

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Grant County Administration Center, 1400 Hwy 180, Silver City, NM
June 13, 2011, 6:00 p.m.**

Present:

James R. Marshall, Mayor
Cynthia Ann Bettison, District 1
Jamie K. Thomson, District 2
Jose A. Ray, Jr., District 3
Michael S. Morones, District 4

Also Present:

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

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Mayor Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Councilor Bettison read the Mission Statement.
- 2. PROCLAMATIONS** – None.
- 3. CEREMONIES** – None.
- 4. PUBLIC INPUT** – On behalf of the Sky View Plus Neighborhood Alliance, Walter Szymanski thanked the Town and the Public Works Department employees for clearing up a section of Town-owned land on Pinos Altos Creek near the Serinna Court Subdivision that was believed to be a fire concern. He said the Alliance thought the area could be developed into a park or path, and he thanked Councilor Morones for facilitating the clean-up and for attending their neighborhood Alliance meetings and providing helpful advice.
- 5. COUNCIL COMMENTS** – The Council commented on the following: thanks were given to the Town employees for their hard work at Pinos Altos Creek and to Mr. Szymanski for bringing his comments to their attention so the Town could look at other properties; thanks were given for the donation of \$15,000 for the Reverse 911 and Code Red System at the Grant County Regional Dispatch Authority, and how the Town supported the system and had committed its fair share of \$7,500 before the donation was received; how Attorney Scavron was asked to draft a resolution that could be presented to the New Mexico Municipal League during the upcoming policy meetings that would ask the State Legislature to provide municipalities the ability to ban the sale and use of fireworks when under severe fire and drought conditions; an update on when Highway 180 and Pope Street would be striped; openings on the Town boards and committees; and how Resolution No. 2011-19 that was adopted by the Council on May 24th was a restriction banning all fireworks that the Town was allowed to ban, and how the Town would do everything they could to enforce the rules and that the best thing was to comply with the restrictions.
- 6. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA** – None.
- 7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES –Regular Meeting, May 24, 2011** - Councilor Bettison made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Thomson seconded the motion as stated. There was no further discussion. All were in favor, motion passed.
- 8. REPORTS – A. Presentation of the 2011 Parks and Activity Guide and an update from the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board, Mary Ann Finn.** Ms. Finn presented the new Parks and Activity Guide and commented on several new items that were in the guide, and how the Parks and Recreation Board welcomed input from the public in order to make it better. She also reported that the Board continued to try to foster communication between the public and the Town management by having regular meetings with the Town Manager. She said they were preparing a list of recommendations for the ICIP (Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan) process and continued to look at how the Board could be more effective to the Town. She commented that 3 members' terms would expire at the end of August and whether the Board could still be effective without a quorum. She discussed an upcoming event called “Jump into Summer” to be held on June 11, 2011 at Gough Park. Councilor Thomson thanked Cindy Neely, the previous Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board, and Mary Ann Finn, current Chair of the Board,

for the impressive amount of work they did. Mayor Marshall said the whole Council concurred. Manager Brown commented that after the last meeting they had ordered new equipment for Virginia Street Park and would begin installing it the next day. He said they would also be able to update the equipment at Ybarra Park and Cherry Hills Park.

Fire Chief Bencomo reported that on August 25th the ISO (International Organization for Standardization) representative would re-evaluate the ISO rating. Manager Brown said the ISO rating was what the fire insurance was based on, and the lower the rating the lower the fire insurance would be in Silver City.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None.

11. NEW BUSINESS -

A. Approval / Disapproval of Resolution No. 2011-20: a Resolution updating and clarifying eligibility for benefits for sworn administrative personnel. Manager Brown said that in 2001 the Council approved a resolution that authorized the administration personnel at the Police Department, other than the Chief of Police and the Deputy Chief, to authorize Captains and Lieutenants to maintain the same benefits as members of collective bargaining. He said at that time the same benefits were from the 1996 contract, and it was being updated to the 2012 contract. He said it would be in line with what the Town does for the Fire Department because Captains and Lieutenants received the same benefits as regular personnel. Mayor Marshall commented that the third "Whereas" paragraph about negotiations should be deleted. There was further discussion. Councilor Bettison made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2011-20 and to delete the third "Whereas". Councilor Ray seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Councilor Bettison - aye; Councilor Thomson - aye; Councilor Ray - aye; and Councilor Morones - aye. Motion passed.

B. Approval / Disapproval of Notice of Intent Ordinance No. 1179: an Ordinance amending Municipal Code Chapter 52 (Utilities), by adding a new Section 52-75 (Septage and Grease Waste Rates and Charges). Manager Brown presented the details of Notice of Intent Ordinance No. 1179, and stated that rather than increasing wastewater fees to Town residents that they would implement new charges for services that they were currently providing, but not charging for. He said the new charges were for the collection of septage from some Town and County residents that still had septic tanks, and for the collection of grease. He said that he was asking to implement a fee of 2.5 cents per gallon for septage, as well as 2.5 cents per gallon for grease, which would generate \$24,000. He said they would be charging people for a service that they were getting for free before, as well as a \$100 registration fee so they knew who was bringing in grease and septage. He said it was important for 2 reasons: to know who to bill, and to have a policy that they would not accept septage or grease from outside of Grant County. There was further discussion about a correction to Appendix A regarding the costs. Councilor Bettison made a motion to approve Notice of Intent Ordinance No. 1179 and to change Appendix A, numbers 2 and 3, to read 2.5 cents. Councilor Ray seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

12. ADJOURNMENT – Councilor Bettison made a motion to adjourn at 6:29 p.m. Councilor Thomson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

/s/

James R. Marshall, Mayor

Attest:

/s/

Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk