

**CITY OF BLOOMFIELD**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**January 14, 2019**

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 Acting City Manager Jason Thomas, City Attorney Ryan Lane, and City Clerk Dorothy Nobis. Department Heads present were Brad Ellsworth and Fire Chief John Mohler.

**Acting City Manager Jason Thomas** offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Councilor Finch** moved to approve the Agenda and **Councilor Pennington** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

**Councilor Pennington** moved to approve the minutes and **Councilor Finch** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

**New Business:**

**Councilor Hare** offered clarifications of several items on Accounts Payable. **Councilor Finch** moved to approve Accounts Payable and **Councilor Lynch** seconded. Approval was unanimous. **Public Works Director Jason Thomas** requested approval to adopt Ordinance 479 to Enter into a Loan Agreement with the New Mexico Environment Department for the Purpose of Obtaining Project Loan Funds to Support the Planning and Design of the Water Reclamation Facility Improvements. **Councilor Lynch** and **Councilor Pennington** moved to approve and **Councilor Finch** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

**Public Works Director Jason Thomas** requested approval to adopt Ordinance 480 to Post a Speed Limit of 15 MPH on North Sixth Street and West Sycamore Avenue. **Councilor Lynch** moved to approve and **Councilor Finch** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

**Unfinished Business:**

There was no Unfinished Business to discuss.

**Department and Public Input:**

**Jason Crawford** asked the Council how many candidates applied for the position of Bloomfield Police Chief, who those candidates were and when the Council will make the decision on the new Police Chief. **City Attorney Ryan Lane** said the names of the candidates can't be disclosed. **Mayor Atencio** said there were three panels – Leadership, Professional and Community – that

participated in the assessment of six candidates on January 9, 2018. The Mayor also said the selection will be based on the scores of the top three candidates and the announcement of the new Police Chief will be made after City Manager George Duncan returns from his vacation, which will be Monday, January 21, 2019. The Council is looking at holding a special meeting to announce the new Chief on Tuesday, January 22, 2019.

**Tony Herrera**, a volunteer with the Bloomfield Police Department, said he was representing the other volunteers in asking the Council to listen to and review the proposal of the San Juan County Fire Department to partner with the Bloomfield Fire Department to better serve the residents of Bloomfield. Mr. Herrera said the volunteers are in support of the partnership.

**Mike Mattson** shared statistics from the Bloomfield Police Department with the Council and asked the Council to consider Interim Police Chief Randon Matthews as the new chief.

**Austin Johnson**, another Bloomfield Fire Department volunteer, said he was also speaking for the volunteer firefighters and they support the partnership between the Bloomfield Fire Department and the San Juan County Fire Department. He also asked the Council to review and consider the partnership. **Councilor Lynch** said the Council had not yet seen the proposal.

**Mayor Atencio** offered her appreciation to **Crystal Martinez**, who handles accounts payable for the city and also assists in the Utilities Department, for her help in gathering information about the city's animal control issues. Mayor Atencio said Ms. Martinez has been an asset to the city since she was hired. **Councilor Pennington** stated that the city had done an audit of the Aztec Animal Shelter in recent years and asked the shelter to keep copies of all paperwork from Bloomfield residents using the shelter. He suggested another audit be done, which could cut the costs to the city.

#### **CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Mayor Atencio** asked for a motion to go into a Closed Executive Session to discuss limited personnel and pending/threatened litigation. **Councilor Hare** moved to go into Closed Executive Session to discuss those issues and **Councilor Finch** seconded. Approval was unanimous. The council went into Closed Executive Session at 6:36 p.m. At 7:21 p.m., **Mayor Atencio** asked for a motion to return to the regular meeting, stating nothing was discussed in the executive meeting other than limited personnel and pending/threatened litigation, and approval was unanimous.

#### **Adjournment:**

**Mayor Atencio** called for adjournment at 7:21 p.m. All were in favor.

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*Mayor Cynthia Atencio*

ATTEST:

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*Dorothy Nobis, City Clerk*