

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Grant County Administration Center, 1400 Hwy. 180, Silver City, NM
July 24, 2018, 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
James Marshall, Assistant Town Manager
Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk

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

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None.

3. CEREMONIES – None.

4. PROCLAMATIONS – None.

5. COUNCIL COMMENTS – Councilor Aiman-Smith commented on the beautiful new mural at the Library and how proud she was of the kids and artist Diana Leyba-Ingalls for their work. She also invited the public to attend the upcoming Territorial Charter Volunteer Day for District 2 on August 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and said it would be a pilot project for a Play Street. Councilor Bettison stated she and Manager Brown attended the New Mexico Municipal League's (NMML) Resolutions Committee meeting on July 21 and stated the resolutions were about things that could make a difference in the lives of the citizens and residents, and she described the process of prioritizing the resolutions, etc. and how that information would be on the NMML website. Councilor Cano stated she volunteered for the Silver City Wine Festival and she thanked the Executive Director and the Board of Directors of the Silver City Grant County Chamber of Commerce for all of their hard work in putting on that event and how she hoped it would become a tradition in Silver City. She congratulated Councilor Bettison on the preview of the Western New Mexico University Museum and how the building looked incredible. She said Councilor Bettison had worked very hard on it and people were amazed about the jewel they had in Silver City. Councilor Ray reminded the Silver City downtown merchants that they needed to have a four foot clearance on the sidewalk for people to walk by. He also said he would like to see more senior citizens eat at the Senior Citizen Center; that you could enjoy a good meal for only \$2.00. Mayor Ladner thanked all of those that worked for the CLAY Festival and how the volunteers made it a successful event. He said next February the Town would be celebrating their Territorial Charter Day with a celebration, and he was forming a committee now. He said if anybody was interested in serving on the committee to contact the Town Clerk.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for the Regular Town Council Meeting held on July 10, 2018. Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Silver City on July 10, 2018. 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.

7. PUBLIC INPUT – None.

8. REPORTS -

A. Quarterly report on the real estate market by Cissy McAndrew, President of the Silver City Regional Association of Realtors. Ms. McAndrew reported statistics that came from the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) and said it was the best year they had since 2007; that they were seeing an increase in the cost or in the sales price of

properties. She said the average list price was \$137,757 last year and was up to \$158,541 so the value of the homes had increased. She said people were coming pre-qualified for loans or coming with cash because it was a very competitive market. She said they were mostly working with existing housing stock and she described the following challenges: how contractors were not giving them bids; a shortage of people with trades to keep up the existing housing stock and contractors for building homes for the land sales; how in the hot summer people looked for homes on the internet so showings and sales would be lower, but they were still in a very good position and currently had over 65 properties under contract; and how she thought more air conditioners would be installed, but there were not enough service people to service them. She said they really needed to look at the impact and see what they needed to do to be a full service community. She said the volume of closed sales was basically up and that \$5.36 million had been closed. She reviewed some of the other statistics that were on the reports that were provided in the Council meeting packet, and stated properties were appraising which was huge because it took years for the properties to come back after the recession because there were no buyers. She provided additional information, and there was further discussion with the Council.

B. Staff reports: 1) Town Manager's closure of N. Georgia Street between Highway 180 and 13th Street as a temporary play street for the Silver City Territorial Charter Volunteer Day District 2 Play Street event to be held on August 4, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Manager Brown said the Town would close the street for the upcoming Territorial Charter Day event. He discussed how they found an ordinance that stated you could not play ball in the street, but the Town had adopted the Uniform Traffic Ordinance which provided some relief and allowed them to close the street to have the event. He said he talked to Police Chief Portillo and the Chief agreed to close the street for the event. Additionally, he reported that the Washington Federal Bank submitted a request to extend their lease of a Town building for an additional two years so he would bring a Notice of Intent Ordinance to the next Council meeting.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

A. Approval / Disapproval of Ordinance No. 1270: an ordinance adopting the establishment of the Agmechtronix, LLC manufacturing facility as an economic development project within and for the Town of Silver City pursuant to Section 5-10-2 B. NMSA 1978 (Local Economic Development Act) and Section 16-21(a) of the Municipal Code of the Town of Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico. Councilor Ray said Mr. Herbon from Agmechtronix gave him a tour of his place and it was very interesting. He said with this Ordinance where they were going to move the facility would be good, and that he was glad they chose Silver City to start their project. He said it would be great for economic development and he hoped the property would do well for their business. He said the Town and residents were glad they chose Silver City to do their business, and that all of the paperwork seemed to be in order. Councilor Ray moved to approve Ordinance No. 1270: an ordinance adopting the establishment of the Agmechtronix, LLC manufacturing facility as an economic development project within and for the Town of Silver City pursuant to Section 5-10-2 B. NMSA 1978 (Local Economic Development Act) and Section 16-21(a) of the Municipal Code of the Town of Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico. Councilor Cano seconded. There was no discussion. Mayor Ladner asked for a roll call vote. Councilor Cano voted aye; Councilor Ray voted aye; Councilor Aiman-Smith voted aye; and Councilor Bettison voted aye. Motion carried.

11. NEW BUSINESS -

A. Approval / Disapproval of a Contract Agreement between the Town of Silver City and the Southwest Solid Waste Authority. Manager Brown said it was the renewal of the contract between the Town and the Southwest Solid Waste Authority (SWSWA) for the collection and processing of recycling that they sent to SWSWA. He said the Town was solely responsible for the recycling program down at the SWSWA, and he explained how the operation worked under the contract and placed no burden on SWSWA for recycling. He discussed the current issues with the recycling market and stated the contract was \$74,000 more than last year because the SWSWA would be doing the collection process downtown due to the narrow streets. Councilor Bettison asked if the term of the agreement would be reevaluated in 12 months, and Manager Brown said yes. He said he was the Chair of the SWSWA so he would be evaluating it every month. He said he was working with Sarah Pierpont, from the New Mexico Recycling Coalition, on a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant and he provided details of the things they were trying to do to continue to recycle. There was further discussion about educating the public to clean recyclables, etc. Councilor Ray moved to

approve a Contract Agreement between the Town of Silver City and the Southwest Solid Waste Authority. Councilor Cano seconded. There was no further discussion. Mayor Ladner asked all those in favor to say aye, and all four Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried. Manager Brown stated the SWSWA had already approved the contract.

B. Approval / Disapproval of Request for Proposal #17/18-5P: Marketing Services. Manager Brown said through the tourism coordinator for the past year they identified that it would be better to go to a marketing firm for all of the tourist activities and a destination marketing firm for the Town of Silver City. He said there was a section in the RFP so the county could piggy-back off of it if they chose to do so. He said they received three RFPs from Griffin and Associates out of Albuquerque, SkyWest Media out of Silver City, and The Garrity Group LLC out of Albuquerque. He said the review committee recommended to award RFP #17/18-5P Marketing Services to Griffin and Associates out of Albuquerque. Councilor Bettison asked him to review what the company would be doing for the Town. Manager Brown said they would be working with all of the event organizations to market their events, and they would also do destination marketing for Silver City and the region throughout the entire year. He said they were an approved vendor through New Mexico True Program and they were the marketing firm for Sierra County. He said they had a lot of background in social media and print media. He provided further details. Councilor Cano asked Manager Brown if he would have final say on what they produced, and Manager Brown said yes. Councilor Bettison asked if they would report to the Council, and Manager Brown said yes. James Marshall, Assistant Town Manager, provided further details, and there was further discussion. Mayor Ladner asked for a motion. Councilor Cano moved to approve Request for Proposal #17/18-5P: Marketing Services per staff recommendation to Griffin and Associates, 119 Dartmouth Drive SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106. Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor Ladner asked all those in favor to say aye, and all four Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

C. Approval / Disapproval of Resolution No. 2018-17: a Resolution amending the approved and adopted budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, and for Municipal Purpose in the Town of Silver City, New Mexico, transferring and appropriating funds thereof. Manager Brown said it was the final budget adjustment for Fiscal Year 2018. He said the new grants were added in the process and they had to do temporary transfers from capital funds for grants that they were still waiting for reimbursement from the state, and he explained further. He said the transfers were required by the state because they would not accept a final quarterly report with negative balances even though the state was the cause of the negative balances. Mayor Ladner asked for a motion. Councilor Bettison moved to approve Resolution No. 2018-17: a Resolution amending the approved and adopted budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, and for Municipal Purpose in the Town of Silver City, New Mexico, transferring and appropriating funds thereof. Councilor Aiman-Smith 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.

D. Approval / Disapproval of Resolution No. 2018-18: Final Quarter Financial Report Year Ending June 30, 2018. Manager Brown said it was the final quarter report that they had to submit to the Department of Finance and Administration. He said the true numbers were the beginning cash balance in the final budget. He said they were in a very good place. There were no questions. Mayor Ladner asked for a motion. Councilor Bettison moved to approve Resolution No. 2018-18: Final Quarter Financial Report Year Ending June 30, 2018. Councilor Aiman-Smith seconded. 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.

E. Approval / Disapproval of Resolution No. 2018-19: approval and adoption of the Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Manager Brown said it was the final budget for Fiscal Year 2019 with the correct beginning balances. He said all of the funds were in good shape, and in the General Fund they had about \$225,000 more than the one-twelfth percent reserve requirement, and it included all of the budgeted union increases. He said the Lodgers Tax Fund had \$88,000 extra, but they were being very conservative because of the transition to the marketing firm. He said it also included the decrease in the sewer rate for out of town residents, and the Sanitation Fund had the 90 cent increase in the landfill rates to cover the tipping fees for the single-stream recycling. There were no questions. Mayor Ladner asked for a motion. Councilor Bettison moved to approve Resolution No. 2018-19: approval and adoption of the Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2018 through

June 30, 2019. Councilor Ray seconded. 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.

F. Approval / Disapproval of the Selection of a Voting Delegate and Alternate to vote at the New Mexico Municipal League's Annual Conference. Mayor Ladner said he and Mayor Pro Tem Bettison were scheduled to attend the conference. He asked if any others planned to attend and Councilor Cano, Councilor Ray, and Councilor Aiman-Smith nodded to indicate no. He asked for a motion. Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to approve the selection of a voting delegate, Mayor Ladner, and alternate voting delegate, Mayor Pro Tem Cynthia Ann Bettison, to vote at the New Mexico Municipal League's Annual Conference. Councilor Cano seconded. There was no further discussion. Mayor Ladner asked all those in favor to say aye, and all four Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

Manager Brown stated he wanted to make sure that everyone knew that Anita Norero, Deputy Finance Director, did 90 percent of the budget; that he gave her the numbers and she made sure everything was right. He thanked her for all of the work she did. Mayor Ladner also thanked Ms. Norero. He also thanked Police Chief Portillo for attending the meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Ladner concluded the meeting and asked for a motion. Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to adjourn at 6:51 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 four Councilors said aye. Motion carried.

Ken Ladner, Mayor

Attest:

Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk