

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, September 12, 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
Sarah Piano
Ron Molina

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

Municipal Judge Janelle Griego administered the Oath of Office to Billy Padavich as the City's new Deputy Chief of Police.

Mayor Bonaguidi commended Deputy Chief Padavich for his dedication to law enforcement and the community.

Chief Toadlena-Pablo addressed Council thanking the Administration for their consistent support of the Gallup Police Department and continued determination to make Gallup the best city in New Mexico.

In honor of National Recovery Month, the Mayor and Councilors presented a Proclamation recognizing September 16, 2023 as Recovery Day to acknowledge success of individuals currently in recovery and hope to those who continue to struggle with substance abuse.

Jaylyn Randles, Four Corners Detox Recovery Center Outreach Program Coordinator, accepted the proclamation, highlighted the importance of recovery and treatment services, commitment to the community and thanked the Mayor and Councilors for recognition of their initiative.

Kyle Manuelito, Four Corners Detox Recovery Center Certified Peer Support Worker thanked the Mayor and Councilors and emphasized power in numbers.

The Mayor and Councilors expressed appreciation to Four Corners Recovery Center staff for their efforts and encouraged everyone to attend their upcoming Rally4Recovery Event.

Comments by the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Mayor Bonaguidi explained this portion of the meeting would now be held at the beginning of the meeting rather than the end.

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Ken Collins, Hozho and Heading Home's Executive Director, explained Hozho's purpose and goals, concerns with the potential closure of the Lexington Hotel due to funding needs, provided information regarding homelessness throughout New Mexico, ramifications to current Lexington residents and requested assistance from the City to stop the facilities closure.

Dr. Jennie Wei thanked the Mayor and Councilors for the Proclamation and presented a letter signed by over 30 local physicians proclaiming the importance of the Lexington to those in need of shelter, the positive impact it has on residents and the overall community and the importance of providing these types of services to the most vulnerable.

Janice Bradley, an East Hill Avenue resident, provided handouts depicting illegal activity in the area resulting in decreased property value. She further detailed her observations of the area including heavy traffic, burnt foil, drug use, vandalism etc. Ms. Bradley acknowledged the Chief of Police, the Deputy Chief of Police, Clyde Strain from Planning and Development Department and the Sheriff's Department for visiting the location. She thanked the Mayor and Councilors for their time listening to the community's concerns, especially Councilor Garcia for her constant efforts.

Dr. Wayne Goforth who operates an office at 108 West Hill Avenue expressed his concerns with illegal activity in the area, including the numerous times his office has been broken into and concerns for current patients and patients who refuse to visit his office out of fear.

Chief Toadlena-Pablo shared a letter from the National Healthcare Anti-Fraud Association announcing Detective Andrea Tsosie's Public Service Awareness Award to be presented to her in Dallas, Texas on November 7, 2023.

An unknown citizen also provided comments regarding illegal activity near the Hill Avenue area.

Andrea Butler called in a comment regarding her belief in unacceptable reasons for abortions.

Dr. Connie Liu called in to address the Mayor and Councilors regarding the closure of the Lexington Hotel and a recent panel showing of a documentary titled, "*American Hospitals; Healing a Broken System.*" She noted the importance of other factors such as housing, urged everyone to view the panel archived on Facebook and thanked the Mayor and Councilors for their support of medical professionals.

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Mr. Eason certified for the record that the only matter discussed during the closed session held on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 was limited to threatened litigation pursuant to the Declaratory Judgement Act in which the City of Gallup may become a participant. He further stated no action was taken by the Mayor or Councilors during the closed session.

Presented to the Mayor and Councilors was the following Presentation and Information item:

1. Investment Presentation – Patty Holland, Chief Financial Officer

John Hanson provided an overview of the City's investments including limitations and intentions to acquire the best rates with regard to local banks and the treasury market. Mr. Hanson provided a copy of August 2023's portfolio demonstrating 75% US Treasuries and Agencies Securities and 25% Brokered CDs. He also briefly went over the overall outlook, general consensus, labor market, energy prices and the Federal Reserve.

Discussion followed regarding utilization of funding prior to investment maturity, concerns regarding the utilization of the same firm for investment services and potential to put the service out to bid, conception of the firm's relationship with the City, current cash policies requiring the Mayor and Councilor's approval, recommendations to provide options for other firms and details regarding compensation made to LPL.

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

1. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting and Work Session held on August 8, 2023, Work Session held on August 21, 2023 and the Regular Meeting held on August 22, 2023
2. Request for Street Closure for the Gallup High School Homecoming Parade to be Held on Friday, October 6, 2023
3. Lodger's Tax Grant Recommendation

Councilor Piano requested Item 2 be removed from the Consent Agenda to provide students, in attendance, an opportunity to address the Mayor and Councilors.

Councilor Schaaf made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1 and 3. Seconded by Councilor Piano. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Piano, Garcia, Molina and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

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2. Request for Street Closure for the Gallup High School Homecoming Parade to be Held on Friday, October 6, 2023

Gallup High School Student Body President Alexis Chavez, Representatives Faith Swatzell, Elijah Thornburgh and Tristan Moore presented the request and thanked the Mayor and Councilors for their approval. The Mayor and Councilors expressed appreciation to the students for their attendance at the meeting and support of their event

Councilor Piano made the motion to approve the request for street closure for the Gallup High School Homecoming Parade to be held on Friday, October 6, 2023. Seconded by Councilor Schaaf. Roll call: Councilors Piano, Schaaf, Garcia, Molina and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

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

1. Ordinance No. S2023-7; an Ordinance Authorizing the Sale of City Owned Real Property – David Eason, City Attorney

Mr. Eason presented the proposed Special Ordinance pursuant to NMSA 3-54-1 for the sale of city property located at 2442 East Aztec Avenue, an auxiliary fire house. Mr. Eason said the City receives an annual amount of \$45,000 in State funding, not \$20,000 as indicated on the agenda. The City will continue to receive these funds by relocating the auxiliary fire house to the former boxing club building on the north side of town, provided the terms of the agreement and the approximate closing date with consideration to the 45-day referendum period.

Discussion followed regarding the specific use of the boxing building, possible issues with funding and the State's continue support of the mixed-use of the facility.

Councilor Schaaf made a motion to approve Ordinance No. S2023-7. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Schaaf, Garcia, Piano, Molina and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

2. Budget Adjustment Approval for T&R Fee on GRT NMFA Loan Fees – Patty Holland, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Holland requested a budget adjustment in the amount of \$550,000 to the general fund to cover Taxation and Revenue fees charged to the City for the year and another \$1,000 in budget 461 to cover loan fees. She said the items are ongoing; however, the costs were in inadvertently omitted.

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Brief discussion followed regarding the annual amounts dependent on the loan contract and gross receipts tax (GRT) received, explanation of the charges and further examination into the amounts being paid for the services provided.

Councilor Piano made a motion to approve the budget adjustment for Taxation and Revenue Fee on GRT NMFA loan fees. Seconded by Councilor Schaaf. Roll call: Councilors Piano, Schaaf, Molina, Garcia and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

3. Street Department and the Vehicle Shop Request for a Budget Adjustment for the Purchase of a New RTN55ETD3-PS 55-Ton Lowboy Trailer – Robert Hamblen, Public Works Director

Mr. Hamblen presented the proposed request on behalf of the City's Street and Vehicle Departments for a budget adjustment in the amount of \$165,200 from the Vehicle / Equipment Fund for the purchase of a new 55-ton lowboy trailer to replace the Street Department's 2006 lowboy trailer that is no longer in proper working condition. Mr. Hamblen highlighted the importance of the trailer, the purposes of the trailer and the departments it serves.

Discussion followed regarding the amount specified for Federal Excise Tax, the significant urgency for purchasing the trailer, safety obligations and fund balance.

Councilor Molina made a motion to approve the Street Department and Vehicle Shop's request for a budget adjustment for the purchase of a new RTN55ETD-PS 55-ton lowboy trailer. Seconded by Councilor Schaaf. Roll call: Councilors Molina, Schaaf, Garcia, Piano and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

4. Resolution No. R2023-26; Approval of Resolution to Submit an Application to the New Mexico Water Trust Board to Fund Phase One Water Distribution System Improvements for the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP) – JM DeYoung, Interim City Manager

Mr. DeYoung presented proposed resolution as a collaborative effort with the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments and introduced Clark Tallis, Water/Wastewater Director to provide additional information and Kurt Spolar of DePauli Engineering to answer technical questions. Mr. DeYoung explained the Water Trust Board's requirement for the Mayor and Councilors' approval to apply for funding, subsequently allocating the funds and determining the terms of the loan.

Mr. Tallis said funding is intended to replace cast iron pipes throughout the City as well as identification of other faulty pipe materials by reviewing recorded documentation and during repairs.

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Mr. DeYoung further explained staff's request for permission to submit an application in the amount of \$7,611,996. with a required 20% match, an appeal to the Water Trust Board for a 90/10 split upon repayment and stressed the vital need for cast iron replacement.

Discussion followed regarding the Water Trust Board's determination of the loan terms, past splits on other projects, clarification regarding the match versus the split and how they are determined, potential funding, impacts of the water rate study and forthcoming funding options for Council to review, project priority, difficulty calculating cast iron pipes in milage, importance of applying for funding, efforts made to repair sewer and water lines simultaneously if needed, necessary consideration of debt service, the application deadline and timeframe for consideration and additional State funding.

Councilor Schaaf made a motion to approve Resolution No. R2023-26. Seconded by Councilor Molina. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Molina, Piano, Garcia and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

Comments by the Mayor and Councilors

The Mayor and Councilors congratulated Deputy Police Chief Billy Padovich.

Councilor Schaaf expressed appreciation to the Red Ribbon Run for allowing him to participate on the Mayor's behalf. He thanked the Street Department for paving Canyon De Chelly and all the City staff for all they do.

Councilor Garcia recognized the Hill Street residents for their efforts to clean up their neighborhood and encouraged them to continue to report illegal activity. She acknowledged Tammi Moe, Library Director, and all who helped prepare lunch in honor of Law Enforcement Appreciation Day at the Octavia Fellin Public Library. Councilor Garcia invited everyone to attend the dedication ceremony naming the Senior Center Dining Hall after Juan Delgado, the McKinley County Office of Emergency Management and the City of Gallup for Preparedness in Public Safety and National Night Out event, the 9th Annual Veterans Summit at Red Rock Park and the 10th Annual Stand Down Hands Up event.

Councilor Piano announced the Rally4Recovery event at the Courthouse Square, mentioned her attendance at the Hospital Panel and thanked the medical professionals for their efforts. She thanked Councilor Garcia for her help with the issues near Hill Street and expressed her support of the residents. She encouraged everyone to provide feedback with regard to the Growth Management Master Plan and thanked Nicole Hawthorne from the Water Department for responding to water issues so quickly.

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Councilor Molina stated he has learned a lot so far, especially in terms of law enforcement issues and commented on the total amount needed to replace the cast iron pipes throughout the City. He expressed the importance of being proactive.

Mayor Bonaguidi congratulated Councilor Molina on his first meeting, provided a recap of recent events including the conception of Red Ribbon Run, Juan Delgado's dedication ceremony and the numerous things he did for the senior citizen residents, the Wellness to Recovery and their commitment to the City and recognized Chief Pairett and Fire Department's Remembrance Ceremony of 9/11.

Comments by the Interim City Manager and City Attorney

Mr. DeYoung and Mr. Eason echoed Mayor and Councilors' sentiments regarding Deputy Chief Padavich.

There being no further business, Councilor Schaaf made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Garcia, Piano, Molina and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.



Louie Bonaguidi, Mayor



ATTEST:



Alicia Palacios, Deputy City Clerk