

CITY OF BLOOMFIELD
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
August 13, 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 Matt Pennington, Sue Finch and Ken Hare. Councilor Curtis Lynch was absent

Also present were City Manager George Duncan, City Attorney Ryan Lane, and City Clerk Dorothy Nobis. Department Heads present were Brad Ellsworth, Jason Thomas, and Interim Police Chief Randon Matthews. The city's Librarian, Peggy Loyd, was also present.

Councilor Sue Finch offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda:

Councilor Finch made a motion to approve the Agenda and Councilor Hare seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Consent Agenda:

Councilors Hare and Finch review the Accounts Payable prior to each meeting. Councilor Hare had questions regarding an escrow payment, legal fees, Internet Technology fees, a water lease agreement with the City of Aztec, a hosting fee for the Municipal Code and the city's website, a payment to the New Mexico Self Insurer's fund, a payment to Crime Stoppers, a communication fee to the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, an invoice from CH2MHill, a bill from Pro Tree Service, a cost for resetting and restocking water meters, a bill for tires, costs associated with chemicals, equipment and contract work and interest on a credit card. Finance Director Brad Ellsworth and Public Works Director Jason Thomas responded to those questions to the satisfaction of Councilor Hare and the council.

Councilor Hare made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Councilor Pennington seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

New Business:

Aztec Police Chief Mike Heal requested approval from the Council for Resolution 2018-12, which addresses enhancing safety in public schools. Chief Heal was one of the first responders to an active shooter situation at Aztec High School in December, 2018, and two students were killed. Chief Heal shared his experiences in dealing with that tragedy and has been a leader in getting improved and effective safety measures for schools across the country,

Councilor Finch moved to approve Resolution 2018-12 and Councilor Hare seconded. Approval was unanimous

Public Works Director Jason Thomas requested approval of Resolution 2018-13, which addressed the city's Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-2024. Mr. Thomas gave a presentation on the city top 11 projects for the plan, which included Water Supply Alternate Diversion, Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements, East Blanco Bridge Replacement, East Tank Replacement, Police Vehicle Purchase, Replacement of a Ladder Truck for the Fire Department, Chip Seal or Overlay of Various Streets. Replace SCBA Equipment, Water Storage Tank Aeration, Replacement of the Jet Rodder Truck, and Replacement of the Microwave Radio Repeater System. The Mayor and Council offered suggestions regarding the list, including seeking alternative funding and the possibility of contracting out some of the work/services for the jet rodder truck. Councilor Finch moved to table approval of Resolution 2018-13 until a public meeting can be held, giving citizens the opportunity to provide input, with the resolution to be placed on the agenda for the Council meeting scheduled for August 27. Councilor Hare seconded and approval was unanimous.

Public Works Director Jason Thomas requested approval of Resolution 2018-14 – Accept a Local Road Fund Project Award from the New Mexico Department of Transportation for the “Reconstruction and Pavement Rehabilitation Improvements of Various Local Streets.” Councilor Hare moved to approve Resolution 2018-14 and Councilor Finch seconded. Approval was unanimous.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business to be discussed.

Department and Public Input:

Linda Corwin thanked the city for cleaning up the Wilderness/Lybertee Park area. Mrs. Corwin also suggested additional notices of meetings be placed throughout the community to better inform residents of meetings.

Arnold Montoya of the Wooden Nickle invited the Mayor, Council and the public to attend a car show scheduled at the bar for September 22. A beer tent will be outside the bar and will be fenced. Security will be onsite to check ID's.

Councilor Finch invited everyone to attend a Celebration of Life of former City Manager Merle Dennis from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, August 18, at the Cultural Center. Mr. Dennis passed away on July 4, 2018. She also thanked the Street Department for repairing potholes in the Miller Street area.

Councilor Hare said he attended a meeting of the Bloomfield Irrigation District (BID) and has a greater appreciation for the BID for the challenges it faces. The city continues to work with the BID to resolve issues that are critical to the city's water supply

Mayor Cynthia Atencio said she met with Steve Pearce, a candidate for Governor and with Ben Ray Lujan, who is seeking re-election to his seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Mayor said both gentlemen were receptive to the challenges the City of Bloomfield faces and Rep. Lujan requested information from the city, so he can see if funding is available.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Atencio asked for a motion to go into a Closed Executive Session to discuss limited personnel and pending/threatened litigation. Councilor Hare moved to go into Closed Executive Session to discuss those issues and Councilor Finch seconded. Approval was unanimous and the council went into Closed Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. p.m. At 9:29 p.m., Mayor Atencio asked for a motion to return to the regular meeting, stating nothing was discussed in the executive meeting other than limited personnel and pending/threatened litigation, and approval was unanimous.

Adjournment:

Mayor Atencio called for adjournment at 9:01 p.m. All were in favor.

Mayor Cynthia Atencio

ATTEST:

Dorothy Nobis, City Clerk