

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, April 12, 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
Sarah Piano
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 Minutes from the Regular Meeting on March 22, 2022
2. Request for Street Closures for the Annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day Parades
3. Wastewater, Water and Environmental Surcharge Project Closeouts and Transfers
4. Budget Adjustment to Cover Fuel and Vehicle Expenses in Fund 504 – Solid Waste Operating Budget
5. Budget Adjustment to Expenditure for the Octavia Fellin Public Library in the Amount of \$11,400.
6. Budget Adjustment to Revenue and Expenditure for the Octavia Fellin Public Library in the Amount of \$750.
7. Resolution No. R2022-8; 3rd Quarter FY 2022 Budget Adjustments and Report of Actuals

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

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

1. Appointment of a Mayor Pro Tempore – Mayor Bonaguidi

Mayor Bonaguidi recommended the appointment of Councilor Garcia and briefly explained intentions on appointing each Councilor on an annual basis.

Councilor Palochak made the motion to appoint Councilor Linda Garcia as Mayor Pro Tempore. Seconded by Councilor Schaaf. Roll call: Councilors Palochak, Schaaf, Garcia, Piano and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

2. Appointment to the Lodger's Tax Advisory Committee – Mayor Bonaguidi

Mayor Bonaguidi recommended the appointment of Keeshaw Keyanna Candelaria to the Lodger's Tax Committee to fill the vacancy left by Cindy Tanner's resignation.

Jennifer Lazarz provided details regarding the organization of the Lodger's Tax Committee, as well as each current committee member.

The Mayor and Councilors recognized Cindy Tanner for her time and effort on the committee and expressed appreciation to Ms. Candelaria for her willingness to serve on the committee.

Ms. Candelaria spoke about her history and work experience in and around the community and expressed appreciation and excitement for the opportunity to serve.

Councilor Schaaf made the motion to approve the appointment of Keeshaw Keyanna Candelaria to the Lodger's Tax Committee. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Garcia, Piano, Palochak and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

3. Budget Adjustment for Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Assessment Study

Mr. Bodell said the assessment study is required to investigate current discharge compliance failures and resolve differences between the contract operator (Jacobs) and the regulators (EPA and NMED). He stated the final report will also analyze and recommend the most economical capital improvement and operation expenditure alternatives to treat and reclaim Gallup sewerage into the sustainable future. He requested \$150,000 for the study, provided information regarding previous completed studies and explained the urgency and opportunity for future funding.

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Mr. Bodell responded to questions posed by Mayor and Councilors regarding odor control, sludge issues, water reclamation, credit opportunities, the scope of work, regulatory steps and determining factors to conduct the study.

Councilor Palochak recognized Mr. Bodell's expertise, the importance of investing efficiently and wastewater preparedness.

Councilor Palochak made the motion to approve budget adjustment for Wastewater Treatment Plant Assessment Study, as presented. Seconded by Councilor Piano. Roll call: Councilors Palochak, Piano, Garcia, Schaaf and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

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

1. Presentation: Gallup Cultural Center & Summer Arts Program – Jennifer Lazarz, Marketing and Tourism Manger, Jeremy Boucher & Teri Fraizer

Ms. Lazarz presented a PowerPoint presentation comprised of previously approved contracts/goals between the Southwest Indian Foundation, including the storyteller museum update and expansion, cultural demonstration plan development and create and execute marketing and advertising for the Gallup Cultural Center. She also provided detailed updates, intended events and/or programs, marketing campaigns and future plans.

Ms. Frazier expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the Summer Nightly Dance Program, provided a summarized list of scheduled performers, provided details regarding facility improvements and a partnership with the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center.

Mr. Boucher said he is excited for a renewed partnership with the City providing the opportunity to enhance the building's capabilities and highlighted Ms. Fraizer's experience and knowledge.

Discussion followed regarding the artist stipend, business and event advertisement, Court House Square programs, summer entertainment schedule, concerns with regard to relocating the program and to track the effects, renovations to the new location, the lack of communication with businesses near the Court House Square pertaining to the relocation of the program, terms of the contract, the Chamber of Commerce's willingness to continue the dance program and the funding allocated through June 30, 2022.

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Mayor Bonaguidi provided historical background information regarding the Cultural Center and the Court House Square. Presentation only, no action was taken.

2. Keep Gallup Clean & Beautiful (KGCB) Earth Day Challenge April 22 & 23, 2022
– Elizabeth Barriga, Environmental Program Coordinator and KGCB

On behalf of the Keep Gallup Clean & Beautiful Board, Ms. Barriga proposed a challenge to all businesses and residents to clean litter throughout the community in honor of Earth Day.

Mike Condrey, KGCB Member, provided information regarding 7 Gallup McKinley County Schools competing in the challenge, highlighting the significant impact it will have in the city and encouraged everyone to take part in the challenge for one hour.

Mr. Kirk, KGCB Member, commended Mr. Condrey for his efforts on the Board and invited Mayor and Council to the Clean-Up New Mexico initiative on Saturday, April 16, 2022 that will extend to McGaffey.

Discussion followed regarding provided supplies, photo documentation, bag pick-up instructions and potentially avoiding holiday weekends in the future.

Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

James Rich, local business owner, commented on the lack of inclusion pertaining to the relocation of the Summer Nightly Dance Program; pointing out the original intent of the downtown plaza and the investments many made to build the Plaza. He provided a list of concerns with the relocation, including excessive speed on Historic Highway 66, lack of dirt at the new location, the train station's close proximity and the staffing changes he made to prepare for the performances. He expressed the importance of maximizing the usage of the Plaza with consideration to the amount of effort and energy that has gone into the development.

Comments by Mayor and City Councilors

Councilor Garcia expressed her appreciation for being appointed Mayor Pro Tempore.

Councilor Palochak thanked everyone who participated in the CIP process. She announced the Gallup Memorial Run to be held on May 17th at 9:00 a.m., which will start at Toltec Drive and Historic Highway 66 and end at the Larry Brian Mitchell Recreation Center. The run will be held to honor fallen police officers. Councilor Palochak thanked all City employees for the work they do.

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Councilor Schaaf thanked all City employees, especially the Wastewater Department for work they did to unplug a sewer line last weekend. He thanked all who attended the meeting and wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Councilor Piano thanked everyone in attendance and questioned City Council Meeting proceedings regarding the public comment portion allowing the public to comment on agenda items.

Mr. Hayes provided clarification regarding the ordinance and the public's right to speak on agenda items at the time the item is being presented. He also explained quasi-judicial hearing proceedings, including appeals, which are based on statute and stressed any changes would have to be done by an ordinance amendment.

Comments by City Manager and City Attorney

Ms. Ustick noted past practice in allowing for comment. She asked Mr. Hayes to send a copy of the ordinance to the Mayor and Councilors. She also thanked the Mayor and Councilors for supporting the City's projects and the necessary equipment needed for completing projects.

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

Louie Bonaguidi, Mayor

ATTEST:

Alicia Palacios, Deputy City Clerk