

**TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
GRANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 1400 HWY. 180 E., SILVER CITY, NM
April 25, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**

Members Present:

Ken Ladner, Mayor
Lucian Farmer, Councilor District 1
Nicholas Prince, Councilor District 2
Jose A. Ray, Jr., Councilor District 3
Guadalupe Cano, Councilor District 4

Others present:

James Marshall, Assistant Town Manager
Jim Reynolds, Town Attorney
Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk
Freddie Portillo, Chief of Police
Tom Hernandez, Code Enforcement
Vickie Toney, Code Enforcement
Animal Control Officer
Ben Beltron, Executive Director, CATS
Juno Ogle, Silver City Daily Press
Lynn Janes, Grant County Beat

1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Ladner called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND SALUTE TO NEW MEXICO STATE FLAG - Mayor Ladner invited the public to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the New Mexico State Flag.

Mayor Ladner welcomed the City Administration, Law Enforcement and members of the Press and community.

2. CHANGES TO AGENDA – NONE

3. CEREMONIES – NONE

4. PROCLAMATIONS – “Crime Victims’ Rights Week”

Mayor Ladner read and presented a Proclamation proclaiming the week of April 23-29, 2023 as **“Crime Victims’ Rights Week”** to Albert Placencio, Victim Witness Coordinator and his assistant Amaya Chavarria.

5. COUNCIL COMMENTS – Councilor Ray expressed his concern about animals entering functions at Gough Park. He is afraid that a dog might bite someone or defecate somewhere in the park. Councilor Ray stated if people would not abide by the Town Ordinance functions should not be allowed at Gough Park. Signs should be placed around the parks when there is a function so people can be aware and not bring their animals in. Councilor Ray commented he had a bad experience at Gila Regional Medical Center with a seven (7) hour wait, while other people there were having the same issue. Councilor Ray stated something needs to be done.

Councilor Prince addressed the Community's Mental Health and Public Safety; he reached out to region's Behavioral Health Crisis Resource Center (988). There were several options to choose from, once connected to your selection it took just a few minutes to answer the questions from the assistant. Councilor Prince stated he learned about their process of triage, determinations of immediate crisis and safety, and what the resources are that will help people get to the next day. Councilor Prince encouraged people to get involved in their neighborhoods and communities and prioritize developing on another's support networks so we can all be advocates for a safe and healthy society. Councilor Prince wished Councilor Farmer his sincere best and brightest of days upcoming. He Stated it has been a joy and a pleasure serving with him on the Council and to know that the Council and the Town is better for his effort, time and service.

Councilor Farmer stated it has been an honor serving the citizens of District One (1) and the citizens of Silver City. He has learned an incredible amount of information and detail on how a town is run from the ground up. Councilor Farmer thanked Mayor Ladner for appointing him to his position on the Council and it has been wonderful watching him preside over the Council. He is the perfect example of an even keeled everyone's Mayor and thanked him for his service. To his fellow Councilors, he stated it was an absolute pleasure to work alongside of them and wished them continued success and to keep bringing their passion to the meetings as they always do. Councilor Farmer gave a special thanks to Councilor Cano who has taught him a lot; the working of governments and the history of the area and has no doubt in his mind she will continue to serve this Town and Community for years to come. Councilor Farmer thanked Manager Alex Brown and the staff and wished Alex Brown the best in retirement in eighteen (18) months and thanked Silver City for being his home for the last eight (8) years.

Councilor Cano stated she wanted the public to know why she was not at the last Town Council meeting. That evening she attended a celebration regarding the Wild and Scenic dedication for the Gila River a project she has been working on for several years. Senator Martin Heinrich and Congressman Gabe Vasquez were in town and she wanted to take the opportunity to work on some other projects for the Town and personally with them. Councilor Cano asked the public to be careful with the bicyclist in town for the Tour of the Gila. She also thanked the Trails and Opens Space Committee for all the work they did putting a trail between Vista De Plata and Mountain View Road which has been an area that has had a lot of concern for the residents of the area, hoping by bringing in more people to walk the trail it will keep the area a little bit safer. A few past Work Session meetings it was discussed about a Social Media presence potentially starting a Facebook page. Clerk Sedillo was to work on starting a page and she would like to have a staff report at the next meeting to see where the page stands. Councilor Cano stated the communication between the Council and administration is not good. It frustrated her when she goes to community events and talking with community members and hearing about things going on in her district that she should have been informed about. Example; of a dead body at the homeless shelter and a federal raid that she knew nothing about. She feels Town management doesn't think she needs to know anything and she is really getting tired of it. Mayor Ladner asked Councilor Cano if she had asked to meet with the administration to address her concerns? Councilor Cano stated she has said it about fifty (50) times and then answered that she has not met with the administration. Councilor Cano proceeded to advise there has been talk about the closing of the Grape Vine campground, she is aware it is a concern for a lot of people. The Forest Service has set up a community meeting on Monday May 1st from 4:00 to 7:00 at the Grant County Veterans Memorial Business and Conference Center. The meeting is open to the public and she encourages anyone that has questions or concerns about the Grape Vine or any other campground should attend. Councilor Cano concluded her comments advising the public that herself, Grant County Commissioner Chairman Chris Ponce and Grant County Treasure Patrick Cohn will be co-sponsoring a Town Hall meeting on Tuesday May 16th at the Grant County Veterans Memorial Business and Conference Center; doors will open at 5:30 to sign up if you wish to speak and the program will start at 6:00. The meeting will be centered around the topic of homelessness in the county. There are a lot of issues and concerns on this topic and if anyone has any thoughts or ideas, they would like to share to

please attend the meeting to help those that are homeless and at the same time making sure the residents feel safe and are being listened to about their concerns.

Mayor Ladner asked if there were any more Councilor Comments?

Councilor Ray asked Chief Portillo if it was okay if he could help the dog issue at Gough Park when there was a function? Chief Portillo stated it is a public event and he has staff along with animal control patrolling the event. Chief Portillo advised they have to be careful how people are approached with service dogs. Chief Portillo stated Councilor Ray had helped before and did not mind him helping approach people with dogs, but to just keep in mind how to approach the people with service dogs. Councilor Ray touched on Councilor Cano's comment about not receiving information from the administration to go to the administration and ask them in a nice way about information they are hearing if they can give them more information about what they are hearing so they could have an answer if asked by a community member.

Mayor Ladner reminded the public comments of various Council members strictly represent their opinion and does not represent any official statement of the Town.

Councilor Cano stated she know in fact that two (2) Councilors are invited to have regular meetings with the administration, she has never been given the implication, that has been her issue. Councilor Cano thanked Councilor Farmer for everything he has done in the past year and the time he has been on the Council has been the best time for her serving on the Council. Councilor Farmer has brought a sense of reason and calm when there has been arguing which has been extremely helpful and has the Council work a lot harder and better. She hopes that whatever community he moves to in North Carolina eventually ends up with a new Councilor.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 11, 2023, Regular Meeting. Councilor Ray moved to approve the April 11, 2023, Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Silver City. Councilor Prince seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7. PUBLIC INPUT – Mick Smith spoke on behalf of “Give Grandly” celebrating their ten (10) year anniversary and thanked the Town of Silver City for being a partner this year. There will be music, food and over sixty-three (63) non-profits. Ms. Smith stated there are more non-profits here than in any community in the state and would like to see every Council member at the event this year. If they are unable to attend, they can give online at givegrandly.org donations will be taking donations until May 22nd.

8. REPORTS:

A. Staff: NONE

B. Manager: James Marshall introduced Vernon Laney as the newly appointed director of the Dispatch Center and as of earlier this month was National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Mr. Marshall wanted to introduce the new director after three (3) years of searching. Mr. Laney has done a great job and is facing some really extreme challenges both with personnel and filling slots, so we need to keep recruiting for dispatch. The infrastructure is very aged and they have been transitioning into new infrastructure for several years. So hopefully with Mr. Laney's leadership they will get it across the finish line. Mr. Marshall wanted to respond to Councilor Cano's comments, she is more than welcome to meet with the administration, they invite her and welcome her to meet with them. With Councilor Farmer it was on the calendar for every two (2) weeks and it would be great to set it up with all the Council to go over the agenda and other issues. Mr. Marshall stated he was not given any information pertaining to the

items on the agenda, other than the update on the 32nd Street project which will be addressed later on the agenda.

1. Update Recreation Center –
2. Update on Transition to City Hall Annex Building –
3. Update on current and proposed Swimming Pool –
4. Update on Scott Park Golf Course –
5. Update on Little Walnut –
6. Update on Regional Water Project –
7. Update on 32nd St. Project –

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approval / Disapproval of Ordinance 1317: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 1270, PERTAINING TO THE ADOPTION OF THE AGMECHTRONIX, LLC MANUFACTURING FACILITY AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. James Marshall stated a couple of meeting past, Ordinance 1317

will be repealing Ordinance 1270 which was necessary under the local Economic Development Act that the Town was required to designate Agmechtronix project of locating their facility within the town as well as being the pass through of state funding to assist them in getting it done. It was all required by Ordinance that the Town determine they are an Economic Development Project through an extensive phase. They have been successful and have met their goals that were required of them as far as creating and retaining jobs. At this time, it is appropriate we end the relationship, there is a mortgage with them that needs to be released and with this Ordinance it will allow the Town to do the other steps to end the relationship and celebrate their success. Mayor Ladner asked if there were any questions? Seeing none, Mayor Ladner asked for a motion? Councilor Ray motioned to approve **Ordinance 1317: AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 1270, PERTAINING TO THE ADOPTION OF THE AGMECHTRONIX, LLC MANUFACTURING FACILITY AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.** Councilor Farmer seconded the motion as stated. Mayor Ladner asked for a roll call vote. Town Clerk Alfred Sedillo did a roll call vote. Councilor Farmer voted aye; Councilor Prince voted aye; Councilor Ray voted aye; and Councilor Cano voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval / Disapproval of Notice of Intent Ordinance 1318: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE PERMITTING THE SALE AND TRANSFER OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE “DORSEY SPRINGS” PROPERTY, TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 48, SECTION 48-24 OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY MUNICIPAL CODE. Jim Reynolds stated the Ordinance is to sell another piece of land north of the Allen Springs Land which was mentioned when the sale of the Allen Springs. The Forest Service was also interested in the forty (40) acres that is surrounded by National Forest it is non-essential land and is outside the

Towns boundaries, there is no present or anticipated need or use for the land. This way it would preserve it as public land so the public would have access to it and it would be administered by the United States Forest Service. Mayor Ladner asked if there were any questions? Seeing none Mayor Ladner asked for a motion? Councilor Farmer moved to approve **Notice of Intent Ordinance 1318: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE PERMITTING THE SALE AND TRANSFER OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE “DORSEY SPRINGS” PROPERTY, TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 48, SECTION 48-24 OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY MUNICIPAL CODE.** Councilor Cano seconded the motion as stated. Mayor Ladner asked for a roll call vote. Town Clerk Alfred Sedillo did a roll call vote. Councilor Farmer voted aye; Councilor Prince voted aye; Councilor Ray voted aye; and Councilor Cano voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval / Disapprove of RFP Bid# 22/23-1 32nd Street, Roadway, Drainage, sidewalk ADA Improvements. Swan Street to Pinos Altos Road. 2022 NMFA Colonias Infrastructure. James Marshall stated there were two (2) bids received from Spartan Construction of New Mexico of Sunland Park, New Mexico and Southwest Concrete and Paving from Silver City. It is the staff’s recommendation that the following items work be awarded: Bid Lot #1 – Phase 1, 32nd Street in the amount of Two Million One Hundred Twenty-Five thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Nine dollars and fifty cents (2,125,669.50) to be paid of the 2022 Colonias Fund 5791-CIF. Bid Lot #3 – Phase 2, 32nd Street for One Million Four Hundred Twenty-Five thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-Four dollars and sixty cents (1,425,934.60) for a total of Three Million Five Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Six Hundred Four dollars and ten cents (3,551,604.10) without New Mexico Gross Receipts Tax (NMGRT). It is staff’s recommendation that an award be made to Southwest Concrete and Paving, Inc. for Bid Lot #1 – Phase 1, 32nd Street and Bid Lot #3 – Phase 2, 32nd Street in the amount of Three Million Five Hundred Fifty-One thousand Six Hundred Four dollars and ten cents (3,551,604.10) plus applicable gross receipts tax eight percent (8.0000%) for a total construction cost of Three Million Eight Hundred Forty-Four Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Seven and Forty-Nine cents (3,844,167.49). Mayor Ladner asked if there were any question? Seeing none Mayor Ladner asked for a motion? Councilor Farmer moved to approve of **RFP Bid# 22/23-1 32nd Street, Roadway, Drainage, sidewalk ADA Improvements. Swan Street to Pinos Altos Road. 2022 NMFA Colonias Infrastructure to Southwest Concrete and Paving for Bid Lot #1, - Phase 1 and Bid Lot #3 – Phase 2 in the amount of Three Million Eight Hundred Forty-Four Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Seven dollars and Forty-Nine cents (3,844,167.49).** Councilor Cano seconded the motion as stated. Mayor Ladner asked for a roll call vote. Town Clerk Alfred Sedillo did a roll call vote. Councilor Farmer voted aye; Councilor Prince voted aye; Councilor Ray voted aye; and Councilor Cano voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT - Mayor Ladner stated this concluded the business of the Town of Silver City Town Council. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

/s/
Ken Ladner, Mayor

Attest:

/s/
Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk