

CITY OF BLOOMFIELD
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
October 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 Curtis Lynch, Sue Finch and Ken Hare. Councilor Matt Pennington 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, Fire Chief John Mohler, Interim Police Chief Randon Matthews and Donna Clifton. Municipal Judge Sadie McDaniel was also present.

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

The Agenda was amended, moving the Report on Property Taxes in Bloomfield to Item A under New Business and moving Discussion and Possible Approval of Accounts Payable to Item B. Councilor Hare moved to approve the Agenda with the changes and Councilor Finch seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Councilor Finch moved to approve the **Consent Agenda**. Councilor Lynch seconded and approval was unanimous.

New Business:

San Juan County Assessor Jimmy Voita updated the Council on property taxes in Bloomfield. Mr. Voita explained that the Assessor's Office does not set property tax rates; it values property throughout the county. The Department of Finance and Administration sets property tax rates. Mr. Voita also explained that property taxes generally go up when the school districts debt service (which is approved by voters through a General Obligation Bond election) increases. His presentation included graphs and charts that further explained how property is assessed.

The Accounts Payable from the September 24 and October 9 meetings of the Council were reviewed by Councilor Hare. His questions were satisfactorily answered by Finance Director Brad Ellsworth and Public Works Director Jason Thomas. Councilor Finch moved to approve Accounts Payable and Councilor Lynch seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Public Works Director Jason Thomas asked the Council to approve an agreement with CH2M/Jacobs Engineering for a Continuation of Services for the Riverbed Filtration Project. Councilor Lynch moved to approve the agreement and Councilor Hare seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Public Works Director Jason Thomas asked the Council to approve the First Amendment to the Local Government Road Fund Cooperative Agreement, Project No. SP-5(187), to include the approved Match Waiver in the project funding. Councilor Hare moved to approve the agreement and Councilor Lynch seconded. Approval was unanimous.

City Manager George Duncan asked Council to approve Ordinance Number 478, relating to the Regulation of Garage Sales Within the City of Bloomfield. Councilor Finch moved to approve the ordinance and Councilor Lynch seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Public Works Director Jason Thomas gave Council an update on the waterline bypass project.

Mayor Atencio read a proclamation declaring October 5, 2018, as National Manufacturing Day 2018.

Unfinished Business:

There was no Unfinished Business to discuss.

Department and Public Input:

Dwane Robinson made comments regarding the flow of the San Juan River and stated that a water rights agreement with the Navajo Nation gives the Nation 56 percent of the water in the San Juan River. City Manager George Duncan encouraged people to attend the public meetings of the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and express their concerns about the management of our water.

Interim Police Chief Randon Matthews recognized Officer Jake Thomason for the 1200 volunteer hours he gave the Bloomfield Police Department. Officer Thomason has resigned from the police department to take a position with the Carlsbad, N.M., police department.

Municipal Judge Sadie McDaniel gave a report on a new ruling by the Supreme Court that those who are arrested by a law enforcement officer must be released on their own recognizance without being incarcerated. Someone who is arrested for a violation of a Bloomfield City Ordinance must be released immediately from the San Juan County Detention Center on their own recognizance, unless they have been determined to be a danger to themselves or others, Judge McDaniel explained. Judge McDaniel also stated that she will continue to provide a financial report to the Council, which will also give the Council insights on what the Municipal Court is doing.

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 Finch moved to go into Closed

Executive Session to discuss those issues and Councilor Lynch seconded. Approval was unanimous. The council went into Closed Executive Session at 7:28 p.m. At 8:38 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 8:38 p.m. All were in favor.

Mayor Cynthia Atencio

ATTEST:

Dorothy Nobis, City Clerk