

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Grant County Administration Center, 1400 Hwy 180, Silver City, NM
January 13, 2015, 6:00 p.m.**

Present:

Michael S. 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:

James R. Marshall, Assistant Town Manager
Robert L. Scavron, Town Attorney
Eileen Sullivan, Library Board Director
Ed Reynolds, Police Chief
Peter Pena, Public Works Director
Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Mayor Morones called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- 2. CEREMONIES** – None.
- 3. PROCLAMATIONS** – None.
- 4. PUBLIC INPUT** – Raul Turrieta, Grant County Assessor, stated he had been in the assessment process for the past 35 years. He stated that he mailed out the rendition forms that had to do with personal property, livestock, grazing, etc. He discussed tax exemptions for veterans and provided information on how valuations could be frozen for persons that were 65 years and older. He also discussed the issues and reasons for a backlog of deeds that still needed to be processed in their Mapping/Planning Department, and he asked for everybody's patience concerning that matter.
- 5. COUNCIL COMMENTS** – The Council commented on the following: the concern in District 1 about the recent burglaries and how Neighborhood Watch programs could be developed with Police Chief Reynolds; traffic issues at the intersection of Silver Heights Boulevard and South Swan Street; an upcoming open forum for citizens' concerns called "Conversations with a Councilor" with Councilor Bettison and special guests on January 22, 2015; how during rough winter weather dogs should be brought inside and fed food and water that was not frozen; how the Town's Public Works Department would pick up yard waste if needed; gratitude for the engaged and informed citizens that served on the Town's committees and boards, and to volunteers and people doing good work in the community; how the Library needed trainers for their Digital Literacy Training Program; how citizens were grateful that the Sanitation Department was putting the recycling bins in front of their houses instead of tossing the bins; information on the upcoming school board elections that would be held on February 3, 2015; how Councilor Cano visited with the Silver High journalism class and she thanked their teacher, Mrs. Weeks; how people were grateful to the Silver City Police Department, Chief Reynolds, and the detectives for being so proactive, responsive, and visible during the burglary incidents and investigations; and people were encouraged to participate and volunteer to help Silver City move forward because there was a small group of people in the community that did a tremendous amount of volunteer work which frustrated some residents because there was a singular focus on many charitable events and activities.
- 6. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA** – None.
- 7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – **Regular Meeting on December 9, 2014** - Councilor Bettison moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting of December 9, 2014. Councilor Aiman-Smith seconded. Mayor Morones stated there was a motion and a second for approval of the minutes for the Regular Meeting of December 9, 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. Eileen Sullivan, Library Director, reported on the Digital Literacy Project that the Library had offered since July 2014 for free technology training through a grant they received from the Freeport McMoRan

Community Investment Fund that supplied the technology needed for the project. She said it had been a very broad partnership and she recognized the partners involved and named the Bayard Public Library, Western New Mexico University Adult Education Services, New Mexico Small Business Development Center, New Mexico Workforce Solutions, Literacy Link, and the Silver City Arts and Cultural District. She provided further details and stated almost 400 people had attended the workshops. She discussed the "Trainer Training Workshops" and said it was about having sustainability for the project to build capacity for technology training in Silver City, and she asked for people to participate as volunteer trainers. She also recognized Library employee, Lillian Galloway, for coordinating the project and for being on the front line to organize their partners and for getting everything scheduled.

Clerk Mackie reported on the upcoming Municipal Election to be held on March 3, 2015 and provided the names of the certified candidates: Councilor in District 1 certified candidates were Cynthia Ann Bettison and Ronald G. Perez, and Councilor in District 3 certified candidate was Jose A. Ray, Jr. She stated there were no write-in candidates filed on that date. She provided other election information and also reported on the openings on Town boards and committees.

Police Chief Reynolds reported on the recent burglaries and stated from December 20 to 28, 2014 there were 11 burglaries in Silver City, and that 6 burglaries happened between Silver Heights Boulevard up to 25th Street and from Juniper Street and Main Street over to Swan Street. He said the officers were very successful in impacting those burglaries and they recovered a number of stolen items from a number of different burglaries. He said the burglaries were committed by 1 to 2 individuals, and that charges had already been filed against one of those individuals. He said they expected to file more charges as a result of the good and hard work of the Field Services and Investigative Unit of the Silver City Police Department. He said they had been very successful in reducing the number of burglaries and stated in 2013 they had 201 burglaries reported in Silver City, but it was reduced to 149 burglaries in 2014. He also commented that persons interested in developing a Neighborhood Watch program should contact him. He said the first meeting would be an organizational meeting to determine goals and the benefits of having a Neighborhood Watch program, etc. He commented that the term robbery was often used incorrectly and he defined what a robbery was and what a burglary was. Mayor Morones added that there was a lot of misinformation created through some of the media sources so he was glad that Police Chief Reynolds brought up some points because they wanted to make sure that the public was aware of what was going on.

Assistant Town Manager Marshall stated the Town was working on a multitude of projects and he described how he and Police Chief Reynolds visited with a local businessman that spoke at the previous Council meeting, and how he was working with Gary Stailey with Juvenile Probation with some very innovative ways to improve the Town as well as their children. He reviewed a list of some of the legislative bills that would have a direct impact on some of the Town operations or Town priorities. He said there could be close to 1,000 bills with a 60 day legislative session, and they would do their best to track the bills and make sure Silver City was represented throughout the session by working in partnership with all of the Council. Councilor Bettison asked if any of the constitutional amendments would impact municipal revenues or the constitutional provisions so if anything that was bonded was covered. He said not at that time with the exception of economic development because there was a constitutional amendment recommended for economic development incentives in that any issued by the State would have a 10 year sunset forever so every 10 years there would have to be some sort of action to continue it or it would go away.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

11. NEW BUSINESS –

A. Approval / Disapproval of Resolution No. 2015-01: Open Meetings. Clerk Mackie presented Resolution No. 2015-01 and stated it was the annual resolution for Open Meetings. Councilor Bettison moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-01 Open Meetings. Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor Morones said there was a motion and a second for the approval of Resolution No. 2015-01 Open Meetings. There was further discussion by Councilor Bettison and Councilor Aiman-Smith. Mayor Morones asked for a roll call vote. Councilor Bettison voted aye; Councilor Aiman-Smith voted aye; Councilor Ray voted aye; and Councilor Cano voted aye. Motion carried.

B. Approval / Disapproval of Bid #14/15-3: Scott Park Concession. Peter Pena, Public Works Director, stated 3 bids were received on the project and the low bidder was a non-responsive bid because he was missing some items on his bid. He said the 2 other bids were outside of their budget so staff recommendation was to reject all bids and to rebid the project after July. He provided the reasons for delaying it until July. Councilor Ray moved for the disapproval of Bid #14/15-3 Scott Park Concession per staff recommendation until after July 2015. Mayor Morones asked him if he would mind if the word "disapproval" was replaced with "reject." Councilor Ray said okay. Councilor Bettison seconded the motion with the correction that we move to reject Bid #14/15-3 Scott Park Concession per staff recommendation. Mayor Morones repeated the motion. He asked if there was further 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.

C. Approval / Disapproval of the destruction of records from the Executive, Finance, Municipal Court, Police, Recreation Center, Public Library, and Utilities Departments. Quantity: 138 boxes. Clerk Mackie stated it was for their annual destruction of Town records that had met the retention schedules per State Records and Archives. She said the State had given their approval for the destruction of the 138 boxes and she asked for the Council's approval of the destruction. Councilor Bettison moved to approve the destruction of records from the Executive, Finance, Municipal Court, Police, Recreation Center, Public Library, and Utilities Departments. Quantity of 138 boxes. Councilor Aiman-Smith seconded. Mayor Morones repeated the motion and asked if there was further discussion. 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.

D. Appointments to the Historic Design Review Committee. Mayor Morones said there were 2 current members that reapplied for reappointment, Steven Shelendich and Suzanne Gershenson, and after consulting with staff it was recommended that they reappoint them. He said he planned on doing so unless there were any objections. There were no objections so they were both reappointed. There was further discussion.

Mayor Morones said he would entertain a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilor Bettison moved to go into a short recess prior to going into Executive Session held pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1(H)(8) meetings for the discussion of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property by the public body for general property. Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor Morones said there was a motion and a second to go into recess followed by **Executive Session held pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1(H)(8) meetings for the discussion of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body.** He called for a roll call vote. Councilor Bettison voted aye; Councilor Aiman-Smith voted aye; Councilor Ray voted aye; and Councilor Cano voted aye. Motion carried at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Morones called the meeting back to order at 7:49 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 Aiman-Smith voted aye; Councilor Ray voted aye; and Councilor Cano voted aye. Mayor Morones 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 7:50 p.m. 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