to take steps to address the issues discussed, including language revitalization, tsunami preparedness, and community development. The next steps include following up with the guest speakers, completing assessments, and writing grants to address the identified needs.

V. 002-25	APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES – Motion made by Mayor Santos. Seconded by Vice Mayor Jessie Bautista. Motion carries, with no discussion.
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VI. 003-25	APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT – A motion to approve the treasurer's report is made. Moved by Mayor Taitague and seconded by Mayor Hofmann, with no discussion.
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VII. 004-25	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Joy Jean R. Arceo
A.	Executive Director, Joy Jean Arceo announces a notification was sent out to the Mayors on March 24 regarding the distribution of new computers

	purchased for each village. The Council has requested a list of current workstations, including the quantities and its location.
B.	Executive Director, Joy Jean Arceo has confirmed Phase 1 of the Invitation for Bid for the Recycling Revolving Fund Abandoned vehicle program was forwarded to the AG's office last week for review.
C.	Executive Director, Joy Jean Arceo reminds the Mayors and Vice Mayors of the Financial Disclosure Statement for elected officials is due on or before April 22 nd .

VIII. 005-25	COMMITTEE REPORTS
A.	Boards and Commissions –
	Mayor Alig emphasizes the importance of notifying the commission if a meeting has not been scheduled.
	Mayor Terlaje reports no quorum for the Commission on Decolonization.
	Mayor Blas mentions no contact from the Commission on Healing Arts of Guam.
	Mayor Susuico expresses thanks to the CAHA board for sponsorships and discusses funding for municipalities and upcoming festivals.
	Mayor Alig asks to route any documents from the committee or boards to central office for filing by Bing in case they are requested.
	Mayor Alig requests updates on the Guam Invasive Species Council and other commissions. Mayor Arroyo talks about the Guam System of Care Council and the need for participation in a training.
	Mayor Hoffman regarding GVB discussed the board meeting with the new CEO and divided the information gathered from the community over the last three months into three areas: village fair festival, village Fiesta account grant applications, and destination management. The goal is to streamline the process and provide grant money for specific projects, such as painting, water blasters, and equipment maintenance. The council is also addressing green waste in parks and implementing a specific paint scheme for wall trim, benches, and tables. Standardizing the paint code for public parks will make it easier to identify and address graffiti. The board also discussed the bond market, identifying 10 million for mayor's projects, maintenance, destination management, signage, and paving requests. The goal is to improve the overall quality of the parks and ensure they meet the needs of the community.
	Mayor Champaco reports on the Peace Council's Mental Health First Aid training and the need for more participation.
	Mayor Alig emphasizes the importance of addressing substance abuse and mental health issues in the community.
	Mayor Hofmann suggests inviting behavioral health officials to discuss the drug problem on the island.
	Mayor Alig agrees to coordinate a special meeting with behavioral health officials to address the issue.

	Mayor Terlaje reports on the Serve Guam Commission's peer review team meeting and the need for more participation.
	Mayor Santos mentions the upcoming meeting to discuss vacancies on the Board of Regents.
	Mayor Salas announced that on the last meeting for the Veteran Commission's next event would be Memorial day on May 26 th and there will be other meetings later or sooner.
	Mayor Alig discusses the Elder Justice Advisory Council's efforts to lobby for budget support and the right of sepulcher. The Elder Justice Advisory Council is advocating for funding for the Civil Law Center. The council has sent flyers and a survey to the public for information on who qualifies for limited legal assistance. The Elder Justice Center faced funding issues due to its \$900,000 budget, which was funded out of ARPA. the council is working on the right of sepulcher, a service that was once available to indigents who needed to be buried. The council is also working on a process where the government bears the debt of burying the debt. The social cultural committee has decided to continue the student exchange program in Guam, with the mayor of Yoña offering to host the first day or commencement of the program.
	Mayor Alig emphasizes the need for a process to handle unclaimed bodies and the importance of the Elder Justice Center's budget.
	Mayor Alig announces the continuation of the student exchange program with CNMI and the need for nominations. The committee has decided to continue the student exchange with CNN eight, CNMI students to Guam in May. The exchange will take place on May 18th, 19th, 21st, and 22nd, with the mayor of Yoña offering to host the first day or commencement of the program. The committee will discuss the selection process for the eight students from Guam to attend the CNMI. The committee aims to avoid going through schools this year as it's the first round. The committee will only accept eight students from the island for the first year, with high school students participating. Questions and documents will be addressed in the next meeting.

IX. 006-25	UNFINISHED BUSINESS
A.	Mayor Alig has announced the dispersion of 47,000 funds from the 25th budget.
	Mayor Alig discusses the budget for fiscal year 2025, emphasizing the importance of personnel services and the need for qualified staff.
	The council will send an allotment schedule for the 47,000 funds.
	The budget will be divided into 47 different object classes.
	The budget must be considered between now and September 30 to ensure sufficient allocation per category.
	Overspending is prohibited, and if the checkbook shows zero, no charges will be made. The executive director has been asked to criminally overspend as it is irresponsible.

	The council has hired certified staff, including an executive director, accountant, and administrative officer.
	If there is insufficient money in the account, it is advised not to spend it.
	Mayor Alig explains the distribution of funds based on district mileage and the inclusion of capital outlay for software and vehicles.
	Mayor Alig highlights the importance of following the rules and not overspending, especially with limited funds.
	Mayor Lizama noted that the previous budget they did not allot for CMWS and questions if they will take that into consideration. Mayor Alig confirms the Mayor's Council did not exclude key workers, the legislature took out the CMWs and money. The budget includes CMW increments. Fiscal 25 column shows 14.3, fiscal 40 is 14.8. Annual leave payouts were included in fiscal 40 Mayors and employees separating were paid their annual leave.
	Mayor Alig discussed the need for qualified personnel and the need to justify the increased personnel amount and the new mayors were brought in during a period of disarray and struggle, which led to a need for qualified personnel. Mayor Alig also discussed the need for a balanced approach to hiring, avoiding political hire and ring purposes. Mayor Alig discussed the minimal travel requests and the contractual services, such as office space rental and supplies and materials. Mayor Alig mentions the need for drug testing and the miscellaneous expenses, totaling 2.3 million. The total budget for operations and utilities was 2.3 million, with a slight increase in utilities due to the need for additional facilities. The limited gaming fund was also discussed, which is a separate fund from the budget and is not included in the total budget.
	The budget for the Mayor's Council of Guam has increased by at least 1.8 million due to the request for village data management software. The issue of using ARPA was not addressed due to lack of knowledge on how to spend it. The executive director was able to secure a bid for the vehicles, but the administration was forced to pay at the last hour due to lack of knowledge. The capital outlay also includes servers related to software and computers, and heavy equipment with operators. The feral swine project, which was discussed with the USDA, will benefit every village. The USDA has provided an amount to assist 19 villages with the Swirl Feral Swine Project. The mayor of Agana Heights has caught over 300 pigs through the USDA program, but the program needs to be expanded to other villages. The program is not always available due to other villages having problems with the river of chaot coming across. The mayor suggests that other villages should also take advantage of the trapping program, but they are not always budgeted for it.
B.	The discussion on the availability and budgeting of resources for the 81 st Guam Liberation. Mayor Terlaje mentions the committee also discussed the Queen coordination that was passed to everyone last meeting and the regulations and requirements for this year's Queen's contest. Mayor Terlaje discussed the cultural and tactile display of tattoos, which is a significant part of the island culture. Mayor Alig discusses the possibility of considering

