

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Grant County Administration Center, 1400 Hwy. 180, Silver City, NM
May 24, 2016, 6:00 p.m.**

Present:

Ken Ladner, 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
James Marshall, Assistant Town Manager
Edward D. Reynolds, Chief of Police
Yolanda C. Holguin, Acting Town Clerk
Robert L. Scavron, Town Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Ladner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. CEREMONIES – None.

3. PROCLAMATIONS – "**Silver High School Girls Golf Team Week**" - **May 22-28, 2016.** Mayor Ladner read the proclamation and presented it to Coach James Begay, Assistant Coach Gabby Begay, and the Girls State Championship Team. Coach Begay thanked the Council for their recognition of the Silver High School Girls Golf Team (SHSGGT). He stated that he was very proud of the team and their hard work; how he coached them since they were in 8th grade; and how they made history at Silver High School. He thanked their parents, the community, and the Council for their support. Mayor Ladner recognized the parents and supporters of the team and presented the coaches and each member of the team (Sage Begay, Rhiannon Jaramillo, Chelsea Medina, Esme Melendez, and Brooklyn Renteria) with a certificate of recognition from the New Mexico State Senate.

"Wild Wild West Pro Rodeo Week" – **June 1-4, 2016.** Mayor Ladner read the proclamation and presented it to Tyler Brown, Chairman of the Rodeo and Tim Clark, Southwest Horseman's Association (SWHA) Board President. Mr. Clark thanked the Town and Council for their long standing support. He stated that the SWHA was a volunteer non-profit organization, and the event was their fund raiser to help through the year. He said they would cease to exist without the support of the volunteers, partners, and community. He thanked them for their support.

4. PUBLIC INPUT – Gary Stailey, Community Youth Building Program Coordinator (CYBP), also congratulated the SHSGGT. He recognized three young men of the program who cleaned up the Butterfly Garden at Penny Park. He reported that the CYBP participants would be working 4 mornings a week during the summer months at the Volunteer Center garden, doing recycling with the Habitat Restore, and working at the landfill to divert materials that could be recycled from going into the landfill. He recommended to the Council to bring in the Forest Service to give an update on the opening of the Cat Walk, and he told Councilor Ray that his rail might get painted.

5. COUNCIL COMMENTS - The Council commented on the following: congratulations to the SHSGGT and coaches on their first state championship; how the Cat Walk would be opened on Saturday; commending and thanking Leann Misque, Town Purchasing Agent, for the excellent job she did preparing for and presenting at the mandatory Community Promotions meeting; Councilor Bettison's upcoming Conversation with a Councilor public meeting about All Things: ICIP (Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan), and that input and participation from the community was important, and that Town staff would be attending; how the New Mexico Municipal League's budget had been affected by the reduction of membership dues paid, which were developed by the amount of gross receipts taxes received by municipalities; how the NMML was adjusting, increasing, or potentially looking at a new system for municipal dues or they would have to increase the dues to continue to be the educational lobbying arm of municipalities in New Mexico; that municipalities and the NMML were facing budget issues due to the changes through the state; how green infrastructure used rocks, earth, and plants to mimic natural systems to mitigate storm water erosion and potential fire hazards; Councilor Aiman-Smith's upcoming Conversation with a Councilor to do a recap of the ICIP and to talk about green infrastructure; an upcoming hands on workshop about infrastructure being collaborated by the Town, Stream Dynamics, and Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments; how District 3 was asked to clean their yards

by Code Enforcement; reminder to be very aware during the busy weekend of the Blues Festival for pedestrians and motorcycles; how the Silver High School Girls Softball team won state; an upcoming public input meeting on allowing 4-wheeled vehicles on streets; commending the Silver City Fire Department on their quick response to a fire that could have done more damage in a mobile home park; recognizing the Professional National Senior Health and Fitness Day; and commending Silver High School Athletic staff for their support of the students, student athletes, and the community.

6. CHANGES TO AGENDA – Councilor Aiman-Smith made a motion to remove Item IIA based on more current information from Town staff. Councilor Bettison seconded. Mayor Ladner asked if there was any other discussion, and there was none. He said there was a motion and a second, and he asked all those in favor to say aye. All 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed to say nay, and there was no opposition. Motion carried.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Regular Meeting on May 10, 2016 - Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Silver City of May 10, 2016. Councilor Bettison seconded. Mayor Ladner asked if there was any other discussion, and there was none. He said there was a motion and a second, and he asked all those in favor to say aye. All 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed to say nay, and there was no opposition. Motion carried.

8. REPORTS -

A. Staff reports – Mayor Ladner stated the Council wanted to look at the different plans that the Town had developed over the years and that Mr. Marshall had been updating the Council at each meeting on the different plans. Assistant Town Manager, James Marshall, reported on the Office of Sustainability Plan 2030. His report included the following: how in Resolution No. 2013-36 the Town adopted the principals of what was in the Plan versus adopting the Plan as a hard set directive on what they were going to do; how the plan covers a multitude of areas and tied in almost every area of function in the Town government as well as issues that affect citizens of Silver City; how there were 9 planning areas; how the Plan was broken down into several sections including policy and action recommendations; how the Town wanted to sustain themselves and survive whatever came at them; how resiliency was coping with changes and the gradual increase in temperature and dryness, etc.; how public-private partnerships were key; how the challenge was always finding the funding for the needed upgrades; a review of the successes and improvements; revenues secured and saved by the Town; how in 2013 the Council approved the Smart meters with public input; how the Plan was very comprehensive; the severe weather conditions, looking at hotter, drier, and windy seasons effecting water supply, streets, i.e.; financing to response to these conditions; tracking and seeing the decrease and increase of utilities due to weather conditions. Manager Brown commented on the energy usage for gas and electricity per month for Town facilities; the additional cost and the importance of using cost benefit analysis when deciding to extend operations of the Municipal Pool for two extra weeks - \$22,000 a month verses \$100 of revenues for fees. He said the meter installation project was 99 percent complete; presented a comparison graph of a leak at a commercial building and the decrease of water loss once the line was repaired; how it ties into the Water Conservation Plan; how the graph would help the public understand how their actions in their home effects their water bills; how it effects water and sewer rates; comparison on percentage decrease of water pumped from 2006 to 2015; water resources having a longer life time; how the old meters and lids were being sold through the bid process and those revenues would help to upgrade the Town's software system. There was further discussion with the Council. Assistant Manager Marshall reported that the Town's Building Inspector resigned and how the requirements in the rules, regulations, and licensing to become a building official were huge so the Town was exploring its options. He discussed the state building application and how the state permit would help the Town cover the items in the Town's code. He said it would be a big change for the public and the contractors, but the Town would have a process in place to assist them in getting their permits done. There was further discussion.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

11. NEW BUSINESS -

B. Approval / Disapproval of Bid #15/16-7: Little Walnut Road asphalt overlay. Manager Brown reported that \$100,000 was in hand from a legislative allocation for the project. He said one bid was received from Southwest Concrete and Paving for \$123,907 plus gross receipts taxes for a total of \$133,819.56. He said the remaining balance would come from the Street Maintenance Fund as planned. Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to approve Bid #15/16-7: Little Walnut Road asphalt overlay to Southwest Concrete and Paving for a base amount and gross receipts taxes for a total of \$133,819.56. Councilor Bettison seconded. Mayor Ladner asked if there was any other discussion, and there was none. He said there was a motion and a second, and he asked all those in favor to say aye. All 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed to say nay, and there was no opposition. Motion carried.

C. Approval/Disapproval of Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. Manager Brown requested approval from the Council to submit the preliminary budget. He commented on the following: General Fund revenues and expenditures from Fiscal Year 2016 to Fiscal Year 2017; that projections should be met; about employees retiring and two positions being eliminated at Municipal Court and Community Development Departments; how union increases were incorporated into the budget; and adding one regular full-time position in the Parks and Street Divisions of Public Works; how the Water/Sewer Fund projected revenues for Fiscal Year 2017 was up by 2.81 percent; and how there was no rate increase for usage of 0-3000 gallons, a \$.10 rate increase for 3,000-10,000 gallons and a \$.15 rate increase from 10,000 gallons and above. He stated that the solar array at the Wastewater Treatment plant was down for a few months; how purchase power from PNM was locked in for 17 years and expenditures would be up from 2016; how out-of-town and association water rates would remain the same; the Sanitation Fund would not have a rate increase; revenues would increase from 2016; changing the ordinance to Sanitation Fund rate collection to an annual basis absorbing the cost of the automated system; and expenditures were decreased by 3.23%. Discussion continued on the Lodgers' Tax dollars; budget revenues and expenditures; grant revenues approved through the year; and the 1/12 cash reserve requirement in the General and Water/Sewer Funds. Councilor Bettison moved to approve the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. Councilor Aiman-Smith seconded. Mayor Ladner asked if there was any other discussion, and there was none. He said there was a motion and a second, and he asked all those in favor to say aye. All 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed to say nay, and there was no opposition. Motion carried.

D. Approval / Disapproval of an Agreement between the Town of Silver City and the Fraternal Order of Police, Silver City Police Officers Association, from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018. Manager Brown reported the following: that negotiations were completed with the police union; changes to the medical coverage benefit; a \$2 an hour salary increase with a \$.45 an hour for the following year; and that the union ratified the contract. He stated that it would put the Town with larger communities and help keep qualified officers and recruits, and that the contract would be effective July 1, 2016. Councilor Cano moved to approve an Agreement between the Town of Silver City and the Fraternal Order of Police, Silver City Police Officers Association, from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018. Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor Ladner asked if there was any other discussion, and there was none. He said there was a motion and a second, and he asked all those in favor to say aye. All 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed to say nay, and there was no opposition. Motion carried.

E. 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, 2016 to June 30, 2019. Manager Brown reported the following: that negotiations were completed; how the blue collar employees ranged from mechanics to secretaries; issues on the call-in guarantee were clarified; how the converting sick leave benefit changed to one time a year; the Cost of Living Analysis (COLA) of \$.50 an hour over the three years; how the Commercial Drivers License (CDL) benefit increased to \$150 a quarter; how an education incentive for a degree was added; how the clothing allowance for the clerical employees was going up to \$200 a year; and how the three year contract was ratified by the union and would be effective July 1, 2016. Councilor Bettison said she was pleased to see the incentive for education. Councilor Cano 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, 2016 to June 30, 2019. Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor Ladner asked if there was any other discussion, and there was none. He said there was a motion and a second, and he asked all those in favor to say aye. All 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed to say nay, and there was no opposition. Motion carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Ladner asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilor Bettison moved to adjourn at 7:25 p.m., and Councilor Aiman-Smith seconded. Mayor Ladner stated there was a motion and a second to adjourn. He asked for a vote of all those in favor, and all 4 Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

_____/s/_____
Ken Ladner, Mayor

Attest:

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