

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Grant County Administration Center, 1400 Hwy 180, Silver City, NM
August 12, 2014, 6:00 p.m.**

Present:

Michael Shawn Morones, Mayor
Cynthia Ann Bettison, District 1
Lynda D. Aiman-Smith, District 2
Jose A. Ray, Jr., District 3
Guadalupe Cano, District 4

Also Present:

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

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Mayor Morones called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- 2. CEREMONIES** – None.
- 3. PROCLAMATIONS** – None.
- 4. PUBLIC INPUT** – Lee Gruber, Executive Director of the Silver City CLAY Festival, provided a follow-up on the CLAY Festival, and she read a letter that thanked everybody for their gracious, open hospitality, and friendships that was written by Patrick Crabb, a professor of ceramics at the University of California that taught a workshop at Western New Mexico University during the CLAY Festival. She said they tripled the number of people that came in 2013 and that 46 people came on Tuesday and stayed until Sunday. Dr. Art Martinez, retired university professor, commented on the recent tax that was passed on July 10 by the County Commissioners, and he said that he objected that they worked in the background, etc. He also commented that he agreed with the Town's position on the airline and that the community flew to Albuquerque by and large so it made sense. He commented on the hold harmless subsidies and said he hoped the Town would hold the taxpayers harmless. Lucy Whitmarsh, President of the Board of the Silver City MainStreet Project, commented on the upcoming 4th Bash on Broadway event that would be held on August 16th to welcome students from Western New Mexico University and their parents. She also commented on the Taste of Downtown event that would be held on September 6th and how people could get samples from different restaurants to experience the local food culture and enjoy music and other activities.
- 5. COUNCIL COMMENTS** – Councilor Bettison commented on the current chip seal project and encouraged folks to drive slowly on the fresh gravel to avoid windshield damage, and to stop at stop signs. Councilor Aiman-Smith thanked the folks and a reporter that went to her first Conversation with a Councilor meeting that was held on July 28th, and she stated she planned to do it every 3 or 4 months. Councilor Ray commented on the Hudson Street Bridge; how Cooper Street needed some sort of barriers like at the Skate Park because there were houses that were lower than the street; and how the Fire Department should have a substation since the Hudson Street Bridge would be worked on for about a year and the traffic on Cooper Street would be rough. Councilor Cano commented on a recent Volunteer Center event that she attended; how the work that Alicia Edwards and her staff and volunteers were doing at the Volunteer Center was incredible and she described their work, etc. Mayor Morones said the next Council meeting would be held on Wednesday, August 20th at 6:00 p.m. in the same building, and that it had been changed because 4 members of the Council were going to the New Mexico Municipal League's Annual Conference out of town.
- 6. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA** – None.
- 7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – Regular Meeting on July 22, 2014** - Councilor Bettison moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 22, 2014. Councilor Aiman-Smith seconded. Mayor Morones stated there was a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 22, 2014. He asked if there was any discussion, and there was none. He asked all those in favor to say aye, and all 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

8. REPORTS –

A. Staff reports. Manager Brown said the chip seal project was almost delayed because of rain, but they finished that day. He said they would be sweeping the streets on August 13th, then on the 24th they would do the fog seal to seal any loose chips and then the streets would be better than before.

Mayor Morones asked Gary Stailey from the audience to talk about his new position. Mr. Staley said he was a retired Chief Juvenile Probation Officer and had recently been lured back into the system to work with the Sixth Judicial Court of Grant County. He said his assignment and role would be to do community bridge building between the youth and the community. He said he received positive responses from people that he met from various municipalities, including Manager Brown, on how the Town could partner with Juvenile Probation, and other youth organizations in the community to beautify and make the community more safe, but also to build skills within the youth. He said surveys indicated that they did not have a very skilled work force in the up and coming generation so that was one of the goals they were working towards. He said they already identified some areas where they could help the youth partner with the Town to do some things that Manager Brown had wanted to do for years, but did not have the manpower to do them. He said they could provide some of that manpower, and that he looked forward to a great working relationship with the Town.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS -

A. Approval / Disapproval of Bid #14/15-1: Silco Interior Renovations. Manager Brown said at the last Council meeting he had asked for the bid to be postponed so they could look for additional funding. He said they had identified additional funding sources, but there was no funding committed to the project yet. He said there was a portion of the project that they could do with historical preservation funding, but there was a deadline for the funds to be spent. He requested that all bids be rejected because of the lack of funding to award the entire bid, and that they would go out for written proposals to move forward with the small portion, and continue to work towards finding funding for the entire project. Manager Brown answered questions from the Council. Mayor Morones asked if there were any comments from the public. Mike Roberts, owner of Havens Construction, said he had been the successful bidder twice and he questioned why the Town did not allow them to negotiate the contract. Manager Brown said they could only negotiate within 10% of the available funding, and the bid was above 10% of what was available for the project. He said because the Town was Home Ruled they wrote their own procurement code, but in most cases, such as this one, they followed the state statute. There was further discussion by the Council, Manager Brown, and Lucy Whitmarsh, President of the Board of the Silver City MainStreet Project. Councilor Bettison moved to reject Bid #14/15-1: Silco Interior Renovations. Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor Morones said they had a motion and a second to reject Bid #14/15-1: Silco Interior Renovations. He asked if there was further discussion, and there was none. He repeated the motion and asked all those in favor to say aye, and all 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

11. NEW BUSINESS –

A. Approval / Disapproval of an Agreement between the Town of Silver City and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Council No. 18, Local No. 3370, from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. Manager Brown said the Agreement expired on June 30th and that they negotiated a 1-year renewal with some minor changes that were approved by the union. He discussed the changes: issues with sick leave where there were some abuses and the overtime meals. He said he told the union that there were no funds available for increases so if they wanted to change things in the Agreement that were financial, then they would have to give up something to get something. He said they gave up their overtime meals and in exchange they added \$10 per quarter to their longevity pay which spread to a broader spectrum of employees within the union. He said there was also a 1-year extension to June 30, 2015. There were no questions from the Council. Councilor Ray moved to approve an Agreement between the Town of Silver City and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Council No. 18, Local No. 3370, from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. Councilor Bettison seconded. Mayor Morones said there was a motion and a second for the approval of an Agreement between the Town of Silver City and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Council No. 18, Local No. 3370, from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. He asked if there was further discussion, and there was none. He said there was a motion and a second as

previously read, and asked all those in favor to say aye. All 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

B. Approval / Disapproval of the Selection of a Voting Delegate and Alternate to vote at the New Mexico Municipal League's Annual Conference. Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to select as voting delegate, Michael Morones, and as alternate to vote at the New Mexico Municipal League, Cynthia Bettison, during the Annual Conference. Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor Morones said they had a motion and a second to select Michael Morones as the voting delegate and Councilor Cynthia Bettison as the alternate to vote at the New Mexico Municipal League's Annual Conference. He asked if there was any discussion or nominations, and there were none. Councilor Bettison encouraged the other members of the Council to sit behind the voting delegates and listen to the business meeting's discussions and presentations by the different individuals that were running for a Municipal League office, and to see how the New Mexico Municipal League worked. Mayor Morones repeated the motion and asked all those in favor to say aye. All 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Morones asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilor Bettison moved to adjourn at 6:35 p.m., and Councilor Aiman-Smith seconded. Mayor Morones 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.

/s/

Michael S. Morones, Mayor

Attest:

/s/

Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk