

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
GRANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 1400 HWY 180 E., SILVER CITY, NM
April 10, 2007 – 7:00pm

Present: James R. Marshall, Mayor
Judy Ward, District 1
Thomas Nupp, District 2
Gary Clauss, District 3
Steve May, District 4

Also Present: Alex C. Brown, Town Manager
Anita Norero, Acting Town Clerk
Robert Scavron, Town Attorney
Ed Reynolds, Chief of Police
Susan Berry, Museum Director

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE— Mayor Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

CEREMONIES - None

PROCLAMATIONS – Medical Laboratory Week (April 22 – 29, 2007)
Earth Day (April 10, 2007)
Volunteer Day (April 14, 2007)

PUBLIC INPUT – None

COUNCIL COMMENTS –

Councilor Ward welcomed Councilor Wheaton-Smith and stated that she looked forward to working with him. She then thanked John Waters, Steve Solano and all the other workers from CATS for all their work in bringing the Council Meetings to the public and for broadcasting the Around the Town column.

Councilor Nupp also welcomed Councilor Wheaton-Smith. He commented on Volunteer Day and reported that the Western New Mexico University football team volunteered to move the Joe Hodges book collection which consists of 10,000 books.

Councilor Wheaton-Smith thanked Tony Ramirez for his work at the Senior Center. He reported that the First Annual La Capilla Wet Lands Park Easter Egg Hunt was held this past weekend. He stated that they had a good turn out with 120 people showing up. He also reported that local merchants provided gifts for the children. Councilor Wheaton-Smith also commented on the Volunteer Day and stated that he has been in CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) since 2000 and that it was a good a program.

Councilor May also welcomed Councilor Wheaton-Smith and stated that he looked forward to working with him. Councilor May expressed concern and embarrassment with the litter in the community. He suggested that the schools initiate some sort of citizenship class early on in grades 1 – 3 in order to encourage the children to never litter and instill pride in our community. He also suggested that the Council look at adopting ordinances to prohibit stores from putting flyers in their baskets and limiting a small percentage of plastic bags that can be used. Councilor May asked if anything more had been done to get the pool open. Mr. Brown stated that he was informed by Peter Pena that they were still painting and that a new shower system was installed in the men's locker room. In addition Mr. Brown stated that they met with FISSCH and that the Arts Council was developing a design for the mural at the Swimming Pool. In addition he stated that the Town and Country Garden Club was going to do some xeriscaping. Councilor May also asked about the status on the boiler. Mr. Brown informed him that they were working on it and that all they needed to do was get a contract for the gentlemen who did the work last year. Mr. Brown stated that according to Mr. Pena the plan for the solar boiler was almost done. Councilor

May asked for a follow up on the light he requested for the island on Pope and College. Mr. Brown stated that he did submit a letter to the power company. Councilor May suggested putting up a light like the ones downtown. Mr. Brown stated that he would contact Main Street and see if they had an extra light.

Mayor Marshall also welcomed Councilor Wheaton-Smith.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – Item C was moved up to the top.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 27, 2007 Regular Council Meeting – Councilor May moved to approve the minutes with the correction of one typo. Councilor Ward seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS – Mr. Brown reported that the Town has a franchise agreement with Comcast to help supply and support the funding for CATS. Mr. Brown stated that he received a call from Comcast informing him that they would start providing high-speed internet service in this area within the next few months.

NEW BUSINESS –

Resolution 2007-15 In Support of Expanding the “25-Mile Geographical Limit” for Mexican Nationals Traveling Within the State of New Mexico with Laser Visas to at Least 100 Miles. Emma Johnson Ortiz of New Mexico Border Authority reported that in the past six years between six million and seven million laser visas have been issued by the U. S. State Department and that there have been \$3.6 billion in annual sales to Mexican nationals, which has been a positive impact on the U.S. economy in the border regions. Mayor Marshall commented that this resolution tied in well with the work they have been doing with the Mayors from Mexico and this area in increasing trade and tourism up through Silver City. He commented on the historical tie we have all the way down to the Casa Grande areas and stated that this would allow them to come up and explore their culture and history. Councilor Ward made a motion to adopt Resolution 2007-15, which was seconded by Councilor Nupp. Mr. Art Martinez, a Silver City resident, stated that he supported the proposal and that it would be mutually beneficial. Mr. Martinez stated that there were many favorable reasons for expanding and enhancing tourism and border economy. He also stated it would create a better understanding between citizens. Motion passed unanimously.

Silver City Museum Presentation – Sandra Hicks, Museum Board President, reported that the Museum was celebrating its 40th anniversary. She reported that the Museum is the second most visited tourist attraction in Grant County with 15,000 – 18,000 visitors a year. She reported that 75% of those visitors are from outside Grant County. Susan Berry, Museum Director, gave a presentation on the development and expansion of the Museum and stated that it was now three times larger than when it first opened in 1967. In addition Ms. Berry reported that the Museum’s programs and services have also expanded. Jim Leidich, president of the Silver City Museum Society gave a brief presentation on the role of the Society. He informed the Council that the Society supports all museum programs and provides additional resources that the museum cannot get from the normal course of business. He reported that they have 61 volunteers and in the past year they have put in more than 4,100 hours of time. The Society currently funds two part-time positions and partially funds the administrative assistant position. Future plans of the Society include funding for one more part-time employee, point of sale system for the store, and to develop the Mimbres Culture Heritage Site as an extension to the Museum’s activities.

Silver Fairways LLC Request for Fee Change – Dominic Curran, General Manager presented the proposed fee change. He stated that they are in a position to increase the rates in order to offset increased costs of materials, seed, fertilizer, fuel, oil and the upcoming minimum wage increase. Mr. Curran stated that the rate increases range from 8.5% to 10% and that they did a survey of similar and comparable golf courses in New Mexico to get these rates. According to Mr. Curran 20,000 rounds are played a year and his goal within the next few years was to increase that to 25,000 rounds. Mr. Curran also reported that the junior program was improving and they are

working on having more tournaments and bringing in more people from out of town. Mr. Brown stated that the golf course is working with both high school golf teams. In addition Mr. Brown informed the Council that Silver Fairways took a big hit with the recent flooding and that they were completely responsible for repairing all the damages. There was discussion in regards to the advisory board and the inspection program. Mike Stone stated that if the increased rates were approved they would still be lower than what was being charged in 2002. Mr. Stone informed the Council that they are doing okay with keeping up operations; however his concern was with the replacement of equipment and capital expenditures. There was discussion regarding a pay scale for veterans. Mayor Marshall proposed that a pay scale for veterans similar to seniors be added. Councilor May made a motion to accept Silver Fairways LLC fee change request with the addition of a veteran pay scale identical to the senior rates. Judy Ward seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Wheaton-Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to §10-15-1 (H) (2), NMSA 1978, to discuss limited personnel matters. Motion was seconded by Councilor May. Roll call was taken with the following results: Councilor Ward – Aye; Councilor Nupp – Aye; Councilor Wheaton-Smith – Aye; and Councilor May – Aye. Motion passed unanimously and Council entered Executive Session at 8:25pm.

Council returned from Executive Session at 9:30pm. Mayor Marshall stated that no decisions were made.

ADJOURNMENT - Councilor Nupp made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilor Ward. Motion passed unanimously and meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

James R. Marshall, Mayor

Attest:

Anita Norero, Acting Town Clerk