

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Gallup City Council, City of Gallup, New Mexico held in the Council Chambers at Gallup City Hall, 110 West Aztec Avenue at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bonaguidi.

Upon roll call, the following were present:

Mayor: Louie Bonaguidi

Councilors: Linda Garcia  
Michael Schaaf  
Yogash Kumar  
Fran Palochak

Also present: Maryann Ustick, City Manager  
Curtis Hayes, City Attorney

Presented to the Mayor and Councilors were the following Consent Agenda Items:

1. Approval of Budget Adjustment Utilities Expense for Red Rock Park
2. Approval of a Budget Adjustment for Overtime Expense for the Parks Department
3. Budget Adjustment for Change Order No 1 – Final for the BOR ICI Water Meter Replacement
4. Budget Adjustment for Professional Services to the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project
5. Budget Adjustment to Cover Expenses for a Water Asset Management Plan
6. Fire Fund Budget Adjustment
7. Resolution No. R2022-6; East Nizhoni Boulevard Reconstruction MAP Grant Application Resolution

Councilor Schaaf made the motion to approve items 1-7 of the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Palochak. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Palochak, Garcia, Kumar and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

Presented to the Mayor and Councilors were the following Discussion/Action Topics:

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### 1. Resolution No. R2022-5; Accepting FY 21 Audit – Patty Holland, CFO

Mr. Holland presented the proposed resolution for the Fiscal Year 2021 Audit conducted by Hinkle & Landers and requested acceptance approval of the audit for submission to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA). Ms. Holland introduced Farley Vener, President and Managing Shareholder of Hinkle + Landers.

Mr. Vener presented the 2021 Audit summarizing results including audit procedures of statements and federal awards, communications with regard to management, auditor's responsibilities and a summary of results. He also provided charts demonstrating past and current balance analysis, assets and deferred outflows, liabilities and deferred inflows, net position and revenues. Overall, the City received an unmodified opinion in the audit, which the best opinion to obtain. A copy of Mr. Vener's power point presentation is attached hereto and made a part of these official Minutes.

Ms. Holland thanked Mr. Vener for his assistance and guidance throughout the audit process.

Councilor Kumar commented on the positive results and urgency of the CARES Act.

Councilor Palochak made the motion to approve Resolution No. R2022-5, as presented. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Palochak, Garcia, Kumar, Schaaf and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

### 2. Resolution No. R2022-7; A Resolution to Rename the Veterans Memorial Complex, The Joe Vargas Veterans Memorial Complex – Vince Alonzo, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Alonzo gave a moving speech regarding Mr. Vargas' time and dedication to the citizens of Gallup, including his employment with the City of Gallup, his time served in the United States Army, unlimited amount of time helping the Senior Centers and credited Mr. Vargas for much of the parks system in place to this day. Mr. Alonzo thanked Alfred Abeita and Clyde Strain for their help writing the Resolution and the summary for the agenda item.

Discussion followed regarding Mr. Vargas' athleticism, his tremendous efforts in the Parks and Recreation Department, services he provided after retirement and his worthiness to have the park named after him.

Clarification was provided regarding the renaming of the park only, while the Veterans helping Veterans Center will remain the same.

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Councilor Garcia echoed Mayor and Councilor's sentiments regarding Mr. Vargas and also commended Mr. Alonzo for his dedication to the Parks and recognized Mr. Vargas' family who were in attendance.

Rae Ann Vargas-Ruiz thanked the Mayor and Councilors, not only for recognizing her father but also for allowing them drive through the park as part of his funeral service. She remembered her dad and his love for the entire community.

Councilor Schaaf made the motion to approve Resolution No. R2022-7. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Garcia, Kumar, Palochak and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

Presented to the Mayor and Councilors was the following Information Item:

1. Gallup Fire Department 2021 Annual Report – Jesus Morales, Fire Chief

Chief Morales stated the intentions and mission of the Gallup Fire Department and commended his staff for their contributions and commitment to the community's safety. Chief Morales provided information regarding the increase in call volume throughout 2021, minimal staffing, billing commencement for medical transports, update of Responsiveness Guidelines, collaborative efforts with Medstar Ambulance, resource management, grant funding, Narcan training and distribution and the community risk reduction initiative.

Deputy Fire Chief Nate Emerson provided the total number of calls, categorizing them by major incidents, fire incidents, political districts and yearly call comparisons.

Brief discussion followed regarding the definition of a, "good intent call."

Fire Marshal Jon Pairett provided detailed information pertaining to the Fire Prevention Office and the total number of fire and life safety inspections conducted for 2021; community risk reduction contacts including training, outreach, school fire prevention and smoke alarm installations. He also provided information on the total number of fire investigations, plan reviews, Gallup Task Force reviews, COVID 19 education reviews, public health order complaints and city fire extinguisher inspections. In addition, the Fire Marshall mentioned Firework Permits and Special Events in which Gallup Fire Department Staff were present.

Assistant Fire Chief, Michael Gleeson explained the firefighter training hour requirements including company training, hazardous materials, driver, officer related, recruits and facilities; which totaled 5,410 hours. He also provided information regarding emergency medical services training and training areas such as firefighting, EMS, aerial

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operations, mass casualty, CPR, First Aid and technical rescue and the total number of hours reaching 640. The Assistant Fire Chief also highlighted the conception and implementation of development guides for Recruit Firefighters as well as Fire Officers.

Chief Morales thanked the Mayor and Councilors for their continued support and stressed the dedication of all Fire Department staff members.

Discussion followed regarding the mass amount and importance of training taking place, the high volume of calls received, comfort in knowing when in an emergency the individuals providing this service are trained and ready. The Mayor and Councilors thanked the Fire Department staff for all they have done and continue to do for the community, especially during the COVID 19 public health crisis.

### **Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items**

None

### **Comments by Mayor and City Councilors**

The Mayor and Councilors all provided comments regarding Mr. Vargas, his dedication to the City and his deserving of the accolades received. They also expressed appreciation to Mr. Alonzo for his dedication as well as Fire and Police Department staff for all the work they do to keep the City safe.

Councilor Palochak thanked Ms. Holland for her efforts in fiscal responsibility, in addition to all City staff who continue to provide needed services. She reminded the community of those dedicated City employees who continue to work through staff shortages and encouraged everyone to show their appreciation.

Councilor Schaaf recognized Gallup High School, Miyamura High School and Rehoboth High School basketball teams.

Councilor Kumar also thanked Ms. Holland and mentioned the City's financial improvement over the years and the importance of that role in any sector.

Councilor Garcia announced the installation of a 6" waterline by Dallago Corporation along the streets of Lincoln, Strong and Vega, which will require a water shut-off on March 9, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She will be working with Water Department staff to hold a meeting for affected community members to provide information on how to obtain assistance and to get water to them.

**Comments by City Manager and City Attorney**

Ms. Ustick expressed her appreciation to the Mayor and Councilors for their time while Fire Department staff presented their annual report. She said the Police Chief will provide an annual update in the near future and provided a reminder of the Work Session scheduled for March 9, 2022 at 11:30 regarding the Electric Department.

Councilor Schaaf made the motion to adjourn into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing a matter subject to attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation pursuant to the Declaratory Judgement Act in which the City of Gallup may become a participant. Seconded by Councilor Palochak. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Palochak, Garcia, Kumar and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

The Mayor and Councilors adjourned into closed session pursuant to §10-15-1-H (7) NMSA 1978 Comp. (as revised)

Following the closed session, Councilor made Schaaf made the motion to reconvene the Regular Meeting. Seconded by Councilor Palochak. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Palochak, Garcia, Kumar and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

Mr. Hayes certified for the record that the only topic discussed during the closed session was the advertised agenda item pertaining to threatened litigation pursuant to the Declaratory Judgement Act in which the City of Gallup may become a participant in.

There being no further business, Councilor Schaaf made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilor Palochak. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Palochak, Garcia, Kumar and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

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Louie Bonaguidi, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Alicia Palacios, Deputy City Clerk