

**TOWN OF SILVER CITY**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**GRANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 1400 HWY. 180 E., SILVER CITY, NM**  
**March 14, 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:**

Alex C. Brown, Town Manager  
Jim Reynolds, Town Attorney  
Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk  
Jason Woods, Police Captain  
Ben Beltron, Executive Director, CATS  
Jo Lutz, Silver City Daily Press

**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** – Councilor Cano motioned to remove item 12A **Approval / Disapproval of Ordinance 1316**, she feels that at this time the Ordinance is not ready to be voted on. There are changes she would like to see made, but has not had a chance to meet with Mr. Marshall and Mr. Reynolds. She would like to postpone for another time, Councilor Farmer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. CEREMONIES – NONE**

**4. PROCLAMATIONS – NONE**

**5. COUNCIL COMMENTS** – Councilor Cano stated a few years ago the Council had name tags, having one would have been helpful when attending the Legislative Session. She realizes there is no one in town that does not engrave but suggested there is someone in Deming and Las Cruces that does. Town Clerk Alfred Sedillo stated he had gone to Morning Star the day before and left a name tag so they could try and engrave. If they were able to engrave, he would order the Council and Mayor a name tag. Councilor Cano was part of the County Extension 4H Advisory Board, she stated it was an eye-opening experience for her. She did not realize what 4H really entailed, she thought it was students and animals, but it turns out they do more. They provide service to about one hundred fifty-eight (158) Grant County kids and are looking to expand into the Mining District. They provide leadership classes, baking classes, life skills, gardening and a lot of other interesting classes. They are also looking for adult volunteers. On Monday March 27<sup>th</sup> from five (5) to seven (7) at the Miller Library the Southwest World Fiesta will be having a presentation on celebration of Women’s History Month. There will be several presenters about women who have inspired them, Councilor Cano will also be speaking about Jesusita Acosta Perrault who was Secretary of State ninety-five (95) years ago and is a relative of hers.

Councilor Ray stated he attended a function at Western New Mexico University called the Rhythm of The Dance. He commended Joe Shepard for bringing in events to Grant County. He also stated with the warm weather coming up to be careful with the people walking and riding bikes.

Councilor Prince stated he wanted to recognize the work of the Silver City MainStreet project at the Visitors Center. They are having one thousand (1,000) visitors every month. Councilor Prince attended Lee Gruber's presentation at the Grant County Veterans Administration and Conference Center in regards to a project at the Water Works. Councilor Prince thanked the Public Works Department for repairing Pot Holes, once it is reported on the website it is taken care of the same day or the next day.

Councilor Farmer explained why he had been out of contact for a while, it was his annual Geological Model Updates. Councilor Farmer thanked the Town for handling the Trails situation.

Mayor Ladner stated he was having apple pie for dessert honoring the date 3-14 which is National Pi Day since the first three (3) numbers of the mathematical constant are 3, 1 and 4, celebrated by mathematicians around the world.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – February 28, 2023, Regular Meeting. Councilor Ray moved to approve the February 28, 2023, Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Silver City. Councilor Prince seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

## **7. PUBLIC INPUT – NONE**

## **8. REPORTS:**

### **A. Staff: None**

**B. Manager:** Alex Brown stated:

**1. Update Recreation Center** – Report was given during discussion of item 12-B Approval / Disapproval of RFQ 22/23-1Q Construction Manager @ Risk – Silver City Recreation Center.

**2. Update on Transition to City Hall Annex Building** – Currently under the Capital Outlay Bill there is three hundred fifty thousand dollars (350,000) set aside and hopefully it passes and we will receive some of the funding, so the work in the Annex building roof can start in late 2023 and hopefully have City Hall employees moved to the Annex by the end of the year.

**3. Update on current and proposed Swimming Pool** – The architect will be here the last week of March; Mr. Brown will be getting a hold of the members of the steering committee to get them prepared for the meetings.

**4. Update on Scott Park Golf Course** – Has been busy on the warm days and the quality of the course has been attracting golfers.

**5. Update on Little Walnut** – The right-of-way acquisitions have started and the application for the Colonias fund has been submitted for one point five million dollars (1.5) worth of construction. The funding is awarded in May.

**6. Update on Regional Water Project** – All the municipalities and Water Commission has passed the JPA. The exciting news is the Commission meeting was on Thursday, everything was prepared and sent to DFA (Department of Finance and Administration) on Monday, had the Council Meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday morning it was sent back approved. It is the quickest approval ever done it usually takes three (3) or four (4) months for approvals.

**7. Update on 32<sup>nd</sup> St. Project** – Will be scheduled for the Town Council to award on the last Town Council Meeting in April and starting on the beginning of May.

Alex Brown handed the Council a two (2) page report regarding Lodgers Tax and Gross Receipts Taxes. Mr. Brown had projected a decrease of 11.88 % in Lodgers Tax Revenue this year not knowing what is happening coming out of Covid, but to his surprise we are at 20.15 percent above the projection technically 9% above projection. In Gross Receipts Tax he projected a 11.43% increase which was an increase due to the new tax. He had projected zero (0) growth revenue projections. There is a 9.91% above the 11.1% projection. There is a 21% increase over last year. The economy is strong even with the national issues going on. Councilor Prince stated a consulting company was brought in to access short term rentals and some of the data is starting to emerge and if there was any update any compliance for any short-term rental group for being able to afford Lodgers Tax? Mr. Brown stated there was not at this time. Some preliminary information has been received and are compiling the information for the portals so they start sending out the letters to the AIRBNB'S that have been identified. Mr. Brown stated before Covid there were sixty-three (63) AIRBNB'S, when the data was sent from the consulting companies, there are ninety-three (93). Mr. Brown also gave an update on Vista De Plata subdivision, after two (2) years everything has been taken care with PNM, all materials have been ordered and their part should be complete in six (6) weeks. Three of the lots are committed so the developer has ordered the materials to build four (4) homes and completed in eight (8) weeks. The current phase is for eight (8) homes minus the three (3) there will be five (5) left, leaving forty-three (43) remaining for the total subdivision. The Town has applied for One point five (1.5) million dollars for drainage and grading improvements for the remainder of the subdivision from MFA at the request of the Governor. Senator Heinrich's office has asked the Town to apply for an additional one point five (1.5) million dollars from the Federal Funding. If the Town is successful receiving the funding it will open forty (40) of the lots for construction by the end of the year or early next year. Councilor Prince asked if the homes will be new onsite construction or manufactured home. Mr. Brown stated onsite.

## **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.** Strategies to recruit Town Management or Staff who will retire within the next several years.
- F.** Other issues which may be introduced by the Council.

Mayor Ladner read the five (5) topics on the agenda and opened for discussion. Councilor Cano stated she would like to add item G, Letter from Silver City Firefighters discussion and possible direction for future meetings. Councilor Prince requested to add item E Strategies to recruit Town Management or Staff who will retire within the next several years. Councilor Farmer agreed with Councilor Prince. Mayor Ladner asked Councilor Cano if she would put the items in a motion? Councilor Cano moved to approve adding item **E Strategies to recruit Town Management or Staff who will retire within the next several years and G Letter from Silver City Firefighters discussion and possible direction for future meetings.** Councilor Farmer seconded the motion. Mayor Ladner asked if there was any discussion? Motion carried unanimously.

## **11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

## **12. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. Approval / Disapproval of ORDINANCE 1316 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX**

**C, LAND USE AND ZONING CODE OF 2010, ARTICLE III, DISTRICT REGULATIONS, SECTION 3.2, USE TABLE, AND SECTION 3.3, USE REGULATIONS, SUBSECTION 3.3.1, USE-SPECIFIC STANDARDS, PARAGRAPH 3.3.1 H), CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS, SUBPARAGRAPHS 3.3.1 H), 2) b), c), g) AND i), OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY, GRANT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, TO PROVIDE ZONING AND REGULATION OF CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS PURSUANT TO THE CANNABIS REGULATION ACT OF 2021.** Item removed from agenda. **Item was removed from agenda.**

**B. Approval / Disapproval of RFQ 22/23-1Q Construction Manager @ Risk – Silver City Recreation Center.** Alex Brown stated there one response to the bid **RFQ 22/23-1Q Construction Manager @ Risk – Silver City Recreation Center** from Bradburry Stamm Construction and it is staffs recommendation to award the bid to Bradburry Stamm Construction. Mayor Ladner asked if there were any questions? Seeing none, Mayor Ladner asked for a motion? Councilor Farmer moved to approve **RFQ 22/23-1Q Construction Manager @ Risk – Silver City Recreation Center to Bradburry Stamm Construction.** Councilor Cano seconded the motion. 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. Alex Brown updated Mayor and Council he had meet with the architects and with the delay of the Construction Manager at Risk will not slow the timelines, they are still on track to be done with the design in November 2023 and construction by November 2024. Once the negotiations with the contract with the Construction Manager at Risk an updated definite timeline that will be followed.

**C. Appointment to the Municipal Museum Community Advisory Group** Mayor Ladner stated Patricia Hunt had applied for the vacant position, he has reviewed the application and believes she is very qualified as well as the Museum Director who recommends her for the position. Mayor Ladner stated he would like to appoint Ms. Hunt if there was no objection from the Council. Being no objection, Mayor Ladner appointed Patricia Hunt to the Municipal Museum Community Advisory Group.

**13. ADJOURNMENT -** Mayor Ladner stated this concluded the business of the Town of Silver City Town Council. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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

**Attest:**

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