

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Grant County Administration Center, 1400 Hwy. 180, Silver City, NM
September 8, 2015, 6:00 p.m.**

Present:

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

Also Present:

Alex C. Brown, Town Manager-Finance Director
Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk
Robert L. Scavron, Town Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Morones called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilor Aiman-Smith was present telephonically.

2. CEREMONIES - None.

3. PROCLAMATIONS - "Walk for the Heroes Appreciation Days" - September 26, 2015 – Mayor Morones presented the proclamation to Raul Turrieta and Armando Amador. Mr. Turrieta said he hoped people would show up for the 13.3 mile hike because it was for a great cause, any of the donations and funding would stay locally for the veterans in Grant County. He provided further details. Mr. Amador, a Viet Nam War veteran, said they had created a good relationship with the community so they were willing to support them with as much as they could.

"Day of Service" - September 26, 2015 – Mayor Morones presented the proclamation to Gary Stailey. Mr. Stailey said they received the proclamation through Governor Martinez and that he passed it on to the Town. He said Mayor Morones was optimistic that it would be a great opportunity for the community to come together. He said they had identified, with the help of Manager Brown, Assistant Manager Marshall, and Public Works Director Peter Pena, a number of projects that they hoped they could accomplish on that day that would benefit the town and those that were identified in the proclamation. He provided further information.

4. PUBLIC INPUT – Shelby Hallmark said the Continental Divide Trail was selected for a potential grant from the American Hiking Society and Michelob Beer for \$25,000, and that people could vote every day until October 31st on the website www.superiortrails.michelobultra.com. He said the \$25,000 would help with building, maintaining, and publicizing their trails. He also said the CDT Coalition had been awarded a Vista volunteer position and that person would be housed in Silver City to work on trail issues, etc. James Fitzgerald encouraged the Town Council to either rescind or allow more time before eliminating the elm tree at the Silver City Museum, and that perhaps they should entertain a tree ordinance for the Town. Raul Turrieta, Grant County Assessor, said they were 50 percent complete with the field visits on the revaluation of the downtown area and would probably be done by the end of September. He said the County Commission would approve the new tax rate that week. He said they were currently looking at \$50 million in value on the taxable side.

5. COUNCIL COMMENTS - Mayor Morones congratulated Councilor Bettison for her reelection to the New Mexico Municipal League (NMML) as Director-at-Large and to Councilor Cano for becoming their second Certified Municipal Official. He thanked them for continuing to advance themselves. Councilor Bettison congratulated Councilor Cano on getting her Certified Municipal Official designation, and also Clerk Mackie on becoming the President of the New Mexico Municipal Clerks and Finance Officers Association. She stated the NMML gained a new municipality, Kirtland, so now there were 106 municipalities in the NMML. She thanked the Mayor and all of the voting delegates that reelected her to the Director-at-Large position and said she was looking forward to continuing to serve Silver City and their citizens, as well as the southwest region, the southern region and all of the other municipalities that were part of the NMML on the Board of Directors. Councilor Aiman-Smith was present by telephone and said she was in Hoboken, New Jersey, and that she missed the peace, quiet and weather of Silver City.

Councilor Ray said he wanted to make a few comments that he had also made about a year ago. He said that he wanted to pursue, if possible with the Town Council, the Mayor, staff, and Attorney Scavron behind it, the Town's territorial charter that they once had here; how the charter was in effect and it was legalized gambling and legalized ladies of the night. He said he would like to see it brought back to see how far they could go with it due to the mining that would be shut down or the layoffs of people. He said it would be a good opportunity to look into it; that they could probably create some jobs, have better infrastructure facilities, and more people could be employed by the city. He said he would like to know why, who or when it was taken off from Silver City, etc. He said, due to the things happening in America with police departments, that he would like to ask Manager Brown and Police Chief Reynolds if it were possible and feasible to have 2 police officers in the same vehicle to protect the town, and to try to eliminate a problem that could be a dangerous situation. Councilor Cano said it was Hispanic Heritage Month and she commented on an upcoming event called "Mariachi: Fiesta De La Gente" that would be held September 12th and would benefit the Forgotten Veterans Memorial Park.

6. CHANGES TO AGENDA - None.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Regular Meeting on August 25, 2015 - Councilor Bettison moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting of August 25, 2015. Councilor Cano seconded. Mayor Morones stated there was a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 25, 2015. He asked for a vote of all those in favor, and all 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

8. REPORTS

A. Staff reports - 1) Manager Brown's report of the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 final budget approval by the State of New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division. Manager Brown said every year it was required after their budget was approved or denied to read it into the minutes. He said their budget had been approved. He said because of the layoffs at the mines he had been working on the budget with some of the departments and that next year he would start working with them more in depth; that they had already identified some openings that they would keep frozen for a while; and that they would look at some other departments to see if some positions were necessary or where they could cut back. He said they were working on it to ensure they did not get into any trouble.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval / Disapproval of Resolution No. 2015-22 format change as requested by the State of New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division, relating to budget adjustments for Fiscal Year 2015. Manager Brown said it was embarrassing to bring to them, but for the last 15 years they had been doing the budget adjustment in the same exact format as presented earlier. He said the budget adjustment was self-explanatory, but the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) wanted the Town to show a monetary format so they had to include the negatives and positives, and they wanted the Council's concurrence to move forward. He said everything had been approved, but the DFA wanted the Council to see it. There was further discussion and Councilor Bettison requested they keep the documentation all together so when their auditor did the audit they could understand because later it may be misunderstood as to exactly what was done because the new format was not standard accounting. Manager Brown said they worked directly with the auditor so they would explain exactly what occurred so he was not worried about their auditor understanding it. There was further discussion. Mayor Morones said no matter how nonsensical the state seemed to be to just go ahead and do it, and he recommended approval of it. Councilor Bettison moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-22 format change as requested by the State of New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division, relating to budget adjustments for Fiscal Year 2015. Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor Morones said there was a motion and a second for approval of Resolution No. 2015-22 format change as requested by the State of New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division, relating to budget adjustments for Fiscal Year 2015. There was no further discussion. He asked

for a roll call vote. Councilor Bettison voted aye; Councilor Aiman-Smith voted aye; Councilor Ray voted aye; and Councilor Cano voted aye. Motion carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Morones asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilor Bettison moved to adjourn at 6:32 p.m., and Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor Morones stated there was a motion and a second to adjourn. He asked for a vote of all those in favor, and all 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

Michael S. Morones, Mayor

Attest:

Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk

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