



**AIRPORT COMMISSION  
MEETING Minutes  
THURSDAY, April 3, 2025, 7:00 P.M.  
CITY HALL ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM  
100 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, LOMPOC, CA**

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**ROLL CALL COMMISSIONERS:**

Carlo De La Fuente, David Hughes, Travis Kalin, Brad Mandibles,

**STAFF:**

Richard Fernbaugh, Julie Wilks, Wayne Wilks

**Public:**

Pete Concepcion, Ed Mandibles, Susan Bean- Mandibles

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes from the previous meeting were presented for approval.

- **Motion to approve:** Brad
- **Seconded by:** Carlo
- **Approved unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Limited to 5 minutes)**

Three members of the public were in attendance. No comments were made at this time, but reserved for later in the meeting

**ORAL AND/OR WRITTEN COMMUNICATION:**

None

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

1. **Senate Bill No. 1193 (Leaded aviation gasoline):** The Senate Bill aims to phase out the sale of 100LL (low lead) aviation gasoline by January 1, 2031, replacing it with unleaded aviation gasoline.
  - A recent lawsuit against Reed Hillview and another Bay Area airport has resulted in a court decision allowing the continued sale of leaded gasoline, as it violated agreements with the FAA.

- We will monitor if any further regulations or changes to clean air laws in California impact this.
2. **Possible public viewing area for rocket launches.:** A rough draft was presented for a proposed rocket viewing area outside the airport property, near the O Street gate.
- The development would include a dirt lot, access road, and path for public use during rocket launches.
  - No airport funds will be used for development, and we are exploring possible partnerships with the City or Base.
  - The project aims to reduce maintenance costs while increasing public engagement with the airport.
  - A discussion was held about possible signage and advertising in the area, which would require Planning Commission approval.
  - **Utilities Availability:**
    - A. The area has access to nearby electrical utilities, which could be used for lighting, although it is preferable not to use lighting due to cost concerns.
  - **Long-Term Goals and Potential Development:**
    - A. The proposal could grow into a major attraction for Lompoc and increase public awareness of the airport.
    - B. Any future development would have to comply with airport regulations, and the space could be reallocated if aeronautical needs arise in the future.
3. **Jeff Willems Lease: Jeff Williams Lease Status and Hanger Release**
- The Commission discussed the current status of the lease held by Jeff Williams. The City Attorney and the attorney managing the legal aspects of the situation have provided guidance.
  - The City cannot legally allow access to the hanger or release the contents without a signed letter from the executor of the estate, which absolves the City of liability. The attorney for the executor has been contacted, and once the letter is signed, the City can proceed with clearing the hanger.
  - The City will designate specific days for individuals to retrieve their belongings from the hanger. All individuals will be required to sign forms acknowledging that they are only removing their personal property and releasing the City and the executor from any liability.
  - The current plan is to clear the hanger and prepare it for release once all items have been removed.

- Conversations are ongoing with the attorney representing the executor of the estate, who is the mother of Jeff's two daughters. The City will continue working through the legal process.

#### **4. Future Lease and Release of FBO**

Once the hanger is cleared, staff will proceed with advertising for bids to release the space and find a new tenant.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Election of Chairperson:** The selection of a new Chairperson was discussed, as the position has not been filled since February due to a lack of quorum.
  - **Nominee:** Dave Hughes
  - **Motion:** Brad Mandibles
  - **Seconded by:** Carlo De La Fuente
  - No other Nominations were presented
  - **Vote:** Unanimous approval. Dave is appointed as Chairperson.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS/ Requests (Limited to 5 minutes)**

##### **1. Status of Mackenzie Clark Hanger**

- An inquiry was made by Ed Mandibles regarding the status of the Mackenzie Clark Hanger.
- The City Attorney is currently in the process of filing a lien on the property within the hanger. Once the lien is filed, the airport will have the authorization to sell the contents of the hanger.
- The process for selling the items is still under consideration. Staff is waiting for approval from both the City Attorney and the court.
- Ed Mandibles inquired if "rent" is still being charged for the hanger. It was clarified that the license has been revoked, and the tenant is no longer being charged rent. Instead, a storage fee is being applied while the lien process takes effect.
- Ed also mentioned that an airport user has expressed interest in paying the remaining balance for the hanger. However, the Staff informed him that the legal process must be completed before any transactions can occur.

##### **2. North Hangar Row Night Lighting Update:**

- An inquiry was made by Ed Mandibles regarding the status of the North Hangar Row Night Lights.
- The Commission discussed the current status of the night lighting on the North Hangar Row.

- It was noted that the contact responsible for the noise had been disconnected. The lights were not functioning as of the previous week.
- The airport maintenance worker responsible for addressing the lighting issue is currently in training for a license and is only available one day per week.
- The Commission was informed that the issue will be resolved as soon as the airport maintenance worker is available, and the lighting will be restored to meet expectations.

### **3. Rocket Launch Space Rental Fees:**

- An inquiry was made by Ed Mandibles regarding the funds making on the formal use inside the fence on rocket launches.
- The airport currently charges \$320 per day for rocket launch space. This covers expenses, and any other costs (e.g., portable equipment setup) are handled by the renter.
- The Airport did not charge for unused days, aiming to maintain good relations with clients.

### **4. Formal Inquiry into Mechanic Services**

- Ed Mandibles inquired whether the Airport Administration has received any formal inquiries regarding mechanic services for when the FBO (Fixed Base Operator) becomes available.
- It was noted that no formal presentations have been made at this time, as the timeline for the FBO's availability remains uncertain.
- However, some informal inquiries have been received regarding mechanic services.

## **COMMISSIONER REQUEST:**

### **1. Update on Lease Fee for Jeff Willems' Estate**

- Dave asked if the estate for Jeff Willems is still being charged the lease fee while the hangar remains locked and unused.
- Response: Yes, the lease fee is still being charged, but the timeline for availability and the resolution of the situation remains uncertain. The issue will be addressed when it is settled.

### **2. Auction of Mackenzie Clark Materials**

- Dave asked if the materials from Mackenzie Clark's hangar, should they go to auction, will be advertised through the airport.
- Response: The Airport Administration is unsure of the process and is awaiting legal guidance on how to proceed.

### **3. Communication Regarding Maintenance Hangar Availability**

- Brad inquired about how the airport will communicate the availability of the maintenance hangar when it opens.
- Response: The airport plans to send email and mail notices, as well as post announcements on the airport bulletin board.

#### **4. General Update on the Piper Club Fly-In**

- Dave requested a general update on the Piper Club Fly-In event.
- Response: A discussion was held, and it was noted that postings for the event have been made for September. However, it will be changed to a one-day-only antique airplane fly-in.

**SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING:** Thursday April 3, 2025

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27PM by Chairperson Dave. The next meeting is scheduled for 7PM, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 at City of Lompoc Council Chambers.

**Minutes submitted by:** Wayne E. Wilks

**Date:** April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025