

TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
GRANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 1400 HWY. 180 E., SILVER CITY, NM
January 10, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Ken Ladner, Mayor
Lucian Farmer, Councilor District 1
Nicholas Prince, Councilor District 2
Jose A. Ray, Jr., Councilor District 3
Guadalupe Cano, Councilor District 4

Others present:

Alex C. Brown, Town Manager
Jim Reynolds, Town Attorney
Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk
Freddie Portillo, Chief of Police
Ben Beltron, Executive Director, CATS
Jo Lutz, Silver City Daily Press

1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Ladner called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND SALUTE TO NEW MEXICO STATE FLAG - Mayor Ladner invited the public to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the New Mexico State Flag.

Mayor Ladner welcomed the City Administration, Law Enforcement and members of the community.

2. CHANGES TO AGENDA – Councilor Cano motioned to remove item F under New Business indefinitely. Councilor Prince seconded the motion. Motion Carried unanimously.

3. CEREMONIES – NONE

4. PROCLAMATIONS – NONE

5. COUNCIL COMMENTS – Councilor Cano welcomed everyone to another year and recognized National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day; she thanked Chief Freddie Portillo and his staff for all they do in the community. Councilor Cano reminded everyone Grant County Day will be on February 1st at the Legislature and invited anyone who is interested learning the legislative process. She also asked Mr. Brown if he would go over his legislative priorities are to the Prospectors. She would also like to invite all the Union members to the Work Session. Councilor Cano had a concern with the park on Gold street which is approximately one hundred feet (100) from the Spin Shelter, there has been quite a few people sleeping there both day and night. She also has a concern with people from the Spin Shelter using people’s yards as trails and if anything can be done to advise the Spin Shelter to remind their residents to not be using the homeowner’s yards as trails. Chief Portillo advised he would go and speak with the shelter.

Councilor Ray wished everyone a Happy New Year. He stated it was brought to his attention from a parent of a child that the student was given a book about Kamala Harris to read. He did not agree with the school teaching about politicians but should be teaching them the basic elementary skills. Councilor Ray stated he spoke with Mr. Brown about conducting a study regarding murals down town. Mr. Brown advised he would ask the property owners. He also spoke to Mr. Reynolds about conducting a study to create a River Walk down town.

Councilor Prince wished everyone a Happy New Year. He stated the past year had brought significant challenges and loss. Councilor Prince asked for a moment of silence to reflect on those we've lost over the past year. Councilor Prince stated how fortunate we are to have a team of such success and maturity and is confident we will begin to see our state's extension of new revenues help increase our growing tax base. He encouraged everyone in attendance to reach out to their elected officials who will be attending the Grant County Prospectors in Santa Fe at the end of the month so that the conversations can be brought toward the front.

Councilor Farmer wished everyone a Happy New Year and echoed the other Councilors comments hoping it will be a prosperous year for the Town and to please contact your elected official before this year's legislative session.

Mayor Ladner stated Council comments are a time for Councilors to make observation and to express their personal opinions about issues and what is said does not reflect official Town policy.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 13, 2022, Regular Meeting. Councilor Ray moved to approve the December 13, 2022, Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Silver City. Councilor Farmer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7. PUBLIC INPUT – NONE

8. REPORTS:

A. Staff: NONE

B. Manager: Alex Brown addressed Councilor Cano's request; stating his legislative request to the Prospectors. His number one (1) priority was the City Annex building the roof and HVAC system so we can get moved in and be better accessible to the public. Also, he advised we are starting to get one hundred percent (100) of the hold harmless, unfortunately it took 2 years after the census to start receiving the money. The legislature had redistricted with preliminary numbers, we will be requesting that the state use those preliminary numbers for the hold harmless. If they would have used the redistricting preliminary numbers, we would have received an additional one point four million dollars (1.4) in funding from the hold harmless. It does not affect anything now, but in 2030 when the census is done and by that time any community over ten thousand (10,000) will be phased out. Mr. Brown want to make sure whoever is managing the Town at that time knows when the hold harmless will be going away. It is at one point eight million dollars (1.8) right now and by 2030 it will be at around two or two point two million dollars (2 or 2.2) which will be a big hit to the community and that is why he would like to take care of the issue this year.

1. Update Recreation Center – The Construction Manager at Risk RFQ is out to bid.

2. Update on Transition to City Hall Annex Building – waiting for funding.

3. Update on current and proposed Swimming Pool – Mr. Brown met with the architectures, working on contracts and will be putting together steering committees

4. Update on Scott Park Golf Course – Nothing happening, but is very busy

5. Update on Little Walnut – Project is winding down.

6. Update on Regional Water Project – Will be meeting and discussing the GPA and the funding, he will have a report at the next Council meeting.

7. Update on 32nd St. Project – will be going out for RFP at the end of February.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Southwest Word Fiesta Presentation – Ted Presler stated the Southwest Word Fiesta is celebrating their tenth (10) anniversary this year and their theme for October 23rd through October 29th will be “We Are All Connected”. Also, back in August a revisal of their website has helped them expand their horizons to allow authors who have an interest showing off their wares. Currently there are forty (40) authors on their website and are getting many hits from all over the country.

B. Update on 209 Mountain View Rd., Chapter 32, Nuisances of Town Code of Ordinances and Projected timeline and cost for abatement of property. Code Enforcement officer Vickie Toney stated at approximately 9:47 am January 10, 2023 she took pictures of the property and with in the last three (3) months only three (3) vehicles have been removed from the property, no other progress has been made. Ms. Toney would like to proceed with the abatement and have the property cleaned up and is in the process acquiring bids from several companies for the cleanup and hope to have them ready to be able to put them on as an action item on the agenda at the next Council meeting.

C. Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01 – Open Meetings Clerk Sedillo stated it was the time of year to approve Resolution 2023-01 Open Meetings for the 2023 Town Council meeting and work session schedule. It will be posted on the Town website the next day for citizens to view the schedule. All meeting will still be held at 6:00 pm at the Grant County Administration Building. Mayor Ladner asked for a motion. Councilor Cano motioned to approve **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01 – Open Meetings** Councilor Ray seconded the motion. Mayor Ladner asked for a Roll Call vote. Town Clerk Alfred Sedillo did a roll call vote. Councilor Farmer voted aye; Councilor Prince voted aye; Councilor Ray voted aye; and Councilor Cano voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY AND THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION, APPROPRIATION NUMBER 22-ZG1016-54, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$281,250.00, PURSUANT TO HB68. Police Chief Freddie Portillo gave a brief history of the grant that was applied for back in May of 2022. An award letter was received in December with the first installment of one hundred and twelve thousand five hundred dollars (112,500) will be allocated and he will have until June 30th to spend the money. The money will be for hiring and retaining officers. Mayor Ladner as if there were any questions or comments for Chief Portillo. Councilor Cano thanked Chief Portillo for applying for the grant. Mayor Ladner asked for a motion? Councilor Farmer motioned to approve **RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02 - A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY AND THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION, APPROPRIATION NUMBER 22-ZG1016-54, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$281,250.00, PURSUANT TO HB68.** Councilor Cano seconded the motion. Mayor Ladner asked if there was any discussion? Mayor Ladner asked for a Roll Call vote. Town Clerk Alfred Sedillo did a roll call vote. Councilor Farmer voted aye; Councilor Prince voted aye; Councilor Ray voted aye; and Councilor Cano voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Approval / Disapproval of ORDINANCE NO. 1315 - AN ORDINANCE PERMITTING THE SALE AND TRANSFER OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE “ALLEN SPRINGS” PROPERTY, TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 48, SECTION 48-24 OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY MUNICIPAL CODE. Town Attorney Jim Reynolds stated the issued had been brought up some months ago at a work session that the Forest Service was interested in purchasing the forty (40) acre property called Allen Springs. The property was part of the Silver City’s original property in its Charter with water rights. The water rights have been moved to other properties. Mr. Reynolds advised the Forest Service was ready to purchase the property, an environmental assessment has been done and the results should be available at any time. The property has been valued at sixty thousand dollars (60,000) which would be the purchase price. The Forest Service has asked the Ordinance be created so it can be approved at the time of purchase. Mayor Ladner asked for a motion? Councilor Prince motioned to approve **ORDINANCE NO. 1315 - AN ORDINANCE PERMITTING THE SALE AND TRANSFER OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE “ALLEN SPRINGS” PROPERTY, TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 48, SECTION 48-24 OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY MUNICIPAL CODE.** Councilor Farmer seconded the motion. Mayor Ladner asked if there was any discussion? Mayor Ladner asked for a Roll Call vote. Town Clerk Alfred Sedillo did a roll call vote. Councilor Farmer voted aye; Councilor Prince voted aye; Councilor Ray voted aye; and Councilor Cano voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Approval / Disapproval of a request for a Map Amendment/Zone Change from split-zoned Residential B-2 and Industrial to Industrial for 6 tracts of land described as: Subd: FRASER Block: 149 Lot: 2 AND:- Lot: 4 E40' SILVER STREET ADJOINING LOTS 2,4 0.218 AC & Subd: FRASER Block: 149 Lot: 6 AND:- Lot: 8 E40' SILVER STREET ADJOINING LOTS 6 8 0.218 AC; the property is addressed as 502 N. Silver St, Silver City, New Mexico. The applicant is Richard Mata. Item was removed from agenda.

11. ADJOURNMENT - Mayor Ladner stated this concluded the business of the Town of Silver City Town Council. Meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Ken Ladner, Mayor

Attest:

Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk