



**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**THREE-HUNDRED-TWENTIETH MEETING**  
**of the**  
**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**December 18, 2008**  
**Santa Fe**

---

---

The three-hundred-twentieth meeting of the New Mexico Legislative Council was called to order on Thursday, December 18, 2008, at 12:10 p.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol by Speaker Ben Lujan, co-chair.

**Present**

Senator Timothy Z. Jennings, Co-Chair  
Representative Ben Lujan, Co-Chair  
Senator Carlos R. Cisneros  
Senator Kent L. Cravens  
Senator Stuart Ingle  
Representative Rhonda S. King  
Representative W. Ken Martinez  
Representative Rick Miera  
Senator Leonard Lee Rawson  
Senator Michael S. Sanchez  
Representative Sheryl Williams Stapleton  
Representative Thomas C. Taylor  
Representative Jeannette O. Wallace

**Special Advisory Members Present**

Representative Janice E. Arnold-Jones  
Representative Donald E. Bratton  
Senator Dianna J. Duran  
Senator Mary Jane M. Garcia  
Senator Cisco McSorley  
Representative Al Park  
Representative Peter Wirth

**Staff**

Paula Tackett, Director, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Raúl Burciaga, Assistant Director for Drafting Services, LCS  
John Yaeger, Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, LCS  
Jeret Fleetwood, Locator Coordinator, LCS

**Absent**

Senator Pete Campos  
Representative Daniel R. Foley  
Senator John T.L. Grubestic

**Special Advisory Members Absent**

Representative Antonio Lujan  
Representative James Roger Madalena  
Senator Steven P. Neville  
Senator Lidio G. Rainaldi  
Senator John Arthur Smith  
Senator H. Diane Snyder

**Session Parking**

Ms. Tackett provided the council with an update regarding the parking situation around the capitol for the upcoming session. She reminded the council that the parking structure would not be completed until May 2009 and that parking for staff and visitors to the capitol would probably be more difficult than usual this session. Ms. Tackett went on to explain that staff is working to ease the demand placed on the limited number of spaces immediately around the capitol by working with area churches and businesses to identify spaces that may be available for use during the session. She noted that most of the entities contacted so far would provide spaces, but they intend to charge varying sums for their use. For example, she indicated that DeVargas Mall had offered the use of 130 spaces for \$3,000, while St. John's Methodist Church offered the use of 75 spaces for \$15,000. She went on to note that staff members are also negotiating with the owner of the small lot across the street from the capitol for another 73 spaces. Ms. Tackett also pointed out that the LCS is working with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the General Services Department (GSD) on providing shuttle service to and from the various parking lots to the capitol. She went on to note that if agreements are reached with local businesses or churches for use of their parking lots, the money for those agreements would have to be placed in the Feed Bill. Finally, Ms. Tackett indicated that the City of Santa Fe will free up to as many as 200 parking meters from Monday through Friday during the session in the Santa Fe Railyard parking structure.

Senator Jennings suggested that staff members contact the Elks Lodge about use of its parking lot.

Steve Arias, house chief clerk, noted that parking is a challenge for capitol employees and visitors every session, but that the safety of those employees who have to work well into the evening should be one of the primary goals of any parking relief plan. For example, he suggested that shuttle drivers be required to make sure passengers actually get inside of their cars safely once they reach the satellite parking lots. Mr. Arias also pointed out that the City of Santa Fe provides some relief to the parking crunch by allowing employees to park at those meters on Don Gaspar Avenue that are near the capitol.

Porfirio Perez, Jr., director of GSD's Transportation Services Division, also provided the council with an overview of the work being done to address parking issues. He explained that several details would have to be worked out with the DOT over a shuttle program, such as the working hours for such a program, a possible advertising campaign to help make the public aware of alternate parking options and the total cost of a shuttle program.

Representative King suggested that the DOT message boards be utilized to help alert the public to alternative parking areas before they arrive at the capitol and are forced to drive around looking for spaces.

In response to a question from Senator Cravens, Mr. Perez indicated that plans are underway to try to have a shuttle run to and from the railyard to serve riders on the train to and from Albuquerque.

Senator Jennings suggested that some of the parking spaces at Museum Hill be used for staff, who might be more familiar with the area than capitol visitors. He also emphasized that the public's safety, in addition to that of capitol employees, needs to be ensured.

On a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, the council authorized Ms. Tackett to negotiate with area businesses and churches for the best possible deal for additional parking spaces and to include the costs in the Feed Bill.

### **Capitol Recognition Subcommittee**

Representative Wallace presented the council with a request from Los Alamos' 60th Anniversary Committee to place a plaque in the capitol thanking the residents of the state for their help during the Cerro Grande fire. She asked that the Capitol Recognition Subcommittee be appointed to consider the request before the start of the 2009 session so that a joint memorial could be introduced recommending placement of the plaque.

Representatives King, Wallace and Wirth and Senators Cravens, Garcia and Jennings were named to the subcommittee.

### **2009 Decision Makers Conference**

The council approved per diem and mileage payments to those members who wish to attend the 2009 Decision Makers Conference, which is planned for May 2009 in Albuquerque. Ms. Tackett reminded the council that the conference is put on by New Mexico Tech and focuses on water issues in the state. The council noted that prior notice to the speaker or president pro tempore is required of those members wishing to attend.

Speaker Lujan suggested that members be required to attend at least four hours of the conference before being eligible to receive per diem and mileage payments.

### **2009 Conference Funding**

Ms. Tackett noted that both the Council of State Governments-West (CSG-West) and the Uniform Law Commission (ULC) have scheduled conferences next year in Santa Fe. She explained that the hosting legislature does have some financial responsibility and can pay for transportation and speakers. She requested that the funding be included in the Feed Bill.

Representative Arnold-Jones explained that a great deal of work has already gone into planning for the CSG-West conference, noting that two other conferences had been scheduled around it.

In response to a question from Senator Ingle, Ms. Tackett explained that transportation funding for the conferences would be limited to shuttling attendees around Santa Fe and not transferring them to and from the Albuquerque airport.

On a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, the council authorized the inclusion in the Feed Bill of a \$200,000 transfer from the legislative cash expenses account to be used for the 2009 CSG-West and ULC conferences.

There being no further business, the council adjourned at 12:50 p.m.