



Regular Monthly Meeting  
 10 a.m. Wednesday, February 04, 2026  
 Mayors' Council Conference Room  
 Hagåtña, Guam

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** President Mayor Jesse L.G. Alig called the meeting to order at 10:02 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
V	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	Humåtak
	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	Yoña
○	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**  
 Thirteen (14) members present at time of roll call.

**III. NATIONAL ANTHEM / GUAM HYMN / INIFRESI**

<b>IV.</b>	<b>GUEST SPEAKERS</b>
	<p>Guam Green Growth: Dr. Austin Shelton provided an annual update on the Guam Green Growth Conservation Core Program. A five year public and private partnership. The Guam Green Growth program is looking forward to working with the Mayors on beautification projects within their Districts, i.e. murals, clean-ups, tree planting, bus stop sponsorship, etc. Dr. Shelton provided updated data on the work that has been done through the Guam Green Growth initiative. Dr. Shelton asks the Mayors to think of a High impact project, and they will send 12 members to the Districts and meet with Mayors regarding projects of the course of the next five months. Dr. Shelton also announced and extended an invite to all the Mayors and Vice Mayors to the upcoming UOG Island of Sustainability Conference. Registration is available to all Mayors and Vice Mayors.</p>
<b>V.</b>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES</b> – Mayor Taitague motioned to approve the January Minutes, Seconded by Mayor Hofmann. Motion carries.</p>
<b>VI.</b>	<p><b>APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT</b> – Vice Mayor Bautista motioned to approve the Treasurers Report, Seconded by Mayor Lizama. Motion carries.</p>
<b>VII.</b>	<p><b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – <i>Joy Jean R. Arceo</i></b></p>
	<p>Executive Director Arceo provided the following updates:</p> <p>Reminder that the Financial Disclosure Report is due to the Guam Election Commission on or before April 22nd.</p> <p>Outstanding First Quarter Non-Appropriated and Appropriated Funds Reports are due.</p> <p>Fleet maintenance - All but one District has received their new vehicles to assist with operational duties. Executive Director reminded the district to add new vehicles to their Fleet Inventory as part of the Fuel Program to ensure they avail of the resources.</p> <p>New Email - Executive Director announces the transition into the new admin email (<a href="mailto:admin@mcog.guam.gov">admin@mcog.guam.gov</a>), the previous address (<a href="mailto:mcogadmin@teleguam.net">mcogadmin@teleguam.net</a>) will be discontinued. This announcement will be sent to the Mayors, Vice Mayors, and Staff. An email prompt will be set up for one (1) week announcing the transition.</p> <p>Utility Maintenance - Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) has identified potential leaks in certain villages. The affected offices have been notified via email. MCOG is coordinating with DPW for plumbing assistance to locate and repair the leaks. MCOG will update Mayors as more information is received.</p>

	<p>Account Balances &amp; Budgeting - FY2025 carryovers and FY2025 allotments will be forwarded to all Mayors. As the council approaches the 3rd Quarter, Mayors were reminded to monitor their balances closely, and ensure expenditures align with the procurement plans submitted at the beginning of the fiscal year.</p> <p>Senior Center Updates: MCOG met with representatives from DPHSS, DSC on January 27th regarding issues raised by Mayors at the December 4th meeting. A response from DPHSS was anticipated by February 3rd to MCOG. Once information is received, the information will be forwarded to Mayors for review and action.</p> <p>President Alig inquired about the Recycling Revolving Fund 2025 expenditure and status of purchase orders. Executive Director clarified: The program is no longer funded as of FY2026. FY2025 is being utilized because EPA extended the expenditure date on the existing funds.</p> <p>Those funds are being used to procure: Metal Bins, Mixed Bins, Green Waste Bins, and Tires. The Executive Director stressed that abandoned vehicles are not covered by this funding. The Executive Director also noted that purchase orders have been issued, all bin inquiries received by MCOG have been addressed, and if there are any municipality that needs bins and did not submit previously, they are advised to contact MCOG.</p>
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<b>VIII.</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>
	<b>Standing Committees</b>
	<p>Committee on Decolonization- Vice Mayor Blas stated that the Commission failed to reach a quorum at the prior meeting, and there is nothing to report.</p> <p>Guam Department of Education/School Mitigation &amp; Facilities: Mayor Terlaje provided an update on ongoing discussions with the Superintendent of Education regarding mitigation efforts on school grounds. The Superintendent stated that the Deputy Superintendent is handling the matter, but no substantive update has been provided. Mayor Terlaje emphasized to the Guam Education Board (GEB) that if mitigation funding comes from GEB/DOE, labor should also come from that department. If mayors' offices are asked to assist, compensation and expectations must be fair, noting that \$300 is insufficient even for residential mitigation, let alone broader community needs.</p> <p>He also raised concerns about Board Policy 602, which governs facility use. After reviewing the policy, he found no language addressing abandoned facilities that communities wish to use. He cited the example of the OJP/Tourist Success Academy facility in Santa Rita, requested for community use by Mayor Del Alvarez. Despite this, GEB continues to reference Policy 602, which does</p>

	<p>not clearly apply to abandoned properties. The issue has been returned to the Board and is under review by the Superintendent.</p> <p>Council President requested that Mayor Terlaje coordinate a separate meeting with the President and the Superintendent to specifically address mitigation issues, facility use, inclusion of the Mayor’s Council in DOE plans, and to ensure better preparation for a future Council meeting. Mayor Terlaje agreed.</p> <p>Community Health Centers: Mayor Ungacta reported that there is a new Internal Medicine MD, Dr. Joel Paulino, at the Northern Public Health Community Health Center, and a variety of insurance coverage is accepted. He requested for his colleagues to share this information with their community.</p> <p>President Alig asked if there were any updates with CAHA, Mayor Susuico reported that there are no major upcoming events from CAHA, and the next CAHA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2026. Mayor Susuico reminded the Mayors to submit their letters of request to CAHA in advance, so the events can be placed on the board’s meeting agenda for approval.</p>
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<b>IX.</b>	<b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</b>
	<p>A. Senior Center Operations: Mayor Alig announced that the Executive Director already reported on the Senior Center Operations, and there is nothing further to report on as of meeting time.</p> <p>B. 82nd Guam Liberation: Mayor Terlaje explained that the proposal largely follows the same rules used during the 80th and 81st Liberation celebrations, including eligibility requirements, age extensions, and fundraising/fee guidelines (such as the \$2,000 minimum contribution, with 25% returned to sponsoring entities).</p> <p>The main proposed change is the addition of a male contest titled “Mr. Liberation,” while maintaining “Liberation Queen” as the primary title. The goal is not to alter tradition, but to expand opportunities and increase participation, especially in response to past challenges recruiting queen candidates.</p> <p>Under the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Two separate contests would take place during the same pageant evening.</li> <li>● Female contestants would compete for Liberation Queen.</li> <li>● Male contestants would compete for Mr. Liberation.</li> <li>● Judging and scoring would be conducted separately.</li> <li>● Candidates would not compete as teams.</li> </ul> <p>Each municipality may choose to field a queen candidate, a Mr. Liberation candidate, or both, depending on local capacity.</p>

Regarding the parade float, tradition would keep the Liberation Queen at the rear, while Mr. Liberation would be positioned toward the front, subject to final committee decisions.

**Motions and Votes:**

**Motion 1: Motion to Hold a Liberation Contest**

**Motioned:** Mayor Hofmann

**Second:** Vice Mayor Blas

**Vote:** Voice vote.

**Result:** Motion carried (no objections).

**Motion 2: Motion for Queens Contest**

**Motioned:** Mayor Hofmann

**Second:** Mayor Rivera

**Discussion:** General discussion focused on tradition, candidate recruitment, and overall feasibility.

**Vote:** Voice vote.

**Result:** Motion carried (no objections).

**Outcome:** The Council approved proceeding with a Liberation Queen contest.

**Motion 3: Motion to Add Mr. Liberation Contest, in addition to the Queens contest.**

**Motioned:** Mayor Hofmann

**Second:** Mayor Terlaje

**Discussion:** Several mayors expressed concern that costs and responsibilities might exceed available capacity and that there may not be sufficient community demand, as well as workload and recruitment challenges.

**Vote:** Show of hands:

- In favor: 2
- Opposed: Majority of members present; exact count recorded by Mayor Rivera.

**Result:** Motion failed.

**Final Decision:** The Council approved holding only the 82nd Guam Liberation Queen's Contest, with no Mr. Liberation contest for this year.

**Clarifications to Contest Rules:** Mayor Alig requested the following clarifications:

1. **Sponsor Language Update:** In the judging criteria and scoring guide (Item #2 – total amount of money submitted), the wording currently states that 25% of the proceeds go to “the sponsor village.” It is recommended to revise this to “sponsor or sponsoring village/organization” to reflect that non-village entities (such as DPW, Port Authority, GWA, GovGuam agencies, or private

	<p>sponsors) may officially sponsor candidates and should also receive the 25% share.</p> <p>2. <b>Hotel / Venue Procurement Compliance:</b> If a specific hotel is named for pageant venue or accommodations, confirmation is required that: Three price quotations have been obtained, in compliance with procurement law for payments over \$200., and proper procurement documentation is maintained by the committee.</p> <p>The Committee Chair (Mayor BJ) agreed to bring these clarifications back to the 82nd Liberation Queen’s Committee and revise the documents as needed.</p>
<b>X.</b>	<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>
	<p><b>MCOG Meeting Procedures:</b> The Council President raised concerns that meetings are running over two hours due to multiple guest speakers. Previously, the Council held two monthly meetings: <b>First Wednesday</b> was Council business, and <b>Third Wednesday</b> was for Guest speakers.</p> <p>Which often led to strong attendance at the first meeting but low or no quorum at the third, creating inefficiencies and embarrassment for guest speakers. As a result, meetings were consolidated into one monthly session covering both business and presentations.</p> <p><b>Options Discussed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Virtual Third Wednesday meeting:</b> Would allow mayors and staff to attend online and better accommodate complex or grant-related presentations.</li> <li>● <b>Pre-recorded presentations:</b> Proposed by the Mayor Chargualaf. Presenters would submit recorded videos and contact information, allowing Council members to review at their convenience and follow up directly.</li> <li>● <b>Prioritizing guest speakers:</b> Agencies or organizations offering funding or direct village benefits could be prioritized, while purely informational presentations may be lower priority or distributed via email.</li> </ul> <p>Executive Director Arceo emphasized that email must remain the official communication channel due to documentation, public records requirements, and legal sufficiency. WhatsApp should not be used for official Council records.</p> <p><b>Motion 4: Motion to revert to a process whereby requests and materials are sent to the Mayors for a vote or survey.</b>  <b>Motioned:</b> Mayor Rivera  <b>Second:</b> Mayor Hofmann  <b>Motion:</b> To return to a process where:</p>

- All guest speaker requests and supporting materials are distributed via email to all Council members.
- Members are given a clear deadline to respond, indicating:
  - Yes – Request placement on the agenda;
  - No – Do not need an agenda presentation but would like the materials; or
  - Other specified responses as appropriate.
- A guest speaker will be scheduled if at least 16 affirmative responses (or another Council-established threshold) are received.
- If members prefer not to have a live presentation but still want the information, materials will be circulated without adding the speaker to the agenda.

**Discussion:**

- The Council President emphasized the importance of timely responses, noting that a one-day response deadline may be implemented.
- Some members suggested sending a WhatsApp reminder or survey to prompt mayors to check their email (for awareness only, not as the official record).
- The Executive Director reaffirmed that email will remain the official method of record, with WhatsApp used only as an informal notification tool if needed.

**Vote:** Voice vote.

**Result:** Motion carried (no objections).

**Final Decision:** Guest speaker requests will be screened via email, and only those with sufficient Mayoral interest will be placed on the agenda; otherwise information may be distributed.

**Food Provision/Hosting for Monthly Meetings:** Mayor Alig provided historical background on the provision of food during meetings, explaining that in the 1990s, when meetings frequently extended through lunchtime, the Council voted to use member dues to provide lunch in order to prevent members from leaving and to maintain quorum. Over time, this practice evolved into a rotating village hosting system, where each host village was responsible for providing food using a stipend. Recently, however, the Council reduced or discontinued rotating hosting to limit administrative burden and avoid consistent overspending. A fixed amount currently cited at \$550, though past spending averaged closer to \$1,550, is now allocated for basic refreshments rather than full “fiesta”-style meals. During discussion, the Mayor of Chargualaf suggested starting meetings at 8:00 a.m. and offering simpler breakfast items such as soup and sandwiches to reduce costs, but the Council President noted that, when scaled for the full Council and staff, these options have historically cost about the same. The President also pointed out that stipends for special meetings had gradually increased in the past, yet total expenses still approached current food budgets. It was clarified that any village may volunteer to host and will receive the stipulated

	<p>amount, but hosting remains optional and no municipality is required to do so.</p> <p><b>Motion 5: Motion to provide food with Mayoral dues.</b>  <b>Motioned:</b> Mayor Ungacta  <b>Second:</b> Mayor Gumataotao  <b>Discussion:</b> Mayor Alig mentioned that if there are any Districts that would prefer to serve, they will contact the Private Secretary, in which she will arrange for the dues to be issued to the serving District, otherwise the revolving fund will continue to pay for the Districts that  <b>Vote:</b> Voice vote.  <b>Result:</b> Motion carried (no objections).</p>
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<p><b>XI.</b></p>	<p><b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p> <p>Mayor Terlaje requested for updates on the AMIM student exchange. Mayor Susuico reported that paperwork is being processed and MCOG is doing what they can to follow up and follow through. Rooms have been secured.</p> <p>Mayor Arroyo announced that there was a resolution to rename Tutuhun Park to Mayor Paul M. McDonald Park, in his honor. There will be an unveiling ceremony, as soon as there is a date set, he will update the council.</p>
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<p><b>XII.</b></p>	<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b> – The meeting adjourned at 11:42a.m.</p>
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Attested by:

Transcribed by:




**MAYOR LOUISE C. RIVERA**  
 Council Executive Secretary  
 18<sup>th</sup> Mayors' Council of Guam

**Amber Sanchez-Benavente**  
 Program Coordinator II  
 MCOG – Administration