



## Agenda

Special Meeting of the  
Governing Body  
February 24, 2026 at 4:00 PM  
City Council Chambers, City  
Hall  
200 Lincoln Avenue

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1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
  - a. Councilor Bustamante
3. Salute to the New Mexico Flag

- a. Councilor Barrett
4. Invocation and Rememberances
  - a. Councilor Garcia
5. Roll Call
6. Approval of Agenda
7. Status Update
  - a. Mayor Michael Garcia and Interim City Manager Brian Moya
8. Presentations
  - a. Soldiers Monument Feasibility Study (Tina Reames, President of CSR Architects)
  - b. State Historic Preservation Office (Michelle Ensey, Executive Director of Historic Preservation Division)
9. Public Comment
  - a. Written Public Comment
10. Discussion of Next Steps/Possible Action
11. Adjourn

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**SUMMARY OF ACTION  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026, 4:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL  
200 LINCOLN AVENUE, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Call To Order</b>	<b>Convened at 4:00 pm</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>	<b>Councilor Bustamante</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Salute to the NM Flag</b>	<b>Councilor Barrett</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Invocation and Remembrances Councilor Garcia</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Roll Call</b>	<b>Quorum</b>	<b>2-3</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Status Update</b>	<b>Given</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Presentations</b>		
	<b>a. Soldiers Monument Feas. Study</b>	<b>Given</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>b. State Historic Prev. Office</b>	<b>Given</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Public Comment</b>	<b>Heard</b>	<b>3-11</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Discussion Next Steps/Poss. Action</b>	<b>Held</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>Adjourned at 8:38 pm</b>	<b>11-12</b>

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026, 4:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL  
200 LINCOLN AVENUE, SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A special meeting of the Governing Body was called to order by Mayor Garcia, at 4:02 pm, on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**A. COUNCILOR BUSTAMANTE**

Recited.

**3. SALUTE TO THE NEW MEXICO FLAG**

**A. COUNCILOR BARRETT**

Recited.

**4. INVOCATION AND REMEMBRANCES**

**A. COUNCILOR GARCIA**

Given.

**5. ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councilor Jamie Cassutt  
Councilor Alma Castro  
Councilor Amanda Chavez, virtually  
Councilor Lee Garcia  
Councilor Pilar Faulkner  
Councilor Patricia Feghali  
Councilor Elizabeth Barrett  
Councilor Paul Bustamante  
Mayor Michael Garcia

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Brian Moya, Interim City Manager  
Marcos Martinez, Interim City Attorney  
Geraldyn Cardenas, Interim City Clerk  
Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer

**6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION** A motion was made by Councilor Faulkner, seconded by Councilor Castro, to approve the agenda as amended.

**VOTE** The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Barrett, yes; Councilor Castro, yes; Councilor Cassutt, yes; Councilor Garcia, yes; Councilor Feghali, yes; Councilor Pilar Feghali, yes; Councilor Chavez, yes; Councilor Faulkner, yes.

**7. STATUS UPDATE**

**A. MAYOR MICHAEL GARCIA AND INTERIM CITY MANAGER BRIAN MOYA**

Given.

**8. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. SOLDIERS MONUMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Given.

**B. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

Given.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**A. WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

Steven Fox. District 2. Mr. Fox spoke to replacing the obelisk with a tree.

Katerina Walker, District 1. Ms. Walker asked if there is a Native person represented in the office of Historic Preservation, Columbus was Italian - not Spanish. Truth is the history. Putting it in National Cemetery makes sense. Make the current

site open space

David Montoya. District 1. Mr. Montoya spoke to symbols around us. The wounds here are deeper because of the lack of leadership. He is confident this mayor and council will come to a decision to unify us. It was to honor dead civil war veterans only.

Pelican Lee. District 1. Ms. Lee said this obelisk has been divisive from the beginning. It will be in the future as well. It is time to retire it. She likes that the pieces are in the history museum with an explanation of the history of it.

Judd Fischel. District 2. Mr. Fischel said the VA will not accept it because it is a point of violence. The cemetery is a place of repose. He is in favor of repairing it and putting it back where it came from if you move the statue of the 2 young men who carried the beaded cord on the plaza as well with its story. Tell the story of both.

Burl Breckner. District 2. Mr. Breckner said he appreciates the willingness to take this forward. He thinks you are on the right path to get to the finish line. He thinks the monument deserves to be rebuilt and stay in its place. There is a time capsule in the base from the 1800s. It was never found. You can look for it.

Richard Bossom. District 2. Retired Supreme Court Justice. Justice Blossom said the monument was built as a memorial to those who died in the civil war. Reflecting on that shows the importance to the original people living here at that time. Folks who died in that war were residents of this community and others. Their ancestors still live here in many cases. How can we not respect that. If we move it or don't reconstruct it, it loses its value and what it was intended to be. We need to reconstruct the memorial. If not, we risk dishonor to the sacrifice they made.

Michael Rodriguez. District 1. Mr. Rodriguez said we are all part of the Santa Fe family. Right now the monument is an insult to part of our family. If it is insulting it should be retired. The Plaza in the center could be flat for dancing and telling stories.

Gloria Montoya. District 2. Ms. Montoya said she learned the history of the obelisk from her grandfather. He fought in WW 1. 5,000 Native Americans served in the civil war. The memorial is for veterans who died. Keep it the way it is.

Carrie Wood. District 2. Ms. Wood said she wants the monument gone.

Najoni Denapaw. District 2. Ms. Denapaw said Native Americans had no say when this was built. It needs to come down. It is disrespectful.

Percy Stead. District 1. Mr. Stead said everyone is tiptoeing around the problem. The obelisk is racist. It has an adverse effect on people. You need to get

someone who represents everyone on that historic board and have the next public hearing in a setting where the youth of Santa Fe are involved.

Rick Martinez. District 1. Mr. Martinez said thank you for doing this. The problem is the plaques. We all need to speak with one voice. Show unity with the plaques on this. The monument is okay with changes in the plaques.

Oscar Rodriguez. District 1. Mr. Rodriguez said he is of Apache decedent. Savages means not Christian. He proposes that you leave it as it is. History is brutal. Seal it, drain it and leave it.

Miguel Gabaldon. District 4. Mr. Gabaldon said we must move forward based on the truth. The truth is it memorializes civil war activities. It memorializes the group of New Mexicans that resisted the confederate army. The monument is art. It represents something New Mexicans resisted as a movement that would have taken this area in a whole different direction.

Warren Langford. District 4. Mr. Langford said if you are able to look past the racism of erecting a monument that glorifies the long walk in the Indian Wars, that is racist. We can do better than this.

Ronald Trujillo. District 4. Mr. Trujillo asked what happened to our City. He has never seen this kind of splitting of the community. He wants to see the obelisk rebuilt. It is part of Santa Fe's history. Eliminate the derogatory wording. Listen to us as to what needs to be done. Make it for everybody. De Vargas, the statue. Look at that. He thinks that and the runners should be included.

Kathy Rivera. District 1. Ms. Rivera said vandalism happened. Santa Fe's reputation is that it is okay to get rid of something to put up something new. It is time to restore something that was taken down by mob rule.

Rory Martinez. District 2. Mr. Martinez said he is half Native and half Hispanic. The monument is about union soldiers. It is about our history. Restore it and take away the offensive language. Put additional panels around it to tell the story and the truth.

Shawn Newnan. District 4. Mr. Newnan said he is a Veteran and still serves. He wants to speak in support of returning the soldiers monument, restoring it and leaving it in the Plaza. Remove the offensive language. Provide historical context.

Mateo Pachino. Chimayo. Mr. Pachino said look at that budget closer. His company does restoration. If our Native brothers and sisters are offended you need to listen. There are social costs.

Chris Chavez. Santa Fe County. Mr. Chavez said he is a surveyor. He would like to present something different. He distributed a map with a survey on it and spoke to land grant history.

Elizabeth West. District 2. Ms. West handed out an article about the process that needs to happen before we do anything else. She believes the monument is owned by the State. The H Board is able to make a decision. The City was wrong.

Michael McLean. Santa Fe County. Mr. McLean said we are starting again after so long on this issue. We don't have a statewide preservation group. That would make an improvement in the situation. Have a meeting with preservationists to discuss and work out some ideas. Talk to the Southern Poverty Law Center. They deal with these sorts of things.

Leticia Montoya. District 1. Ms. Montoya said her concern is who is in charge. It is good to have a new Mayor. Why should citizens of the City pay for this. Have the people who tore it down pay for it.

Donna Rivera. Ms. Rivera said she thought CHART was the public hearing. Now have to have another one. There was a poll. Who decides what is appropriate. The rewriting of history is happening right now and in Washington DC. We are trying to rewrite history because we don't like it. The runners who led the revolt led to deaths. She is offended by that.

Terry Rivera. Santa Fe County. Ms. Rivera said please listen. The monument was not meant to be offensive. It was meant to honor the men who wanted to end slavery. It can be rebuilt and the offensive language removed. It could be replaced with a plaque honoring the Navajo Code Talkers. Keep it where it is and fix it.

Rory Dominguez. Albuquerque. Mr. Dominguez said his great grandfather fought in the civil war and against the Navajos who enslaved people also. You should keep the Obelisk. Show it as it was originally.

Pauline Anaya. Ms. Anaya said she is a decedent of centuries old Hispanic families. The 10 commandments are the laws of coexistence. She spoke to the history of hating God and tactics to divide the nation.

Glenn Wickel. District 2. Mr. Wickel said this discussion is about genocide, oppression and racism. Give the land back to the Pueblos. Any resolution is unjust. The monument is a gaping wound in Santa Fe. Get rid of the monument.

Shawnee Mountain Song. District 3. Ms. Mountain Song said the monument is

an eyesore on the Plaza. It is a tower of conflict and disgrace. She is a member Picuris Pueblo. Pave it over.

Kate Moses. District 2. Ms. Moses said she doesn't know how we got to thinking the monument has some intrinsic value. Send it to the dump. Indigenous communities have told us what harm the obelisk has caused them. Lay this issue to rest.

Elena Valdez. District 3. Ms. Valdez said she does not support the rebuilding of the monument. She is tired of hearing the monument represents Hispanic culture. It celebrates violence. There are many other ways to celebrate Hispanic culture. Teach our children heritage languages instead.

Matthew Collin. District 2. Mr. Collin said Santa Fe is a living city. You cannot carry history forward by pretending history is finished. The monument has been damaged. He is asking that it be relocated to a museum.

Charles Rothsacker. District 2. Mr. Rothsacker said he was an advocate for reconstruction of the monument. It is part of the history of the community. He is now conflicted about just leaving it the way it is.

Lauren Lie. District 1. Ms. Lie said she is opposed to rebuilding the obelisk. She wants it torn down and paved over. Honor our Veterans by doing more for them today and taking care of the living.

David Sloan. District 2. Mr. Sloan said in 1863 Navajos were being rounded up by soldiers. Any monument that honors people shooting women and children is not cool. We did not enslave people.

Ed Romero. District 2. Mr. Romero said you have heard this for 5 years. Stop the bleeding. You are the elected officials. You opened these gates. We all have history. We have lived in peace for centuries with Native Americans. Now we do not. You need to stop the bleeding. Stop attacks on our heritage. Another public hearing will be the same dialogue.

Juniper Anderson. District 1. Ms. Anderson said it is important to apologize for history. Everyone who lives here is benefitting from the exploitation of Indigenous people. They should pay for this. It is not hard to understand getting rid of it.

Pen La Farge. District 2. Mr. La Farge said thank you for having this discussion and trying to resolve the thorn in our side that has been here for too long. It is important that the monument be restored as closely to its original state as possible. One does not retire a monument for the same reason that one does not retire truth and history. Truth is, as his father Oliver La Farge noted, he defended the integrity of the

monument. He does think the integrity of the monument and the truth of what it stands for is the most important thing and cannot be retired.

Barbara Fix. District 1. Ms. Fix asked where did savages come from. Nomadic Indians. This is the time to realize that maybe the truth makes us free. This monument it to honor those who defended this country against slavery. That is what the monuments heart is about.

There was a five minute recess.

Barbara Fix returned and said war is hell. She spoke about the Battle of Glorieta.

Jerome Morrison. District 2. Mr. Morrison said he is a Preacher's kid. He talked to 2 former state historians. The original intent was to raise money to move soldiers to protect them from grave robbers. To say it is about Buffalo Soldiers too, that is not correct. This is hostile architecture.

Lisel Foust. District 2. Ms. Foust said do not restore the obelisk, Take it down. It is raciest.

Camilla Cuett. District 1. Ms. Cuett said the monument is an eyesore and hinders the experience of events on the Plaza.

Lisa Catt. District 4. Ms. Catt said she teaches a rainbow classroom. Their biggest thing is take care of each other. We know this monument is uncomfortable for Native Americans. It should not be there with history that hurts someone.

Herb Smith. District 1. Mr. Smith said when he first saw the monument he thought it was the worst thing he ever saw. He is now asking you to put it back. It stands for something. The army troops and what they did during the civil war. They took a bullet for civilians.

Frank Montano. District 1. Mr. Montano said the removal of the obelisk has come up before from many years ago. He does not envy you the decision you have to make. He will live with whatever decision you make. He thinks there is value in the monument. There is a lot to learn from it. How to get along is part of that. He is here to support the reconstruction of the obelisk.

Suzanne Romero. District 1. Ms. Romero said she asks this body to rebuild the monument so it can stand the test of time. One of our Councilors previously worked for City attorney. When she did she had information. She does not think those Councilors should be able to vote on anything on this. Another Councilor has brought up violence in the streets and called for violence in the streets. She should recuse

herself from voting on this issue.

Amy Christian. District 1. Ms. Christian said she sees the indigenous people of this land and the harms they have had to endure with this monument being in the center of the Plaza. Also people telling them how they should feel about it. If they are feeling harmed, you need to listen. Indigenous people's voices are not being heard. Retire this racist monument.

Shanee Wood. District 1. Mr. Wood said these are not easy decisions. He appreciates you taking that on. The guidance he offers is for now and future generations. The future does not belong to the past. Our obligation is to ensure the future does not belong to the past. The Plaza was meant to celebrate and come together. With this structure there, it obstructs that. There is a place for history. Museums and cemeteries. Not the Plaza.

Philip Crump. District 2. Mr. Crump said he is delighted to be in Santa Fe with a monument honoring soldiers who stopped the confederacy in its tracks. This provides an opportunity to acknowledge and honor the Native Americans who suffered so gravely in defending their culture and people.

Beverly Spears. District 2. Ms. Spears said she feels strongly that the monument needs to be restored in the Plaza without the offensive plaque. The architect dug down 32 inches and they did not find the bottom of the monument.

Dr. Christina Castro. Dr. Castro said she is from Taos Pueblo and Jemez Pueblo and is Chicano. She spoke against the obelisk. Any other racial demographic would not have to defend their position on this. We met with Mayor Webber and he agreed to remove the obelisk. There have been two instances of that. Remove the monument.

Cole Washburn. District 4. Mr. Washburn said he is from the Chickasaw Nation. It is a very deliberate decision to put this back up. He cares about what our City does. At this point, with opposition with a deliberate message that the voices have expressed, it does not weigh up. He spoke against putting the monument back up. It needs to be completely gone.

Jay Dillon. Lifelong resident of Santa Fe. Mr. Dillon said restore and clean up the base of the monument. Restore the plaque to what we currently feel as a society. Add four District sculptures-Anglo, Hispanic, Native American and future. Steel sculptures. Leave the broken pieces in the museum. If you have to move it, take it to Ft. Marcy.

Adela Duran. District 1. Ms. Duran said thank you for this meeting. Our family

home is a few blocks from the Plaza. Her father and grandfather were born in the house. Her great grandfather built the house. Never in her life was the monument posed to us as racist. She would like to see it restored as much as possible to its original position to honor history and the original intent. She will respect your decision.

Raymond Herrera. District 1. Mr. Herrera said the former Mayor ruined our culture. His family has been here for four generations. For generations we have worked with Indians. The obelisk is part of our history. Why erase history.

Christine Winfield. District 2. Ms. Winfield said people should not be told they should not be offended because no one ever said it was racist. She knows racism. How dare you compare your sorrow at watching the obelisk be destroyed with the harm Native Americans have endured.

Virgil Vigil. District 1. Mr. Vigil said the prior mayor allowed the obelisk to be destroyed. Union Protectiva sued the City and won. The First District Court, in 2024, said on page 22 that within 180 days of this order the City must restore the soldiers monument to like or similar condition as it was. With stabilization and repair. We are prepared to use any legal means to ensure this order is adhered to. We ask you to rule in favor of the study. We support Option 2 B. Rebuild using new material and replace the controversial plaque. Do the right thing. Leave it at the current location and obey the law.

Eli Bransford. District 3. Mr. Bransford said he is for the current resolution to display the broken fragments of the obelisk. Let the people be reminded of the criminal violence in our city. He thinks you should take into consideration who had a hand in tearing down the monument. They are not done tearing historic things down. If we delete everything that is offensive we will have nothing. Rebuild the monument.

Millie De Santas. District 1. Ms. De Santas asked do you care about conferee or people.

Karl Duncan. White Sands Blvd. Mr. Duncan said he is the Chair of the Santa Fe Arts Commission and is on the Board of Trustees for American Indian Arts and is the Director of the Poeh Center. He is here as an individual. He is here to talk about who we are and who we aspire to be. The question is if rebuilding this moves Santa Fe forward. He is oppose rebuilding the monument on the Plaza with the deep belief that history should guide us to unity and not backward. In moments like this, we decide what kind of community we want to model for our children. Rebuilding a monument that many people in the community feel is hurtful gives the message that some history means more than another. The true strength of this place comes from people, not monuments. You should take the resources proposed and invest them in affordable housing and youth programs. Lift up voices. It is not about winning an argument. It is about taking a direction.

Jaydin Mermen. Member of the community. Mr. Mermen said it is a difficult decision as to what to do to heal this community. Civilized societies do not tear down history. Rebuild the monument and put another one up to honor our Native American brothers and sisters.

Doris Vigil McBride. Cochina Loop. Ms. McBride said this is about what is happening with the destruction of culture and history. God wants us to love each other.

Rachel Thompson. District 2. Ms. Thompson said this monument has to do with the eternal. Maybe create a new more harmonious obelisk. Each side for each group.

Stephanie Beninato. Ms. Beninato said she sent in comments. She is a 50 year resident. Restoring the monument without the north plaque is erasing history. There was an attempt at genocide. She thinks move the monument or leave it as is. Unfortunately that the process described is circular.

Autumn Gomez. Born and raised in Santa Fe. District 1. Ms. Gomez said she is of Comanche descent. The word savage does not describe us. You are speaking ill of her ancestors. Let the obelisk go. Create a place where we all feel welcome.

Bob White. Mr. White said it has taken 5 years to get to this point. He submitted written comment. He thinks anything going up there now that has reference to military engagement with Native Americans will be destroyed again. He proposes that you put on top of the monument information about Santa Fe and 200 years together. Honor veterans and friendship among cultures.

Nia Valdo. District 1. Ms. Valdo said she is completely against reconstruction of the monument.

Dawn Furlong. District 1. Ms. Furlong asked for Native voices to be heard.

Roberto Roybal. District 1. Mr. Roybal said he urge you to not restore the monument. The money could be better spent on other things in Santa Fe. Indigenous people are opposed to it and that should be honored. Take it to the dump.

Pillar Anglo. District 1. Ms. Anglo said it is not true that civilized societies do not remove monuments. They have been removed across the country. She is opposed to rebuilding the monument.

Jessica Trujillo. Ms. Trujillo said it is offensive to use word savage. She does not agree with rebuilding the obelisk. Consider another option.

**10. DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS/POSSIBLE ACTION**

There was discussion.

**11. ADJOURN**

There bring no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

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Mayor Michael Garcia

Attested To By:

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Geralyn Cardenas, Interim City Clerk

Respectfully Submitted By:

*Elizabeth Martin*

Elizabeth Martin (Mar 3, 2026 17:21:39 MST)

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Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer






# Governing Body Special 022426

Final Audit Report

2026-03-04

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## "Governing Body Special 022426" History

-  Document created by XAVIER VIGIL (xivigil@santafenm.gov)  
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