

**THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
GRANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 1400 HWY. 180 E., SILVER CITY, NM
January 25, 2022, 6:00 p.m.**

Members Present:

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

Others, present:

Alex C. Brown, Town Manager
Freddie Portillo, Chief of Police
Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk
Bart Roselli, Museum Director
Allyson Siwik, Executive Director, Gila Resources
Information Project
Geoffrey Plant, Silver City Daily Press
Roger Lance, Grant County Beat
Ben Beltron, Executive Director, CATS

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND SALUTE TO NEW MEXICO

STATE FLAG- Mayor Ladner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Public was invited to recite the pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the New Mexico State Flag. The Mayor welcomed Chief of Police Freddie Portillo, the news media, staff and the members of the community.

2. CHANGES TO AGENDA – Mayor Ladner asked if there were any changes to the agenda, Town Clerk Alfred Sedillo stated that he was not aware that there were three other applicants for the Planning and Zoning Commission and advised Mayor Ladner to remove item 11 B from the agenda, this would allow the Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission to review applications and interview each candidate in order for him to make the recommendation. Mayor Ladner agreed; therefore, each candidate would have equal opportunity. Councilor Farmer moved to remove item 11 B from the agenda. Councilor Cano seconded. Motion carried.

3. CEREMONIES – None.

4. PROCLAMATIONS – None.

5. COUNCIL COMMENTS – Councilor Prince thanked everyone for accommodating him in order for him to attend the meeting. Councilor Prince thanked his fellow Councilors and the community for their condolences on the passing of his father. Councilor Prince wanted to congratulate the County for doing as well as it has been during this latest Omicron surge. Councilor Prince stated that while in Florida makes him greatly appreciate the great effort our County and State putting forth the prevention of deaths and encouraged everyone to be vigilant on masking and getting their vaccines and boosters which has been reducing the load on our health care providers.

Councilor Farmer wanted to thank Manager Brown and Clerk Sedillo for their help getting information he had requested.

Councilor Cano had no comments.

Councilor Ray stated he had permission to speak to all the Councilors but was unable to communicate with Councilor Prince. Councilor Ray stated that he would like to see the Council do events down town maybe, once or twice a month. He would like to see events for the kids. Councilor Ray would like to show the community that the Council is united. Manager Brown has okayed the events.

Mayor Ladner advised Councilors that they should visit with the University. The University has events going on regularly, the Council could coordinate with them in case they had an event set for the same date as the Council. Mayor Ladner commented that on Saturday June 22, there was a trash and litter pickup sponsored by Pick It Up and Toss No Mas and Silver City Watershed Keepers. Mayor Ladner stated that when he has participated, they have collected quite a few bottles called shooters; which are about one and

a half ounce. The State Legislature has now changed them to a larger size. Mayor Ladner stated that he has spoken to some teenagers and was advised that they could drink them fast toss them out the car and no longer have an open container in the car. So now he is now wondering if with the new size which is more alcohol what affect it is having on DUI. Mayor Ladner would like to have some kind of dialog with the State Representative to find out the logic why the larger containers.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting on January 11, 2022. Councilor Ray moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Silver City of January 11, 2022. Councilor Farmer seconded. Motion carried.

7. PUBLIC INPUT – NONE

8. REPORTS – Alex Brown stated that Bart Roselli from the Silver City Museum will be giving a report and that each month a department head would be giving a report since there is a new Council to get them up to speed on each department.

Bart Roselli stated he had hand outs for the Council and thanked everyone for allowing him to give his report on the museum. He thanked the Council and Alex Brown for the support of the museum. Mr. Roselli stated that in the Councilor's packets there is a list of accomplishments from last year and items that are planned for this year. Mr. Roselli went over a few items on the list and advised that there has been an addition of four members to the Silver City Museum Society Board; this brings diversity to the Society Board which supports the museum to the tune of about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year and is very well represented by the Silver City and Grant County community. Mr. Roselli stated that they had gone to a new newsletter format in order to pack in more information and create a higher impact. The newsletter is now mailed out to all the members of the Museum. Mr. Roselli went over some exhibits and programs the museum is working on and stated that there is a New Mexico Association of Museums and each year they have a meeting. Last years was a virtual presentation, but this year they will be coming to Silver City in November for their meeting. This meeting will bring about two to three hundred people from New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Texas. In closing Mr. Roselli advised the Council that there was an application in the handout for membership to the Museum Society and encouraged them to join. Councilor Cano commented that she was happy that board has a couple of young people on the board and also stated the herself and Councilor Ray spoke Spanish and it would be nice that the next time there was story telling they would like to be invited. Mayor Ladner stated that he would like to thank Mr. Roselli and his staff for what they have done and they have really raised the bar. He said that the staff is friendly and helpful and there is a whole different attitude.

Mr. Brown introduced Allyson Siwik from the Silver City Water Keepers. Ms. Siwik stated that the partnership with the Town of Silver City has restarted the Pick It Up Toss No Mas litter campaign that Mayor Ladner started back in 2018. Ms. Siwik stated since Covid there has been a lot of trash throughout the community and wanted to really get the program restarted. Ms. Siwik also explained what the Silver City Water Keepers program entailed for those who did not know. Ms. Siwik went back to the Pick It Up Toss No Mass program and advised that the program has received funding from the New Mexico Clean and Beautiful program and the Town of Silver City to basically to get the community in gauged in trash clean up and also prevention of litter. In October they began with a big trash bash with over sixty volunteers with the first event and have been organizing trash clean up the third Saturday of every month from 9:00 to 1:00. There are snacks and supplies provided to the volunteers and are assigned areas or they can also clean their own neighborhoods. The program is also partnering with the New Mexico Department of Transportation to clean Highways 180 and 90 within city limits, along with people who have adopted roadways to come out and keep them clean. Ms. Siwik stated that to date there has been one hundred and nineteen volunteers with over three hundred and thirty volunteer hours which has to be reported for the grants they receive. Everyone must sign in and keep track of the hours. They are keeping track of all the trash so people have to bring all the trash to the meeting site at Gough Park to be weighed. To date they have picked up two thousand eight hundred and eighty-three pounds of trash and debris and two hundred and ninety-seven pounds of recyclables. San Vicente, P. A. and Silva Creeks are also being cleaned up. Ms. Siwik wanted to thank all the volunteers and partners Town of Silver City, New Mexico Clean and Beautiful and New Mexico Department of Transportation for

bringing a dump truck to load all the bags and take them to the landfill. Silver City Recycle, Silver City Main Street Swimmate and Southwest Solid Waste Authority. There is a steering committee that meets and has funding for ads to help Southwest Solid Waste Authority to promote their Cover Your Load campaign and collaborating with Dora Gonzales to do radio ads. Ms. Siwik wanted to thank Mayor Ladner for being out there helping out, James Marshall on the steering committee, Manny Jaure, the Police Department and Code Enforcement who has been helping with safety issues at San Vicente Creek along with Jacqui Olea with the Planning Department who has redone the Toss No Mas maps. Ms. Siwik would like to encourage the public to adopt a roadway or a stream segment. There is more information on their website at www.silvercitywatershedkeepers.org or people can email them at tossnomas@gmail.com if they have any questions. Ms. Siwik also wanted to thank their business partners: Morning Star, Gila Hike and Bike, La Bonita Bakery, Diane's Bakery, Little Toad Creek, Silver City Food Coop and special thanks to Skywest Media who has been matching their radio ads for every radio spot we get a free spot. Mayor Ladner asked how many volunteers they had at last Saturday's event. Ms. Siwik advised Mayor Ladner that they had 31 volunteers and pick up eight hundred and thirty-one pounds of trash debris which filled the DOT dump truck. Mayor Ladner also recognized that there are not only individual volunteers, but groups and organizations helping as well. Ms. Siwik recognized WNMU Women's Volleyball team and coaches, two individuals from Westerns Life Long Learning. She encourages groups, teams, organizations and businesses to join in to clean and adopt a roadway. Also, Ms. Siwik recognized the Silver City Rolling Stones who were out on Saturday volunteering on highway 90 and had done a fantastic job.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

11. NEW BUSINESS –

A. Approval / Disapproval of BID 21/22-1 2021 Colonias Water System Improvements:

Mr. Brown stated that they had received two proposals, one from DNR Tank Company and Riley Industrial Services, Inc. The staff's recommendations are to award the bid to DNR Tank Company in the amount of \$871,580.00 plus gross receipt taxes for a total of \$941,306.40. All will be covered under the 2021 Colonias Grant. Mr. Brown explained that there was a little of \$300,000.00 remaining from 2020 Grant to do the South Tank on Chloride. This is to do North Tank on Chloride and they got permission to use the remainder of last year to do this project. Mr. Brown stated that with those additional funds and the \$1.1 million dollars that they were awarded in 2021 that there will be about \$400,000.00 left over as long as everything goes well with this bid and that he as already gotten permission to use the remaining funds for the last Chloride Tank East. Mr. Brown stated that in all reality with the two grants, they are trying to do three phases. One grant for phase one for the North phase, phase two the South, and phase three the East. Hopefully with the two Grants we are able to complete the renovation of all three tanks. Once they are complete, they will move on to some of the tanks at well fields.

Mr. Brown stated that they are applying in 2022 for a replacement tank at the Gabby Hayes well field, there is a one hundred fifty-thousand-gallon water tank that is used for storage and that is where they do chlorination from those wells, that is where they want to replace with a three hundred fifty-thousand-gallon water tank because the older tank was constructed in the 1960's so that tank needs replacement and the need to increase capacity as well. Councilor Cano moved to approve **BID 21/22-1 2021 Colonias Water System Improvements** to be awarded to D & R Tank Company for the base bid in the amount of \$871,850.00 plus gross receipt tax for a total construction cost of \$941,306.40. Councilor Ray seconded. Mayor asked for a roll call vote. Councilor Farmer voted aye; Councilor Prince voted aye; Councilor Ray voted aye; and Councilor Cano voted aye. Motion carried.

Mayor Ladner wanted to thank the Council for all of their hard work and attending the Council meetings. Mayor Ladner stated that its not just attending the Council meetings, the Council is actively involved in our community.

12. ADJOURNMENT - Mayor Ladner concluded the meeting and asked for a motion. Councilor Farmer moved to adjourn; 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. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

/s/ _____
Ken Ladner, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ _____
Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk