

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Grant County Administration Center, 1400 Hwy 180, Silver City, NM
May 8, 2012, 6:00 P.M.**

Present:

James R. Marshall, Mayor
Cynthia A. Bettison, District 1
Pauline N. Hassler-Cook, District 2
Jose A. Ray, Jr., District 3
Michael S. Morones, District 4

Also Present:

Alex C. Brown, Town Manager-Finance Director
Robert L. Scavron, Town Attorney
Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Silver City Fire Department Color Guard presented the colors and led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilor Ray read the Town’s Mission Statement.

2. CEREMONIES – None.

3. PROCLAMATIONS - None.

4. PUBLIC INPUT – Lori Ford, Executive Director of CATS (Cable Access Television of Silver) and KOOT Radio, commented that May was their membership drive month, and provided information on their annual rates and classes that were offered to the community. Anthony Quintana commented on the special community events held by his restaurant, Q's Southern Bistro, to gather the community downtown, and he apologized to the Town Council and citizens concerning recent complaints about the music, language, and noise ordinance violations. He stated they would make corrections and take responsibility for any errors.

5. COUNCIL COMMENTS – The Council commented on the following: how it was good news that the construction on Penny Park had begun; thanks were given to Mr. Quintana for his apology that was given during public input; thanks were given to the Silver City Fire Department Color Guard; how the Tour of the Gila bike race was a success and the inconveniences were overpowered by the events and entertainment; an update by the Town Manager on the baseball fields, the Golf Course Clubhouse, the Parks' Maintenance Building, and the tennis courts; and thanks were given to the Copper Little League in Bayard for sharing their fields with the Silver City Little League.

6. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None.

7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Regular Meeting, April 24, 2012 - Councilor Bettison moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 24, 2012 as presented. Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor Marshall stated there was a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 24, 2012. He asked if there was any discussion, and there was none. He asked all those in favor to say aye, and all 4 Councilors voted aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

8. REPORTS –

A. Presentation of a survey that identifies the needs of the youth by students from Western New Mexico University's Community Leadership Class. Dr. Trinidad U. Tolar thanked the Council for allowing them the opportunity, and 4 students from the Western New Mexico University's Community Leadership Class presented the details of a survey that analyzed the needs of the youth of the community. They stated it was in the preliminary stages and was an ongoing project. There was further discussion. Mayor Marshall and Councilor Bettison offered to assist them with the project.

Manager Brown reported that the College Avenue road construction project would have to be torn up again because the new asphalt was not installed correctly, and he said the new replacement well for the Gabby Hayes Well was tested and would pump 1,100 to 1,500 gallons per minute which was doubled the pumping capacity. Police Chief Reynolds reported on traffic control devices; how there were 25 percent less traffic crashes in April; and police staffing issues. Fire Chief Bencomo thanked the Council for allowing the Fire Department Color Guard to present the colors and stated the Color Guard had been in place for 25 years. There was further discussion about the current fire risks, how a recent 2 acre fire in Tyrone was knocked out, and how burn permits were not being issued.

Councilor Bettison moved for a short break at 6:55 p.m. Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor Marshall stated there was a motion and a second to take a short break. He asked all those in favor to say aye, and all 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if there were any opposed, and there were none. Motion carried. Mayor Marshall called the meeting back to order at 7: 10 p.m.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None.

11. NEW BUSINESS -

A. Budget presentation by Alex C. Brown, Town Manager-Finance Director, and request for Council's direction. Mayor Marshall began by recognizing and congratulating Linda Flores, Deputy Finance Director, for receiving the Employee of the Month award. Manager Brown presented the details of the Water/Sewer Fund, the Sanitation Fund, and the Debt Service Fund. He said they were trying to keep expenditures close to where they were the previous year, but the Water/Sewer Fund had an issue because they pumped less water and billed \$400,000 less for water than the previous year. He said to keep the expenditures and services at the current levels that he would have to request an increase of 3 percent in the water rates. There was further discussion. Manager Brown reviewed the Sanitation Fund and said there was an automatic 3 percent rate increase included in the ordinance. There was further discussion. He reviewed the details of the Debt Service Fund that included 4 loans. He stated that he was currently working on the General Fund that provided the majority of services, and how he was working to keep staffing levels at their current levels, but may increase the Finance Department with 1 accounting technician and also increase staffing a little for Animal Control. He said they wanted to do smaller projects that would cost less, i.e., remodel and upgrade some parks; meet the ADA requirements at the swimming pool and look at the decking; continued maintenance; and look at the Museum's roof. He said the Lodgers Tax budget was \$225,000. Mayor Marshall said they should service the concerns of animal control issues, roads, and the Recreation Center. There was further discussion.

Councilor Bettison moved to go into Executive Session per N.M.S.A. 1978 Section 10-15-1(H) (8) for the discussion of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights. Councilor Morones seconded. Mayor Marshall stated there was a motion and a second to go into **Executive Session per N.M.S.A. 1978 Section 10-15-1(H) (8)** for the discussion of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights. He asked for a roll call vote and Councilor Bettison voted aye; Councilor Cook voted aye; Councilor Ray voted aye; and Councilor Morones voted aye. Mayor Marshall asked if any were opposed, and there were none. The motion carried and the Council went into Executive Session at 7:48 p.m. Mayor Marshall called the meeting back to order at 9:05 p.m. and stated the matters discussed in the closed meeting were limited only to those specified in the motion for closure, and he asked for a roll call vote. Councilor Bettison voted aye; Councilor Cook voted aye; Councilor Ray voted aye; and Councilor Morones voted aye. Mayor Marshall asked if any were opposed, and there were none. The motion carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Marshall asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilor Bettison moved to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Councilor Cook seconded. Mayor Marshall stated there was a motion and a second to adjourn. He asked all those in favor to say aye, and all 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if there were any opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

Attest:

_____/s/
Yolanda C. Holguin, Acting Town Clerk

_____/s/
James R. Marshall, Mayor