

**TOWN OF SILVER CITY**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**GRANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 1400 HWY. 180 E., SILVER CITY, NM**  
**May 23, 2023, 5:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:**

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

**Others present:**

Alex Brown, Town Manager  
Jim Reynolds, Town Attorney  
Tina Sublasky, Personnel Director  
Freddie Portillo, Chief of Police

**1. CALL TO ORDER** - Mayor Ladner called meeting to order at 5:00 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. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Mayor Ladner asked for a motion for approval of agenda. Councilor Bencomo motioned approval of Work Session agenda. Councilor Ray seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Regular Work Session Meeting on April 25, 2023. Councilor Prince moved to approve the April 25, 2023, Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Silver City. Councilor Ray seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. DISCUSSION:**

**A. Continue the conversation about the Town Manager position and speak about the search committee, also, to start working on the list of names for the job description committee.** Councilor Cano stated the names from Councilor Prince and Councilor Bencomo needed to be given to complete the five (5) names for each Councilor and Mayor. The list will be between twelve (12) to fifteen (15) people so some names will be dropped.

Councilor Prince presented four (4) names, Alicia Montoya, Mattie Eagle, Dr. Barbara Mora and Dr. Twana Sparks. Councilor Prince stated he would let the Council know later of his fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) name.

Mayor Ladner asked Councilor Prince if he had absolute commitment from the individuals he named? Councilor Prince advised he hoped they would heed the call, but no, he did not have absolute commitment.

Councilor Bencomo presented his five (5) names, Priscilla Lucero, William Hawkins, Rudy Jacquez, Mike Starr and Jon Saari. Councilor Bencomo stated Mr. Saari was waiting for approval from State Farm if he is able to serve, but the four names he has given are committed.

Councilor Cano didn't feel they should wait another month for the final names. She also asked Councilor Prince who was the representative from his district, it was decided that there would be one representative from each district and the names did not have to be at large. Her representative was Jack Howell. Councilor Cano asked each Councilor who was their District Representative?

Councilor Bencomo stated his representative was Priscilla Lucero, Councilor Ray stated Wendy Phillips. Councilor Prince stated he would add his fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) name and representative would be previous Councilor Linda Aiman-Smith. Mayor Ladner stated he would like to have Susie Trujillo as his representative.

Councilor Cano stated the names were already a great group of people, she asked if the Council wanted to have up to twelve (12) or two (2) each from each Councilor's list of names which would be a committee of ten (10), having more than ten (10) she feels more people on a committee the less gets done. She thinks if one (1) more name from each Councilors list of names would be a great group of people.

Councilor Prince stated city government has integrated Microsoft Teams as a communication platform would simplify the process regardless the number of people in the group because some of them work and all the needs, concerns and all of the voices could be heard.

Councilor Cano asked if he wanted all twenty-five (25) on the committee, she feels that is a lot. Councilor Prince stated five (5) from each district all talk to each other about the different needs from their districts and if they all wanted to meet, the Convention Center would be able to provide the room for all twenty-five (25).

Councilor Cano stated this was the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) month they have been discussing the issue and she does not think they have to wait much longer to get time commitments. Each Councilor knew what the time commitments were and if we continue to keep pushing it, we will be in July and we are still not going to know anything. Councilor Cano advised she would like to have the Committee firmed up at the next Works Session and voted on at the next regular Council meeting Works Session and voted on at the next regular Council meeting. Councilor Prince stated the information could be given to the Town Clerk to publish seventy-two (72) hours before the next Regular Town Council Meeting.

Mayor Ladner stated how ever the committee is constructed, it would be a good cross section of our community. Councilor Cano asked for a five (5) minute recess.

Councilor Bencomo asked Councilor Cano if she thought the twenty-five (25) member committee was too much? Councilor Cano stated she has never seen a committee of twenty-five (25) get much accomplished, but if the meeting will be done by email and not actual meetings, it might work out. Mayor Ladner stated there might not be twenty-five (25) people one (1) of his might not be able to serve or someone else's members might not be able to serve as well. Councilor Prince stated for this the committee is going to make the job description going to be what most of the committee leaders feels comfortable with while they move through the process of transitioning that everyone has the opportunity to be able to have input.

Councilor Ray asked Councilor Cano about having three (3) individuals from each of the five (5) names that were given, Councilor Cano stated that was what she thought it was going to be and she would be okay with it. Councilor Bencomo agreed with only having three (3). Councilor Cano stated by the first meeting in June everyone should have their three (3) names to complete the list for the job description committee.

Mayor Ladner stated he had spoken to Town Manager Alex Brown about his experience being on hiring committees. Alex Brown spoke on a few ways he has been involved on the hiring committees and suggested once the job description committee is done, he could start looking for ways to proceed a hiring committee or a Consultant Group that does the vetting and recommending of a candidate. Councilor Cano stated she would also like to see an outside firm help with the recruiting. She feels it would be good for the community so the public would not think that any one (1) group has all their hands in the decision.

Councilor Bencomo asked Alex Brown if he has had any knowledge of other Municipalities hiring City Managers in New Mexico. Mr. Brown stated the ones he has been involved with were with smaller communities that did not have the resources to hire a Consulting Firm with the exemption of one who did hire a Consulting Firm and the Firm pretty much shoved the candidate down their throats which he did not like. Mr. Brown feels by hiring a Consulting Firm with a proven background is a good idea because

they can do all the research for you so the committee and the Council have the resources and tools to make the right and best choice.

**B. Is there anything on the upcoming agenda that needs to be discussed.** Councilor Bencomo asked if the question referred to the Work Session agenda or the Council Meeting agenda. Councilor Prince stated that it gives them the opportunity to have a less formal discussion if there are any questions representing any concerns on any of the upcoming agenda items. Councilor Bencomo stated he noticed there were five (5) or six (6) people who are applying to be on the Trails Committee and was wondering if Mayor Ladner was going to appoint all the candidates or just a few. Mayor Ladner stated he was going to appoint all the candidates for various reasons.

Mayor Ladner asked if there any more comments?

Councilor Prince stated in his e-Packet for the upcoming Council Meeting he did not see any information regarding the 2023 Budget. Alex Brown stated the holdup with the budget is due to the insurance. He is hoping to have the information by the following week.

**5. MAYORS COMMENTS - NONE**

**6. ADJOURNEMENT** – Mayor Ladner stated this concluded the items on the agenda. Mayor Ladner asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilor Prince moved to adjourn. Councilor Ray seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

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**Ken Ladner, Mayor**

**Attest:**

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**Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk**