

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Grant County Administration Center, 1400 Hwy 180, Silver City, NM
July 22, 2014, 6:00 p.m.**

Present:

Michael Shawn Morones, Mayor
Cynthia Ann Bettison, District 1
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
Ann Mackie, Town Clerk
Anita Norero, Deputy Finance Director

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Mayor Morones called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- 2. CEREMONIES** – None.
- 3. PROCLAMATIONS** – None.
- 4. PUBLIC INPUT** – William Joseph commented on the "grandfathered in" trailer park between Market and Montana Streets, and said he thought the Town was really allowing for major sanitation problems, major safety issues, and major noise problems. He said it was a high density area with 14 trailers on half a block or half an acre, with 30 plus dogs, 30 plus cars, and no playground for kids. He said that he felt it was a prejudicial issue against low income people to allow it to occur, and he asked the Council and Town Manager to revisit the issue. Alan Mong commented on issues on Starsky Ridge and Ursa Major, and said there were still problems with trash, litter, illegal drug use, and the concern for fire. He described recent incidents and said they at least needed to install signage for no loitering, no fireworks, no illegal activity, and no litter. He said there should be restricted access, and his neighborhood was concerned.
- 5. COUNCIL COMMENTS** – The Council commented on the following: how Code Enforcement should notice Mr. Mong's neighborhood; a display of the single-use plastic bags that would be banned in 6 months (January 2015) and other types of reusable bags that would be acceptable; the importance of traffic safety at stop signs and red lights, especially when children are out playing; the upcoming Clay Festival from July 30th to August 3rd; an upcoming public meeting by Councilor Aiman-Smith on July 28th to discuss with the public what they would keep and what would they change if Silver City was their perfect place to live; how they were sitting on a gold mine with all of the trails and creek beds that were available in the area for hikers and bikers and how they should keep working on trying to do something special with them; people were encouraged to utilize the trails and come up with their own visions to see how they could help to make something nice realized; and how the Town had 5 months to interpret or implement the plastic bag ordinance, and that there was bad information in the community about it so people should verify information and give input over the next few months so they could use the ordinance effectively and efficiently.
- 6. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA** – Manager Brown asked if they could reverse New Business Items C and B because the budget adjustment was included in the final quarter report so they should approve the budget adjustment before they approved the quarterly report. Mayor Morones said he would entertain a motion to change C and B. Councilor Bettison moved to change the order of New Business Items C and B so that C came first and B second. Councilor Aiman-Smith seconded. Mayor Morones said they had a motion and a second to change under New Business Items C and Item B. He asked all those in favor to say aye, and all 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.
- 7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Regular Meeting on July 8, 2014** - Councilor Cano moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 8, 2014 as presented, but with one additional correction in section 5, paragraph 2, sentence 3, that should read, "Councilor Cano commented on her recent surgery and how she would not be able to

stand up for the Pledge of Allegiance for a couple of months." Councilor Bettison seconded. Mayor Morones said there was a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 8, 2014 with the corrections presented and the correction presented by Councilor Cano. He asked if there was further discussion, and there was none. He asked all those in favor to say aye, and all 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried. **Special Meeting on July 15, 2014** - Councilor Cano moved to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 15, 2014. Councilor Bettison seconded. Mayor Morones repeated the motion. He asked if there was further discussion, and there was none. He asked all those in favor to say aye, and all 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

8. REPORTS –

A. Year-end tourism report from George Julian Dworin, Executive Director of the Silver City Arts and Cultural District. Mr. Dworin thanked the Town on behalf of the Arts and Cultural District for their support of the organization and the promotion of the Town of Silver City. He reported the following: how visitation to the Cliff Dwellings was down 5% due to a federal closure, the Silver City Museum was up 13%, and Western New Mexico Museum was up 5%; how they had a tremendous year for press coverage in the New York Times, Huffington Post, Travel and Leisure, Smithsonian.com, Money Magazine, True West, New Mexico Magazine, and with radio and television spots; how they fulfilled 3,585 mailings of visitor guides; how their "101 Things to Do in Silver City" campaign was a tremendous success; the power of cooperation with the New Mexico Tourism Department's Co-op Grant of \$20,000, with 5 other Arts and Cultural Districts across the state that received a \$30,000 New Mexico Tourism advertising grant, and with 32 local partners for a successful advertising program that added \$10,000 in purchasing power; how they created all of their graphic design in house and saved \$10,000 or more by doing it internally; how there was record growth in their online efforts; and the initiative for the Continental Divide Trail and how it would yield tremendous possibilities for visitor traffic and the types of funding that the Mayor was looking for in the long run to develop the greenways trails. Councilor Aiman-Smith commented that in the last month she had met 4 people that came to Silver City from Austin, Texas and all of them said the Town should really advertise in Austin.

B. Quarterly Final 2014 Report of the Silver City Visitors Center by Cissy McAndrew, Executive Director of the Southwest NM Green Chamber of Commerce. Ms. McAndrew stated they were transitioning because the Arts and Cultural District would be managing the Visitor Center and would keep the staff and continue to get volunteers. She said they saw growth in the 4th quarter and she presented the following: graphs of monthly visitation data from fiscal years 2012 to 2014; where visitors came from with 36% coming from Arizona, California, Colorado, and Texas; the number of nights stayed and how Sunday was still the lowest day; visitation by event and how the Continental Divide Trail Gateway and the Tour of the Gila brought in the most visitors; the top 10 attractions and how the Cliff Dwellings was number 1 and downtown Silver City was number 2; how they did not want to change the quality of life and who they were and how the Green Chamber was taking on the focus of civic tourism; how 31% of people heard about Silver City by word of mouth; how the entities needed to work together to combine their visitor data; the different publications used for advertising; visitation data that showed growth from 2012 to 2014; how since August 2011 they had 47,257 visitors; how they were moving from public relations to community relations with civic tourism; how their future included working strongly downtown with a storefront at the old El Sol Theater building, civic tourism, a Merchant's Association, the Buy Local program, entrepreneurship, an Investment Opportunities Network, and a business incubator; and about their partnerships and collaborations. She thanked them for their many years of collaboration and said she looked forward to moving forward with them with their goal to do community relations. Councilor Ray asked her if she had data on how many people went camping. She said people came to the Visitor Center to collect information on campgrounds, etc., but the Visitor Center never received information back. Councilor Ray suggested that they could work with the Forest Service to see what people were enjoying in the forest because people would buy locally and then would go camping.

C. Staff reports. Manager Brown congratulated Tim Heidrich as the new Fire Chief. The Council, staff, and audience applauded Fire Chief Heidrich. Manager Brown also reported that he had a meeting with Senator Howie Morales and Representative Rudy Martinez concerning the Essential Air Service. He stated the federal government had put out a Request for Proposal for Essential Air Service and he asked for community input on the routes and on what the community would like to see for air service. He said the last time they went from going to Albuquerque to Silver City twice a day to the current service that went to Phoenix. He asked if it were more beneficial to continue to go to

Phoenix or would it be better for them to start looking at going back to Albuquerque or another route, such as Santa Fe or Denver which were proposed the last time. He said there was a lack of time to place the item on the agenda for Council action for direction, but he would like to hear some input on what they would like to see.

Mayor Morones stated the reasons that the route to Phoenix was chosen before, but what he had since gathered was that Western New Mexico University, Gila Regional Hospital, the Town of Silver City, and most other governments did not use it because they all needed to go to Albuquerque. He said he believed they were actually having their Essential Air Service subsidize a private business (Freeport McMoRan Inc.) and they had reduced subsidizing the entities that were intended to be subsidized, such as healthcare professionals, the University professionals, the government professionals, and their citizens. He said from input he had received that his guidance would be to strongly convey the idea that their community would be served with an Albuquerque route. Councilor Bettison agreed and said more potential county, municipal, and University folks would prefer a route to Albuquerque because it was a large enough airport to go to a variety of different places. She also discussed how a lot of folks went to Santa Fe, especially during the Legislative Session, and that it could easily be accomplished by flying into Albuquerque and taking the Rail Runner or by driving to Santa Fe. Mayor Morones said even if there was an opportunity for a Santa Fe flight that they could also ride the Rail Runner down to Albuquerque. Councilor Aiman-Smith said she and her partner took the flight to Albuquerque as long as they could for his medical care, and then when the flights changed to Phoenix they had to drive to Albuquerque. She said when they were flying to Albuquerque that there were other medical patients and medical professionals on the plane. She asked that they think about the medical patients. George Dworin, Executive Director of the Silver City Arts and Cultural District, described his experience with Great Lakes when they were trying to utilize it for tourism, and stated they were unreliable and did not live up to the terms of the contract. He said there were too many canceled flights, too many stranded people, and the advertising they did with them did not yield anything for them with regard to tourism. He said Great Lakes Corporate only saw Silver City as an outbound and had no vision of Silver City as an inbound potential for them. He said that from a tourism standpoint he would like to encourage that the bid process include how they would consider Silver City as an inbound destination. Cissy McAndrew, Executive Director of the Southwest New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce, said Albuquerque was where they needed to go according to her contacts. Alan Mong, resident of Silver City, described how his experience with Great Lakes to Albuquerque was poor because he got stranded so many times and that none of his friends flew with Great Lakes anymore because it was not very reliable. After the comments Mayor Morones told Manager Brown that the preference was to have a route to Albuquerque or Santa Fe, and he said if it was appropriate that they may indicate their displeasure with Great Lakes.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None.

Councilor Aiman-Smith moved for a short break. Councilor Bettison seconded. Mayor Morones said there was a motion for recess. He asked all this in favor to say aye, and all 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried at 7:03 p.m. Mayor Morones called the meeting back to order at 7:13 p.m.

11. NEW BUSINESS –

A. Approval / Disapproval of Resolution No. 2014-27: a Resolution of the Town of Silver City ratifying a certain agreement between the Town of Silver City and the Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments, dated July 22, 2014, and authorizing the execution of same by the proper official of the Town of Silver City. Manager Brown said Resolution No. 2014-27 was an annual resolution for participation in the Council of Governments. He said the Council of Governments (SWNMCOG) provided most municipalities and government entities many different services and he described some of them. There was further discussion about the annual dues of \$4,500; the value of their services and how other municipalities wished they had the SWNMCOG working for them; how they were facilitating a broadband assessment program for the area transport authority; and how they did an excellent job and that Priscilla Lucero, Executive Director of the Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments, kept them informed of what was happening at the state level, and helped them with many issues. Councilor Bettison moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-27: a Resolution of the Town of Silver City ratifying a certain agreement between the Town of Silver City and the Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments, dated July 22, 2014, and authorizing the execution of same by

the proper official of the Town of Silver City and designating Alex Brown as the public official to be the member of the SWNMCOG, and Peter Pena as Alternate 1, and Councilor Cynthia Ann Bettison as Alternate 2. Councilor Aiman-Smith seconded. Mayor Morones said there was a motion and a second for the approval of Resolution No. 2014-27: a Resolution of the Town of Silver City ratifying a certain agreement between the Town of Silver City and the Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments, dated July 22, 2014, and authorizing the execution of same by the proper official of the Town of Silver City and designating Alex Brown as their representative and Peter Pena as the first designee and Councilor Bettison as the second designee. He asked if there was further discussion, and there was none. He 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.

C. Approval / Disapproval of Resolution No. 2014-25: a Resolution amending the approved and adopted budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, and for Municipal Purpose in the Town of Silver City, New Mexico, transferring and appropriating funds thereof. Manager Brown said Resolution No. 2014-25 approved the second budget adjustment and the final budget adjustment for Fiscal Year 2015, and he provided further details. There was further discussion. Councilor Bettison moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-25: a Resolution amending the approved and adopted budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, and for Municipal Purpose in the Town of Silver City, New Mexico, transferring and appropriating funds thereof. Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor Morones repeated the motion. He asked if there was further discussion, and there was none. He 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. 2014-24: Final Quarter Financial Report Year Ending June 30, 2014. Manager Brown said Resolution No. 2014-24 was to approve the final quarterly report that they would submit to the Department of Finance and Administration, and that it was the final ending balances for revenues, transfers, and expenditures that resulted from the operations of the Town of Silver City over the last fiscal year. He said it included the previous budget adjustments. Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-24: Final Quarter Financial Report Year Ending June 30, 2014. Councilor Cano seconded. Mayor Morones repeated the motion. He asked if there was further discussion, and there was none. He 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.

Councilor Bettison moved for a short break and stated it was because her iPad decided to freeze and would not go to the next item on the agenda so she needed to get someone with more strength than herself to slap the side of it to get it to go back on. Mayor Morones asked if that was her entire motion and she said yes. Councilor Aiman-Smith seconded the motion. Mayor Morones said there was a motion and a second for a short recess. He asked all those in favor to say aye, and all 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried at 7:26 p.m. Mayor Morones called the meeting back to order at 7:29 p.m.

D. Approval / Disapproval of Resolution No. 2014-26: approval and adoption of the Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. Manager Brown said it was the preliminary budget with updated beginning cash balances for all of the budgets, any minor changes that had to be made to expenditures, the Special Revenue for the Fire Protection Fund, and that there was one debt service included for the Silco renovations. There was further discussion. Councilor Bettison moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-26: approval and adoption of the Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. Councilor Cano seconded. Mayor Morones repeated the motion. He asked if there was further discussion, and there was none. He 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 Bid #14/15-1: Silco Interior Renovations. Manager Brown said the Town received 2 bids, and that one was from Bigelow Construction and the second was from Haven Construction. He said both bids exceeded the budgeted funds available for the project but the Town and MainStreet had identified possible grant funding that they would like to have in place before the next Council meeting. He recommended that they postpone action on the item until the next meeting so they would not have to go back out for bid. There was further discussion, and Lucy Whitmarsh, President of the Board of the Silver City MainStreet, thanked them for considering extending it

to give them the opportunity to get the funds so they could move forward on the project. Mayor Morones asked Manager Brown if it should be postponed to the next meeting or to a future date. Manager Brown said to postpone to a future date in case it took longer to finalize. Councilor Bettison moved to postpone Bid 14/15-1: Silco Interior Renovations to a future date. Councilor Aiman-Smith seconded. Mayor Morones repeated the motion. He asked if there was further discussion, and there was none. He 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. Discuss and vote on whether to change the Town Council meeting scheduled for August 26, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. to August 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Morones said several of the Council members would be attending the New Mexico Municipal League's Annual Conference so there would not be a quorum. Councilor Bettison moved to change the Town Council meeting scheduled for August 26, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. to August 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the same chambers. Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor Morones repeated the motion. He asked if there was further discussion, and there was none. He asked all those in favor to say aye, and all 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Morones asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilor Ray moved to adjourn at 7:40 p.m., and Councilor Aiman-Smith seconded. Mayor Morones stated there was a motion and a second to adjourn. He asked all those in favor to say aye, and all 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if there were any opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

/s/

Michael S. Morones, Mayor

Attest:

/s/

Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk