



Regular Monthly Meeting
 10 a.m. Wednesday, November 1, 2023
 Mayors' Council Conference Room
 Hagåtña, Guam

MINUTES

The base commander of Andersen Air Force Base, Gen. Thomas Palenske, was acknowledged and welcomed to the podium by the president, who unofficially started the meeting. The general gave it to Command Chief Master Sgt. Nicholas Taylor so that he could make an introduction before he did.

I. CALL TO ORDER: *President* Mayor Jesse L.G. Alig called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL:

ALIG, Jesse L.G.	Mayor	Piti
ALVAREZ, Dale E.	Mayor	Santa Rita-Sumai
BAUTISTA, Jessie P.	Vice Mayor	Barrigada
* CHARGUALAF, Anthony P.	Mayor	Inaláhan
V DELGADO, Kevin AN	Vice Mayor	Mangilao
FEJERAN, Christopher J.	Vice Mayor	Hågat
* GOGUE, Jessy C.	Mayor	Chalan Pago-Ordot
HOFMANN, Robert RDC	Mayor	Sinajana
PACO, Rudy A.	Mayor	M-T-M
RIVERA, Louise C.	Mayor	Tamuning
SALAS, Frankie A.	Mayor	Asan-Maina
SAVARES, Melissa B.	Mayor	Dededo
SUSUICO, Kevin J.T.	Mayor	Hågat
TAITAGUE, Vicente S.	Mayor	Talo'fo'fo'
TOVES, Albert M.	Vice Mayor	Tamuning
SANCHEZ, Anthony P.	Mayor	Yigo
* UNGACTA, Allan "Al" R.G.	Mayor	Mangilao
O BENAVENTE, Peter John S.	Vice Mayor	Dededo
O BLAS, June U.	Mayor	Barrigada
O CHARGUALAF, Ernest T.	Mayor	Malesso'
O CRUZ, John A.	Mayor	Hagåtña
O IRIARTE, Rudy D.	Vice Mayor	Sinajana
O LEONES, Loreto V.	Vice Mayor	Yigo
V/R McDONALD, Paul M.	Mayor	Agana Heights
O QUENGA, Bill A.	Mayor	Yona
O QUINATA, Johnny A.	Mayor	Humatak

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

Fourteen (14) members present at time of roll call. No quorum established.

Quorum established at 10:26 a.m.

Angel R. Sablan
Elaine RA Schaaf

Executive Director
Recording Secretary

III. NATIONAL ANTHEM/GUAM HYMN

There were no objections to Senator Sabina Perez's speaking under the Legislative Committee's Standing Committee reports on Bill No. 165-37, Relative to establishing the Guam Solid Waste Authority's Universal Garbage Collection Plan. The bill is not set in stone and there are opportunities to make changes. At a round table she hosted in 2019, one of the first recommendations made by the mayors was to name it universal collections but they're going to change the name to Islandwide Collections. Two terms later, the bill was finally introduced. The senator apologized for the delay, pointing out that the main idea for reducing illegal dumping came from the mayors. GSWA's plan goals are households that are under four residential units to ensure that all of them are on collection services., appliances, electronics, all batteries, construction wastes, integration of public and private collection services, reduction in tipping fees; disposal fees for electronics and batteries, and reduction of littering and dumping violations. Every GWA and GPA customer being on collections might potentially assist in lowering the rates as well as cushioning them. The senator is hearing that the hardship of having to close the Ordot dump is the reason why GSWA wants to raise its rates. Raising the prices is necessary due to the burden of closing the Ordot dump. The closure of the dump accounts for a significant portion of the revenue. They take off \$2M a year at least to satisfy the court mandates, the court orders to ensure that the dump is properly closed.

The Executive Director proposed that a more reasonable method of determining the tipping fee to base it on the number of people living in a household rather than the size of the household's square footage.

If there is something in line to assist the seniors, Mayor Allan Ungacta said, it will be very grateful.

Senator Perez said that's what we thought about when we were looking at customer assistance programs and that we want to be able to bridge that gap because we know that some of the reasons why people are not on collection services are because of cost."

Bill No. 171-37, Relative to increasing the fines for substantial littering violations. The bill is more enforceable because it's related to the weight. The fines are increased based on the amount of illegal dumping that occurs and there's no cap and to make sure that it's in line with the infraction. A section of the bill states that community service may be used in lieu of fines for amounts under \$1,000. The fine is divided by 12 using a formula, which essentially gives the amount of hours the offender would then need to commit.

The president asked to consider putting in the bill green waste and household green waste removal or disposal. It also helps, according to Mayor Hofmann, because mayors get a lot of burning complaints.

Mayor Melissa Savares said sorting needs to be emphasized and can be in an area that can be sorted. There's a big difference between aluminum and metal. The Freon needs to be evacuated from freezers, refrigerators, and air conditioners. There is a fee. The mayor asked if that fee be incorporated into something else.

Senator said part of the collections is white goods is free. For those that are on service, they'll have the service. It's part of this. Senator said it would definitely eliminate the problem to our environment and the mayors to have to deal with the illegal dumping of white goods. If they do the universal plan, it would be free for everybody. It would be included in the service.

Mayor Paco commented, "Since taking office, all we've talked about is trash. If we don't enforce the law and impose a steep fine on these people, we'll never win the battle of illegal dumping and abandoned vehicles."

Mayor Jessy Gogue stated that, in his opinion, all that has to be done is move forward, remove the bill from committee, let the legislature act on it, and then make any necessary adjustments. However, action must be taken.

The senator expressed it functions best when it has a monetary value attached to it. Consequently, it ceases to be, or becomes less of, an issue if that person realizes they may profit from it. It takes pioneers to recognize that as a lucrative potential. That's what the underlying economics of it lack. We therefore need someone who can take that trash and turn it into money. This means that grants of that kind would be possible under the recycling revolving fund bill she passed last term.

To provide testimony in time for the public hearing, the president stated that there will be additional discussion with the body and that a resolution may be passed to offer testimony.

The senator thanked Council members for the discussion and dialogue.

IV. GUEST SPEAKER

John Benavente, Independent Vietnam Veterans Association of Guam. Contributions of \$600 per brick for their *Brick Project* will help support the construction of a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Monument at Skinner Plaza.

V. APPROVAL OF AUGUST MINUTES – Mayor Allan Ungacta made the motion to approve and seconded by Mayor Melissa Savares. No discussions or objections. The motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT – Mayor Jessy Gogue made the motion to approve the June, July, and August report and seconded by Vice Mayor Albert Toves. No discussions or objections. The motion carried.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS DEBRIS REMOVAL MISSION – Mawar debris from residential right of way was cleaned up in all 19 villages. The only debris left behind are those that are ineligible. There's some work in progress to work with DPW and the Island Beautification Task Force to see how mayors can mitigate the leftover debris that still sits on many of our rights of way.

FY22 CITIZEN CENTRIC – The report is available to view on the Council website at www.mcog.guam.gov.

QUARTERLY REPORTS – Thirteen Districts have already complied with reporting requirements. Six remain outstanding to this day. As mandated, ED reminded the Body to submit by the deadline.

ALLOTMENT SCHEDULES FOR FY24 – MCOG -Admn. is working with Dept. of Administration to upload all District accounts.

EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND (ESF) – Stephanie Flores of the Guam State Clearinghouse is working to get the deadline extended until December 30 2023. Mayors who still have funds available and want to use them should be able to complete all of their projects.

PRUGRĀMAN PINILIAN VILLAGE COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM – ED has learned from Mayor Hoffman that the Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA) child care grant has been extended until December of this year.

DISTRICT ARPA BALANCES AND PLANS – Expenditures must be completed by FY 26 while funds remain good throughout FY 24. The president and the director spoke about the availability of funds for the MCOG yesterday. In order to enable communication among all of the mayor's offices, a plan is being developed for digital hardware. Funds will be put aside for computers for all of the villages. They're also looking at how they can increase the amount of money for equipment rental and maybe small equipment purchases.

VEHICLE PURCHASE – The only outstanding funds that MCOG has from ARPA that were not processed in FY23 are the vehicles. GSA received the requisitions months prior to the end of FY23. Requisitions were at GSA months before the end of FY23. ED is sure the governor and Special Assistant to the Governor, Robert Lizama, both can attest that it was just not acted upon and so their recommendation is that since those funds are still available, MCOG would either submit new requisitions and ride on another IDIQ bid, or GSA would go out on a bid separately just for the Mayor's Council. Members of the council were reassured by the director that the funds for those vehicles were not lost; it is still available.

The president said we will keep working on the purchase orders for the ARPA vehicles, make sure that the money is used, and communicate with the governor's office to obtain the remaining funds.

ETHICS TRAINING AND THE PROCUREMENT MODULE TRAINING – The director expressed gratitude to council members who had continued their ethics training and noted that many more had followed through. However, the director issued a pressing notification to mayors who hire new staff members, stating that the law requires them to complete ethics training within six months of starting work. Older workers have four years to comply, or until the mayor's term ends.

As mandated by the Office of Public Accountability ten administrative assistants from the Districts were selected to attend the procurement Module I training as soon as space becomes available.

SENIOR CENTER OPERATIONS – They working with the Division of Senior Citizens to move everything out from the Macheche Center to their office.

RESPONSE ACTIVITY COORDINATOR – "At this time, the RAC is defined by MCOG bylaws as the executive director, but I have designated multiple individuals in my office, including SCO as RACs. Activation is a 24-hour operation that requires more than one person to manage on a daily basis. Since we can no longer appoint individuals from SCO

to be RACs, my suggestion is that we perhaps look into designating some of the seven vice mayors, since I know the mayors will be busy running their respective villages, as RACs so they can be present at the Emergency Operations Center. It doesn't have to be eight hours a day, four hours, and keep rotating. This is just a suggestion on my part so that we are able to still have them communicate with the other mayors. It cannot be just one person," the director stated.

Mayor Melissa Savares made a comment to amend the bylaws to include representatives of the Mayors' Council as RAC members; the property officer, the timekeeper, and the messenger clerk to take on shifts. What's important is that staff here at the Mayors' Council are knowledgeable and aware of what's being requested for and the operations. Having the vice mayors be part of that is a good idea but at the same time, speaking for Dededo, we need them in the communities during times of disasters.

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT – ED had spoken with the president and the officers since early this year to form a search committee for an executive director. He gave his 30-day notice making his retirement official on December 1, 2023, after 15 years. He will take personal leave in the next few weeks and come back during the last week before December 1 to transition whether there's somebody new or there's somebody that's appointed to make sure that all the loose ends that he may have will be all tied up and that the new person will be ready to go.

The president acknowledged speaking with ED yesterday. He extended his sincerest thanks for his service to the council and to the island of Guam. He said, "As president, I, we've, worked well together to get our ideas across at least and to get things done. I know that you have served this council faithfully for the time that you were here and we have all developed personal relationships with you. We wish you well in your next endeavor and I appreciate everything you've done for us. I thank you for your willingness to work with us, to transition as we begin a new cycle come December 1st. So thank you again for everything you've done."

Mayor Melissa Savares addressed the ED expressing that he had taken the Body to the next level of leadership and had gone in and deep down to see not just as a whole council but the needs of each individual village.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS – BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS / STANDING COMMITTEES

LEGISLATIVE AND FINANCE

Bill No. 9-37 Relative to the legalization and regulation of the use of Consumer-Grade Fireworks – A number of mayors had different opinions and different concerns, so the President decided it was best to address Senator Dwayne San Nicolas, the bill's sponsor, and have talks with the Council. The President acknowledged that he had not brought attention to this bill early enough. Nevertheless, the Legislature passed it.

Bill No. 165-37, Relative to establishing the Guam Solid Waste Authority's Universal Garbage Collection Plan – Mayor Ungacta expressed his support for the bill and emphasized that helping the elderly is his only concern.

The president expressed confidence that we could incorporate the senior citizens' needs into our testimony and include them in that particular area of the measure.

Mayor Ungacta said that would be great if they get the first priority because most of them are retired and don't really have too much of a pension and benefits.

President called for a motion to support. **Mayor Jessy Gogue made the motion to provide a letter of support or a resolution to Bill No. 165-37. Seconded by Mayor Ungacta.**

In discussion, regarding Mayor Ungacta's concern, Mayor Gogue referenced § 51A1004 of the bill.

The president will take the consideration to include the tiered rates for seniors or for single persons living in a household under the Customer Assistance Program and also to consider giving the senior citizens first priority and to also include the green waste pickup.

No further discussion. All in support. None opposed. Motion approved.

ASSOCIATION OF MARIANA ISLANDS' MAYORS, VICE MAYORS & ELECTED MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBERS (AMIM) – The president of AMIM, Mayor Edwin Aldan, gave Mayor Kevin Susuico notice that Guam would host the 28th General Assembly on November 28–29, 2023. Plans are underway, and updates will be shared with all. The agenda will be forthcoming from Mayor Aldan.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CHRISTMAS EVENTS – The president sent the criteria for the village Christmas tree decorating contest. He will work with Vice Mayor Kevin Delgado on the judging dates and send it to all. He called for a motion to be made, proposing that the prizes for first place be taken from the dues account at \$1,000, second place at 750, and third place at \$500. **Mayor Savares made the motion and seconded by Mayor Ungacta. No further discussion. All in support. None opposed. Motion approved.**

RIHGA Royal Laguna Hotel is no longer available for December 15. Because the majority wanted the party in December, the president went around to see which hotel was available on a Friday or a Saturday because those seem to be the preferred dates. The Leo Palace was available on December 2nd and 23rd. The 23rd was too close to Christmas. He paid \$500 to reserve December 2 and sent an email to council members asking if there were any objections. Since this is an official meeting, the president asked the Body if there were any objections to December 2 at Leo Palace. **There were no objections.**

The cost per person is \$55. The mayors are all very busy, so there won't be any fundraising for this. He requested a motion to take money out of the *Dues* account, not to exceed \$20,000, to pay for the staff and entertainment costs. **A motion to use up to \$30,000 to pay for staff as well as incidentals that need to be paid for was made by Mayor Savares and seconded by Mayor Frankie Salas.** In discussion, the president reported that representatives discussed raffle prizes at the committee meeting and stated they would attend the Christmas party if there were cash prizes. So the idea was every mayor would contribute \$500 and every vice mayor \$250 towards that and the group came up with about 50 cash prizes to give away that night. They loved it. Because the motion is up to \$30,000 he asked council members if they'd be okay to take the cash prize from that or ask the mayor and the vice mayor to contribute.

Mayor Ungacta recommended using the funds in the coffers instead of having mayors and vice mayors pay out of pocket. The president expressed part of the reason that that idea came up with the monetary prizes is to kind of create incentives so that all the employees from all the various districts can participate in coming out.

Mayor Anthony Chargualaf said cash prizes, should be specific for the employees only, not guests and none of the mayors and vice mayors are eligible to participate in the raffle giveaway. The president agreed.

According to Mayor Gogue's calculations, the total came to about \$12,000. \$500 times 19 mayors plus \$250 times 7 vice mayors. Citing the president, he stated, "So, you're talking about \$225 that you could give for 50 different cash prizes, or are we looking at doing a grand prize, followed by a baby grand, and then 48 other equivalent prizes? It's just one raffle entry per person, so you can't have multiple chances like we've done in the past." The president said he will take this back to the committee, to the group, and have a discussion about it. The incentive is you have to be present to win.

No further discussion. Ayes have it. None opposed. Motion approved.

The committee agreed that there would be a staff performance, one representative from each office, and another performance by the mayors, vice mayors, and the executive director. **There were no objections.**

Gift exchange to be discussed it at the committee level.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION – There were no objections to skipping the executive session because of the announcement made earlier by the executive director.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

➤ Mayor Frankie Salas requested mayors' assistance for canopies and chairs for the Veterans Day Ceremony on Saturday, November 11 at the Guam Museum Outdoor Stage.

➤ State Funeral service for the late Honorable Joaquin G. Topasña, former Vice Mayor/Mayor of Hågat on Friday, Nov. 3 at 10 a.m., Session Hall, Guam Legislature.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

President thanked Council members and adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Attested by:



MAYOR LOUISE C. RIVERA
Council Executive Secretary
17th Mayors' Council of Guam

Transcribed by:



ELAINE RA SCHAAF
Transcriber
MCOG – Administration