

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**REMOTE MEETING IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NM OPEN MEETINGS ACT**  
**July 13, 2021, 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 Cano, District 4

**Also, present:**

Alex C. Brown, Town Managers  
James Reynolds, Town Attorney  
Freddie Portillo, Police Chief  
Milo Lambert, Fire Chief  
Geoffrey Plant, Silver City Daily Press  
Jaime Embick, Community Development Director  
Jeff Fell, Assistant Fire Chief  
Kylle Marshall, Fire Marshall  
Roger Cruzan, Fire Inspector  
Roger Lanse, Grant County Beat  
Nancy Cliff and Craig Pruis, Landmark Certificate  
Carol Ann Fugagli, Climation Workshop  
Various members of the Silver City Fire Department  
Maria C. Sublasky, Acting Town Clerk  
Katherine Kunnert, Town Clerk

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Mayor Ladner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Ladner stated first he wanted to recognized Police Chief Portillo, Fire Chief Lambert and quite a few members of the Police and Fire Departments. He also wanted to introduce the new Town Clerk, Katherine Kunnert.

**2. CHANGES TO AGENDA** – None.

**3. CEREMONIES**

**A. Presentation of Certificate for Silver City Landmark Status (905 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street).** – Mayor stated Nancy Cliff and Craig Freas would be receiving the certificate. Ms. Embick stated according to Section 4.2.5 of the Land Use Code it allows a homeowner to nominate their home that is on the State or National Register as a Silver City Landmark. She stated the homeowners, Nancy Cliff and Craig Freas approached the Historic Design Review Committee and provided information of how important their home is to the Town of Silver City. Ms. Embick said the information they provide included the architectural style, previous owners, what it was used for, when they purchased the home and what has been remodeled. Nancy Cliff and Craig Freas met with the Historic Design Review Committee in April and were awarded the certificate but wanted to wait until there was an in-person Town Council Meeting to receive it. Ms. Embick stated this program is open to anyone who owns a home or commercial business within the four Historic Districts of the Town and can contact the Community Development Department to meet with the Historic Design Review Committee to nominate their own property. Ms. Embick said it does qualify the owner for special tax programs with State of New Mexico and Federal Government. They also receive the certificate from the Town to recognize their achievement and their pursuit to preserve the Towns historical homes and businesses. Mayor Ladner asked if anyone had any questions and there were none. Mayor asked Nancy Cliff and Craig Freas to approach the podium. Mayor Ladner then read the certificate, which stated, “Having met the standards in the 2010 Land Use and Zoning Code of the Town of Silver City, 905 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street is hereby acknowledged as a Town of Silver City Landmark Structure. Certified this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2021.” Mayor Ladner said on behalf of the Town of Silver City it was a pleasure to present the certificate to them. Nancy Cliff and Craig Freas said their home is a brick bungalow and is on the New Mexico Register and they purchased the home in 1993. Craig Freas said they added an addition to the home but the original structure is intact and remains as it was originally built in 1918. He stated the home is 103 years old and everyone is welcome to stop by and take a look. Nancy Cliff said the home was originally owned by the Borensteins who still show interest in the property even though they no longer live here anymore.

**B. Letter of Commendation to be presented to Jeff Fell.** – Mayor Ladner said he would present the Letter of Commendation from the podium and invited anyone else who would like to join him to congratulate Jeff Fell. Mayor Ladner was joined by Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Fell, all four Councilors, Manager Alex Brown, Fire Chief Lambert, Police Chief Portillo, and other supporting officers. Mayor Ladner read the letter to Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Fell and thanked him and said it was a pleasure to present the letter on behalf of the city employees and elected officials. Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Fell thanked everyone and said when he volunteered and was appointed to this position, in no way did he know what was in store. Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Fell said he humbly accepted the letter, but by no means was it an individualist achievement. He stated there were a lot of people in our community that all stepped up. He said he had been with the City for 18 years and trained with the Fire Department and Emergency Medicine throughout those years. He stated, “Those of us who get into public service work, it’s times like these he felt they trained for, which was to bring people together for the greater good of the community.” Councilor Cano congratulated Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Fell and appreciated him informing the community on social media with all the Covid updates. Councilor Ray thanked Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Fell and said he has done tremendous job and wanted to commend all the people that work for the Town of Silver City, including the Fire Department, Police Department and EMS. Councilor Aiman-Smith thanked Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Fell and said it’s because of him, Silver City has the highest vaccination rates in the State and the community should continue getting vaccinated. Councilor Bettison also thanked Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Fell, the Fire Department and Police Department for ensuring Grant County was safe, protected, and had the correct information throughout the pandemic. Alex Brown said he echoed everything everyone has stated and said it has been a really stressful year and a half for everyone. Alex Brown said he had weekly meetings with Chief Lambert, Chief Portillo and James Reynolds and having their knowledge and support really made things easier. Chief Lambert thanked Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Fell for his sacrifice and said he’s been a beacon in this pandemic and his organizational prowess was a benefit to the entire community.

**4. PROCLAMATIONS** – None.

**5. COUNCIL COMMENTS** – Councilor Ray stated he like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and wishes next year it would go through downtown. He stated he wishes next year to close downtown and have a party so the community can come together. Councilor Ray also said they are planning the Carnitas, Musica y Mas Fiesta for the first weekend in September. He stated there will be ten different bands, a beer garden, and a bull riding contest. Councilor Aiman-Smith said she has been enjoying the Open Spaces and outdoor trails and she thinks it’s going to be extraordinary and thinks it is wonderful that they are supporting the outdoor recreation. She also stated the downtown festivities are picking up, including the Clay Festival on the 17<sup>th</sup> and hopes the community starts coming out. Councilor Cano thanked the Fire Department for their quick response to the large fire on Mountain View Road on June 24<sup>th</sup>. She stated that she has received a lot of calls about people speeding downtown and hoped we could try to prevent that from happening. She also said she attended a Cannabis Legalization Conference because of the new law allowing recreational cannabis use. Councilor Cano said the New Mexico Municipal League is having a workshop for all elected officials and other government officials next week and encourages everyone to attend because it will be very informative. She stated Mr. Marshal has formed a committee that has been meeting about this and requests to be on that committee and would like to be the sponsor of the ordinance. Councilor Cano also stated that she thinks it would be really helpful if Lisa Jimenez could write an article informing the public about what the Council can and cannot do regarding business licenses and how businesses decide to come to Silver City because the public is very misinformed. Mayor Ladner thanked the Firemen and Policemen for providing masks to the public every Saturday because the virus is not dead and we still need to be careful and get vaccinated.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES -**

**Regular Meeting on June 22, 2021.** – Mayor Ladner asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Silver City of June 22, 2021. Councilor Ray Seconded. The Mayor asked if there was any 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.

**7. PUBLIC INPUT** – Carolyn Fugagli introduced herself as the Education and Outreach Director for the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, which is a Watershed Protection Nonprofit Organization based in Silver City. She stated she attended the meeting to advertise and promote a free Climathon called From Scraps to Substance that is happening on July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. She said a Climathon is a day and a half of workshops and the topic is composting. She said there is a lot of material they are trying to keep out of our landfill so they are trying to promote composting on two different realms. Ms. Fugagli said one is to promote composting in people’s backyards and the second is to try to find ways to elevate composting on a larger scale for local businesses in Silver City on a volunteer basis. She said it is for anyone fourteen and older and food and snacks are provided by Upper Gila Watershed Alliance. She stated they will have experts in the field give some background information about composting and then they will divide into teams. She stated on Saturday they will start brainstorming to come up with ideas and judges will decide the best idea. The team with the best ideas will win \$800 dollars. She said she really wants the youth involved and even has the Quarter Culture Club from the college attending. Their plan is to implement it throughout the year. She left flyers with her contact information and all the ways to register for the workshops.

**8. REPORTS**

**A. Staff Reports.** – None.

**9. PUBLIC HEARINGS** – None.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Approval / Disapproval of BID 20/21-6 RE-BID VISITORS CENTER PEDESTRIAN & TRAILHEAD IMPROVEMENTS** – Alex Brown stated this was the fifth re-bid on this project and they finally received a bid that came in within budget. He said this bid was put out in three bid lots, one was the Base Bid which was the sidewalks and lighting behind the Visitor’s Center as well as the signage over the bridge across the big ditch. He said Bid Lot number two was the closure of one of the exits out to highway 90 from the Visitor’s Center parking lot and the third was the bus shelter. Mr. Brown stated they did get two bids and one came in within budge from Southwest Concrete and Paving. He said he has discussed this with Public Works and they will be able to do the closure of the exit driveway themselves as well as the bus shelter. He stated they have some bus shelters at the Market Street facility that were purchased from Corre Caminos about ten years ago and will use one of those within the next year or so. Mr. Brown said it is their recommendation to award the Base Bid to Southwest Concrete and Paving for \$206,556.00. Mayor Ladner asked if there were any question, and there none. Mayor Ladner asked for a motion. Councilor Bettison moved to approve Bid 20/21-6 Re-Bid Visitors Center Pedestrian and Trailhead Improvements per staff recommendation to Southwest Concrete and Paving Incorporated for the Base Bid in the amount of \$206,556.00 plus applicable gross receipts tax with (8.0000%) for a total construction cost of \$223,080.48. Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor asked if there was any discussion, and there was none. Mayor said those in favor say aye. All four Councilors said aye. Mayor said opposed say nye, and there were none. Motion carried.

**B. Appointment to the Municipal Library Community Advisory Group.** – Mayor Ladner said the Chair of the Municipal Library Community Advisory Group has recommended that Mr. Ted Lynn be reappointed and if there were no objections from the Council, he would like to reappoint him. Council had objections. Mayor Ladner said with no objections, he hereby reappoints Mr. Ted Lynn to the Municipal Library Community Advisory Group.

**C. Appointment to the Cemetery Board.** – Mayor Ladner said the Chair of the Cemetery Board has recommended that Mr. Paul Baca be reappointed and if there were no objections from the Council, he would like to reappoint him. Council had no objections. Mayor Ladner said with no objections, he hereby reappoints Mr. Ted Lynn to the Cemetery Board.

Mayor Ladner said he had one final comment. He stated one of the most important resources a city can have is access to reliable information when it comes to legal matters. He said Mr. Jim Reynolds has recently been hired as the Attorney for the Town of Silver City. Mayor asked Mr. Reynolds to stand and

comment. Mr. Reynolds thanked the Mayor and said though he's been on the job for some time, officially and unofficially, he has attended a lot of Council Meetings in the past so it felt like a gathering of old friends. Mr. Reynolds said he was glad to be in his position, glad to be working with Alex Brown and all the staff and he really appreciated it. Mayor thanked him and said it is reassuring to have information when it comes to legal matters.

**12. ADJOURNMENT** – Mayor Ladner asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilor Aiman-Smith made a motion to adjourn at 6:42 p.m. Council Ray seconded. Mayor Ladner asked if there was any discussion, there was none. Mayor said those in favor say aye. All four Councilors said aye. Motion carried.

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Ken Ladner, Mayor

Attest:

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Katherine Kunnert, Town Clerk

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