

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, July 11, 2023.

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

Mayor: Louie Bonaguidi

**Councilors: Linda Garcia
Michael Schaaf
Fran Palochak
Sarah Piano**

**Also present: Jon DeYoung, Interim City Manager
David Eason, City Attorney**

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

- 1. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meetings of June 13, 2023 and June 27, 2023**
- 2. Approval of Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments Membership Agreement and Related Budget Adjustment**
- 3. Approval of Resolution No. R2023-16; Changing the Signatory of Financials of the \$8 Million ISC Grant for the Construction of Water Wells**
- 4. Lodger's Tax Grant Recommendation**
- 5. Gallup Senior Program FY 2023-24 Budget Adjustment Request City of Gallup Senior Program Contract Approval**

Councilor Piano requested Items 1 and 2 removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Councilor Schaaf made a motion to approve items 3 through 5 of the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Palochak, Piano, Garcia and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

- 1. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meetings of June 13, 2023 and June 27, 2023**

Councilor Piano explained her wishes to abstain from voting on the minutes of the last meeting because she was not in attendance.

Councilor Schaaf made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 13, 2023. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Garcia and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes. Councilors Palochak and Piano abstained. Motion carried.

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Councilor Schaaf made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 27, 2023. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Garcia and Mayor Bonaguidi voted yes. Councilors Piano and Palochak abstained. Motion carried.

2. Approval of Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments Membership Agreement and Related Budget Adjustment – JM DeYoung, Interim City Manager and Brandon Howe, NWNMCOG Planner

Councilor Piano said there are no issues with the item but wanted to highlight all the work the Council of Governments have done for the City. Mr. Howe presented a FY 2023 Work Program Report encompassing planning, projects, forums and special initiatives. He said the report will be updated accordingly and provided to management, highlighted last quarter's accomplishments and explained initiatives included in the 2-Year Work Program.

Discussion followed regarding the total amount of grant funding secured this past fiscal year, importance of collaborative effort with other City staff, membership fees with regard to the service provided, appreciation for all the current COG staff and recommendation to hire more staff to avoid burnout.

Councilor Palochak made a motion to approve the membership agreement and related budget adjustment. Seconded by Councilor Piano. Roll call: Councilors Palochak, Piano, Garcia, Schaaf and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

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

1. Budget Adjustment Request for an Increase in Local Match for Gallup Express – JM DeYoung, Interim City Manager

Mr. DeYoung said the City of Gallup received a written request from Tommy Mims, Gallup Express Director, to increase the City's local match for public transit services, from \$85,000. to \$180,000. which would require a budget adjustment in the amount of \$95,000. from the General Fund and increase to the FY 2024 Service Agreement with Gallup Rural Transit.

Discussion followed regarding the much needed and extraordinary service provided by Gallup Express, General Fund balance after the adjustment, significant increase in Gross Receipts Tax (GRT), appreciation to Mr. Mims for providing exemplary service, clarification regarding the amount used for subsequent years and potentially extending the service area.

Councilor Schaaf made a motion to approve the budget adjustment. Seconded by Councilor Palochak. Roll call: Councilor Schaaf, Palochak, Piano, Garcia and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

2. Resolution No. R2023-15; New Electric Rate for Groundwater Wells – Chuck Nourse, Electric Director

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Mr. Nourse presented proposed resolution to create a new electrical rate to pass on the cost savings from WAPA Contract No. 22-SLC-1099 to the Water Department groundwater wells while the WAPA contract remains in effect. He said the new rate includes a monthly service fee of \$135 for 43 different accounts, will be set at \$0.0314 per kwh and noted anything above the WAPA contract energy cap would be charged at the Municipal Service Joint Utilities Rate of \$0.0962. He said Electric Department staff will reevaluate the transmission cost associated with the delivery of power at the beginning of each fiscal year, make adjustments accordingly and provided the total projected savings at around \$900,000 per year.

Councilor Palochak made a motion to approve Resolution R2023-15, as presented. Seconded by Councilor Schaaf. Roll call: Councilors Palochak, Schaaf, Garcia, Piano and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

3. Resolution No. R2023-17; Authorizing Acceptance of the New Mexico Department of Transportation Aviation Division Grant No. GUP-22-02, Amendment No. 1 to Extend Airline Service Program for Two More Years – Robert Hamblen, Public Works Director

Mr. Hamblen presented the proposed resolution to extend the current airline services for an additional two years by extending the initial grant from August 2022. Mr. Hamblen provided a breakdown including the State's 90% contribution totaling \$1,750,000 per year and the City's 10% share of \$175,000. per year, totaling \$3,850,000 for two years. He said the airline services provided by the Gallup Municipal Airport have been very successful and explained the benefits this will have on Gallup and surrounding areas.

Discussion followed regarding flights being booked, the requirements to obtain a larger plane, a current grant to design a new terminal, the remaining grant funding prompting the amendment, the terms of Advanced Air Services agreement, the bid process and payment of the City's match.

Councilor Piano made a motion to approve Resolution No. R2023-17. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Piano, Garcia, Schaaf, Palochak and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

4. Settlement Agreement Between the City of Gallup and the Gallup Firefighters Union International Association of Firefighters Local 4296 – Alfred Abeita II, Acting HR Director

Mr. Abeita said the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and the Gallup Firefighters Union was reopened for the purpose of negotiating compensation and benefits. He provided terms of the settlement agreement including the pay plan; placement of individuals on the pay plan using steps provided by the Gallup Firefighters Union; no other pay increases unless negotiated in accordance with the CBA; 24 hours of personal leave per year granted by the City, taken in accordance with Fire Departments Rules and regulations, however cannot be accumulated from year to year

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and cannot be cashed in at any time and the reopening of negotiations on the issue of compensation and benefits permitted in April 2024. He said the agreement will become effective on the first day of the first full pay period after approved by Council and the ratification of the proposed Settlement Agreement by the Gallup Firefighters Union.

Discussion followed regarding the negotiated pay plan.

Councilor Palochak made a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement with the Gallup Firefighters. Seconded Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Palochak, Garcia, Piano, Schaaf and Mayor Bonaguidi.

5. Settlement Agreement Between the City of Gallup and the Gallup Police Officers Association – Alfred Abeita II, Acting HR Director

Mr. Abeita said the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and Gallup Police Officers Association was reopened for the purpose of negotiating compensation and benefits. He provided terms of the settlement agreement including an increase of 8.3% to the current pay plan, no step increases and no other pay increases during the term of this agreement, the City's designation of three additional holidays per year including Indigenous Peoples Day and the effective dates starting on the first day of the first full pay period after the agreement is approved by City Council. The Police Officers Association ratified the agreement on June 27, 2023.

Discussion followed regarding the increase to the current pay plan.

Councilor Schaaf made a motion to approve the Settlement Agreement with the Gallup Police Officers Association. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Garcia, Piano, Palochak and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

Comments by the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Citizens Myra Northrup and Debra Yellowhorse spoke in support of an ordinance prohibiting abortions by making Gallup a sanctuary city.

Pablo Martinez thanked the Mayor and Councilors for extending the air service program.

Comments by Mayor and City Councilors

Mayor Bonaguidi noted the success of the Best of the Best Rodeo and the Wild Thing Championship Bull Riding event in which he was not able to attend but received positive feedback regarding the events.

Councilor Schaaf echoed the Mayor's comments regarding the rodeo events, thanked Larry Peterson for organizing the Wild Thing event and Sheriff Mariano for directing traffic. He congratulated Brandon Howe on the birth of his son.

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Councilor Palochak expressed her appreciation to all the participants of the Best of the Best Rodeo and thanked all of the employees behind the scenes working to hold the events, including Vince Alonzo, Parks and Recreation Director and his staff.

Councilor Garcia mentioned her experience at the Best of the Best Rodeo, apologized for not having a 4th of July event this year, commended Larry Peterson for his efforts in the community and announced the northside clean-up on July 15th. She also thanked Mr. Alonzo and his staff for all of their hard work.

Councilor Piano noted the services provided by Gallup Express at Best of the Best Rodeo, her attendance at the Wild Thing event and mentioned the amount of work needed at the park after the event. She announced Champion Ford's grand opening and Thunderbird Supply's 52nd Anniversary.

Mayor Bonaguidi announced Veterans Wellness at the Gallup Sports Complex on July 21st.

Comments by the Interim City Manager and City Attorney

None

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



Alicia Palacios, Deputy City Clerk

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Louie Bonaguidi", is written above a horizontal line.

Louie Bonaguidi, Mayor