

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Grant County Administration Center, 1400 Hwy. 180, Silver City, NM
July 12, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Ken Ladner, Mayor
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
James Marshall, Assistant Town Manager
Robert L. Scavron, Town Attorney
Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk
Eileen Sullivan, Library Director

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Ladner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilor Bettison, District 1, was out of town and unable to attend telephonically.

2. CEREMONIES – None.

3. PROCLAMATIONS - None.

4. PUBLIC INPUT – Patricia Cano said the bricks that went around the trees in the Museum courtyard needed to be repaired because they were loose or uneven so it made it dangerous for anyone that wanted to use it as seating. She requested that it be included in the Downtown Action Plan so it would not be so dangerous. Louise Hummingbird and Russell Dobson commented how they believed the Town's water should not contain fluoride; that the Town should use reverse osmosis to remove the fluoride and should stop using the Gabby Hayes well because fluoride was a neurotoxin and caused serious health effects.

5. COUNCIL COMMENTS - The Council commented on the following: how Councilor Ray would like to propose an ordinance to allow four-wheelers on the public streets of Silver City and he wanted to try it for a year to see if it would work; upcoming public meetings in each Council District with Jaime Embick, Community Development Director, to discuss the Town's Comprehensive Plan; how Councilor Aiman-Smith would act as a coordinator to do a pilot study and proposal on having traffic calming art in 2 crosswalks downtown; thanks to the Public Works Department's street crew for working hard to fix problems on several streets in District 2; how 30 residents would be traveling to Roswell, New Mexico for the State Senior Olympics; and how Police Chief Reynolds was not in favor of allowing four-wheelers on the streets according to Councilor Ray and how Grant County did not have an ordinance for it either.

6. CHANGES TO AGENDA – None.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Regular Meeting on June 28, 2016 - Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Silver City of June 28, 2016. Councilor Cano seconded. Mayor Ladner asked if there was any discussion, and there was none. He said there was a motion and a second, and he asked all those in favor to say aye. All 3 Councilors that were present said aye. He asked if any were opposed to say nay, and there was no opposition. Motion carried.

8. REPORTS -

A. Silver City MainStreet Project's Quarterly Report by Lucy Whitmarsh, Executive Director. Ms. Whitmarsh reported that from April 1 to June 30, 2016 there were 2 new businesses added to the district; how 6 full-time equivalent employment positions were lost; how 1 business expansion added 3 new employees; how private building projects totaled \$286,200; how 1 building was sold for \$75,000; how Aldo Leopold students and the Youth Conservation Corps worked on a trail building project in the Big Ditch Park that was funded close to \$30,000; and various events held during the quarter, etc. Councilor Aiman-Smith asked about the status of way-finding signage and Ms. Whitmarsh said a focus group was developing a plan for way-finding signage. Councilor Cano stated the focus

group should include native Silver City residents and Hispanics. She also stated the Silco Theater was not 100 percent accessible for physically disabled people, and she described her experiences and said there were a lot of individuals that could not use the theater. She said she still had to travel to Deming for a full theater experience. Ms. Whitmarsh said handicap accessibility was completely vetted in the process and since it was a historic building only certain modifications could be made to it. There was further discussion. Mayor Ladner requested on behalf of the Town that Ms. Whitmarsh get with the architect to look at ways to modify the theater to make it more accessible, and to give them a report on what she found. Manager Brown added that they could look at having a portable elevator at the theater, like what was at the public library.

B. Silver City Public Library Strategic Plan reported by Eileen Sullivan, Library Director. Ms. Sullivan reported the Library Strategic Plan was a culmination of a lengthy process that included: a comprehensive community survey; 2 focus groups for the youth in the community and the Hispanics in the community; and an extensive planning process with the Library Board and key Library staff, etc. She said the reason they undertook the project was because libraries and their role was changing dramatically and the New Mexico State Library required them to have a Strategic Plan in place. She thanked the public who participated, the focus groups, Library Board members, Library staff, and Dr. Renee T. Despres with the Nonprofit Resource Group. She reviewed their new mission and vision statements and what their next steps would be. There was further discussion with the Council. Manager Brown told the Mayor and Councilors that it did not require their approval because per ordinance the Town Manager approved internal policy manuals for each of the departments.

C. Downtown Action Plan by James Marshall, Assistant Town Manager. Mr. Marshall began his report by stating the most interesting part of the plan was at the back; that the parking studies that had been done were very enlightening because there was a low percentage of use of downtown parking so there was parking available. He said the comments in the plan were very interesting and they should really pay attention to them as they go into the Comprehensive Plan. He said the Downtown Action Plan (SCDAP) defined the community's vision for the downtown and identified priority projects and programs to revitalize the downtown area. He said the Action Plan examined existing conditions and assets, recommended redevelopment projects and implementation strategies and identified funding sources for downtown's future improvements. He reviewed the 12 goals (page 2 in the plan) and said a lot had been done on each of the goals. He said the recommendations and strategies were intended to help achieve the vision and goals developed by the community through an extensive participatory planning process. He read the 7 recommendations (pages 58 through 71 in the plan) and said stuff had happened on many of them. He reviewed the 17 key ideas (pages 74 through 86 in the plan) with potential funding sources identified (pages 87 through 90 in the plan). He said there were a lot of things in the plan that were accomplished and ongoing, that some of it tied into other plans in the community, and that some things in the plan would probably never happen. There was further discussion about the following: how some things in the plan would never happen because they were structurally impossible; how they needed to evaluate what things were actually doable in the various plans before including them in the Comprehensive Plan; how the Town was working with Engineers Incorporated and the Silver City MainStreet Project on Phase I of the MainStreet Plaza to install public restrooms, improve accessibility, install lighting, etc.; how the various plans could be amended, rescinded, or integrated into the Comprehensive Plan.

D. Staff reports – Manager Brown reported the repaving work on Little Walnut Road would be done the following day. He also said they were working on the Vistas de Plata Subdivision roads to connect 10th Street to Kelly Street and to fix a lot of drainage issues, install a curb, gutter, sidewalk, and a street for future growth in the neighborhood.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS- None.

11. NEW BUSINESS -

A. Approval / Disapproval of changing the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 26, 2016 to Monday, July 25, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Grant County Administration Center. Councilor Aiman-Smith asked why the change was needed. Councilor Ray said he requested the change because he would be unable to attend a meeting on June 26th, and he explained further. There was further discussion and Manager Brown said it was

preferable that everybody was in attendance because they had to adopt the final budget, etc. Councilor Ray moved to approve changing the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 26, 2016 to Monday, July 25, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Grant County Administration Center. Councilor Cano seconded. Mayor Ladner said there was a motion and a second, and he asked if there was any discussion. There was none. He asked for a vote of all those in favor to say aye, and all 3 Councilors that were present said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there was no opposition. Motion carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Ladner asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to adjourn at 7:08 p.m., and Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor Ladner stated there was a motion and a second to adjourn. He asked for a vote of all those in favor, and all 3 Councilors that were present said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

Ken Ladner, Mayor

Attest:

Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk

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