

**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, August 9, 2022**

**The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bonaguidi.**

**Upon roll call, the following were present:**

<b>Mayor:</b>	<b>Louie Bonaguidi</b>
<b>Councilors:</b>	<b>Linda Garcia Michael Schaaf Fran Palochak</b>
<b>Absent (excused):</b>	<b>Sarah Piano, Councilor</b>
<b>Also present:</b>	<b>Maryann Ustick, City Manager Lynn Isaacson, Acting City Attorney</b>

**Councilor Garcia certified for the record the only matters discussed during the closed session, on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, were matters pertaining to bargaining strategy preliminary to collective bargaining negotiations, pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(5) NMSA 1978 and no action was taken during the closed session.**

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

- 1. Budget Adjustment for Operating Acct. Contractual Services**
- 2. Budget Adjustment to Cover the Greater Gallup Economic Development Corporation (GGEDC) Annual Fee**
- 3. Approval of Grant Agreement and Budget Adjustment for Emergency Shelter**
- 4. Construction Contract Award for Phase II of the Nizhoni Boulevard Complete Street Reconstruction Project**

**Councilor Schaaf made the motion to approve items 1 through 4 on the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Palochak. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Palochak, Garcia and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.**

**Presented to the Mayor and Councilors were the following Discussion Action Items:**

- 1. Request for a Special Dispenser's Permit for the Chamber of Commerce Cornhole Tournament to be Held at the Sports Complex on September 18, 2022 – Bill Lee, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director**

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**Mr. Lee provided a brief scope of the event and requested approval of the Special Dispenser Permit to offer alcohol beverages to be provided by a licensed vendor at the event.**

**Discussion followed regarding the intent to avoid hard liquor; however, Mr. Lee indicated the vendor holds a full liquor license with the State of New Mexico: Drink limitations, the permissible area and the Parks and Recreation Director's past requests to offer alcohol at the facility were also discussed.**

**Councilor Palochak made the motion to approve the request for a special dispenser's permit. Seconded by Councilor Schaaf. Roll call: Councilors Palochak, Schaaf, Garcia and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.**

### **2. Approval of Red Rock Park Management and Operation Agreement – Anthony Dimas, McKinley County Manager**

**Mr. Dimas presented the proposed agreement, which was approved by the McKinley County Commission at their meeting on July 28, 2022. He said funding was budgeted for and County staff are ready to begin the partnership.**

**Mayor Bonaguidi provided a history of the park, attempts to fix issues and the inability to keep up, ADA requirements, the amount of funding put into the park annually and the opportunity the agreement will create. He provided a brief overview of the agreement, highlighted the move as a collaborative effort between entities for the betterment of the facility and explained that breach of the contract would subsequently go back to the City.**

**Councilor Palochak expressed concerns regarding no longer receiving facility revenue, lack of significant improvements included in the agreement, perpetuation of city events and a guarantee current agreements are honored.**

**Councilor Garcia concurred with Councilor Palochak's comments regarding her concerns about City events, current Red Rock Park employees, plans to hire additional employees and expressed enthusiasm to work with the County now and in the future.**

**Councilor Schaaf mentioned the invaluable service provided by Vince Alonzo, Parks and Recreation Director, his knowledge and familiarity of Red Rock Park events and event organizers.**

**Ms. Ustick clarified the assistance to be provided by City Staff would be invoiced to the County and is included in the proposed contract.**

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**Mr. Dimas responded to questions and concerns posed by the Mayor and Councilors regarding grant opportunities, more specifically a meeting with the Governor regarding the submission of an application for a \$7 million grant this year and next year for park improvements, opportunities for an additional entrance, the County's willingness to hire current Red Rock facility employees and the City Manager's willingness to reassign them elsewhere in the City.**

**County Commissioner Moore stressed a favorable partnership and the immense amount of time and effort put into the agreement, while attempting to minimize change in processes.**

**Councilor Schaaf made the motion to approve the Red Rock Park Management and Operation Agreement. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Garcia, Palochak and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.**

### **3. Approval of Resolution No. R2022-27; Annual NM Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan – Clyde "C.B." Strain, Planning & Development Director**

**Mr. Strain explained the State Department of Finance and Administration's (DFA's) requirements for local governments to systematically develop and annually submit a five-year Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) as a means of defining development needs and identifying funding sources. The ICIP is then used by State agencies involved in funding local government projects to analyze proposed capital outlay bills during the State legislative sessions. Mr. Strain provided a complete list of all proposed ICIP projects for the next five years and were presented and approved by the City Council during the 2022-2023 budget process. He clarified all project estimates are conceptual in nature within -25% to +75% of completed project costs, are not exact costs and are repeatedly refined as each project is planned, programmed, designed and constructed. The lists are not in priority order other than planned year. Mr. Strain also said no changes can be made once submitted to the DFA, made reference to the deadline change from September to August and said staff needs tentative identification of the 2023 top five legislative priorities and approval of the projects as listed in the form of a resolution. The State ICIP may be used as consideration by the Governor, State agencies and State Legislature in their grant approval process. He provided a starting point for discussion and proposed the top five priorities, including:**

- Gallup Water Wells,**
- Wastewater Treatment Plan Improvement,**
- replace cast iron lines,**
- new Regional Senior Citizens Center and**
- East Nizhoni Boulevard Complete Street.**

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**Mr. Strain said there are about 73 projects included in the entire submittal, staggered over 5 years, in the amount of \$336,243,712.**

**Discussion followed regarding the design stage and status of the new Regional Senior Center and Recreation Center; the bond question included on the November ballot that, if passed, will provide additional funding for the Senior Center and Recreation Center; inclusion of the design and construction of Mentmore Road and discussion with County staff regarding the additional portion of the road with regard to their ICIP list.**

**Councilor Schaaf made the motion to approve Resolution No. R2022-27, with the addition of Mentmore Road to the ICIP. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Garcia, Palochak and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.**

#### **4. Resolution R2022-26; American Rescue Plan Funding Budget Approval – Patty Holland, Chief Financial Officer**

**Ms. Holland presented the proposed resolution, requested a budget adjustment, stated funding had not yet been received and will commence upon receipt. She provided a distribution overview, highlighting changes due to project urgency. The funding distribution included:**

**\$1,500,000 for water/wastewater**

- \$50,000 Boardman Sewer realignment additional costs**
- \$540,000 Wastewater Treatment Rehabilitation**
- \$220,000 YTH VFD and AC system**
- \$450,000 2nd Street sewer realignment**
- \$240,000 Munoz well Rehab**

**\$1,154,175 premium pay for City employees including Option 1 where tier one employees would receive \$368 and tier two employees would receive \$184 or Option 2 where all employees would receive \$254 per check and part-time employees would receive 50% of approved level.**

**Discussion followed regarding employees and the amount of contact they have with the public and difficulty in choosing an option for the premium pay distribution.**

**Councilor Schaaf made the motion to approve Resolution No. R2022-26, including Option 2 of the premium pay and budget adjustment in the amount \$2,645,175, as presented. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Garcia, Palochak and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.**

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### 5. Approval of Proposal for Number of Banners – Vince Alonzo, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Alonzo said staff evaluated the current light pole banner usage on Route 66, Maloney Avenue and areas of downtown currently being used to hang marketing banners, which has created issues of wear and tear on existing banners due to a lack of space and is consuming Parks Department staff hours. Mr. Alonzo provided information regarding the total number of poles on Route 66, recommended hanging banners every 4<sup>th</sup> light pole, resulting in a total number of 95 banners from Toltec Drive to the truck stops on the west side of the city. He also suggested hanging marketing banners from auxiliary organizations on poles in between city poles, dependent on staff resources and bracket availability and no longer removing city banners to hang banners for other organizations.

Discussion followed regarding the number of replacement brackets needed, plans to present banner options, aesthetic impact, distinct banners for Historic Highway 66, required replacement of most brackets, lack of banners on the west side of the City, the number of empty poles, the burden on Parks Department staff and the potential to include additional City departments, the logistics of hanging and removing the banners and including brackets on every pole.

Ms. Ustick recommended tabling the item for further review.

Councilor Palochak made the motion to table Discussion/Action Topic 5. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Palochak, Garcia, Schaaf and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes

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

Kris Pikaart and Val Wangler, MD, Gallup Community Health Clinic Executive Director, provided information regarding the newly opened, non-profit clinic, located on Aztec Avenue. Ms. Pikaart explained their initiative to provide relief to the primary care deficit that currently exists, plans to serve all community members regardless of the ability to pay and openness to collaborative efforts with the city.

Councilors welcomed them to the community, expressed appreciation and wished them well in their endeavors.

Ms. Ustick requested dates for a potential soft or grand-opening.

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

Councilor Schaaf thanked all first responders for their efforts in the response to the traumatic events that took place on Thursday at the Ceremonial Parade. He congratulated the Gallup Fire Department for attending and competing in the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Firemen's Association Conference in Colorado, invited everyone to attend the Inter-Tribal Ceremonial events and thanked all City staff.

Councilor Palochak, a Board Member of the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments, mentioned her attendance at their annual meeting, touring current projects and using the Gallup Express Service. She applauded all who helped organize the Ceremonial events despite what happened on at the parade last Thursday and invited everyone to the events which will be safe.

Gallup Community Health Director of Communications commented on the events at the parade as inevitable and insightful to a major problem in the City with mental health and substance abuse and the urgency for additional resources to address the issues.

Councilor Garcia also urged everyone to attend the Ceremonial events and assurance the City, along with other agencies, are working diligently to ensure the public's safety. She commended Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez for his actions immediately after the Ceremonial parade, announced resources initiated by Deborah Martinez, Behavioral Health Investment Zone Manager, thanked all first responders, civilians and business owners for their quick thinking and help during the commotion at the parade, offered comfort and encouraged healing from the traumatic event.

Mayor Bonaguidi said he spoke to the Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham who offered her assistance with safety measures at the next Ceremonial parade. He assured the community's safety and provided his recollection of the events that night. He commended the Gallup Police Department and his hope for mental healing of everyone, who witnessed it, especially children. He highlighted the endurance and perseverance of the Inter-Tribal Ceremonial and commended Mr. Alonzo and the Parks Department staff for their work in cleaning up after the parade.

### **Comments by City Manager and City Attorney**

Ms. Ustick thanked the Governor and State staff for their assistance. She asked Robert Hamblen, Public Works Director and Franklin Boyd, Chief of Police to provide information about the route and logistical information regarding the Ceremonial Parade scheduled for Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Hamblen commented on the numerous calls from multiple agencies he received offering assistance. He provided a map including information regarding the change of

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the parade participant staging area, information on street closures, ADA parking areas, the incident command center, closure times and the goal to clear all cars from the parade route.

Brief discussion followed regarding the lack of parking and potential help from Gallup Express to provide a shuttle service.

Chief Boyd provided logistical information regarding street closures, the primary entry point, the removal of vehicles, authorized vendors, posted signage, and public parking.


Discussion followed regarding specific street closure times and methods of getting the information out to the public with help from the Chamber of Commerce. Gratefulness was expressed to the all who have helped at the event and continue to help.

Ms. Martinez provided information regarding mental health programs available, healing ceremonies and on-site behavioral health services.

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



**ATTEST:**

  
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Alicia Palacios, Deputy City Clerk

  
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Linda Garcia, Mayor Pro Tem