

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY
STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION AND BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Grant County Administration Center, 1400 Hwy 180, Silver City, NM

April 23, 2010 – 3:30 P.M.

Present: James R. Marshall
Cynthia A. Bettison, District 1
Jamie K. Thomson, District 2
Simon Wheaton-Smith, District 3
Michael S. Morones, District 4

Also Present: Alex C. Brown, Town Manager-Finance Director
Yolanda C. Holguin, Acting Town Clerk
Peter Pena, Public Works Director
Robert Esqueda, Utilities Director
Edward D. Reynolds, Police Chief

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Marshall called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

DISCUSSION TO INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING: GOALS FOR THE FUTURE AND THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011 – Manager Brown explained the budget process, the time frame, and the funds he would be focusing on. He stated that the General, Water/Sewer and Sanitation Fund were the largest operational and infrastructure funds that were paid from. He talked about specific funds i.e. the Lennie M. Forward Fund; general information on revenues; debt service; the economy down turn that started in May and June of 2009; using month to month projections; gross receipts tax (GRT) and the distribution of them; the possibility of re-evaluating the budget; trades over the years; the \$7.8 million projected budget for Fiscal Year 2011 from GRT and distribution of them; being conservative; having to cut back; status on the Sanitation and Water/Sewer funds; cutting back in services; hiring freeze except in police and fire; projected balances and decreases; comparison of the number of full-time employees and decrease in revenues; filling the Museum and Library Directors positions; water/sewer rates covering sewer and wastewater treatment plant operational costs; area of benefits that the debt service provided; 0% increase in operation in all departments; needed transfers; 27 pay periods approximately every six to eight years; and the 1/12% reserve in the General Fund. Manager Brown continued talking about the possible purchase of a flat bed and side loader without raising rates; the ending and beginning cash balances of Water/Sewer and Sanitation; the \$600,000 yearly electric cost of Water/Sewer; the possible repeal of the hold harmless clause and its' effect; the Town's implementation of efficiencies; operation and maintenance of Penny Park and Skate Park; the Park Division schedule and being short by four staff; debt service opportunity to do greater things in the Town; positioning the Town if and when the economy turns around; looking at refinancing the debt service at the same rates and using the savings to issue debt to plan and design a park and recreation project; how big infrastructure resources for funding were for water/sewer and street and drainage projects; and amending the procurement code. Manager Brown asked for direction from the Council and addressed their questions. Mayor Marshall pointed out the top large Town departments.

Cindy Neely, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board, discussed the Board's worthy project list; working on projects under \$12,000 when funds became available; the re-roofing of the pool building; the work that had already been done on the filtration system and boiler at the pool; the tile mural project and cost to seal the entry walls at Penny Park; the partnership of the tennis association and how the schools were to work with the youth; needed repair of the tennis courts; the Town's trail project that connected to the Big Ditch; the importance of networking and communicating; being appreciative of volunteer help from Town boards and committees; and thanked the Board for their work and Manager Brown for working with them.

The Council discussed strategic planning as an on-going process; invited Town boards and committees to participate in the strategic planning process in order to hear their plans and designs; guidance on Town priorities; systems that operate the Town and how were they working; the Downtown Plan; short and long term strategy and projects; the Town's Comprehensive Plan and the Council's position and duty; noise complaints; resources to commit to the quality of life issues; downtown parking issues; the community enforcement officer job position; departmental plans and goals; asking Town committees and boards for their goals; amending the Town's procurement code reference preference to local bidders; not wanting to increase taxes; revenues coming back into the Town; being more assertive with those that do not comply with Town ordinances; draft of the Town's new vision statement; ways of hearing from the public and community; up-grading the Town's website; being careful on how much data was collected; how the

citizens own the Town; Penny Park; and how the Councilors were to submit a date and time for a four hour strategic planning session.

ADJOURNMENT – Councilor Wheaton-Smith made a motion to adjourn at 4:57 pm. Councilor Bettison seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

/s/

James R. Marshall, Mayor

Attest:

/s/

Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk