



Regular Monthly Meeting
10 a.m. Wednesday, December 6, 2023
Mayors' Council Conference Room
Hagåtña, Guam

MINUTES

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** *President* Mayor Jesse L.G. Alig called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

II. **ROLL CALL:**

ALIG, Jesse L.G.	Mayor	Piti
ALVAREZ, Dale E.	Mayor	Santa Rita-Sumai
BENAVENTE, Peter John S.	Vice Mayor	Dededo
CHARGUALAF, Anthony P.	Mayor	Inaláhan
* CRUZ, John A.	Mayor	Hagåtña
V GOGUE, Jessy C.	Mayor	Chalan Pago-Ordot
HOFMANN, Robert RDC	Mayor	Sinajana
PACO, Rudy A.	Mayor	M-T-M
QUENGA, Bill A.	Mayor	Yona
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
<input type="radio"/> BAUTISTA, Jessie P.	Vice Mayor	Barrigada
<input type="radio"/> BLAS, June U.	Mayor	Barrigada
<input type="radio"/> CHARGUALAF, Ernest T.	Mayor	Malesso'
<input type="radio"/> DELGADO, Kevin AN	Vice Mayor	Mangilao
<input type="radio"/> FEJERAN, Christopher J.	Vice Mayor	Hågat
<input type="radio"/> IRIARTE, Rudy D.	Vice Mayor	Sinajana
<input type="radio"/> LEONES, Loreto V.	Vice Mayor	Yigo
V/R McDONALD, Paul M.	Mayor	Agana Heights
<input type="radio"/> 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 10:44 a.m.

III. NATIONAL ANTHEM/GUAM HYMN

IV. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES – Mayor Allan Ungacta made the motion to approve and seconded by Mayor Robert Hofmann. No discussions or objections. The motion carried.

V. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT – Mayor Melissa Savares made the motion to approve the September report and seconded by Mayor Anthony Chargualaf. No discussions or objections. The motion carried.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS – BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS / STANDING COMMITTEES

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS – At a roundtable, Mayor Savares reported that Senator Frank Blas, Jr. proposed an urgent care facility in the Southern Regional Community Health Center. Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) grants are given to the health centers in the north and south. The centers receive funding because they serve as the primary healthcare facility for the underprivileged, the uninsured, and those on Medicaid and MIP. Its conversion to an urgent care center would put the federal grants that the two health centers receive in jeopardy. The centers also accept all insurance. If the necessary staff, supplies, and equipment are provided, they could convert a portion of the Southern Health Center into an urgent care center.

GUAM EDUCATION POLICY BOARD (EX-OFFICIO MEMBER) – Mayor Savares reported from last week’s board meeting there were discussions about the decline in enrolment and student numbers since COVID, as well as the surge in numbers that has lately been observed. They were concerned about whether schools could continue to serve the current student body and whether some schools may be consolidated into one with the enrollments. Is it possible to combine two schools into one due to a drop in enrollment? In the north, she doesn't think so. She doesn't don't know what the central and southern schools look like. However, she informed the board that mayors still assist the schools when they receive requests from the student body to aid with their initiatives on campus.

GUAM INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL – The president reported that the Guam Department of Agriculture received a grant that MCOG is a part of. The program comes with training and a marketing campaign. MCOG had submitted a letter supporting the grant application for the feral pigs and the dog trap program. Hopefully, MCOG will be able to see these traps and the program soon.

LEGISLATIVE AND FINANCE

FY 2025 BUDGET CALL – The president reported that typically, it's similar to a status quo submission to BBMR.

ARPA – The president expressed that Districts have ARPA funds that need to be expended, looking at FY23 and FY24. The president is willing to testify to the Legislature and prove why ARPA couldn't fix it or whatever other grants Districts have that could not fix it so that we can successfully lobby for additional funding for the Mayor's Council of Guam.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DISTRICT ACCOUNTS AND PURCHASE ORDERS –

RRF – The president stated that he received a call yesterday informing him that \$750,000 in remaining funds for FY23 is available to be distributed to Districts, but it cannot be used at this time since two villages still need to submit their invoices in order for FY23 to close. The two villages are Asan-Maina and Yona. Purchase orders will be issued after that's finished.

The president stated, "The one thing that I'm going to push for is it's no longer just your AA's fault or your MC's fault because our staff are not college graduates, perhaps they're not accountants. They're there to serve at your pleasure. But they're there to help you. And so this council, this administrative office, will be an office that will assist your office to get it done. That's my goal. And the reason why it's that way is because the people that we employ in the administrative side are classified. That means they go through the merit system and they qualify to be in that position. If they qualify to be in that position, then those personnel should be able to assist each one of us and our staff who are unclassified. So, bear with me in that I'm trying to get that, we will get it going that way so that those of us, me included, who have difficulty in our offices with the administrative side will get the assistance that we need in order to follow the procedures and to submit proper documents. There's definitely a lot of return documents and alert. Everything is returned. I have never seen so many returns in my life, but as much as we get returns in Piti and returned everywhere else, I can't for me, I can't. I don't understand how you have all the time in the world to write this return document and send it back just to cross the T and dot the I. I feel it. I know you feel it. We're gonna work on a way to make it so that it works for you. This council exists to help you, to help us. I think that's the way that we're moving. That's the way I would like to move forward. And so, understandably, there are issues. We know that villages have difficulty submitting invoices for whatever reason. The Recycling Revolving Fund. I was taken aback because I never really was a part of the process of the invoicing, only to find out that my staff have to go back to a vendor all the way in Dededo and then back to Piti. I'm like, this is 2023. Where is the email? And then also the closeout, your PO closeout. So I was told that we needed originals, so my staff's going all around Guam getting those originals, and only when I found out that they were driving, I called and I'm like, why are we asking for originals? My question is, what are you gonna do with the original? The original's gonna go into the file, you're gonna scan it and send it to DOA. So why do you need the original? So, after all of that, I refuse to turn in the original and now we're scanning, but it took me how many weeks for my staff to go around the island because we're getting staff telling us what to do. But the problem, and ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to tell you is I don't want to kill the staff because it's not purely the staff's fault. The staff were not managed. And this is where I'm saying, that's what I want to change. Because you're making the staff make those decisions for the mayor and for the district office without management approval. Or, with management's oversight. Oversight like, forgetting to look at. So that's where, I know your frustration because I'm getting the same, I feel the same. So one step at a time, we will correct the problem and when it comes to original documents, I question the original documents because everything is scanned and emailed to DOA. So that means, that's instantaneous. So there should be no problems for our staff to get those documents to DOA in a timely manner. Remember when we first came into office, we were schooled about seven days in, seven days out. So once you make a purchase, 7 days gets to your office. You have your 7 days to turn it in to this office, to the council.

So this council then should also have 7 days to turn it in to DOA. Especially since it's going to be emailed, you probably have 3 days. But here's another problem. One staff has to do 10 different things, when one staff really should only be doing 5 things. So again, we don't want to penalize the staff because we're telling the staff to do it, right? We're not giving the staff the proper resources. So that's another reason why, that's another thing that needs to be corrected. So you know, in line with budget, we still have the three positions available. The ASO and the two AAs that are still on our staffing pattern. It doesn't matter who we hire. What matters is that they're qualified. What matters is that they're qualified for the position, and can do the job for all of us. That's what matters. We're all suffering and we're all complaining about something. That's the problem that needs to be resolved. I'm gonna try to fix that, the three personnel for the main office, right? So if we fix that, it is my hope then that with all this budget talk and with all the invoicing and the procurement side, that will be handled. Those are the things that we're working on."

VILLAGE MAINTENANCE BEAUTIFICATION PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAMS (VOMBPS)

– The president stated that he would email the mayors with any new information he receives by the end of the week.

ARPA – There's still a large balance in the first tranche somewhere around \$5M and that's due to the vehicles. It's the procurement process. The president can't answer why it wasn't done but he's actively working on the trucks.

Mayor Hofmann commented that there's a new acting Chief Procurement Officer, and one of the four things that I've been talking with her about is doing Mayors' Council IDIQs. One's for heavy equipment, so you can purchase your backhoes, dump trucks, tractors, the second one is for trucks, 4x4s, 4x2s, third one is for computers and printers. The fourth one is for sedans, SUVs, compact cars, electric vehicles. If we have those IDIQs, then not just now, but in between this fiscal year, if you decide that's where you want to end up spending in the future. This will kind of open that door versus doing a one time bid and then miss the bid and you didn't have enough money or just a counseling procedure. It was asked of the acting chief procurement officer to do that for the Mayors' Council to assist us in writing that preparing that and then sending that out. The president concurred but that should have been done two years ago.

Mayors can't currently spend the money in the first tranche because MCOG is still waiting for authorization from DOA to spend the carryover into FY24. The president spoke to Edward Birn, Director, Department of Administration who acknowledged what request he asked for, but MCOG still has not received a circular that allows spending the ARPA money that mayors have in their ledgers this fiscal year, so they don't have to redo their purchase orders. The president will follow up on that circular. FY24 needs to be encumbered. He reminded the Body that they need to have a plan to spend their money.

The second tranche is to first put money aside for a cloud-based community management database so that all the Districts will all be uniform and standardized. The president proposed that the balance be divided equally as in the first tranche.

Mayor Hofmann recollected that \$2.3M or a little more was taken from the second tranche to cover all the CMWs which leaves a balance of \$5M or a little more. The president concurred. Before dividing among the 19 Districts, the president asked for approval to supply the administrative office downstairs to fund necessary needs and a motion to approve the expenditures for the second tranche in that manner.

Mayor Dale Alvarez made the motion to spend the second tranche with the cloud-based database first, to divide the balance equally considering the needs of the Mayors' Council administrative office. Seconded by Mayor Allan Ungacta. In discussion, Mayor Hofmann expressed that the cloud base is done in three phases; one is hardware, the second part is software, and the third part is training, and management of it. **No further discussions or objections. The motion carried.**

DISTRICT STAFF TRAININGS

The president asked as a whole, is there a need for your district staff to be trained in procurement or the process, the SOP here in the council? The president stated that the administrative office has two SOPs, which is why he brought it up. This is your SOP if you're working with a clerk. You have a different SOP if you're working with another clerk. Is the Body in agreement that there should be a single SOP? he inquired. There were no objections from the Body for a standard SOP for procurement in the administrative office.

As mandated, Mayor Hofmann reminded the Body that employees and elected officials are required to attend ethics training and a refresher course every four years. Districts can go online to the commission website and schedule. The cost is \$80 per individual. He will ask the commission to look at scheduling specifically for the Mayors' Council to get all the employees done. Mayor Savares questioned whether MPCs must complete an ethics course. The president will inquire.

Mayor Ungacta said staffing patterns change every now and then. Not everybody's familiar with the proper OSHA safety procedures. He requested OSHA training for staff. The president said he'd look into it.

The president will also look into Traffic Control and training with an arborist with the Dept. of Agriculture.

Mayor Hofmann expressed having an all-day grants training late February, early March. During the AMIM, CNMI expressed interest in attending. He will be sending out the memo.

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS CONTEST – According to the president, Vice Mayor Kevin Delgado will ask everyone where their Christmas tree location is so the judges are aware of it. It is still slated for the judging on December 15. First place is \$1,000, second place is \$750, and third place is \$500

A report from the president regarding the Christmas party was distributed to the Body. The report did not receive treasurer approval, but the president wanted to share it with everyone before it was approved at the next meeting so that the Body knew this was being tracked. The entire range of expenses was displayed, followed at the very bottom by the net expenses. Additional meat items were procured and roasted. Everything has the three price quotations that the treasurer has.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

80TH LIBERATION FESTIVITIES – The president wanted to get feedback from Council members as to how they wanted to proceed. He shared that GVB conducted a survey at the festival last year. Fireworks, food, parade, family events, and drone show were the top five attractions that people enjoyed.

Since Liberation falls on a Sunday, Mayor Savares suggested having adding cultural events with the booths for two days instead of one, given that Liberation falls on a Sunday and two days of fireworks. Then on Sunday, like last year, begin with Mass followed by the one Memorial.

A project that he had wanted to do, Mayor Hofmann suggested 3,000 LED candles or lights be lit to symbolize the total number of lives lost in the war on both the local and American sides at the Plaza de España so that people could go there at night throughout the month of July to see the flickering lights that represent the number of victims lost. He commented moving the memorial event later in the afternoon, when the sun isn't as intense. The president commented if Mañenggon has their ceremony, the display can open July 6 and will remain open until August 8, after the Chaguian Memorial ceremony takes place. The president asked that he come up with a proposal that can get approved by the council. He recommended holding the unified memorial at the Guam Museum after the evening mass. Since there are other people besides Catholics, he also recommended a nondenominational chaplain or a priest from another faith.

Mayor Louise Rivera made the motion to have one unified memorial service with a mass on. July 20, 2024 at the Cathedral and Plaza de España to be headed and coordinated by Mayor Robert Hoffman. Seconded by Mayor Rudy Paco. In discussion, Mayor Hofmann commented that having mass at 4 pm and the memorial service at 5:30 pm would make things go much more smoothly. He backed the motion made by Mayor Rivera. Because booth hosting was proposed for two days, Mayor Susuico suggested holding this on July 19. Instead of 4 pm, the president thinks that 3 pm might work. Parking will be packed, according to Mayor Frankie Salas, because people start arriving to set up tents for the parade the next day. The president responded, "We're going to work hard because it's an event for them. I think they would appreciate something consecutive." **No further discussions. Two possible objections. The motion carried.**

As in the previous two years, when village float parameters were set to ensure maximum participation, the president asked the Body if they wanted to set requirements or parameters for the parade. Mayor Susuico said it worked out in the past with their smaller trailers that can be pulled behind their official. Mayor Hofmann agreed and said there would be a pre-show then the actual parade of government agencies the military and the village mayors. Mayor Rivera will be using a larger trailer due to the numerous programs and individuals that want to be on the float, she left it to the Body to set the requirements. Mayor Dale Alvarez agreed to the smaller trailers and suggested that all Districts participate in building a nice trailer that symbolizes their village, rather than even having a competition. The president acknowledged Mayor Alvarez's recommendation and asked for a motion. **Mayor Savares made the motion that every village enter to participate, not enter to win. Seconded by Mayor Bill Quenga.** In discussion, Mayor Jessy Gogue questioned the impact of the motion should the majority approved it and whether there was a penalty if one doesn't participate. He thinks it's important for the Body to truly fulfill what is being adopted. According to Mayor Savares, Mayor Hofmann decided not to construct a float a few years ago because Sinajana was in charge of maintaining the media stations along the parade route. As parade marshal he oversaw the parade participants, ensuring that they continued to move, the script, logistics for the grandstand, and provided the flags and the podiums. The president understood Mayor Gogue's concerns and valued his opinion regarding a penalty. In response, the president stated that the intent is for maximum participation. **No further discussions or objections. The motion carried.**

The president asked if there were any suggestions about the queen contest and raffle. Mayor Rivera advised the person chairing this year to move quickly to order tickets, as the delay caused the committee to start late with all the procurement issues of getting price quotations and setting the venue. The timing made things challenging. The president announced that he would think about holding a committee meeting for those who are interested outside of the usual Mayor's Council meeting within the next week or two.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

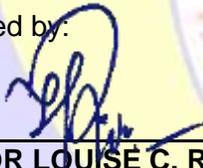
- The president forwarded to mayors an email from the attorney general about the GWA legal roadway damages form and they are following up. It is the mayor's prerogative to entertain that if they so choose.
- Mayor Alig can connect you with Sylvia Calvo, Curriculum and Instruction with GDOE, if mayors are interested in having accessible bookshelves in their community. They would construct it.

According to Mayor Savares, she is getting communications from members of the council regarding our discussion over the money that is being downloaded. The AAs for JoAnn's group received a WhatsApp message on October 24th, indicating that the funds had been downloaded and they are now able to begin submitting their requisitions. She didn't receive that message, so she questioned her AA what was going on. Nobody responded "yes" when that question was asked earlier. So, she's just bringing it up. The president said he'll get to the bottom of it and figure it out.

X. ADJOURNMENT

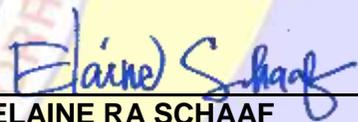
The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Attested by:



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

Transcribed by:



ELAINE RA SCHAAF
Transcriber
MCOG – Administration

Robert R.D.C. Hofmann
Mayor

Rudy D. Iriarte
Vice Mayor



Municipality of Sinajana
Mayors' Council of Guam
Konsehelon Mahot Guåhan

Sinajana Mayor's Office
P. O. Box 786 Hagåtña, Guam 96932
Phone 671-472-6707 | 671-477-3323
Fax 671-472-5084
sinajanamayorsoffice@gmail.com

December 6, 2023

TO: Mayor Louise C. Rivera
Municipality of Tamuning
Executive Secretary - MCOG

RE: Regular Monthly Meeting Attendance
Zoom Meeting Option

RECEIVED

DEC 06 2023

**MAYORS' COUNCIL
OF GUAM**

Dear Madam Secretary,

Buenas, Yan Hafa Adai, please accept this correspondence as my official request to attend the December 2023 Regular Monthly Meeting via the Zoom Meeting option. My left leg is a prosthetic from mid shin down which makes it difficult for me to mount staircases. I appreciate your understanding of my situation and I thank you for time.

Should you require anything further regarding this request, please feel free to contact me via the information provided or you can Email me at: rudviriarte@gmail.com

Si Yu'us Ma'ase & have a wonderful day.

Senseremente,


Rudy Iriarte
Vice Mayor

RECEIVED

DEC 06 2023

MAYORS' COUNCIL
OF GUAM

MAYORS' COUNCIL OF GUAM

From: Mayor Louise C. Rivera <mayorlrivera.tatuha@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 8:04 AM
To: Mayors' Council of Guam - Admin.
Subject: Fwd: Request for Virtual Attendance - MCOG December Regular Monthly Meeting - SIN VM
Attachments: MCOG - December Zoom Meeting Request - SIN VM Iriarte .pdf

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Sinajana Mayor's Office <sinajanamayorsoffice@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Dec 6, 2023, 7:36 AM
Subject: Request for Virtual Attendance - MCOG December Regular Monthly Meeting - SIN VM
To: Mayor Louise C. Rivera <mayorlrivera.tatuha@gmail.com>

Hafa Adai,
Please find the attached request to attend virtually the MCOG December 2023 Regular Monthly meeting.
Thank you and Happy Holidays!

--
Vice Mayor Rudy Iriarte
Sinajana Mayor's Office
Tel: (671) 472-6707 / (671) 477-3323 | Fax: (671) 472-5084
sinajanamayorsoffice@gmail.com

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DEC 08 2023



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MAYORS' COUNCIL OF GUAM

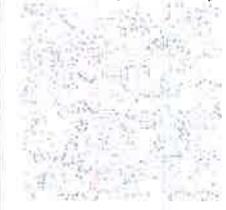
From: Jessy Gogue <ocp.mayor@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 9:10 AM
To: Mayor Louise C. Rivera
Cc: MAYORS' COUNCIL OF GUAM
Subject: Re: SECOND NOTICE of MCOG Regular Monthly Mtg - Wed Dec 6 at 10 a.m.

Hafa Adai Mayor Rivera,

Given the changes to my morning schedule for today, I will be attending today's meeting via Zoom. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mayor Gogue

On Mon, Dec 4, 2023 at 5:48 AM MAYORS' COUNCIL OF GUAM <mcogadmin@teleguam.net> wrote:



Hâfa Adai and good morning Mayors and Vice Mayors,

The Mayors' Council of Guam will hold its Regular Monthly meeting on **Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.** in the **Mayors' Council Conference Room, Bldg. F, 2nd floor** at the J&G Commercial Center, Hagåtña.

Attached is the DRAFT minutes from the NOVEMBER Regular Monthly meeting for your review/file.

Audio of meeting: <https://mcog.guam.gov/regular-monthly-meeting>

Attached is the September Treasurer's Report for the Revolving Fund and Guam Island Fair.

Pls send an official notice to Executive Secretary, Mayor Louise Rivera of your intent to attend virtually.

Topic: MCOG December Regular Meeting

Time: Dec 6, 2023 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89777009738?pwd=NnVwTEpGT1lrVXI0NTBZTGx5dnpwUT09>

Meeting ID: 897 7700 9738

Passcode: 343554

v/r Elaine Schaaf

MAYORS' COUNCIL OF GUAM

(671) 477-8461 Work
(671) 472-6940 Work
(671) 477-6286 Other
mcogadmin@teleguam.net
215A Chalan Santo Papa Road
Suite 111F
P. O. Box 786
Hagatna, GU 96932

 Virus-free www.avg.com

MAYORS' COUNCIL OF GUAM

From: Angelica Jamanila <angjamanila@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 9:19 AM
To: Mayor Louise C. Rivera; Mayor Paul M. McDonald; AHMO - Genny Ceraos; Angelica Jamanila-Gumataotao; MAYORS' COUNCIL OF GUAM
Subject: Request for Zoom Regular Monthly Meeting 12/06

Hafa Adai,

This is to request for Genny Ceraos to attend the MCOG Regular Monthly Meeting today, 12/06/23 via zoom on behalf of Mayor McDonald.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office.

Thank you,
Angelica "Angie" N.G. Jamanila-Gumataotao, Municipal Clerk
Municipality of Agana Heights -
Office of the Mayor
184 Chalan Macajna
Agana Heights, Guam 96910
Office: (671) 472.8285/6
Fax: (671) 472.6124
Mobile: (671) 687.5779
Email: angjamanila@yahoo.com

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