

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 22, 2023.

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
Also present:	Jon DeYoung, Interim City Manager David Eason, City Attorney

The Mayor and Councilors presented a Proclamation to the family of Juan Delgado, who recently passed on August 13, 2023. To commemorate the life of Mr. Delgado, the Mayor and Councilors proclaimed August 24, 2023 as Juan Delgado Day to honor him for his commitment to the City of Gallup, consistent support and advocacy for local senior citizens, the Gallup Inter-Tribal Ceremonial among many other civic contributions.

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

1. Appointment of Tammy Parker to the Keep Gallup Clean and Beautiful Board
2. Request for Street Closures for the Miyamura High School Homecoming Parade to be held on Thursday, September 7, 2023
3. Request for Closure of the Lower Parking Lot at the Courthouse Square for Rally 4 Recovery Event to be held on September 16, 2023
4. Request for Closure of the Lower Parking Lot at the Courthouse Square for the Gallup Pride Celebration to be held on September 30, 2023
5. Request for Street Closure for the Annual St. Francis Parish Fiesta to be held on October 1, 2023
6. Request \$6,590 in Funding from General Fund Reserves and a Budget Adjustment for OFPL Expenditures
7. Fiscal Year 2024 Law Enforcement Protection Fund (LEPF) Carryover

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8. Gallup Senior Program City Match Budget Adjustment and Senior ICIP Resolution No. R2023-24
9. Resolution No. R2023-25; Approval of the New Mexico Tourism Department Clean & Beautiful Grant Agreement and Related Budget Adjustments

Councilor Piano requested Item 6 removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Councilor Schaaf made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1 through 5 and Consent Agenda Items 7 through 9. Seconded by Councilor Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Garcia, Piano and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

6. Request \$6,590 in Funding from General Fund Reserves and a Budget Adjustment for OFPL Expenditures – Tammie Moe, Library Director

In response to Councilor Piano's request, Ms. Moe provided information regarding the laser engraver, explained details of the Library's Makers Space and announced the hiring of a Makers Space Educator scheduled to start on September 5th. Ms. Moe provided a list of activities included in the Makers Space program and her intent to expand the program.

Discussion followed regarding the extraordinary job Ms. Moe has done with the City's libraries and the number of organized activities.

Councilor Schaaf made a motion to approve the request for funding from the General Fund Reserves in the amount of \$6,590 and a Budget Adjustment for OFPL Expenditures. Seconded by Councilor Piano. Roll call: Councilors Schaaf, Piano, Garcia and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

Presented to the Mayor and Councilors was the following Discussion/Action Topic:

1. Appointment of a District 4 City Councilor – Mayor Louie Bonaguidi

Mayor Bonaguidi referenced the Work Session held on August 21, 2023 where interviews of three (3) qualified candidates were conducted, explained the procedure in the event of a tie and requested the Council's recommendation for appointment.

Councilor Piano voted for Christopher Vian based solely on the interview.

Councilor Garcia voted for Levi Saucedo and thanked all participants.

Councilor Schaaf voted for Ron Molina and thanked all candidates.

Mayor Bonaguidi voted for Ron Molina and expressed appreciation to all candidates.

Mayor Bonaguidi congratulated Mr. Molina on his appointment to the Council.

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

1. Greater Gallup Economic Development Corporation (GGEDC) Annual Report – Tommy Haws, Board President and Bruce Armstrong, Economic Development Manager

Mr. Haws expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the RFP process, commitment to economic development by obtaining data and studies while seeking recruitment for economic based jobs, importance of business retention and expansion of current economic based employers. He highlighted collaborative efforts with the other local governmental agencies, successes and recognitions, upcoming endeavors and future economic development opportunities.

Mr. Armstrong said the current primary focuses are business attraction and recruitment and business retention and expansion. He mentioned infrastructure planning and development involvement with two large companies, the future of clean energy and collaborative efforts on a proposal to the Department of Energy (DOE).

Discussion followed regarding DOE funding dispersal, partnered companies' involvement, the information provided on the GGEDC's website, female representation on the board, necessary criteria to participate as a board member, current opportunities with regard to Carbon Coal Road, electrical industrial rates and an expedited process for interested parties.

Elroy Drake, citizen, expressed interest and support of economic development, the importance of green energy, collaborative efforts with the Navajo Nation and his experience having worked for the tribe.

Following the GGEDC's presentation, Mr. Eason said the appointment of Mr. Molina as District 4 Councilor was not done in accordance with Article 2, Section 8, of the City Charter, which states a vacancy of this type requires a majority vote by the Council; therefore, he recommended to the Mayor and Councilors that they revisit the matter.

Councilor Piano made a motion to conduct a revote for the District 4 Councilor's position. Seconded by Councilor Schaaf. Roll call: Councilors Piano, Schaaf, Garcia and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

Discussion followed pertaining to the method used to move forward with a revote while following the guidelines of the Charter and regulations of the Open Meetings Act.

Joann Benenati pointed out specific language included on the agenda regarding Discussion Action Topic 1; Appointment for District 4 City Councilor.

Councilor Garcia made a motion to conduct the vote for District 4 Councilor appointment by written ballot. Seconded by Councilor Schaaf. Roll call: Councilors Garcia, Schaaf, Piano and Mayor Bonaguidi all voted yes.

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Mayor Bonaguidi asked the candidates to address the Council regarding their potential appointment.

Mr. Vian addressed the Council regarding his concerns about transparency in the appointment process, suggested discussion amongst the Council members regarding the applicants and conducting a public revote.

Mr. Saucedo emphasized the Council's responsibility to decide on a candidate and briefly explained his experience and availability.

Further discussion followed regarding transparency, legal restrictions with regard to discussing the matter in private, difficulty in choosing a candidate, candidate qualifications and encouragement of candidates not selected to run in the next election.

Ron Molina expressed disappointment in the oversight; however, he said he understood the Charter must be adhered to.

The Mayor and Councilors wrote their votes for a candidate on slips of paper and handed them to the City Clerk. Mr. Abeita read the written votes out loud and explained that according to the Open Meetings Act, each Council member must show how they voted.

Councilors Schaaf and Garcia and Mayor Bonaguidi stated they voted for Ron Molina. Councilor Piano said she voted for Christopher Vian. With a three-fourths majority vote for Ron Molina, Mr. Molina was appointed the new Councilor for District 4 in accordance with the City Charter.

Comments by the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Christopher Vian requested the Mayor and Councilors put forth a resolution in support of repealing several laws passed regarding the rights of the LGBTQ Community, abortion and voting. He strongly encouraged opposition of any attempt at a resolution due to the fact that it violates state law and his own personal reasons. He expressed the importance of protecting peoples' rights, especially children's' rights and those that may be harmed by showing support of said laws.

Pablo Martinez said the proposed resolution is for parents' rights of their children and not an attack on a group of people and the importance of maintaining constitutional rights. He also mentioned having provided a breakdown of the resolution to the Mayor and Council at the last meeting.

Dennis Gallegos expressed his religious and anti-abortion beliefs.

Ms. Benenati expressed her belief of separation of church and state and read a portion of the Secretary of State's website regarding invalid referendum petitions and the process.

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Dr. Connie Liu addressed certain comments regarding the referendum, encouraged the Council to reject the proposed resolution and provided information regarding collaborative efforts with the Chamber of Commerce on the formation of a Patient Advisory Group to advise the RMCH Board of Trustees. She said Lori Parra of the Chamber of Commerce, will be the primary contact for the application process, which will be due August 31st.

Deborah Yellowhorse encouraged the Mayor and Councilors to make Gallup a sanctuary city for the unborn.

McKinley County Commissioner Robert Baca thanked the Chief Erin Toadlena-Pablo, Deputy Chief Billy Padavich and Vince Alonzo, Parks and Recreation Director for their service at the Gallup Inter-Tribal Ceremonial. He also thanked Mr. Haws and Mr. Armstrong for their presentation and highlighted the importance of working together to get infrastructure on Carbon Coal Road in hopes of building a hospital in the area.

Mr. Haws also announced the donations made by former City Councilor and current GGEDC Board Member, Yogash Kumar, to the Gallup Fire Department for their fire alarm initiative and the EDC Enterprise Fund.

Christopher Hudson, McKinley Community Health Alliance Coordinator, announced his opposition to the proposed referendum resolution. He provided comment regarding the importance of housing, collaborative efforts to establish a housing model, an upcoming housing justice fair and funding received to hire an additional Housing Organizer.

Felicia Fertig expressed her support of the referendum resolution.

Richard Reyes thanked the Mayor and Councilors for approval of road closures for the Gallup Pride Event.

Comments by the Mayor and City Councilors

Councilor Schaaf thanked law enforcement and exhibit hall volunteers for their efforts during an incident that took place during the Ceremonial. He also thanked the Street Department for work done on a few residential streets and to all City staff for all they do.

Councilor Garcia echoed Councilor Schaaf's sentiments regarding City staff making sure the Ceremonial was a safe event. She announced upcoming events and thanked Mr. Kumar for his donation. She also thanked Ben Welch, Community Services Coordinator and Matt Robinson, Tourism and Marketing Manager for their assistance in naming the Senior Center's Dining Hall after Juan Delgado.

Councilor Piano commented on her attendance at the Ceremonial. She thanked Adrian Marrufo, Acting Water/Wastewater/Solid Waste Director and his staff for their work on water lines and expressed sympathy for residents affected by the water outage.

Councilor Piano echoed other Councilor's sentiments with regard to Juan Delgado's

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recent passing and expressed condolences to his family. She also expressed appreciation to the City Attorney's staff for a recent visit to her place of employment.

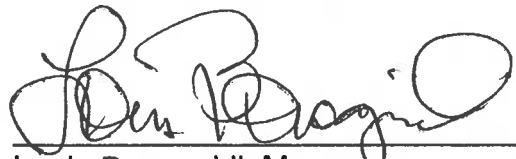
Mayor Bonaguidi announced the community cleanup event in the Mossman area and described his fondness of the friendship he had with Juan Delgado and for all he did for the community.

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



ATTEST:


Alicia Palacios, Deputy City Clerk


Louie Bonaguidi, Mayor