	<p>another qualification date for the Queen's contest, based on the availability of candidates. The committee is open to changes to the qualifications from last year's 80th liberation, with the first event scheduled for July 6 at the Manenggon Memorial. The committee is ready to start putting out notifications and getting candidates.</p>
	<p>Mayor Terlaje announces the qualifications for the Miss the Queen's Coordination are unchanged from last year, with a minimum age of 18 years old. Contestants must be born female, US citizens, and residents of Guam for at least six months before July 21, 2025. The cutoff for contestants was 18 due to the need for more revenue from the means coordination. Contestants must have a US valid passport and can be single, married, divorced, and mothers. Contestants must not have visible body or facial tattoos during their candidacy or reign. Contestants must identify a charitable non-profit organization verified by the Guam Department of Revenue and Taxation. The committee has decided not to allow titleholders who have relinquished their crown another chance to run again due to the changes in qualifications. The remaining 50% of the judging criteria comes from pageantry, with Crimsona Amistad-Kaiser offering coaching for the girls. The mayor has also brought in a director and choreographer to assist with the event, knowing there is no budget.</p>
	<p>The committee is considering a significant change in the process for the 81st Liberation Queen. The new requirement or qualifications for the 81st Liberation Queen have been approved by the council. The mayor of Inalahan moves the motion and the Vice Mayor Bautista has seconded the motion in favor of the new regulation. Mayor Arroyo is considering the native costume of a candidate from Ulithi, who is a native of Guam and a military veteran. Mayor Terlaje brings up the four categories of the pageant include village-themed native costume, ethnicized native costume, and evening gown. The judging criteria will be based on the contestant's attire, including the liberation theme. The committee is considering adding a song to the contestant's entrance, which Mayor Jesse will sing to the contestants. The committee is also considering adding an explanation of the native wear description in writing to avoid misinterpretation. The committee is also considering revisiting the dates to ensure sufficient time is given to acquire sufficient candidates.</p>
	<p>The meeting discussed the announcement of the Liberation Parade and the need for specific candidates to be identified and coached. Sasha Santos suggested a class for girls to learn about Liberation history and its importance. The President or incumbent mayors with experience in deliberation coronation could suggest dates for the event. The meeting decided to keep the date of April 25 for the parade and the Queen's contest. Mayor Alig called for the vote and it was unanimously passed. The council was asked if there is interest in coordinating a carnival or a casino The council was asked if there is any interest in putting something else together other than the parade and the</p>

	Queen's contest. Mayor Alig mentions the need to consider further and make a final decision next at next month's meeting to move forward.
C.	<p>Mayor Alig moves on to the user fee schedule, which was passed out to the members before proceeding. Mayor Alig discussed the possibility of charging for banners, billboards, canopies, chairs, tables, and mayors for verifications. The mayor of Sinajana proposed a multi-purpose performing arts spaces, which was also considered. The 17th Council proposed a user fee schedule with amendments. Mayor Alig credited former mayor Melissa Savares for helping to put the schedule together. The proposal includes banners, billboards, canopies, chairs, and tables. The proposal does not charge mayors for verifications. The proposal also includes multi-purpose performing arts spaces. The proposal is to be applied to community parks and centers. The proposed fee scale is based on square footage, which could be used for specific reasons. The mayor of Sinajana is recognized for his support. The proposal does not charge for verifications. The proposed sliding scale is 300 to 600, but the definition is unclear. The preference is to use square footage, as it would determine the basis for the charge. Mayor Alig believes that if the money goes through the triple A process, it would be deposited to the treasurer of Guam. They are concerned about charging fees for mayor's verification, canopies, or chairs, as many claim it doesn't happen. They don't have experience and don't know what it looks like. They want to avoid charging for these fees and prefer not to entertain a motion at this point as they are still drafting the proposal. Mayor Hofmann proposed to remove verifications from the proposal is discussed, aiming to avoid headlines and ensuring public understanding. The government has the ability to charge for copies, but believes it is a service and won't take it on a motion. There are no objections to removing verifications, but concerns arise about contractors who require signatures for variance clearance, which may be a charge that the mayor can cover in their fees. Mayor Ungacta asks if contractors often request variance clearance and require signatures from the mayor. Other agencies charge additional fees, which the mayor can add to their fees. The mayors should consider these fees when dealing with other business entities. Mayor Hofmann suggests that the proposed fee is an administrative fee, not a user fee for a physical building or open space. They suggest keeping it specific to parks and considering additional costs. They agree that this is an administrative cost, similar to the correct public announcements. Mayor Alig adds in to the discussion revolves around charging for encroachment permits and other related costs, unsure if they can charge for encroachment permits and is considering additional research. Mayor Alig also considering administrative fees related to user fees, square footage, and day/night use. They believe that additional lights or additional employees after five may be necessary to increase pay, as they may not be used during the day. Mayor Hofmann questions the authority of other agencies to charge user fees for maintenance, upkeep, and cleaning. They mention examples like parks and</p>

	<p>recreation where a \$100 fee is exchanged for \$50, with the remaining \$50 kept for cleaning. They mention three factors: cleaning, maintenance, and wear and tear. They are unsure if there are other jurisdictions where user fee schedules apply for specific things. Mayor Alig is unsure about the fee for a committee, but believes it may be around \$50, as they were appointed for the last term and are not aware of any other committee members. Mayor Rivera discusses the administrative process for Parks and Recreation, including charges for after-hours and weekends for employees. They mention that they don't do overtime. Mayor Rivera questions the funding source, whether it goes to the treasurer of Guam, and how it is released back to them. They prefer to see the payment coming back to them instead of directly into their NAF. Mayor Alig mentions he appointed a committee for the last term, waiting for new mayors' input. They will investigate, and the mayor of Inalahan is recognized. Mayor Chargualaf believes that the funds from the fee schedule should go to the mayor's NAF, as it is not profitable for them. The fee schedule is a tool for cleaning up and making repairs, creating uniformity among the 19 villages. Mayor Chargualaf has the discretion to impose fees, depending on the occasion and the need for facilities. The funds should come directly back to the municipality, allowing for immediate repairs and cleanup to keep the facility functioning. The end is up to the mayor. Mayor Alig discusses a proposed schedule for a park, which was discussed in the 17th council. They want to discuss the proposal in detail and if desired, make a decision by the next meeting and discusses the square footage of the facilities and the need to consider the cost of charging based on the size of parks. Mayor Hofmann discussion revolves around the fiduciary duty and administrative costs associated with managing the park's facilities. It is suggested that overnight or camping rates should be set to ensure uniformity and comply with local rules. The priority is to set a fee schedule, which can be negotiated with the Mayor's Council or the Mayor's Council's non-appropriated funds. Mayor Hofmann also touches on the need for multi-purpose performing art spaces, such as stage areas, open areas, and performing arts halls. These spaces may be located outside of a community center site, but they will require significant costs to run. The discussion also touches on the need to consider the square footage of the park's multi-purpose center, as it will be a significant expense for the organization. The discussion suggests that the first week of May is the best time to set the actual fee schedule costs.</p>
X. 007-25	NEW BUSINESS
A.	<p>Mayor Alig discusses the Pacific historic parks needs assessment conducted on Guam, Rota Saipan, and Tinian, which found that the majority of people in the islands want more education and hands-on experiences in terms of historic preservation and park preservation. This information is crucial for mayors and vice mayors to consider when planning events and activities in their communities.</p>

	<p>Mayor Alig emphasizes the importance of preserving Chamorro culture, which is important to all people and should not be overlooked. They suggest that the majority of people throughout the islands want more historical education, culturally related events, and culturally related activities. Mayor Alig also emphasizes the importance of not perpetuating culture, such as consuming chicken meat or fasting on certain days. Mayor Alig also mentions the virtual reality show about liberation that was presented by the group that conducted the assessment. Mayor Alig urges the community to bring this information back to their communities and use it in committees, boards, and commissions that affect their people. Attending these meetings is not for waste of time but for helping the people become better, whether it has to be more proficient in tomorrow, understand their heritage more, or be safer in their homes. In conclusion, Mayor Alig emphasizes the importance of preserving Chamorro culture and traditions in the communities they serve. They encourage the use of the assessment from the national historic parks to make it work for their communities and ensure that the people receive the education and resources they need to succeed in their efforts.</p>
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XI. 008-25	ANNOUNCEMENTS
	<p>Mayor Hofmann announces a reminder that on April 7, from one to three o'clock, that is the Community Development Block Grant. For those of you that have questions on how to fill out the grant, this is the working session. This is the session you want to come to that you can send your staff to to help with the grant application. One for the GHURA CDBG, this is not the disaster one. This is the regular GHURA CDBG, so That's April 7 on Monday, from 1 to 3pm and then just a reminder about Speaker Forbes funeral, and we just got word that Senator Bob Klitzkie, because he also passed away. So our thanks for their efforts in helping our communities. Mayor Arroyo announces the coconut festival is coming up at the end, at the end of April 25, 26 and 27 and it will be back down at the mayor's office again. In addition, there will be a train ride. So, if Mayor Alig needs a ride, we'll pick him up.</p>

XII. 009-25	ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.
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Attested by:



MAYOR LOUISE C. RIVERA
Council Executive Secretary
18th Mayors' Council of Guam

Transcribed by:



Beatrice "Bing" Cruz
Private Secretary
MCOG – Administration