

TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
GRANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 1400 HWY. 180 E., SILVER CITY, NM
April 11, 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

Absent: Guadalupe Cano, Councilor District 4

Others present:

Alex C. Brown, Town Manager
James Marshall, Assistant Town Manager
Jim Reynolds, Town Attorney
Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk
Timothy Tavizon, Police Lieutenant
Tom Hernandez, Code Enforcement
Vickie Toney, Code Enforcement
Animal Control Officer
Ben Beltron, Executive Director, CATS
Nick Siebel, 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 Press and community.

2. CHANGES TO AGENDA – Councilor Ray stated he would like to allow names be submitted for the Manager’s Search Committee at the next Town Council meeting. Councilor Farmer seconded. Motion Carried.

3. CEREMONIES – NONE

4. PROCLAMATIONS – NONE

5. COUNCIL COMMENTS – Councilor Prince stated that Friday April 7th marked the final day for Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham to sign bills into law for this year’s legislative session. Our state was fortunate to seed double-digit increase in revenues. In House Bill (HB) 2 there were millions of dollars for airport projects, law enforcement, firefighters, grants to support housing and local capital outlay projects. In Senate Bill (SB) 1 there was support for regionalization of water systems to help communities sustain water infrastructure and authorizing New Mexico’s Finance Authority to help in declared emergencies to issue loans from the public project revolving fund and the list goes on! Councilor Prince commended City Management for their efforts for capturing the growth of this period. However, the consumption-based taxes are not sustainable, particularly for our road and water departments. Councilor Prince asked to consider and explore alternatives that can ensure infrastructural stability, and try to keep those costs for our people who’ve seen the disproportionate rise in their necessities. Councilor Prince has a concern with rising rent for our citizens in our community.

Councilor Farmer had no comments, he just encouraged everyone to get out and enjoy the beautiful spring weather we are having.

Councilor Ray had no comment.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 28, 2023, Regular Meeting. Councilor Ray moved to approve the March 28, 2023, Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Silver City. Councilor Farmer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7. PUBLIC INPUT – Mick Smith stated she had various Silver Topics, Ms. Smith said good bye to Councilor Farmer and asked when the Council is searching for a replacement if the person could be a parent of young children or at least having a child in the Silver School system and a mother. Ms. Smith had a concern about the Silver Consolidated Schools will be allowing the security guards to carry a gun on campus. She stated that there are numerous studies showing carrying a gun to school does not reduce school shootings or even improve school safety. That is not the answer, guns do not protect people from guns. Appropriate housing, health care, mental health services and a safe community protect children in our school system. Ms. Smith asked if the Council could look into her concern. Ms. Smith stated she read some serious comments in the editorials in the paper about people speaking in regards to the trail from Silver Heights to Little Walnut being proposed in District One (1) that have been very offensive and crazy accusations about back-end deals between people. She feels that not only residents that live in the area should be informed, but the residents in the surrounding block should be as well. She has attended the Trails and Open Space meetings and they are open to the public and encourages people to attend the meeting to be informed. Ms. Smith stated she heard at the last Toss No Mas that between Gough Park and the Century Link building there was a lot of glass. She advised she works near the location and there is a lot of glass and there are not trash cans. Ms. Smith suggests to place two trash cans near the Community Garden to help alleviate the glass issue.

8. REPORTS:

A. Staff: Senator Siah Correa-Hemphill and Representative Louis Terrazas gave a brief summary on the 2023 Legislative Session stating a nine and a half billion (9.5) dollar budget which a lot of the funding will be going to agencies that have not adequately being funded. Almost twelve million (12,000,000) dollars be directed to Grant County. For the Town of Silver City she has appropriated three hundred fifty thousand (350,000) dollars for the construction of the new City Hall and seventy five thousand (75,000) to the Solid Waste Authority for purchasing a backhoe. Two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) to Gila Regional Medical Center for telecommunication equipment and three hundred and fifty thousand (350,000) for Tu Casa for Crisis Intervention. She provided one hundred thousand (100,000) in Junior Moneys for Healthy Fresh Food to pantries and schools to help support the farmers and ranchers provided local fresh foods. Senator Correa-Hemphill stated she sponsored and co-sponsored many other bills.

