

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Grant County Administration Center, 1400 Hwy. 180, Silver City, NM
January 24, 2017, 6:00 p.m.**

Present:

Ken Ladner, Mayor
Cynthia Ann Bettison, District 1
Lynda D. Aiman-Smith, District 2
Jose A. Ray, Jr., District 3
Guadalupe E. Cano, District 4

Also Present:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Ladner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. CEREMONIES – None.

3. PROCLAMATIONS - None.

4. PUBLIC INPUT – Nancy Cliff commented on trails and asked the Council to find funds to fill the vacant Town position of Trails and Open Space Coordinator because the position had been vacant for over a decade. Shelby Hallmark commented on trails and the complex process of naming right-of-way access to trail routes, etc. He urged the Mayor and Council to take action to prioritize the greenway effort, to reestablish the coordinator position, and to make the trails network a reality. A.J. Sandoval commented that the Silver City Watershed Keepers were collaborating with the Town's Office of Sustainability on developing an illegal dumping campaign to make awareness of the problem, and that a Trails and Open Space Coordinator was important. He said one of the major issues affecting the Silver City watershed was illegal dumping and it threatened the water quality of the San Vicente Creek, etc. Larry McLaud commented that he supported the three previous people and that trails were important for the town and county. He also commented on the issue of speeding and he asked about the four-way stop sign that was proposed at the intersection of Broadway and Bullard Streets.

5. COUNCIL COMMENTS - The Council commented on the following: thanks to the large audience; encouraged folks to vote for school board issues and bond issues, and the Town's municipal election with absentee voting beginning on January 31; rumors were debunked by saying the Town was not discontinuing recycling and that the demolition materials of the Red Barn Restaurant were not hazardous to the neighborhood; an upcoming ordinance on waste and recycling; how commercial recycling tubs would be delivered the following week, that the residential recycling tubs would be delivered after that, and that glass was too costly to recycle; the newly renamed Copper Country Senior Olympics and how people could contact Mario Quintana to participate or be involved, and their next meeting would be on January 28; thanks to the Town's road crew for doing work near the Catholic Cemetery; thanks to the trails group for being there in force and how Assistant Manager Marshall could give them an update on trails in the future; thanks to the people that participated in the recent procession; and the upcoming Science Olympiad for junior and high school students at Western New Mexico University.

6. CHANGES TO AGENDA – None.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Regular Meeting on January 10, 2017 - Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Silver City of January 10, 2017. Councilor Bettison seconded. The Mayor asked if there was any discussion, and there was none. He asked those in favor to approve the minutes to say aye, and all four Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed to say nay, and there was no opposition. Motion carried.

8. REPORTS -

A. High Desert Humane Society's Annual Report. Mayor Ladner apologized to Heidi Ogas for the mix-up at the last Council meeting for putting her on that agenda when she had signed up for the January 24 agenda. Ms. Ogas said she was glad it had been cleared up. She said she was the current President of the High Desert Humane Society, and they had an agreement with the Town to house animals brought in from the animal control officer, strays, and animals that owners turned in. She referred to the reports in the Council's meeting packet for the annual intake for 2016 and the annual comparison for totals from 2007 to 2016. She said in 2016 the dog and cat intake increased slightly from before. She said they took in \$5,744 in licenses and \$2,697 in impound fees. She discussed the following: the Town's animal ordinance and how long they kept animals; their H.A.L.T spay and neuter program and how to get a coupon; how in 2016 they helped with the costs of spaying and neutering over 800 dogs and cats in the community; how they upgraded their crematorium, offered pet cremations, and had a memorial wall; how they offered a reduced fee vaccination clinic and micro-chipping for \$25; and how the money earned from the Paws Cause Thrift Shop supported their H.A. L. T program. She said their 10-year goal was to build a new adoption center with better long-term care for animals, and she mentioned that one of their fundraisers was from donated aluminum cans. There was further discussion. Mayor Ladner thanked her for her hard work and the good things she was accomplishing.

B. Report on the Town's "Territorial Charter Day" celebration events by Carmen Vendelin, Silver City Museum Director, and Raul Turrieta, Coordinator of the Territorial Charter Day Celebration Task Force. Mr. Turrieta and Andie Portillo, Educator at the Silver City Museum, gave a presentation about the upcoming events to celebrate "Territorial Charter Day" on February 18, 2017. Mr. Turrieta said the events would include a presentation of the Territorial Charter at the Silver City Museum, traditional music, a free workshop to create miniature wooden retablos, a hike at Boston Hill at the historical mining site, and a biscocho bake sale and contest at the Javalina Coffee Shop. He suggested people wear attire from 1878 for the celebration. There was further discussion.

Councilor Aiman-Smith moved for a short break at 6:51 p.m. Councilor Bettison seconded. Mayor Ladner asked all those in favor to say aye, and all four Councilors said aye. He said the motion passed. He called the meeting back to order at 6:57 p.m.

C. Staff reports. Police Chief Reynolds presented Police Department statistics for 2016 and compared them to 2015 and 2014, and he answered questions from the Council. His report included the following: there were 13,970 calls for service in 2016 compared to 13,290 in 2015, and 13,049 in 2014; overall the index crimes such as murder, forcible rapes, robbery, simple and aggravated assaults, burglary, larceny, and stolen motor vehicles increased from 867 in 2015 to 923 in 2016 and larceny was the highest of those crimes with an increase from 473 in 2015 to 524 in 2016; shoplifting was the highest form of larceny with 333 in 2016, 285 in 2015, and 247 in 2014; 19 thefts of different types of motor vehicles in 2016; domestic violence decreased with 517 in 2016, 537 in 2015, and 549 in 2014; domestic violence arrests were 140 in 2016 and 101 in 2015; all arrests were decreased from 1,611 in 2016 compared to 1,767 in 2015 and 2,085 in 2014; citations in all categories dropped from over 15,000 citations in 2014, 7,234 in 2015 to 6,227 in 2016; how the drop in citations was because they were more focused in the types of citations and traffic stops they made for public safety; traffic crashes were down with 439 in 2016 compared to 476 in 2015; driving while under the influence went down from 38 in 2016 compared to 70 in 2015, and he said those violations had decreased statewide; how the officers were required to have at least 5 citizen contacts each month and he reviewed each category which gave a total of 630 for 2016 in the report; how community neighborhood watches helped to increase safety and impacted crime, etc. and police liaisons were assigned to them; district meetings were encouraged and he would provide personnel; speeding violations and how thousands of citations could be issued; how texting while driving and hand-held cell phone usage was categorized as distracted driving and there were 57 citations issued in 2016; how he appreciated the state and county police for enforcing the traffic laws in the Silver City jurisdiction and that it also allowed the Silver City Police officers to be in the neighborhoods; how the Town's statistics did not show it to be a violent or crime-ridden community with a population of 10,000 people, and serving more than 20,000 people each day, and could not be compared to the F.B.I.'s Uniform Crime Report that was based on a population of 100,000; how the officers made regular visits to the schools; how they were going to add a few more officers to the bike patrol; and how they would participate in Town sanctioned activities to ensure public safety. There was further discussion and Chief Reynolds thanked the Mayor, Councilors, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Marshall for their support and guidance during the past year, and he thanked the community for their support of the department and the officers. He said the men and women

of the Police Department, sworn and civilian, would continue to work hard and strive for excellence in the performance of their duties, and would strive to make Silver City as safe a place as they could for the citizens to enjoy life and raise a family.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None.

11. NEW BUSINESS -

A. Approval / Disapproval of election workers for the regular municipal election to be held on March 7, 2017.

Clerk Mackie requested the approval of the list of election workers and stated all of them planned to attend the election school on March 2. Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to approve the list of election workers for the regular municipal election to be held on March 7, 2017. Councilor Bettison seconded. There was no further discussion. Mayor Ladner 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 Ladner asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilor Bettison moved to adjourn at 7:51 p.m., and Councilor Aiman-Smith 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 four Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

Ken Ladner, Mayor

Attest:

Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk