

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Grant County Administration Center, 1400 Hwy. 180, Silver City, NM
January 30, 2018, 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 E. Cano, District 4

Also Present:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Ladner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced Councilor Bettison was present by phone.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None.

3. CEREMONIES – None.

4. PROCLAMATIONS – None.

5. COUNCIL COMMENTS – Councilor Aiman-Smith commented on the following: how people could report a pothole or other problems on the "report a pothole" link on the Town's website and how her experience had a quick response; how she liked to see Town projects in action and how in 2016 she and the Town Manager started talking about small public works projects in Districts 2 and she told a story that described how water harvesting catchment areas were benefiting residents; and how there were 80 water harvesting projects planned for the Town that would be funded by a grant from the New Mexico Environment Department. Councilor Bettison commented on the following: how she was home with the flu and there were epidemic proportions of the flu in Silver City and New Mexico; upcoming New Mexico Municipal League events that she would attend as the Vice-President and on behalf of the Town; how there were over 125 Grant County representatives, including members of the Town Council and other elected officials and residents, at the Grant County Day event at the State Legislature to make the needs of the their county, municipalities, agencies, universities, and schools known; a special thanks to Councilor Ray and the Vietnam Veterans' Color Guard for being at Grant County Day; how the Silver City business owners of Manzanita Ridge Furniture and Antique Store were honored at the State Legislature by Senator Morales with a Senate Memorial and by Representative Martinez with a House Memorial for returning a painting they found in the Grant County area after learning it had been stolen over 32 years ago from the University of Arizona Museum of Art, and how they were honored for returning the painting without accepting a reward; and thanks to the Assistant Town Manager and Town Clerk for their analysis of pending legislation that may affect the Town. Councilor Cano commented on the following: thanks to Councilor Bettison and all of the Grant County Prospectors for their work to make sure the Grant County Day event was amazing every year at the State Legislature; and she invited interested people over 50 years of age to attend the Copper Country Senior Olympics' annual meeting on February 10. Councilor Ray requested the following from the Town Manager: if it was feasible to do a study of Cooper Street and Broadway Street to check and repaint the traffic lines, and if Gough Park could display the United States flag, the New Mexico flag, and the Prisoners of War flag. Manager Brown said they were looking into installing lighting for the flags, but if it was too expensive he would have the Fire Department put the flags up and take them down each day. Mayor Ladner commented on the following: how citizens could use the "report a pothole" link on the Town's website to report anything that needed improvement; how one of the downtown merchants reported the timing of the yellow light at the corner of Highway 180 and Pope Street was dangerous at only a second and a half long; how the Mayor reported the timing of the light to the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) and they adjusted the timing of many of the street lights at intersections throughout the town; and how the timing of the lights were adjusted to code which was based on the speed limit.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Regular Meeting on January 9, 2018 - Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Silver City of January 9, 2018. Councilor Ray seconded. The Mayor asked if there was any discussion, and there was none. He asked those in favor to approve the minutes to say aye, and all four Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed to say nay, and there was no opposition. Motion carried.

7. PUBLIC INPUT – Cissy McAndrew reported a code enforcement issue with a recreational vehicle that was camping in the flood zone behind Cecilia Street and Pine Street, and how she was looking forward to the Town filling the two code enforcement officer positions. She also commented how the Town needed to have enforcement of the building code for the health and safety of the citizens, and how having licensed contractors doing the work caused the property values to go up, etc. Eiline Kingsley said she was running for Town Councilor in District 2 and she suggested that the Town consider whether the street sequencing for lights and left hand turns could be modeled from the City of Tucson, and she explained why.

8. REPORTS -

A. Staff Reports. Manager Brown said the Police Chief's 2017 Statistical Report was in their meeting packet and Chief Reynolds was available for any questions. Chief Reynolds provided answers to Councilor Aiman-Smith, Councilor Bettison, and Mayor Ladner's questions. He also reported the following: 2017 had a 78 percent increase in motor vehicle thefts, the highest in 10 years, with 34 thefts compared to 19 thefts in 2016 and they were looking at various options to impact that issue; burglaries went down with 118 in 2017 compared to 136 in 2016; residential burglaries went up with eight more in 2017; business burglaries went down with 30 in 2017 compared to 52 in 2016; how the narcotics unit and officers were impacting narcotics in possession and in sales in the town; how the narcotics unit served 40 search warrants and impacted a lot of persons that were selling drugs which lowered property crimes; larcenies were drastically reduced with 524 in 2016 and 368 in 2017; how they reduced the traffic enforcement, but they transitioned into a more neighborhood impact program; how the Police Department could not do it all and the community needed to participate by doing Neighborhood Watch Programs; and how the Crime Index Statistics were well below 2016 which had 923 index crimes and in 2017 had 754. Manager Brown stated Silver City had a population of 10,215 per the 2010 Census, but on a day to day basis Silver City had a larger number of people because it was the hub of the county. He said the Town of Silver City served water to 18,000; that those people were part of the population on a daily basis so the crime index could almost be cut in half. Mayor Ladner said it was a great idea to ask the community to help with Neighborhood Watches, etc. so the citizens were part of the process. He said they should also get a report from the police as to what was found, and the police should follow-up on burglaries from time to time to provide good customer service. There was further discussion and Manager Brown said the police would contact the individual once a month to stay up to date. Chief Reynolds said if a citizen did not get a call they could call him directly and he would find out what was going on with the case. Mayor Ladner thanked Chief Reynolds and the Police and Fire Departments for keeping their community safe. Chief Reynolds said he appreciated the support and guidance he received throughout the year from the Mayor and Council, Manager Brown, and Assistant Town Manager Marshall.

Gary Stailey gave an update on the Community Youth Building Program and reported the many projects they had worked on. He said the program was to try to keep people from getting in trouble as adults. He said they would help out with the Silver City Territorial Charter Day events and would have a marshal there to help encourage citizens to sign up for four volunteer days that he hoped the Council would select by the next meeting. He said there were eight days to pick four days from for the year and he asked the Council to submit one project from their district that could be considered for the volunteer work days. Manager Brown said he would put those items on the next Council meeting agenda, and that he would help the Council select projects so they could be successful. Mr. Stailey discussed additional events for the Territorial Charter Day celebration. Mayor Ladner asked Raul Turrieta to read the report provided by Carmen Vendelin, Chair of the Territorial Charter Day Committee and Silver City Museum Director. Mr. Turrieta said the celebration would be on February 17, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and he read the events given in the report. Mayor Ladner thanked all of the committee members for working on it.

Clerk Mackie announced Nicolas C. Bobo withdrew his candidacy as a write-in candidate for Municipal Judge, and she read the names of all the candidates as follows: for the position of Mayor the candidate was Ken Ladner; for the

position of Councilor in District 2 the candidates were Patricia "Eiline" Kingsley and Lynda D. Aiman-Smith; for the position of Councilor in District 4 the candidates were Guadalupe E. Cano and Nicholas H. Prince; and for the position of Municipal Judge the candidate was Sonya Ruiz.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

11. NEW BUSINESS -

A. Approval / Disapproval of Bid #17/18-1: Silver Street ADA and roadway improvements. Manager Brown said the project was a grant from the New Mexico Department of Transportation for Silver Street down to Silver Heights Boulevard for sidewalks, complete road construction, drainage, curb and gutter. He said the grant award to the Town was for \$440,000.00 and they received one bid for the project from Southwest Concrete and Paving for \$313,515.00 plus gross receipts taxes of eight percent to bring it up to \$360,196.20. He said it was staff's recommendation to award the bid to Southwest Concrete and Paving. He provided further details. Mayor Ladner asked for a motion. Councilor Cano moved to approve Bid #17/18-1: Silver Street ADA and roadway improvements per staff's recommendation to Southwest Concrete and Paving with the base bid of \$313,515.00 plus gross receipts taxes in the amount of \$26,681.20 for a total of \$360,196.20. Councilor Ray seconded. There was further discussion. Mayor Ladner asked all those in favor to say aye, and all four Councilors said aye. He asked if any were opposed, and there were none. Motion carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Ladner concluded the meeting and asked for a motion. Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to adjourn at 6:53 p.m., and Councilor Ray 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 four Councilors said aye. Motion carried.

/s/

Ken Ladner, Mayor

Attest:

/s/

Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk