

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Gallup City Council, City of Gallup, New Mexico held in the Council Chambers at Gallup City Hall, 110 West Aztec Avenue at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bonaguidi. Upon roll call, the following were present:

Mayor: Louie Bonaguidi

Councilors: Linda Garcia
Michael Schaaf
Sarah Piano
Fran Palochak

Also present: Jon DeYoung, Assistant City Manager
Lynn Isaacson, Attorney

Councilor Garcia certified for the record the only matter discussed during the Closed Session, which took place Monday, June 13, 2022 at 5:00 p.m., were personnel matters related to the City Manager and the City Attorney and no action was taken during the closed session.

Presented to the Mayor and Councilors were the following Consent Agenda Items:

1. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting on May 24, 2022
2. Reappointments of Matthew Long and Kyle Spolar to the Planning and Zoning Commission
3. Request for Budget Adjustment for Payment of the NMFA Loan No. PPRF-4966
4. Budget Adjustment – Red Rock Park
5. Request for the Waiver of Fees for the Use of Red Rock Park and to Retain Parking Fees Assessed for the Gallup Lions Club Rodeo

Councilor Palochak requested removal of Item 5 from the Consent Agenda to be discussed separately.

Councilor Schaaf made the motion to approve items 1-4 of the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Piano. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Piano, Garcia, Palochak and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

5. Request for the Waiver of Fees for the use of Red Rock Park and to Retain Parking Fees Assessed for the Gallup Lions Club Rodeo – Roxana Yazzie and Linda Hite, Gallup Lions Club

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Ms. Yazzie presented the request for the waiver of fees and to retain parking fees, as in previous years, for the 72nd Annual Gallup Lions Club to be held on June 16 through June 18, 2022. She also provided information regarding organizations who assist with parking.

Discussion followed regarding the contract and the terms of the agreement related to the parking fees, subsequent waivers, amendments to the agreement, total amount of money raised by Gallup Lions Club Rodeo, the fees paid to other organizations for assistance at the event, concerns regarding the total sum reimbursed to date, projects Gallup Lions Club has coordinated throughout the years which resulted in money given back to the community, the number of years Gallup Lions Club paid full price for usage of the park, expenses to maintain Red Rock Park and the precedent approval of the request would set for future use of the park.

Ms. Hite provided a corrected contract amount of \$4,367.50 as well as the social issues that will be focused on each night of the rodeo, including bullying, diabetes awareness and suicide prevention.

Councilor Schaaf made a motion to approve the waiver of fees for the use of Red Rock Park and to retain the parking fees assessed. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Garcia, Piano, Palochak and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

Presented to the Mayor and Councilors were the following Discussion/Action Topics:

- 1. Resolution No. R2022-20; Resolution Supporting Veterans' Outpatient Clinic in Gallup, New Mexico – Mayor Bonaguidi**

Mayor Bonaguidi presented the proposed resolution to support the continued operations of the local Veteran's Clinic in Gallup, which provides primary care and specialty health services such as cardiology, laboratory and pathology to local veterans, as well as veterans from surrounding areas; including the Navajo Nation and Arizona. He said quality care is critical for veterans and support is necessary in the potential closure of the clinic. The City Clerk read the Resolution into the record, which is attached to these official Minutes for reference.

Councilor Schaaf made the motion to approve Resolution No. R2022-20. Seconded by Councilor Palochak. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Palochak, Garcia, Piano and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

- 2. Request for Street and Roadway Closures for the Inter-Tribal Ceremonial Parade to be held on Saturday, August 13, 2022 and 5k Run/Walk to be Held on Saturday, August 6, 2022 – Kyle Tom and Hilda Brown**

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Mr. Tom presented the request and provided information regarding the 5k run to be held on August 6, 2022 at 7:30 a.m.; starting at Ellis Tanner Trading Company on to Mendoza Road. The event is opened to the public and is free of charge to encourage citizens to get active and coincide with the “Just Move It” initiative. He also presented two separate road closures, dependent on the Coal Avenue Commons Phase II Construction, for the Ceremonial Parade on Saturday, August 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Discussion followed regarding the Ceremonial Association’s preferred and alternate routes and the board’s efforts planning the events.

Councilor Schaaf made the motion to approve the street and roadway closures for the Inter-Tribal Ceremonial Parade on August 13, 2022 and 5k run on August 6, 2022. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Garcia, Piano, Palochak and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

- 3. Request for Street Closures for Gallup High School State Softball Champions Parade to be Held on Monday, June 20, 2022 – Crystal Pablo, Gallup High Softball Coach**

Ms. Pablo presented the road closures for a celebratory parade to recognize the Gallup High School Bengal Girls Softball Team for winning the 2022 Class 4A State Softball Championship this past May. The parade is scheduled for June 20, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. and will include the Junior Varsity team and the Titans travel ball team.

Mayor and Councilors congratulated the team and encouraged the continued recognition of the youth’s accomplishments.

Councilor Palochak made the motion to approve the street closures for the Gallup High School Softball Champions on June 20, 2022. Seconded by Councilor Piano. Roll call: Councilors Palochak, Piano, Garcia, Schaaf and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

- 4. Resolution R2022-18; Approving the FY 2023 Initial Budget – Jackie Leyba, Gallup Joint Utilities Accountant**

Ms. Leyba presented a PowerPoint comprised of the prepared annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year required by the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) and due by July 31, 2022. Ms. Leyba highlighted total expenditures, operating budget, capital budget and estimated cash reserves while emphasizing key items in the budget such as minimum wage, health care and wage increases. A copy of the PowerPoint is attached hereto and made a part of these official Minutes.

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Discussion followed regarding the budget's inclusion of Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) as it pertains to the City Manager and City Attorney, the contractual changes necessary to implement the increases and clarification regarding the effective dates of the COLAs and minimum wage increases.

Councilor Schaaf made the motion to approve Resolution R2022-18, as presented. Seconded by Councilor Palochak. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Palochak, Piano, Garcia and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

- 5. Approve Direct Allocation of Opioid Settlement Funds to the City of Gallup – Jesus “Chuy” Morales, Fire Chief and Deborah Martinez, Behavioral Health Investment Zone Manager**

Ms. Martinez, requested direction on the allocation of Opioid Settlement funds with regard to the Mayor and Councilor's decision to opt into the settlement agreement on January 11, 2022 and with consideration of the City Attorney's presentation explaining the options at the Regular City Council Meeting held on March 22, 2022. Ms. Martinez said the Attorney General's July 1st deadline is approaching and provided a brief overview of the three options for the Council to consider. She also highlighted collaborative efforts between the Gallup Fire Department and Gallup Police Department and indicated approval of staff's recommendation would be presented to the Council at a later date for approval of expenditures of the funds.

Chief Morales provided information regarding the Fire Department's available programs that provide the community information and distribution of Narcan and partnerships with other agencies, including the State of New Mexico's Opioid Response Program, which is similar to the First Responders Comprehensive Addiction Grant (FRCARA), thus helping survivors, in addition to friends and families of survivors.

Discussion followed regarding details and ramifications of the available options, estimated settlement amounts, support of staff's recommended option based on funding the Fire Department has already expended as well as future programs and McKinley County's role in the allocation of settlement funds.

Councilor Palochak made the motion to approve the direct allocation of the Opioid Settlement Agreement funds to the City of Gallup with authorization given to the Mayor to notify the Attorney General of the selected option. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Palochak, Garcia, Piano, Schaaf and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

- 6. Resolution No. R2022-14; Joint Resolution with McKinley County Approving Joint Shelter and Mass Care Plan – Jesus “Chuy” Morales, Fire Chief**

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Chief Morales presented the proposed resolution developed by the City of Gallup and McKinley County to protect the health and safety of human and animal populations during an emergency or disaster requiring evacuation until conditions are restored. Chief Morales recited the resolution, explained the importance of predesignated areas and mutual cooperation outlined between the County and the City.

Discussion followed regarding the critical nature of such plans, specific designated areas in the City and in McKinley County, State and Red Cross assistance upon resource depletion.

Councilor Palochak made the motion to approve Resolution No. R2022-14. Seconded by Councilor Schaaf. Roll call: Councilors Palochak, Schaaf, Garcia, Piano and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

7. Design and Engineering for Whole Block Curb, Gutter and Sidewalk Construction – Robert Hamblen, Public Works Director

Mr. Hamblin presented the design and engineering for Whole Block III, including five blocks of curb, gutter and sidewalks in the amount of \$246,679.81, emphasizing construction costs are not included and noted the project has been funded and put into Project #CI2255 for the following streets:

- District 1 Councilor Garcia – Country Club Dr. from Hill Ave South to Logan Ave
- District 2 Councilor Schaaf – Ciniza Dr. from Toltec Ave West to drainage bridge
- District 3 Councilor Piano – Mariyana Ave from Nizhoni south - Anton St.
- District 4 Councilor Palochak – Elva Dr. from water tank to south end of Elva Dr.
- District 4 Councilor Palochak – Stagecoach Dr. from Aztec Ave south to Escalante Dr.

Discussion followed regarding the much needed improvements of streets.

Councilor Piano highlighted the significant cost to construct one block, the relevance of shovel-ready plans in the event funding becomes available and an explanation pertaining to two planned projects within District 4.

Councilor Palochak advocated for Elva Dr. due to the lack of sidewalks from the water tank to the school.

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Councilor Piano made the motion to approve the design and engineering for Whole Block Curb, Gutter and Sidewalk construction of the aforementioned streets. Seconded by Councilor Schaaf. Roll call: Councilors Piano, Schaaf, Palochak, Garcia and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

Comments by the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Don Hyde presented a petition and requested Mayor and Councilors' support of a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons.

Brief discussion followed regarding the petition and the City Attorney's review of the document.

Comments by Mayor and Councilors

Councilor Palochak mentioned her attendance at the recent ArtsCrawl event, Gallup Lions Club events and the Summer Fest, which were all well attended.

Councilor Schaaf also attended the Lions Club events and thanked all city employees for their hard work.

Councilor Garcia urged the support of local veterans' healthcare. She also remembered Brenda Duran, a former City employee, who recently passed and commented on all she did for the City and the Union. Councilor Garcia announced the cancelation of World Changers due to the departure of Pastor Jay McCollum and recognized him for all he did for the community. She wished the him well in the future.

Councilor Piano encouraged the public to attend Council Meetings, either in person or on Facebook and recommended the Mayor and Councilors allow public comment before and after items are discussed and voted on.

Discussion followed regarding public comment and the right of the public to comment before any item. The Assistant City Manager said the matter will be reviewed.

Mayor Bonaguidi expressed disappointment in Pastor McCollum's departure from Gallup. The Mayor also expressed his excitement for upcoming summer events and plans to emphasize public comment before each item.

Comments by the City Manager and City Attorney

Mr. DeYoung invited Walt Eddy, Best of the Best Rodeo, to provide information regarding the events.

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Mr. Eddy said the events will start on Wednesday and run through Saturday at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. He said 420 stalls of 500 have been sold and will provide Mayor and Councilors an event overview at a later date.

Councilor Schaaf made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Palochak. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Palochak, Piano, Garcia and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.



Louie Bonaguidi, Mayor



ATTEST:



Alicia Palacios, Deputy City Clerk

**CITY OF GALLUP
RESOLUTION NO. R2022-20**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING VETERANS' OUTPATIENT CLINIC IN
GALLUP, NEW MEXICO**

WHEREAS, the Gallup Veterans' outpatient clinic provides primary care and specialty health services, including cardiology, laboratory and pathology services; and

WHEREAS, the approximately 19,300,000 veterans of the United States are a diverse group of individuals including older veterans with diseases associated with aging and disabilities associated with past wars which require frequent care and a higher percentage of seriously wounded individuals needing complex lifelong physical and mental health care, which differs greatly from the patient mix cared for by most non-VA providers; and

WHEREAS, over 9,300,000 veterans are enrolled in the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and of this number 7,100,000 actually use the health care system for all or part of their care, which is an increase of 82 percent since 2001, showing the massive, growing need for care furnished by the VA; and

WHEREAS, the RAND Corporation examined a decade of research and found that VA provided care is equal to or better quality than private-sector care; and

WHEREAS, the RAND Corporation's Ready to Serve national study found that compared to non-VA mental health providers, VA mental health providers were significantly more likely to deliver both culturally competent care, which is important for native veterans and increasing access to care, as well as evidenced-based care that yields a clinically meaningful and significant improvement of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and major depression; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs is better equipped than most non-VA providers to coordinate complex veteran care and provide continuity of resources for veterans, an increasing number of veterans are being sent into the private sector each year, first pursuant to the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113—146) and now pursuant to the VA MISSION Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182); and

WHEREAS, mental health services, including suicide prevention, are of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, according to a bipartisan survey by Lake Research and Chesapeake Beach Consulting, 80 percent of veterans polled oppose turning health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs into a system of private sector vouchers that may not adequately cover costs; and

WHEREAS, a Veterans of Foreign Wars survey found that 92 percent of veterans believe working to fix the VA, rather than dismantling it, is the best way to improve the care provided to America's veterans; and

WHEREAS, one of the top priorities should be the expansion of care for the more than 4,700,000 rural veterans by using rural clinics, VA mobile clinics, and telemedicine under the supervision of each veteran's primary VA doctor; and

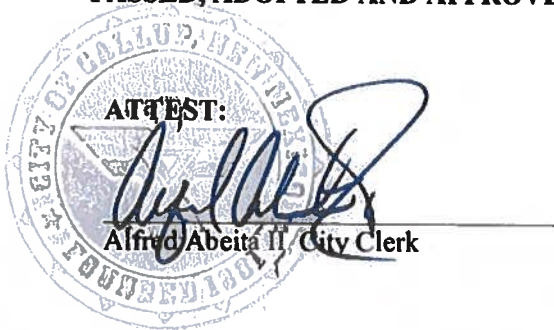
WHEREAS, 144,977 veterans (8.8% of the total population according to the 2020 U.S. Census) live in New Mexico, making it the 9th highest concentration of veterans per capita in the U.S. Also, according to the VA recommendation to the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission, 51% of New Mexico's veterans live in rural communities, compared to the VA national average of 32.5%; and

WHEREAS, 5.8% of the population in McKinley County are veterans, but veterans within a 100 mile radius are served by our Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF GALLUP THAT:

1. Support keeping the promise to all US Veterans that we will be here for them as they were there for us.
2. City of Gallup specifically supports the continued operation of the local Veterans' Clinic, including providing sufficient funding and staffing to provide timely access to the high quality of healthcare our veterans deserve.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED on this 14th day of June, 2022.



CITY OF GALLUP:

Louie Bonaguidi, Mayor

Linda Garcia, City Councilor

Michael Schaaf, City Councilor

Sarah Piano, City Councilor

Fran Palochak, City Councilor



FY 2023 INITIAL BUDGET

Total City Expenditure Budget (all funds)
\$ 110,562,759

FOCUS: GENERAL FUND

»» FY23 General Fund

Operating Budget: \$34,479,574
Capital Budget: \$ 2,341,500
GF Exp Budget: \$36,821,074

General Fund Estimated Cash
Reserves: \$9,990,804 (27.13% of GF
budget exp)

Key Items in Initial Budget

1. **Minimum Wage:**
 - A. The minimum wage increase on January 1 from \$11.50 to \$12.00 has been included as of July 1.
2. **Health Care:**
 - A. Medical insurance is projected to increase 8%.
3. **Wage increases:**
 - A. We are proposing a 5% COLA as of July 1.
4. **Capital Expenditures:**
 - A. Capital requests have been kept within funding limitations utilizing prioritization of requested projects.
 - B. Vehicle service funding for general fund purchases has a one time balance of \$5.9 million. The proposal for FY 23 is to utilize \$2.7 million for purchases. This fund is replenished with cash not utilized for spending in authorized general fund budget at the end of each fiscal year.

Key Changes from preliminary budget

- ▶ Adj Position Control to move 2 positions from Non Certified to Public Service Officer resulting in a budget reduction of \$6,010
- ▶ Remove Adj water revenue for 22.5% inc resulting in a decrease of \$ 1,440,000
 - Impact on days cash on hand will be a new projected level of 72 days at FYE
 - By approving this budget you are not approving the rate increase that was proposed



Questions???