

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
Grant County Administration Center, 1400 Hwy 180, Silver City, NM  
April 21, 2014, 6:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

Michael Shawn Morones, Mayor  
Cynthia Ann Bettison, District 1  
Lynda D. Aiman-Smith, District 2  
Jose A. Ray, Jr., District 3  
Guadalupe "Lupe" Cano, District 4

**Also Present:**

Peter Russell, Acting Town Manager  
Yolanda C. Holguin, Acting Town Clerk  
Robert Esqueda, Utilities Director

**1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Mayor Morones called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilor Cano read the Town’s Mission Statement.

**2. CEREMONIES** – None.

**3. PROCLAMATIONS** – **“Give Grande New Mexico Day” - May 6, 2014.** Mayor Morones read the proclamation and presented it to Lucy Tully of the Community Foundation of Grant County. Ms. Tully explained what the day represented, asked for the community’s support, and thanked the Council.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT** – Peter Burrows commented on photo IDs for voters to insure the integrity of the voting system; that the history of America was one of stolen elections; and on the process of and the last time voting records were purged. He stated that he would be coming before the Council at the next meeting to formerly request and encourage their support.

**5. COUNCIL COMMENTS** –Councilor Bettison commented that the Earth Day event was nice even with the rain; that the recycling of large electronics was decreased because people were taking them directly to the landfill; on the upcoming Comcast Cares Day event; helping with the mural; encouraged children to attend and the support Mimbres Region Arts Council would receive with each attendee; on being careful and mindful of bicyclists during the Tour of the Gila event; and thanked the agencies for their support of the event. Councilor Aiman-Smith commented on hiking and walking on the trails and on the upcoming event of Silver City becoming the First Gateway Community to the Continental Divide Trail. Mayor Morones commented that during the Tour of the Gila the motorists needed to be more aware of their surroundings; encouraged all to leave a little earlier and be extra careful; on the majority of bicyclists obeying the laws; and for both motorists and bicyclists to be patient and responsible.

**6. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA** – None.

**7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Regular Meeting on April 8, 2014** - Councilor Bettison moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2014, as submitted with corrections. Councilor Aiman-Smith seconded. Mayor Morones stated there was a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2014, as corrected. He asked if there was any discussion, and there was none. He asked all those in favor to say aye, and all 4 Councilors voted aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

**8. REPORTS** –

**A. Third Quarter and Visitor Center Report by Cissy McAndrew, Executive Director of Southwest New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce** – Ms. McAndrew reported on the seasonal trend of visitors; where visitors came from; the top ten states; the number of nights visitors stayed; the visitor numbers by days of the week; the top ten attractions; how people hear about Silver City; the type of publications to promote the area; and on the third quarter visitation data for Fiscal Year 2014 showing the growth of visitors. She commented on the Visitor Center being opened seven days a week and most holidays; the civic tourism workshop with a business roundtable discussing the marketing of the community and keeping its value, and not changing who Silver City was. She continued to discuss the

future of the Visitor Center; how the Arts and Cultural District would like to take over the operation of the business center and fulfillment; moving to a downtown store front; promoting civic tourism; working with local merchants to help them succeed; continuing to promote buying local; how entrepreneurship was a key facet; the Investment Opportunity Network; working together to promote Silver City; building a sustainable community; the partnerships and collaboration they would be working on; the new Town map pads; and the new bike racks downtown. Discussion continued on clarifying that the Southwest Chicano Music Association was a new and separate entity; on visitors staying an extra night to visit the Western New Mexico University Museum; how the use of Lodgers' Tax goes through the Arts and Cultural District and that a portion of the fulfillment was used for bulk mailings; that the Visitor Center also handled Grant County's fulfillment; on the sale of post cards and receiving donations; and on being resourceful and running the Visitor Center on a low budget with volunteers.

**B. Utilities Department Report** – Robert Esqueda, Utilities Director, provided a report on the Utilities Department's administrative office; the Water Division; the Sewer Division; and the Wastewater Treatment Plant Division (WWTP). He discussed the daily tasks and responsibilities that staff performed; the required reporting and reports done by the department to meet State requirements; the maintenance of water rights records; the Town's two well fields, Franks and Woodward, and the Gabby Hayes Well, where a replacement well was just recently drilled; submitting grant applications for the divisions; reviewing water and sewer requests for new developments; addressing customer inquiries and processing customer complaints; scheduling crews for daily tasks and for upcoming projects; overseeing the budget; receiving and processing line locates; and completing line locates of the Town for other entities. He discussed the duties and responsibilities of water distribution and production; working with other departments during street projects to repair or replace water and sewer lines; water sampling testing requirements and that the Town had not received a notice from the State for non-compliance; that the staff was doing a good job and staying on top of monitoring the wells; maintenance of the storage tanks; and the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for remote monitoring through radio communication to the individual sites of the wells, tanks and booster stations. He reported that the Sewer Division performed maintenance of sewer lifts stations and manholes, regular sewer maintenance with the rodding machine, and sewer tap inspections. He reported that the WWTP had a Lab Tech that processed all required testing of the plant; on the hauling and disposal of sludge and that the local landfill was permitted to accept the sludge; and on the monitoring of the effluent quality. He reported on the current Blackhawk Sewer Project; the awarded Colonias Infrastructure Project Fund (CIPF) for F Street sewer improvements; on the application submitted for CIPF for the Belt Filter Press at the WWTP; that both CIPF's projects would be 100 percent grant; applying engineering costs for the match of the projects so that all funds would be applied to construction; and on the Project Interest Form, a requirement of the New Mexico Environment Department for potential projects to be included on a priority list and submitted for funding water improvements in the Chihuahua Hill area. Discussion continued on the number of RVs that utilize the old septic dump station at the WWTP; on the potential use and added process of using sludge for compost; the concern with the State's delay of the processing of grant agreements; and commending the Utilities Department staff for doing a good job.

**C. Staff Reports** – None.

Councilor Bettison moved for short break at 7:00 p.m. Councilor Cano seconded. Mayor Morones said there was a motion and a second for a short recess. He asked all those in favor to say aye, and all 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried. Mayor Morones called the meeting back to order at 7:06 p.m.

## **9. PUBLIC HEARINGS -**

**A. Approval / Disapproval of Restaurant Liquor License Application #904159, Applicant: Little Toad Creek LLC, DBA name to be used: Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, Proposed location: 200 N. Bullard St., Silver City, NM 88091.** Mayor Morones stated the Town Council would serve as the hearing board and he would serve as the presiding officer. He asked if any member of the hearing board had ex-parte discussions with any person regarding the subject matter, or had any communication from any party to the case, and all 4 Councilors said no. He qualified all of them to be on the hearing board. He asked all parties and witnesses, including staff members, to come forward to be sworn in to testify by the Town Clerk. Mayor Morones stated that anyone not sworn in would not be able to testify or participate in the hearing. The Acting Town Clerk swore in one witness. Mayor Morones read the

procedures of how the hearing would be conducted. He gave the floor to Theresa Dahl-Bredine, representative of Little Toad Creek LLC. She requested the Council's approval for the Restaurant Liquor License. She stated that they had been in business at that location since December 2013; that 62 percent of their sales was food; that customers were requesting wine with the dinner; that they were requesting to expand into serving wine and present a New Mexico wine list. She stated that currently under the brewery license they could serve New Mexico beer and with the distillery license they could serve New Mexico spirits, and that they were opting to add New Mexico wine to their repertoire. Mayor Morones asked if there were any witnesses in opposition to the applicant's case, and there were none. The Mayor asked if the hearing board had any other questions for any of the witnesses, there were none. The Mayor asked if they were ready to render their decision. He said he would entertain a motion. Councilor Ray moved to approve a Restaurant Liquor License Application #904159, Applicant: Little Toad Creek LLC, DBA name to be used: Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, Proposed location: 200 N. Bullard St., Silver City, NM 88091. Councilor Bettison seconded as stated. The Mayor stated there was a motion and second to approve as read into the record. There was no further discussion. He asked for a roll call vote. Councilor Ray voted aye; Councilor Cano voted aye; Councilor Bettison voted aye; and Councilor Aiman-Smith voted aye. Motion carried.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None.

**11. NEW BUSINESS – Appointment to Cemetery Board.** The Council had no objections to the re-appointment of Stacy Domino-Mrazik to the Cemetery Board.

**12. ADJOURNMENT** – Mayor Morones asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilor Bettison moved to adjourn at 7:15 p.m., and Councilor Aiman-Smith seconded. Mayor Morones stated there was a motion and a second to adjourn. He asked all those in favor to say aye, and all 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if there were any opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

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Michael S. Morones, Mayor

Attest:

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Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk