

**Observer Corps Report – Albuquerque City Council meeting
15 JUN 2026
Mary Mulvany/Janet Kirkpatrick**

All Councilors attended the 15 Jun 2026 meeting: Stephanie Telles – District 1, Joaquin Baca – District 2, Klarissa Peña – District 3, Brook Bassan – District 4, Dan Lewis – District 5, Nichole Rogers – District 6, Tammy Fiebelkorn – District 7, Dan Champine – District 8, Renée Grout, District 9

General Information

At the beginning of the 15 Jun meeting, Council Vice President Dan Champine stated that members of the public were allowed one minute to speak because there were over 80 people signed up to speak. The meeting began at 5pm and was adjourned at 11:38pm.

The meeting agenda included two measures related to a proposed ballot measure to increase the Gross Receipts Tax. The two measures were R-26-43, the resolution to place the measure on the ballot in the fall election, and O-26-42, the enacting bill (details below). The Council did not pass R-26-43 and then voted to withdraw O-26-42. Because of this, members of the public who had signed up to speak against O-26-42 were not afforded an opportunity to express their opinion. At 11:32pm, after most of the audience had left the meeting, a motion was made to reconsider R-26-43. Although the motion to reconsider R-26-43 did not pass, this process could have resulted in a change of outcome without public input.

Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) link: [O-26-36](#)

The Council voted unanimously to approve a project involving Eden Pharmaceuticals, LLC to expand its compounding pharmacy and fulfillment center. This expansion would include the addition of 65 new employees. The City will administer and disburse funds totaling up to \$400k: \$300K from the State Economic Development Department and \$100K from the City. The ordinance was signed by the mayor on 29 Jun.

Industrial Revenue Bond (IRB)– Journal Center Hotel link: [O-26-37](#)

The Council voted unanimously to authorize the issuance and sale of \$25M Albuquerque, New Mexico taxable Industrial Revenue Bonds for the Dreamcatcher Journal Center Hotel (Home2 Suites by Hilton). The company is responsible for paying off the bonds. The project is exempt from property taxes for 20 years, but will make a payment in lieu of taxes of 30% of the property tax amount. Equipment purchased with bond proceeds is exempt from gross receipts taxes. The project is expected to create 32-37 jobs. The ordinance was signed by the mayor on 29 Jun.

Industrial Revenue Bond (IRB) – Sawmill Hotel link: [O-26-38](#)

At the 15 Jun meeting, the Council voted to postpone consideration of a \$40M Industrial Revenue Bond for Dreamcatcher Sawmill Hotel. The decision to postpone came after

eight residents of the neighboring area spoke about their concerns. Their concerns included increased traffic and architectural design of a chain hotel that might not fit the area. The Council voted to postpone consideration until the 3 Aug meeting.

Proposed Ballot Measure: Gross Receipts Tax Increase links: [R-26-43](#) and [O-26-42](#)

Background: at the 16 Mar meeting, Councilor Bassan proposed an ordinance to increase the gross receipts tax (GRT) by 0.4875% which would pay for municipal capital projects, related debt service, and municipal operations. That proposed ordinance failed. See the Observer Corps' Report in the May, 2026 issue of The Voter.

At the 15 Jun meeting, Councilor Bassan proposed a resolution to put the 0.4875% gross receipts tax increase on the ballot in the fall election. Half of the increase would be designated for capital projects and half was for operational costs, including wage increases for City employees. Twelve members of the public spoke against this resolution during the general comment period or during the proposal's comment period. These speakers objected to increased taxes, the regressive nature of the tax, and the difficulties for people on fixed incomes to pay higher taxes. Two people spoke in favor of the resolution citing the importance of supporting city employees.

The Council voted against this proposed ballot measure (R-26-43), with three Councilors voting in favor (Baca, Bassan, Peña, and Rogers) and six opposed (Champine, Fiebelkorn, Grout, Lewis, and Telles). Because this resolution failed, the Councilors voted to withdraw the companion enacting ordinance (O-26-42) from consideration. Members of the public had signed up to speak on O-26-42 and were thus not allowed to speak.

Near the end of the 15 June meeting, at 11:32pm after most of the citizens in the audience had left, including those who had originally signed up to speak on O-26-42 but were not heard, Councilor Grout made a motion to reconsider the proposed ballot measure. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bassan. The Council voted against the motion to reconsider the resolution by a vote of four in favor (Baca, Bassan, Grout, Peña) to five opposed (Champine, Fiebelkorn, Lewis, Rogers, and Telles).