

**TOWN OF SILVER CITY**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**GRANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 1400 HWY. 180 E., SILVER CITY, NM**  
**October 11, 2022, 6:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:**

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

**Others present:**

Alex Brown, Town Manager  
James Marshall, Assistant Town Manager  
Jim Reynolds, Town Attorney  
Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk  
Freddie Portillo, Chief of Police  
Ben Beltron, Executive Director, CATS  
Nickolas Seibel, Silver City Daily Press

**Absent:**

Nicholas Prince, Councilor District 2

**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 Police Chief Freddie Portillo, news media, guests who will be making presentations, staff and members of the community.

**2. CHANGES TO AGENDA – NONE**

**3. CEREMONIES – NONE**

**4. PROCLAMATIONS – NONE**

**5. COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Councilor Ray advised that early voting has started and encouraged everyone to vote.

Councilor Farmer stated he attended the Outdoor Economic Conference and Expo. He congratulated Councilor Cano for representing herself, the Town and people with disabilities and accessibilities issues. He got a lot of information and met a planner from Durango, Colorado that has a good wrap on the short-term rental issue.

Councilor Cano encouraged everyone to get out and vote. She has received calls from concerned parents at Sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) Street Elementary school inquiring if there will be a security guard at the school. Councilor Cano stated she attended the Outdoor Economic Conference and is a board member. The conference was sold out and very successful. They are hoping the same will happen for the future conferences. Her presentation went very well and will be consulting with a group from Santa Fe on some accessibility issues in their area. Councilor Cano thanked Councilors Farmer and Prince for attending. Councilor Cano invited everyone to attend the Homenaje A La Virgen De Guadalupe on December 11, 2022 at the Fine Arts Center Theater. Admission is free and the program will be in Spanish.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – September 27, 2022, Regular Meeting. Councilor Ray moved to approve the September 27, 2022, Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Silver City. Councilor Farmer seconded. Motion carried.

## **7. PUBLIC INPUT – NONE**

## **8. REPORTS:**

### **A. Staff:**

**1. Len Zamora - Scott Park Golf Course** - Mr. Zamora presented his report to Mayor and Council. He was accompanied by a small group of golfers showing their support for the golf course. Mr. Zamora recognized two (2) junior golfers, Jacob Alcorta and Allen Mehling students at Silver High School presenting them with a plaque for their great achievements this year.

**B. Manager:** Alex Brown Reported on the seven (7) projects that are ongoing.

**1. Update Recreation Center** – Waiting for appraisal and geological report which should be done mid-November and the property should be purchased at the beginning of 2023.

**2. Update on Transition to City Hall Annex Building** – Waiting for the roof and HVAC system.

**3. Update on current and proposed Swimming Pool** – Is still out for bid.

**4. Update on Scott Park Golf Course** – Given by Len Zamora

**5. Update on Little Walnut** – On schedule to be completed by early-December, a group will be helping work on acquiring the right of way for the remainder of the project to the city limits.

**6. Update on Regional Water Project** – At a standstill, waiting for the federal allocation being awarded in late October. Also, the updated GPA will be brought to the Council at the beginning of 2023.

**7. Update on 32<sup>nd</sup> St. Project** – On tract to start in the spring, in the process of contacting the medical offices and Gila Regional Medical Center to advise them of the construction that will be taking place. There has already been communication with the schools.

## **9. PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE**

## **10. WORK SESSION AGENDA: Approval / Disapproval of Work Session Topics**

**A.** Direction the Town Government is headed

**B.** The relationship between the Town and the business community (businesses other than those in the historic district, specifically).

**C.** What needs have we heard from our committees?

**D.** Is there anything on the upcoming agenda that needs to be discussed?

**E.** Review of nuisance properties

**F.** Strategies to recruit replacing the irreplaceable: Aging City leadership and succession planning.

**G.** Improving Communication between the Town and the public: social media and our website.

**H.** Adding online billing capability to our municipal services.

**I.** Review and assessment of all the Town's vacant and unused properties, and how these can be used for benefit.

**J.** Take away from Outdoor Economics Conference

Mayor Ladner read the ten (10) Work Session Topics that will be on the Work Session Agenda for discussion and possible action in future meetings. Mayor Ladner said that the one item in "F" worded "Strategies to recruit replacing the irreplaceable Aging City leadership and succession planning" needed to be reworded. First one can't "replace" a "irreplaceable" and second, using the term "Aging City leadership" is in violation of the civil rights of those over the age of 40 years old as stated in the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967". He asked for a motion to change "F" to read "Strategies to recruit Town Management or staff who will retire within the next several years".

Councilor Ray motioned to approve the change the wording on item (F). Councilor Farmer seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Mayor Ladner turned the discussion over to the Council asking the Council to come up with a list of priorities to discuss. Councilor Cano suggested to start with items H, I and J that

would be easy to do at one meeting. Councilor Farmer agreed. Councilor Ray asked to include item E. Councilor Cano motioned to add items E, H, I and J to the first Work Session Agenda on October 25, 2022. Councilor Farmer seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

**12. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Reschedule November 8<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting (Election Day)** – Mayor Ladner advised the Council the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for November 8, 2022 will have to be changed due to the conflict with Election Day on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Ladner stated Clerk Sedillo advised the room would be available on Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup>, Thursday November 10<sup>th</sup>, and Friday November 11<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Ladner asked Clerk Sedillo to roll call the Council if Wednesday November 9<sup>th</sup> would work to reschedule the Council meeting. All three Councilors agreed to change the November 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to Wednesday November 9, 2022. Mayor Ladner asked for a motion. Councilor Cano motioned to change the November 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to November 9, 2022 at 6:00 pm in the same room. Councilor Ray seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**B. Re-appointment of Linda Nuñez to Cemetery Board** – Mayor Ladner stated he spoke to Dr. Twana Sparks (Chair of the Cemetery Board) regarding Ms. Nuñez. Dr. Sparks advised Mayor Ladner Ms. Nuñez “has been the most constant informed member for many years”. Given the positive endorsement and information on the application he would like to reappoint Ms. Nuñez to the Cemetery Board if there no objections from the Council. There was no objection, Ms. Nuñez was reappointed.

**13. ADJOURNMENT** - Mayor Ladner stated this concluded the business of the Town of Silver City Town Council. Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Ken Ladner, Mayor**

**Attest:**

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk**