

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Grant County Administration Center, 1400 Hwy. 180, Silver City, NM
January 8, 2019, 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
Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk
Robert L. Scavron, Town Attorney
Freddie Portillo, Interim Police Chief

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 Ray commented on the following: how people were rude and disrespectful at the recent Grant County Commission meeting; how kids should act like kids and adults should act like adults; how veterans' issues and elderly issues were very important; how his letter to Nick Seibel at the *Silver City Daily Press* about voting no to the school bond issue in November was lost; his thoughts about bonds for higher education and how those costs, including unpaid student loans, falls to the property owners' taxes; how property owners' buildings also deteriorate, not just higher education buildings; how there should be trade schools; how kids should not go to school at ages 3 and 4 because teachers were not babysitters; and a happy new year greeting to all. Councilor Aiman-Smith began with a happy new year greeting and said as a member of the legislative body she was looking forward to working with citizens, Town staff, fellow elected officials, and all the volunteers and non-profit organizations that worked together to help make their community healthier, safer, and to help increase the quality of life and vibrancy that they experienced here. Councilor Bettison wished everyone a happy new year and said the new year started off with a new administration in Santa Fe. She also provided information on how seniors over 62 years of age could apply to live in the new senior affordable living facility at Mountainview Senior Apartments and how construction of the facility was expected to be complete by mid-2019, etc. Councilor Cano said happy new year to everyone and said she spent the new year in Santa Fe as a guest of the inaugural ceremony of Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales. She offered her congratulations to Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales and Stephanie Garcia Richard, Land Commissioner. She also commented on the upcoming torch run for the National Senior Olympics on January 12, 2019 at Gough Park and said the Copper Country Senior Olympics were the most successful Senior Olympics Program in New Mexico.

6. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Town Council Meeting held on December 11, 2018. Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Silver City of December 11, 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 – Al Gamboa commented on the recent loss of two community members in a traffic accident on Highway 180 between Deming and Silver City and that two-lane highway was very dangerous. He discussed how government funds that were allocated to widen the highway by Governor Richardson were retracted. He said the community needed to stand up in Santa Fe and demand action, and he planned to make it his mission.

8. REPORTS -

A. Real Estate Market Report by Cissy McAndrew, President of the Silver City Regional Association of Realtors 2018. Ms. McAndrew reported that 2018 was a very good year; that they were starting to get appraisals close to the list price and the days on the market were reduced from 199 days in 2017 to 119 days in 2018. She said they were starting to see buildings get filled that had been empty for a long time, and people were intentionally coming to the community and bringing cash. She expressed her concerns about the shortage of plumbers and professionals to help upgrade the structures. She said they had eight commercial sales in 2017 and 11 commercial sales in 2018 and sold four pieces of land in town in 2017 and six pieces of land in 2018. She discussed how people were building homes and the first tiny home was approved by the Community Development Department using the state standard guidelines. She said a lot of folks wanted to put a second structure on their property and the Town would allow it if they lived in one of those structures. She reported that they were getting more realtors, and many were millennials, so they would see new names and young people. She provided further information and said people were relocating from Alaska, the plain states, Arizona, and that it had slowed down from California. She said people appreciated the community and culture, and the quality of life attracted them to this area. She said her term as Acting President would end on January 11 and that L.J. Lundy would be the new President of the Silver City Regional Association of Realtors.

B. Staff reports. Interim Police Chief Portillo stated Officer Manny Jaure, Code Enforcement/Community Resource Officer, would be focused on unsecured, uncovered loads. He reminded the public to not just cover the loads, but to secure them so debris would not come out. Manager Brown reported on the increase in lodgers tax revenues and that since December they were at 21 percent above projections. He said 2018 was the highest year of revenues ever generated and currently they were in place to blow that out of the water, so they were seeing very positive results with the new marketing firm. He also reported they would be accepting applications for Police Chief through mid-January, and he explained the process of selecting the Chief. He said he hoped to have it finalized by mid-March. He responded to Councilor Cano's question about the marketing firm and said they would report to the Council after the legislative session. Clerk Mackie stated the following persons were certified as candidates for the March 5, 2019 election: Cynthia Ann Bettison for Councilor District 1, and Jose A. Ray, Jr. and Nicholas H. Prince for Councilor District 3. She said January 15 would be the filing day for write-in candidates.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

11. NEW BUSINESS -

A. Approval / Disapproval of Resolution No. 2019-01: Open Meetings. Clerk Mackie presented the details of the annual Open Meetings Resolution and requested Council approval. Councilor Aiman-Smith remarked that everyone had attended the education sessions about how important the Open Meetings Act is and how this Council abides by it strictly and the resolution states their intention to do so for 2019. Mayor Ladner asked for a motion. Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to approve Resolution No. 2019-01: Open Meetings. 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.

B. Approval / Disapproval of Resolution No. 2019-02: A Resolution committing the Town of Silver City to the implementation of an Asset Management Plan. Manager Brown said the resolution was a new requirement to apply for the Colonias Initiative funding source; that the board just adopted a requirement for an Asset Management Plan as a requirement to apply for funding, but they were allowing three years to implement it. He provided further details and there was further discussion. Mayor Ladner asked for a motion. Councilor Ray moved to approve Resolution No. 2019-02: A Resolution committing the Town of Silver City to the implementation of an Asset Management Plan. Councilor Cano seconded. There was no further 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.

C. Approval / Disapproval of election workers for the regular municipal election scheduled for March 5, 2019. Clerk Mackie requested approval of the list of election workers. Councilor Cano moved to approve the election workers for the regular municipal election scheduled for March 5, 2019. Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor Ladner asked all those in favor to say aye, and all four Councilors said aye. Motion carried.

D. Approval / Disapproval of Executive Session pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1(H) (7) for meetings subject to the attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant. Mayor Ladner asked for a motion. At 6:42 p.m. Councilor Bettison moved for the Council to go into Executive Session pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1(H) (7) of the State's Open Meetings Act for meetings subject to the attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant. 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. At 7:43 p.m. the Council returned to open session. Mayor Ladner stated no matters other than those matters included in the motion to go into Executive Session were discussed. He asked the Council members for their affirmation of that statement with a roll call. Councilor Bettison stated aye; Councilor Aiman-Smith stated aye; Councilor Ray stated aye; and Councilor Cano stated aye.

12. ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Ladner concluded the meeting and asked for a motion. Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to adjourn at 7:44 p.m., 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