

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Grant County Administration Center, 1400 Hwy 180, Silver City, NM
September 9, 2014, 6:00 p.m.**

Present:

Michael S. 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 L. Mackie, Town Clerk
Tracy Spikes, Museum 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** – Robert C. “Beau” Bassett commented that he was preparing for his third long bike ride from Silver City to South Bend, Indiana, on September 11th, the National Day of Service. He said he was thrilled that Silver City would have a 9/11 Ceremony and he encouraged all citizens to attend the ceremonies and to do a helpful act of service that day. He said he would be doing outreach to youth programs and would be presenting the President's Volunteer Service Award to several local organizations (Aldo Leopold High School, Grant County Youth Volunteer Corps, the 4-H Council of Grant County, and the Volunteer Center of Grant County) and to 2 individuals (Patrick Conlin and Daniel Cook). He said the award included a certificate, a letter from the President, and a pin. He commended the Town Council for their leadership in public service and shared with them 11 tips to encourage young people to become the next public servants, etc. Lucy Whitmarsh, President of the Board for the Silver City MainStreet Project, commented on the All Souls Urban Trail Race on October 25, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. She said it was in partnership with the Silver City Adventure Trails and that they were happy they were supporting a fundraising effort for the Silco Theater. She introduced Nick Varner, Director of the Trail Race, and he provided his background, gave details of the foot race, and said their goals were to raise money for the Silco and to bring people from out of town to Silver City. Cruz Bustillos commented on the recent Copper Country Cruizers event and he thanked the Town of Silver City and Grant County for their support.
- 5. COUNCIL COMMENTS** – The Council commented on the following: the public was encouraged to enjoy the upcoming Pickamania, the Red Hot Children's Fiesta, and a street dance beside the Food Co-op; a request that Manager Brown send a letter to the New Mexico Department of Transportation in reference to safety barriers for houses near the upcoming bridge work; how dogs, skateboards, and bicycles were not allowed in Gough Park during events; a suggestion that the Town have a wall or building where people could write what they envisioned for Silver City so the Council could be educated by the public; how a recent video of the Chicano Music Festival did not have audio; and how the next regular Council meeting was moved from September 23rd to September 17th in the same room at 6:00 p.m.
- 6. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA** – None.
- 7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – **Regular Meeting on August 20, 2014** - Councilor Bettison moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 20, 2014. Councilor Aiman-Smith seconded. Mayor Morones stated there was a motion and a second to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of August 20, 2014. He asked if there was any 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. Staff reports.

1. Manager Brown's report on the State of New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division's approval of the Town's final budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Manager Brown said per the DFA's (Department of Finance and Administration) regulations, they were required to note in the Minutes of the Town Council meeting that they were notified that DFA had approved the Town's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget. He stated they were notified.

Manager Brown explained the difference between the Sewer charges and the Wastewater Treatment Plant charges on the monthly billing, and stated they were not duplicate fees. He also reported that the gross receipts tax revenues were currently down a little bit in retail sales and that he was working with the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department to figure out why there was a significant difference in retail because all of the others were actually almost very close or more than what he projected in the budget. He said he was not very concerned because his projections did not include the projected increase for the construction project for the Hudson Bridge and that based on the project's budget, the Town should receive \$374,000 in gross receipt tax revenues from the project. There was further discussion about the Hudson Bridge project, the water line work under Highway 180 and Swan Street, and how the fog seal of certain streets would be done at the end of September.

Tracy Spikes, Museum Director, said he had been at the Silver City Museum for 3-1/2 years and he provided information about the museum and said it was meant to be a participatory process and to be part of the community. He asked the Mayor and Council to tell him in 1 or 2 words what their definition of museum was, and they stated the following: education, discovery, history, community, and culture. He commented on the people that helped move the museum forward, and how they were trying to reach out to the community. He said they had been changing exhibits and programs that talked about the many aspects of Silver City and the surrounding area. He said all of the communities, ranching, mining, etc. were all part of the history. He talked about the history of Gough Park and said it was named in 1962 after the Town of Silver City received a \$15,000 gift from the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Cale Gough that was designated to help the Town to develop parks. He said that action to name the park was taken by the Town Council at that time and they became part of that history. He said there were so many stories like that about the community and the museum was trying to tell those stories by changing their schedule of exhibits every 3 to 6 months which was pretty ambitious for a small museum with a small staff. He said he had a full-time staff of 4 people, and they had some part-time support staff that was supported by the Silver City Museum Society. He said they were working with the volunteers and the community, and were trying to get more students involved. He said that he was working with Councilor Bettison, who was the Ex Officio member of the Silver City Museum Board and also the Director of the Western New Mexico University Museum, to develop a program to help teachers to be able to afford field trips to both of the museums by using monies given to the University by Freeport-McMoRan Inc. He said they would be doing more initiatives with students and schools and had opened the museum up to be a place for dialog and to participate in activities of history so people could walk away with an experience from their museum visit. He described some of the exhibits and said almost every weekend they had programs for families, adults, and children. He said the results had been phenomenal and they were working with partners in town like the Visitor Center, festivals, etc. He said the attendance in 2010 - 2011 was around 11-12,000 people, but attendance had increased in fiscal year 2014 to 17,094 which was an increase by 25% . He invited everybody to visit the museum. Mayor Morones said Mr. Spikes was extremely thorough and that museums were an extremely important part of the record of their history and culture. He said he often visited the museum with his children and there were always new exhibits and new things to look at. He told Mr. Spikes that it was a great product that he was putting out.

Clerk Mackie announced the vacancies on various Town boards and committees.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS -

A. Approval / Disapproval of Restaurant Liquor License, Application No. 912897, Applicant Name: El Gallo Pinto LLC, Doing Business As: El Gallo Pinto, Proposed Location: 905 N. Hudson St., Silver City, NM. Mayor Morones stated the Town Council would serve as the hearing board and he would serve as the presiding officer. He asked if any member of the hearing board had ex-parte discussions with any person regarding the subject matter, or had any communication from any party to the case, and all 4 Councilors said no. He qualified all of them to be on the

hearing board. He asked all parties and witnesses, including staff members, to come forward to be sworn in to testify by the Town Clerk. Mayor Morones stated that anyone not sworn in would not be able to testify or participate in the hearing. The Town Clerk swore in 1 witness. Mayor Morones read the procedures of how the hearing would be conducted. He gave the floor to Simon Ortiz, applicant. Mr. Ortiz said it was an application that was meant to increase the business and he hoped it would. He said in doing so it would enhance the coffers that Mr. Brown oversaw. He said for the record that the physical address was 901 North Hudson Street. There was further discussion about how the restaurant building was leased by the applicant. Mr. Ortiz commented that he intended to construct a deck overlooking the Big Ditch if the restaurant turned a profit. He said in doing so he hoped that it would increase the visibility of a small business in an important intersection of Silver City, etc. Mayor Morones asked Mr. Ortiz if that concluded his case, and he said yes, and he had nothing else that he would like reflected in the record. Mayor Morones asked the hearing board if they were prepared to render their decision, and they said yes. Councilor Cano moved to approve Restaurant Liquor License, Application No. 912897, Applicant Name: El Gallo Pinto LLC, Doing Business As: El Gallo Pinto, Proposed Location: 905 N. Hudson St., Silver City, NM. Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor Morones said there was a motion and a second and he repeated the motion. He asked if there was any 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.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None.

11. NEW BUSINESS – None.

12. ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Morones asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilor Bettison moved to adjourn at 6:57 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