

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
REMOTE MEETING IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NM OPEN MEETINGS ACT
February 9, 2021, 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
Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk
Bart Roselli, Museum Director
Freddie Portillo, Police Chief
Robert Higgins, Information Technology Director

1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Ladner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He stated New Mexico lost one of its finest, State Police Officer Darian Jarrott, who was shot and killed in the line of duty while conducting a traffic stop on February 4, 2021. He said Officer Jarrott was assisting the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations; that he was from Lordsburg and was survived by his wife, children, and other family members. He asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of this brave man. Following that, Clerk Mackie did a roll call for attendance of the Mayor, Councilors and staff.

2. CHANGES TO AGENDA – None.

3. CEREMONIES – None.

4. PROCLAMATION – “Territorial Charter Day” – February 13, 2021. Mayor Ladner read the proclamation and encouraged the inhabitants of the Town to honor said day with a recollection of the Town’s history and such celebrations as might be deemed appropriate.

5. COUNCIL COMMENTS – Councilor Aiman-Smith had no comments. Councilor Cano commented on complaints from people concerned about campaign signs being up all year, and how at least one house had a sign with an expletive on it that was directed at a certain political official. She said residents in that neighborhood were concerned because there were kids in the neighborhood. She asked Manager Brown if the sign could come down and who needed to be involved in that conversation. Manager Brown said he agreed and also received an email from a resident, and that he turned it over to the Community Development Department, and they were working on it with Code Enforcement. He said he would speak to Attorney Reynolds about it. Councilor Ray commented on the following: his reasons for not supporting the homeless; how he watched a touching video about the State Police Officer that was killed; a bill introduced in the House that was aimed at tying the hands of the police and taking away their rights and how defunding the police was wrong; how there was too much hatred; and how he was in favor of legalized marijuana. Councilor Bettison commented that citizens should not call or email a Council member, but should call the Grant County Regional Dispatch Authority to report barking dogs, aggressive panhandling or begging, someone not wearing a mask, etc. She asked people to do their civil duty to report those incidents, and she said it was a First Amendment right for anyone to ask you for something like money; that it was free speech, but it was not to their right to refuse to accept the word “no” and to continue to come at you with a threatening or aggressive manner. Mayor Ladner had no comments.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Regular Meeting on January 26, 2021 – Mayor Ladner asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Silver City of January 26, 2021. Councilor Ray seconded. The Mayor asked if there was any discussion, and there was none. 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. Motion carried.

7. PUBLIC INPUT – Mayor Ladner asked Clerk Mackie if any public input was received. Clerk Mackie said there was no public input received by email.

8. REPORTS –

A. Staff Reports:

1) Report on the Territorial Charter Day activities by Bart Roselli, Museum Director. Mr. Roselli reported that Mayor Ladner called together a small group to plan some activities and the key stone was a scavenger hunt with 20 questions about Silver City's history and culture that would be posted so people could participate. He said they had \$200 in prizes to award the winners of the scavenger hunt and people could find out more on the Territorial Charter Day Facebook page or the Town or Museum's website. He said the Mayor would be doing interesting radio spots by reading things about Silver City's history and the Charter Day celebrations. He said Silver City MainStreet would be offering a Fun Run at home and people could submit pictures of themselves running in Victorian costumes. He said La Plata Middle School would be doing videos of kids focusing on the Territorial Charter Day and their impressions of Silver City's past, and the videos could be watched on the Facebook page. He invited everyone to participate and to check out the Facebook page for videos and photos from the previous year's celebrations. He said the events would be virtual, but fun as they celebrated the community's heritage and specialness. Councilor Ray told Mr. Roselli he was going a great job at the Museum and he looked forward to Territorial Charter Day.

2) Public programs offered by the Silver City Museum during the COVID-19 pandemic by Bart Roselli, Museum Director. Mr. Roselli thanked Manager Brown for the support and encouragement he had given the Museum and said without that support they could not have gotten through it. He said even though they were down one position, they realized they needed to do something for the community, so they presented their programs virtually. He said it was a steep learning curve to learn about technology and testing programs to see if people would sign on and watch. He said he was happy to report their programs had reached more people through Zoom and other methods than they could have fit in the Silco Theater. He said when they pivoted to virtual presentations, they reached more than 3,000 people over the past few months and statistics showed a 220 percent increase in the number of people who came to the Museum's programs to learn about Silver City's history. He reported they launched a Silver City Museum You Tube channel so all of the programs were recorded and placed on You Tube. He reported their Facebook followers went from 700 to more than 2,000 from 2020 to 2021, so people wanted to learn and appreciate the history and culture of Silver City. He said when the Museum did open, they would continue to place their programs on You Tube so people around the world could learn about Silver City's history. He also reported they were very active in their collections area and catalogued more than 6,000 of their 50,000 objects and photographs; now an additional 6,000 objects could be searched and learned about. He said the online Silver City Museum Gift Store launched before Thanksgiving and more than 2,000 customers had visited the online store. He said they missed people and loved to personally interact with people that came to the Museum, but they were still providing a lot of services. Manager Brown said he was proud of the staff of the Museum for taking the challenge during the challenging times they were facing; that they were making something out of it, and it would be a huge benefit when they actually opened up. He said they were doing a great job. There was further discussion.

3) Discussion about a speed bump policy by Police Chief Portillo. Chief Portillo provided information on how they decided to put in a speed bump and how it was coordinated with the Public Works Department and Manager Brown. He said he gathered data from citizens, emails, types and numbers of complaints in an area, etc. He said in the past they would get a traffic counter from the Community Development Department to see how many vehicles were going through an area. He said they did not have the capability to check speeds on the counter, but they could check the number of vehicles. He stated they could have officers staged at intersections to look at traffic flow and to get observations, input and recommendations from other officers. He said they used discretion to determine if it was necessary to place a speed bump at a particular area, and he gave examples. He said they also had to consider the type of road it was and how they worked with Peter Pena, Public Works Director. He said they could not place speed bumps on College Avenue because it was a designated collector's street. He said they may have to look at other types of calming devices for that particular area, and he would work with Mr. Pena. He said they looked at the grade of the roadway to determine if a speed bump would create a hazard in a particular area, especially when there was inclement weather like snow and any downgrades. He said they also looked at whether it would hinder emergency vehicles and equal access. He said there were a lot of factors to take into account. He asked that citizens put their observations on paper because he liked to have documentation, and he would personally go look at the intersection. He said they could not place speed bumps on 32nd Street leading up to Ursa Minor and Ursa Major areas because they were dirt roads. He said they also took into account the pedestrian traffic in an area. Manager Brown described the different types of speed bumps, speed humps, and speed tables, and said they also had to look at the costs. He said a traffic study could cost from \$3,000 to \$5,000, and a speed

table cost was \$6,000 so it could get very expensive. He said they had done traffic studies before with engineers, but in all reality you did not get better engineers than the Police Department because they saw how everything went specifically and how every street was different. He said it could get expensive and it could create a liability, and he described what could happen on Ursa Minor and Ursa Major Streets. He said they relied very heavily on the Chief to make those determinations and they also liked to get buy-in from the neighborhoods. He said they only did speed humps or speed tables, and they did not do speed bumps at all. There was further discussion.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS – None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

11. NEW BUSINESS -

A. Approval / Disapproval of Resolution No. 2021-02: A Resolution adopting the Town’s “Fair Housing Policy”, “Citizen Participation Plan”, “HUD Section 3 Plan”, “Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Plan and Certification”, and “CDBG Procurement Policy” for the Town of Silver City, Grant County, NM. Manager Brown said the Resolution was for the plans they were required to have in place and they were adopted annually. He said they were required by the federal government in order to qualify to submit a grant proposal for federal funding, specifically the CDBG Programs, HUD housing programs, and all of the CDBG projects they worked on every year, whether it was for water or street infrastructure or for housing programs like the Workforce Subdivision at Vistas de Plata and the Affordable Senior Housing that was built at the intersection of Pope and Silver Heights Boulevard. He said they could not make changes, but just filled in the blanks of the templates. There were no comments. Mayor Ladner asked for a motion. Councilor Bettison moved to approve Resolution No. 2021-02: A Resolution adopting the Town’s “Fair Housing Policy”, “Citizen Participation Plan”, “HUD Section 3 Plan”, “Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Plan and Certification”, and “CDBG Procurement Policy” for the Town of Silver City, Grant County, NM. Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor Ladner 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 #20/21-4: Re-Bid Swan Street & 12th Street Road Diet and Bicycle Lane Improvements. Manager Brown said it was the third time they put the project out for bid. He said it was staff’s recommendation to award the bid to Southwest Concrete and Paving. He said it was a federally funded grant and they had not been able to construct the entire scope of the project, but they had 10 years to complete it. He described the scope of the project and said they would have to put in additional funding of about \$30,000 from gross receipts tax revenues. There was further discussion. Mayor Ladner asked for a motion. Councilor Aiman-Smith moved to approve Bid #20/21-4: Re-Bid Swan Street and 12th Street Road Diet and Bicycle Lane Improvements per staff recommendation to Southwest Concrete and Paving. Councilor Cano seconded. Mayor Ladner 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.

12. ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Ladner concluded the meeting. Councilor Ray moved to adjourn at 6:58 p.m., and Councilor Aiman-Smith seconded. Mayor Ladner 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.

/s/ _____
Ken Ladner, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ _____
Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk