

CITY OF BLOOMFIELD
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
April 9, 2018

The Regular Meeting of the Bloomfield City Council was held at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 915 N. First Street, Bloomfield, NM. The meeting was in full conformity with the laws and rules of the Municipality.

In attendance were Mayor Cynthia Atencio and Councilors Ken Hare, Matt Pennington, and Sue Finch.

Also present were City Attorney Ryan Lane and Deputy City Clerk Dorothy Nobis. Department Heads present were Fire Chief John Mohler, Donna Clifton, Jason Thomas, Brad Ellsworth, Melinda Gomez and Police Chief Randy Foster.

Mayor Atencio offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda:

Councilor Hare asked that New Business and Public Input be moved to follow the Consent Agenda and moved to approve the Agenda. Councilor Finch seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Presentation:

Mayor Atencio presented former Bloomfield City Councilor Elwin Roark with a plaque of appreciation for his service and dedication to the City of Bloomfield. Mr. Roark thanked the Mayor and the Council for the plaque and to the residents of Bloomfield for their support. The plaques for former Mayor Scott Eckstein and former Councilor DeLaws Lindsay (neither of whom were present) will be sent to them.

Closed Executive Session

The City Council may go into closed executive session pursuant to the provisions of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act, New Mexico State Statute Section 10-15-1(H) to discuss limited personnel.

Mayor Atencio called for a motion at 6:20 p.m. to go into a Closed Executive Meeting to discuss limited personnel. Councilor Sue Finch moved to go into Closed Executive Session and Councilor Hare seconded. Approval was unanimous.

The City Council returned from the Closed Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. Councilor Pennington moved to reopen the meeting and Councilor Finch seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Mayor Atencio said the Council agreed to appoint Donica Sharpe as the new City Manager, and that the council had discussed the appointment with Ms. Sharpe, who will work full time, with the possibility of part time in the future. Councilor Hare stated that Ms. Sharpe will be paid the same hourly rate as the previous City Manager, who resigned on April 2, but

will not receive benefits, which will save the City money. The Mayor and each Councilor praised the strengths of Ms. Sharpe and said they are pleased to have her as the City Manager. Ms. Sharpe was scheduled to begin working on Tuesday, April 10.

Councilor Hare also said that with the resignation of Erikka Martinez as the City Clerk, Deputy City Clerk Dorothy Nobis will assume those responsibilities.

Consent Agenda:

Councilor Pennington made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the corrections to the minutes and Councilor Finch seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

- A. Approve Accounts Payable*
- B. Approve Planning and Zoning Minutes from October 17, 2017*
- C. Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes for March 26, 2018*
- D. Approve Special Work Session Minutes from March 30, 2018*

New Business:

Public Works Director Jason Thomas asked the Council to approve the Sale of Scrap Metal from the Municipal Operations Center. Councilor Hare moved to approve the sale and Councilor Finch seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Public Works Director Jason Thomas asked the Council to approve the Agreement for the City of Bloomfield and Four Corners Fast Pitch. Autumn McMurray shared some concerns of Four Corners Fast Pitch, including requesting the Council look at increasing the budget for the Parks Department to provide funding for baseball and soccer fields. She also expressed her appreciation to Melinda Gomez, Park and Recreation Director, and her staff for their efforts with the fields and for cooperating with the Four Corners Fast Pitch leadership. Ms. McMurray also said the program is losing players, who now play with the Aztec and Farmington teams. Councilor Hare suggested exit surveys be held with those players to help determine why they're moving to other teams.

Mayor Atencio said she'd like to have an advisory board to work with the Parks Department and residents to help prioritize and resolve issues. She also thanked Ms. McMurray and Four Corners Fast Pitch for bringing issues to the Council's attention.

Councilor Pennington moved to approve the agreement and Councilor Finch seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Public/ Department Head Input:

Janet Mackey, Chairman of the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, shared upcoming Chamber events with the Council. Bloomfield Days will be held May 11-12.

David Rightmire encouraged the Council to provide more financial support for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Loretta Sanchez expressed her concerns about the number of dogs her neighbor has and the safety issues the dogs cause. Councilor Hare asked Ms. Sanchez to leave her telephone number with the Deputy City Clerk so staff can follow up on the situation.

Ray Barnes asked where the City stands regarding the Electric Utility lawsuit. City Attorney Ryan Lane said the lawsuit is still in litigation. Mayor Atencio and Councilor Hare said the city will hold town meetings to keep residents up-to-date on the process. Councilor Hare said the city has spent \$849,000 on the case thus far.

Edith Ray also expressed her concerns regarding the Electric Utility lawsuit and encouraged the Council to drop it. Councilor Finch said transparency regarding the lawsuit is critical to the Council and the public will be advised on the lawsuit and will be invited to offer input.

Presentation:

Jaime Rumbaoa of AXIOM, Certified Public Accountants, presented the results of the audit of the City's financials. Mr. Rumbaoa said the Independent Auditor's Report offered a clean audit opinion. However, he said the City has an unrestricted deficit of \$7 million, due to a net pension liability with the Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA). Mr. Rumbaoa also said there were a few findings regarding internal control deficiencies due to insufficient staffing. He added that, given the challenges the city faces regarding loss of revenues and loss of employees, there is limited opportunities to resolve these challenges.

Closed Executive Meeting:

Mayor Atencio called for a motion at 7:30 p.m. to go into a **Closed Executive Meeting to discuss limited personnel and threatening or pending litigation.** Councilor Finch made a motion and Councilor Hare seconded. Approval was unanimous. At 8:20 p.m., Mayor Atencio asked for a motion to come out of the Closed Executive Meeting. Councilor Hare made a motion and Councilor Finch seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Adjournment:

Mayor Atencio called for adjournment at 8:22 p.m. All were in favor.

Mayor Cynthia Atencio

ATTEST:

Dorothy Nobis, Deputy City Clerk