

**CITY OF BLOOMFIELD
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 25, 2019**

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, Ken Hare and Matt Pennington.

Also present were City Manager George Duncan, City Attorney Ryan Lane, and City Clerk Dorothy Nobis. Department Heads present were Brad Ellsworth, Jason Thomas, Police Chief David Karst, and Fire Chief John Mohler.

City Manager George Duncan offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Atencio asked to have Item 7-A (Public Input) moved to 5A (New Business). Councilor Hare asked to remove the Discussion and Possible Approval of Accounts Payable (which was item 5A) and include it in the March 11, 2019, agenda. Councilor Finch moved to approve the Agenda as changed and **Councilor Lynch** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Councilor Finch moved to approve the February 11, 2019, minutes of the Council meeting and **Councilor Lynch** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

New Business:

Mayor Atencio read a statement regarding the city's stand on becoming a Second Amendment sanctuary city:

Monday February 25, 2019

Thank you to all that have contacted me in the past week to express your concerns about the 2nd amendment legislation that is being presented in Santa Fe.

In August of 2018, Chief Mike Heal with the Aztec Police Department had presented to the Council and I, his Concerns Enhancing Safety in Public Schools. We support our neighboring law enforcement agencies and agree that we need to do what we can to ensure the safety of our students, teachers, and staff. The Council and I approved a resolution in support that would go to the New Mexico Municipal League in an effort to allow retired New Mexico law enforcement officers to return as security and law enforcement on our school campuses. At the time, the resolution did not outline any "Bills" and/or "Laws" and did not address what may be proposed to the legislator. The Council and I

immediately expressed our concerns about the section that referenced Red Flag Laws. I wrote the following letter on September 4th, to be sent with the Resolution:

New Mexico Municipal League
William Fulginiti
P.O. Box
Santa Fe, NM 87504-0846

September 4, 2018

Dear Mr. Fulginiti,

The City of Bloomfield recently passed a Resolution (enclosed) Concerning Enhancing Safety in Public Schools.

The resolution did pass unanimously with those that were present at the Council meeting. As the Mayor for the City of Bloomfield I would like the NM Municipal League to be cautious when moving forward on supporting the Extreme Risk Protection Orders due to the broad implications of this item. I wish to go on record as stating that I approach all matters pertaining to the rights of my citizens with great care. Our community is in general, very conservative and I would not support any legislation that would infringe on their rights. Thank you for your time and concern.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Atencio
Mayor
City of Bloomfield
915 N. 1st Street
Bloomfield, NM 87413

The City of Bloomfield Council and I will support the 2nd amendment and the right to due process. We support Sheriff Shane Ferrari and the San Juan County Resolution in becoming a Sanctuary 2nd amendment County. We will have a Resolution drawn up to present and vote on, at our next regular scheduled meeting on Monday March 11th at 6:00 pm.

Finance Director Brad Ellsworth presented his monthly financial report to the Council. Mr. Ellsworth stated that Gross Receipts Taxes (GRT) were 74 percent of the total revenue for the month of January, which is better than last year at this time. He also said the city is doing well at this point. Councilor Hare had several questions for Mr. Ellsworth, which were answered to the Councilor's satisfaction.

Unfinished Business:

There was no Unfinished Business to discuss.

Department and Public Input:

Linda Corwin offered her support of the Second Amendment and encouraged the Council to consider property for a recycling center.

Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Chair, Janet Mackey, reminded the Council of the chamber's Annual Award Banquet, which will be held March 8, 2019, at SunRay Park and Casino. Mrs. Mackey also said the chamber's annual Bloomfield Days will be held May 10-11 at Salmon Park and the twelfth annual Balloon Rally will be held June 14-16. The Balloon Rally attracts tourists to the City of Bloomfield, Mrs. Mackey said, and 19 hot air balloons, their pilots and chase crews are expected to participate.

Tim Ward expressed his appreciation to the Mayor and Council for supporting the Second Amendment and declaring the City of Bloomfield as a Sanctuary City.

Sam Mohler also offered his appreciation to the Mayor and Council for supporting the Second Amendment.

Councilor Curtis Lynch stated that the Constitution of the United States is a precious document and the Second Amendment is a big part of it.

Councilor Pennington extended his appreciation to the veterans and first responders and all those who protect and serve our country. He also stated that the Constitution is an amazing document, that we should respect it, and now is the time to get involved in issues that concern us.

Mayor Atencio thanked Bloomfield Police Officer Mico Fernandez for helping with animal control and for the respect he gives to Bloomfield residents.

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 Lynch** moved to go into Closed Executive Session to discuss those issues and **Councilor Finch** seconded. Approval was unanimous. The council went into Closed Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. At 7:30 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 7:30 p.m. All were in favor.

Mayor Cynthia Atencio

ATTEST:

Dorothy Nobis, City Clerk