

CITY OF BLOOMFIELD
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
May 13, 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 Sue Finch, Ken Hare and Matt Pennington. 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, Peggy Loyd, and Fire Chief John Mohler.

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

Councilor Hare moved to approve the Agenda, but requested tabling Item D (Discussion and Possible Approval of the Bloomfield Planning & Zoning Commission's approval of Susie Blackburn and Burt Blackburn's request to have a property at 1451 W. Blanco zoned from Residential to Agriculture), because of a lack of information provided the Council regarding the rezoning. **Councilor Finch** seconded the motion and the tabling and approval was unanimous.

Councilor Finch moved to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from April 22, 2019, and **Councilor Pennington** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Gary Smouse and **Martin Caddell** offered a presentation on the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, which will have festivities in Farmington, NM, June 26-27. A Stand in Honor Banquet will be held on June 26, with a Ground Breaking Ceremony and "A Night With Woody" scheduled for June 27. San Juan County will be the first Gold Star Monument in New Mexico and the monument will be placed in All Veterans Park in Farmington. The monument honors the families of service men and women who lost their lives while serving our country. The education and awareness of the Gold Star Families and their sacrifices is a mission of the Gold Star Families, the Blue Star Mothers, and Hershel "Woody" Williams, the founder of the Medal of Honor Foundation. Mr. Smouse and Mr. Caddell invited the Mayor, Council and residents of Bloomfield to participate in the events, adding there are sponsorship opportunities available for those who would like to help financially. **Mayor Atencio and Councilor Pennington** thanked the gentlemen for sharing the information and offered their support of the festivities.

Public Works Director Jason Thomas introduced representatives from Yearout Energy Service Company, who presented information on a water meter infrastructure project, which could benefit the city's water meter replacement. The representatives said those benefits would include resolving lost revenue issues due to inaccurate meters, reallocating water meter replacement budgets to other high priority capital improvements, avoid the need to increase utility rates to compensate for inaccurate meters, assure Bloomfield residents that delivered water resources are accurately measured, standardize metering with lead-free equipment, and improve the system reliability with fewer service calls and meter failures. Representatives also explained the benefits of an Advanced Metering Infrastructure, which include reduced operational costs associated with meter reading, improved billing accuracy, reducing potential errors, better and faster customer service with real-time information, increased awareness and conservation with providing Bloomfield residents access to real-time information, enhanced leak detection and tampering reporting capabilities, streamlined full integration with billing platform and the ability to remotely shut off and turn on select water meters. If the City of Bloomfield decides to partner with Yearout Energy with the project, the city would not have to provide any up front capital contributions, the project would be financed at a 3.20 percent interest rate for 15 years, and the net benefit to the city over a 20-year meter life would be \$2.5 million dollars. **Public Works Director Jason Thomas** said a partnership with Yearout Energy Services, which has provided performance contracts with the city in the past, has been successful. **Mayor Atencio, Councilor Hare, and City Manager George Duncan** had several questions for the Yearout representatives, as did Bloomfield residents in attendance, **Robert Yocum, Emily Rue** (who also shared her issues with WCA with the Council, with City Manager Duncan offering his assistance to resolve), and **Linda Corwin**. Responses to those questions and concerns were addressed by Yearout staff.

New Business

Councilor Hare reviewed Accounts Payable and had several questions, which were successfully answered by **Finance Director Brad Ellsworth and Public Works Director Jason Thomas**.

Councilor Hare moved to approve Accounts Payable and **Councilor Pennington** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Finance Director Brad Ellsworth requested Council approval of **Resolution 2019-07, a Resolution Requesting Increase/Decrease and Revision of Line Items in the General Fund, Solid Waste Fund, Fire Fund and Capital Equipment Replacement Fund**. **Councilor Pennington** moved to approve the Resolution and **Councilor Finch** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

City Manager George Duncan requested Council approval of Ordinance 481, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance Nos. 54, 107, 126, 127, 135, 148, 159, 168, 173, 175, 182, 184, 197, 200, 206, 210, 212, 241, 243, 244, 250, 278, 286, 287, 288, 306, 308, 315, 330, 352, 353, 369, 387B, 388, 393, 402, 418, 424, 475, RELATING TO THE CITY OF BLOOMFIELD UTILITIES. **Councilor Hare** moved to approve the Ordinance and **Councilor Pennington** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Mayor Cynthia Atencio requested Council approval of the appointment of Public Works Director/City Engineer Jason Thomas as the Alternate Member of the San Juan Water

Commission. **Councilor Finch** moved to approve the appointment and **Councilor Hare** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

There was no Unfinished Business to discuss.

Public Input

Mayor Atencio announced the Fifth of July Fireworks Display will be held at B-Hill on July 5, 2019. Mayor Atencio said the B-Hill location won the survey of city residents by about five votes and, after meeting with Fire Chief John Mohler, it was decided the B-Hill location was the safest for the community.

Mayor Atencio thanked the staff of the Street Department for their quick action on a leak on Glenwood, where she lives. She said the staff communicated well with her and the neighborhood and she appreciated their hard work

Councilor Finch said the Bloomfield Pride Committee helped clean up Highways 550 and 64 and Lybertee Park on Bloomfield Dumpster Day, April 22, 2019. The Councilor said 22 volunteers showed up to help fill four 30-yard dumpsters and 60 bags of trash. Councilor Finch recognized city employee Jason Thomas and his five children, employees Kevin James and Dorothy Nobis, and volunteers Tylon Waite, Donica Sharpe, Julie Rasor, Greg and Eldine Beecher, Ms. Vasquez, Cecilia Gunnell and her family for their help. She also offered her appreciation to the Parks Department staff, who put forth a lot of time, effort and energy into this day.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Atencio asked for a motion to 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 pending/threatened litigation in the case of Culpepper v. Town of Farmington, A-1-CA-37156, and Danks v. City of Bloomfield, D1116-CV-2019-00008. **Councilor Pennington** made the motion and **Councilor Hare** seconded. Approval was unanimous and, at 7:55 p.m., the Council went into closed executive session. At 8:29 p.m., Mayor Atencio asked for a motion to return to the open meeting. **Councilor Pennington** made that motion and **Councilor Finch** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Adjournment:

Mayor Atencio called for adjournment at 8:29 p.m. All were in favor.

Mayor Cynthia Atencio

ATTEST:

Dorothy Nobis, City Clerk