

CITY OF BLOOMFIELD
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
May 14, 2018

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 Matt Pennington, Curtis Lynch, Sue Finch and Ken Hare.

Also present were City Manager Donica George Duncan, City Attorney Ryan Lane and Deputy City Clerk Dorothy Nobis. Department Heads present were Brad Ellsworth, Fire Chief John Mohler, Jason Thomas, Police Chief Randy Foster and Peggy Loyd.

Councilor Matt Pennington offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda:

Councilor Finch made a motion to approve the Agenda and Councilor Hare seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Consent Agenda:

Councilor Hare had several questions regarding Accounts Payable. When his questions were answered by Finance Director Brad Ellsworth and Public Works Director Jason Thomas, Councilor Lynch made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda in its entirety and Councilor Finch seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

New Business:

Mayor Atencio asked Council to approve the contract with City Manager George Duncan. Councilor Hare stated that Mr. Duncan's contract will include reimbursement for the use of his personal vehicle when he is conducting City business. Councilor Hare also stated that Mr. Duncan will be a part time employee, working 20 hours a week minimum and additional hours as required. Mr. Duncan will be paid \$60 an hour. Mayor Atencio stated that having Mr. Duncan work part time will be a financial benefit to the City. Councilor Hare moved to approve City Manager George Duncan's contract and Councilor Finch seconded. Councilors Hare, Finch and Lynch approved Mr. Duncan's contract and Councilor Pennington voted no. The motion was passed.

Finance Director Brad Ellsworth asked the Council to approve a contract with RICCI and Company for audit services for the Fiscal Year 2018. Mr. Ellsworth stated the contract is less than the City has paid previous auditors and that the company has about 26 other clients. The state auditors require a three year proposal for auditors, but the contract is by year to year.

Councilor Finch moved to approve the contract with RICCI and Company for audit services for the FY 2018 audit. Councilor Pennington seconded and approval was unanimous.

Mayor Atencio requested approval to make Dorothy Nobis the City Clerk. Councilor Lynch moved to approve Ms. Nobis as the City Clerk. Councilor Finch seconded and approval was unanimous.

Public Works Director Jason Thomas requested approval of a proposal by CHC Engineers for the Design, Plan Preparation, and Permitting Services for the East Tank By-pass. Councilor Hare complimented Mr. Thomas on his research of the project, and stated that how the City will pay for the tank replacement project has yet to be determined. The New Mexico Legislature approved \$500,000 funding for the tank replacement project, which will ultimately cost the City \$1.6 million. Finance Director Brad Ellsworth stated that the maximum annual debt service is \$300,000. The project is for the east tank replacement. The tank currently serves about 597 meters, most of which are residential. Work on the east tank bypass must be done this year, Mr. Thomas stated. Councilor Hare moved to approve the proposal by CHC Engineers for the Design, Plan Preparation, and Permitting Services for the East Tank By-pass and Councilor Finch seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Mayor Atencio requested Council approval for three alternate judges for Municipal Court. Councilor Finch approved three residents as Alternate Municipal Judges and Councilor Hare seconded. Approval was unanimous. Kathleen Potter and Patricia Wilson were sworn in as Alternate Judges by City Clerk Dorothy Nobis. The third judge, Christine Carter, was unable to attend the meeting and will be sworn in at a later date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mayor Atencio asked Council to approve Jack Scott as the City of Bloomfield's representative on the San Juan Water Commission and Lynne Raner as the alternate. Mr. Scott and Ms. Raner have extensive history and knowledge of water in the area. Councilor Hare moved to approve Mr. Scott and Ms. Raner, with Public Works Director as the alternate. Councilor Finch seconded and approval was unanimous.

Department and Public Input:

Public Works Director Jason Thomas updated the Council on the regular meetings the San Juan County Emergency Management Services is having with the cities of Aztec, Bloomfield and Farmington regarding the drought conditions that continue to challenge water resources. He requested direction from the Council to City staff on ways to encourage voluntary water conservation. Councilor Hare asked Mr. Thomas to see what Aztec and Farmington are doing and to keep the Council updated.

Fire Chief John Mohler told the Council that the State Fire Marshal has approved funding for the new Administration/Training Center the Fire Department has been repairing the last six months. Chief Mohler said he hopes to have a private tour of the facility for the Mayor, City Council and previous city leaders on May 30, with an open house for the public on May 31. Chief Mohler also stated that the State Fire Fund will provide \$80,000-\$104,000 funding for the facility.

Bloomfield Librarian Peggy Loyd told the Council the library is preparing for its annual Summer Reading Program. This year's theme for the program is "Libraries Rock." Ms. Loyd also expressed her appreciation to Farmers Market for the generous donation of brown paper bags to the program.

City Manager George Duncan requested a date to review and approve the preliminary budget for the City. Finance Director Brad Ellsworth said the preliminary budget has to be electronically submitted to the state by May 29, with the final budget due by July 31. Mayor Atencio set a budget workshop for the Council for 6 p.m., Tuesday, May 29.

Mayor Atencio recognized Parks Department Director Melinda Gomez and her department for the work they've done with the city's parks and ballfields. The Mayor said many residents have praised the Parks Department for their efforts.

Amy Garcia of the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce presented the Council with a report on Bloomfield Days, which were held May 11-12. Ms. Garcia said the event enjoyed another successful year and reminded the Council that the Chamber will host the Annual San Juan River Balloon Rally June 14-17. More than 16 hot air balloons and pilots will be part of this year's rally. Councilor Finch said she'd like to have more community events and get more people involved and spending time in Bloomfield.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Atencio asked for a motion to go into a Closed Executive Session to discuss limited personnel. Councilor Finch moved to go into a closed executive session at 7:12 p.m. Councilor Hare seconded and the vote was unanimous. At 8:20 p.m., Councilor Finch moved to go back into the regular meeting. Councilor Pennington seconded and the vote was unanimous. Mayor Atencio stated that nothing was discussed in the closed executive session other than the items stated.

Adjournment:

Mayor Atencio called for adjournment at 8:22 p.m. All were in favor.

Mayor Cynthia Atencio

ATTEST:

Dorothy Nobis, City Clerk