B. Manager: Alex Brown stated:

- 1. Update Recreation Center** – The draft contract has been received from CMAR Mr. Reynolds will be reviewing he contract. They are already working with the architects to discuss preliminary costs.
- 2. Update on Transition to City Hall Annex Building** – Mr. Brown thanked Senator Correa-Hemphill for the three hundred fifty thousand (350,000) which will bring it up to seven hundred thousand (700,000) for the roof and HVAC systems.
- 3. Update on current and proposed Swimming Pool** – Public meetings will start on the April 26th and 27th
- 4. Update on Scott Park Golf Course** – With the weather improving there is more activity at the golf course.

5. Update on Little Walnut – A manhole needed work done, and right-of-way acquisition has begun by the contractor.

6. Update on Regional Water Project – A colonias Grant has been submitted to the Finance Authority. The hearings will be on April 26th and 27th in Cloudcroft, Mr. Brown will be attending the meetings to request a waiver and for the Regional Water application as well as one point five million (1.5) for Little Walnut and two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) for planning and design for sewer lines under the Highway 90 Bridge that needs to be rerouted.

7. Update on 32nd St. Project – Is out for bid and scheduled for the next Council meeting to award and hopefully start construction at the end of May.

Mayor Ladner asked if there were any questions from Council? Councilor Prince asked if the contents of the meetings on April 26th and 27th still looking for feasibility? Mr. Brown stated they will be looking at possibilities, options and opportunities. Councilor Prince asked about the sewer lines under the Highway 90 Bridge if the project will help alleviate the issue of sewer and drainage? Mr. Brown stated the reason is to access the sewer main in case of backup.

Mr. Brown also gave an update on the budget; the water and sewer is a concern for him. The water and sewer fund will be short, there has not been a rate increase. The ARPA funds will be used to cover the loss. A solution for the sanitation fund is rather than a rate increase they will stop picking up the trash from the green bins which was for recycling and people are using them for trash. Other issues are the grant match for the 32nd Street and Little Walnut projects and the cost of insurance, since the New Mexico Self Insurance has dropped our account and the new insurance will have a substantial premium increase.

Mayor Ladner asked Mr. Brown about the conversion of the online billing new software. Mr. Brown stated the old server is no longer being maintained and we have moved to a cloud-based service. The new window based will allow the online bill pay in the future and hope by the end of the calendar year have all the services online.

Representative Louis Terrazas stated he worked on some Capital Outlay projects with Senator Correa-Hemphill and he had thirty-four (34) of his own bills with one (1) being vetoed. The allocation of money from his junior fund was the money for the Golf Course to fix the irrigation issues. Representative Terrazas stated he worked on a joint memorial with Senator Correa-Hemphill to restore Fort Bayard for tourism and economic development. Representative Terrazas supported the budget of one hundred million (100,000,000) dollars for Public Safety throughout the state. Representative Terrazas spoke about several other bills he sponsored and co-sponsored and supported.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

10. WORK SESSION AGENDA: Approval / Disapproval of Work Session Topics

A. Direction the Town Government is headed

B. The relationship between the Town and the business community (businesses other than those in the historic district, specifically).

C. What needs have we heard from our committees?

D. Is there anything on the upcoming agenda that needs to be discussed?

E. Other issues which may be introduced by the Council. Councilor Farmer Motioned to bring forth the names for the Committee for hiring of a Town Manager and further discussion of hiring a Town Manager.

for hiring of a Town Manager and further discussion of hiring a Town Manager. Councilor Ray seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Mayor Ladner stated that on every Work Session agenda the same topics are presented, he asked if it is the intent of the Council to continue to have the items on the agenda?

Councilor Prince stated he would like to discuss the direction the Town Government is headed. Councilor Prince motioned to add item A. Direction the Town Government is headed to the April 25th Work Session agenda. Councilor Farmer seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

12. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approve / Disapproval of a Special Dispenser Permit: for the Blues Festival and waiver of NMSA 1978 60-6B-10 for alcohol service near a church for May 27, 2023, with alcohol served from 11:00 am to 8:30 pm at 1201 N. Pope Street, Silver City, New Mexico. Liquor License Holder: 1) Q's Southern Bistro, License #28098, 101 E. College Ave., Silver City, NM 88061. Anthony Quintana stated he is teaming up with MRAC for the Blues Festival and Little Toad Creek to have a Beer Garden for one (1) day and hoping to increase to three (3) days in the future. Mayor Ladner asked if there were any questions? Councilor Prince stated the license 385483 for Harry O'Callaghan will be expiring on May 22, 2023. Mr. Quintana stated if he did not renew his license he would not be serving at the event. Councilor Ray moved to approve a **Special Dispenser Permit: for the Blues Festival and waiver of NMSA 1978 60-6B-10 for alcohol service near a church for May 27, 2023, with alcohol served from 11:00 am to 8:30 pm at 1201 N. Pope Street, Silver City, New Mexico. Liquor License Holder: 1) Q's Southern Bistro, License #28098, 101 E. College Ave., Silver City, NM 88061.**

Councilor Farmer seconded the motion. Mayor Ladner asked if there were any questions or comments? Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approve / Disapproval of a Special Dispenser Permit: for the Blues Festival and waiver of NMSA 1978 60-6B-10 for alcohol service near a church for May 27, 2023, with alcohol served from 11:00 am to 8:30 pm at 1201 N. Pope Street, Silver City, New Mexico. Liquor License Holder: 1) Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, License #67085, 203 S. Mill Road, Silver City, NM 88061. Kristen Warnack stated they are working to make another successful and stronger Blues Festival. Stephen Lindsey updated the Council with the safety and security protocol that have been put in place. There will be a security fence around the park, working with the Town Police Department supporting the event as well as privately hired security officers and trained volunteer staff. Security and safety will be their main concern for the event. Last year there was some accessibility issues and they are going to be focusing on wheelchair and handicap personnel making sure the event is accessible to all. Health Safety measure will also be in place for first aide response onsite as well as hydration stations to make sure people are properly hydrated for the event. Mayor Ladner asked if there were any questions? Councilor Prince asked if there will be a list of names for the Park Security Officers? Mr. Lindsey stated the security officers are from the Western New Mexico University Campus Police. As soon as Eddie Flores, the main chief officer gets the names to him, he will provide a list. Councilor Ray moved to approve **Special Dispenser Permit: for the Blues Festival and waiver of NMSA 1978 60-6B-10 for alcohol service near a church for May 27, 2023, with alcohol served from 11:00 am to 8:30 pm at 1201 N. Pope Street, Silver City, New Mexico. Liquor License Holder: 1)**

Little Toad Creek Brewery and Distillery, License #67085, 203 S. Mill Road, Silver City, NM 88061. Councilor Farmer seconded the motion. Mayor Ladner asked if there were any questions or comments? Motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval / Disapproval of Notice of Intent Ordinance 1317: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 1270, PERTAINING TO THE ADOPTION OF THE AGMECHTRONIX, LLC MANUFACTURING FACILITY AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. James Marshall stated Ordinance 1317 will be repealing Ordinance 1270 which was an Ordinance that was put in place to allow the Town to be a conduit for Economic Development funding that Agmechtronix applied for and were qualified by the Economic Development Department. As part of their requirements, they were required to meet certain employment levels and maintain them and report the quarterly to the Workforce Solution Department. All requirements have been met. The new Ordinance will eliminate the partnership and the agreements that were put in place which will release the mortgage on their property. This is a huge success for the community of another manufacturer that has been successful. Mayor Ladner asked if there were any questions or comments from the Council? Councilor Ray motioned to approve of **Notice of Intent Ordinance 1317: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 1270, PERTAINING TO THE ADOPTION OF THE AGMECHTRONIX, LLC MANUFACTURING FACILITY AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.** Councilor Farmer 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; and Councilor Ray voted aye. Councilor Cano was absent. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Appointment to the Municipal Museum Community Advisory Group - Mayor Ladner stated George Carr has applied for the Municipal Museum Community Advisory Group. He has reviewed the application and believed she is very qualified. The Director of the Museum Bart Roselli recommended Mr. Carr as well. Mayor Ladner asked if there were any objections from the Council, seeing none Mayor Ladner appointed George Carr to the Municipal Museum Community Advisory Group.

13. ADJOURNMENT - Mayor Ladner stated this concluded the business of the Town of Silver City Town Council. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Ken Ladner, Mayor

Attest:

Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk