

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY
STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION
City Annex Upstairs Conference Room, Silver City, NM
March 6, 2008 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: James R. Marshall, Mayor
A. Judith Ward, District 1
Thomas A. Nupp, District 2
Simon Wheaton-Smith, District 3

Also Present: Alex C. Brown, Town Manager-Finance Director
Yolanda C. Holguin, Secretary
Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk

Not Present: Steve May, District 4

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

DISCUSSION – to include but not limited to the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009 and goals and desired improvements for the future. Mr. Brown discussed the current year’s budget, developing next year’s budget, and where Silver City was in the national economy. He also discussed the unemployment rate, non-dependency on the mines, and comparison of the last three months of the gross receipts report. He stated that revenues were down and reviewed the percentage to date of each fund. He informed the Council that there would be changes to the health insurance coverage. He answered questions that the Council had on gross receipts tax; loans on fire and police vehicles; water loans; and the cost of fuel. He explained how workers compensation costs were up due to the increase of salaries. He told the Council that the Information Technician and Planner positions had been filled and that he did not anticipate any lay-offs. Mr. Brown also discussed the increase in water and sewer rates. He advised the Council that grants through the State were cut back which would affect some projects. He commented that the maintenance funds should be increased for the Street Department in order to repair any damage to streets as a result of the road construction on Highway 180. There was further discussion on grant writing, grant reimbursements, and the management of grants.

The Council advised their budget priorities to Mr. Brown. Councilor Ward’s priorities were the repair of the roof of the Silver City Museum and to add a curator position to the staff of the museum. Councilor Nupp’s priorities were to complete the Cemetery project and the repair of roads. Councilor Wheaton-Smith’s priorities were to hire an assistant to the Town Manager and to improve the appearance and curb appeal of Town properties. Mayor Marshall’s priority was to improve the maintenance plan on utilities, infrastructure and the Town’s assets. There was further discussion on the old hospital site and whether the property should be designated as essential or non-essential property, and the building of and the possible locations of the new library and City Hall. Mr. Brown stated that his priorities were to maintain the Town’s assets, management of the Town’s employees, street maintenance, and to clean and maintain the water tanks. He also advised that a street striping plan and a parking plan for downtown would be presented to Council for their approval in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT – Councilor Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 p.m... Councilor Nupp seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

/s/

James R. Marshall, Mayor

Attest:

/s/

Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk