

CITY OF BLOOMFIELD
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 11, 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 Curtis Lynch, Sue Finch, Ken Hare and Matt Pennington.

Also present were City Manager George Duncan, City Attorney Ryan Lane, and City Clerk Dorothy Nobis. Department Heads present were Brad Ellsworth, Jason Thomas, Police Chief David Karst, and Fire Chief John Mohler.

Police Chief David Karst 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 requested clarifications of several items on Accounts Payable, including a bill from CenturyLink and landlines. Councilor Hare asked if staff can do some research on getting rid of some of the landlines the city has, which would reduce costs. He also questioned a refund to Williams Kutz Plant, New Mexico Workforce Solutions and Extreme Network. Finance Director Brad Ellsworth offered clarification to Councilor Hare's satisfaction. **Councilor Hare** moved to approve Accounts Payable and **Councilor Finch** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Public Works Director Jason Thomas requested approval of an Agreement with CHC Engineers LLC for the East Tank. Mr. Thomas said sealed proposals for the East Tank project were received from CHC Engineers LLC, Bohannon Huston Inc., Cheney, Walters, Echols Inc. and Souder Miller & Associates. A Selection Committee, which included City Manager George Duncan, Municipal Operations Superintendent Ray Sterling, Water Plant Supervisor Rubin Armenta, and Public Works Director Jason Thomas, and was overseen by Finance Director Brad Ellsworth, scored the proposals, with CHC Engineers LLC ranking highest. **Councilor Lynch** moved to approve the Agreement with CHC Engineers LLC and **Councilor Finch** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Public Works Director Jason Thomas requested approval of a Resolution Requesting an Extension from the NMDOT (New Mexico Department of Transportation) for the East Blanco

Bridge Project. **Councilor Finch** moved to approve the Resolution and **Councilor Pennington** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

City Manager George Duncan requested approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between San Juan County, New Mexico, the Cities of Farmington, Aztec and Bloomfield, New Mexico, and San Juan County Crime Stoppers Inc., a New Mexico non-profit corporation, regarding the operation of a county-wide crime prevention program. City Manager Duncan stated that the cost to the City of Bloomfield will be \$6,300 each year, with the City of Aztec paying the same and the City of Farmington and San Juan County paying more. **Police Chief David Karst** said he will be meeting with the San Juan County Sheriff and the Police Chiefs from Farmington and Aztec to discuss the impact Crime Stoppers has on solving crimes in San Juan County. Mr. Duncan said if the Council approves the agreement, which is a one year contract, it can be terminated with a 30-day notice if necessary. **Mayor Atencio** offered her support of Crime Stoppers and Chief Karst said the organization has proven helpful in the past, citing the anonymity and cash rewards that are available to those who provide information that helps law enforcement solve crimes. **Councilor Pennington** said the information provided by Crime Stoppers is beneficial. **Councilor Lynch** moved to approve the Agreement and **Councilor Hare** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

City Manager George Duncan offered information on a proposed water rate adjustment for raw water delivery. Mr. Duncan said the city has been negotiating with the Bloomfield Irrigation District (BID) for some time. The city has been paying the BID for water at a rate of seven cents per 1,000 gallons, but the BID has requested a fifty cent per 1,000 gallons of water increase. He said the city has been working with the BID to resolve the difference in cost. The BID transports the majority of the city's water through 42 miles of ditch, which includes 15 siphons, 5 tunnels, 19 spill gates, 21 culverts, 7 miles of raw water pipeline, the Cottonwood Ditch Diversion and 4 flumes. The Blanco Flume is about 100 years old and is in dire need of repair and could fail at any time, Mr. Duncan said. Mr. Duncan and **Councilor Hare** led a discussion on the proposed water rate adjustment and reminded those present that it is the only source of water the city has and the partnership with the BID to make needed repairs is critical. Bloomfield resident **Robert Yoakum** stated that it appears to him that the city is putting money into a "pot with no bottom," and that there needs to be some accountability from the BID. **Mayor Atencio** said the BID Board of Directors includes good people who are working with the city to find a resolution. **Councilor Finch** offered her appreciation to city staff, Councilor Hare and City Manager Duncan for their efforts to resolve the problem. Councilor Hare also commended Mr. Duncan on his efforts. Mr. Duncan said he would like to have an ordinance prepared with the adjusted water rates on an annual basis part of the ordinance. He would also like to have that ordinance ready for the February 25 meeting of the Bloomfield City Council.

Unfinished Business:

There was no Unfinished Business to discuss.

Department and Public Input:

Bloomfield Fire Chief John Mohler updated the Council on two grants the Fire Department received, which gives additional microwave links that enhance communication between first responders and new air packs for Bloomfield firefighters.

Public Works Director Jason Thomas gave an update on the Riverbed Filtration Project. Mr. Thomas said that while the city has drilled several borings, looking for water, none have proven to be a good location for a 1-2 MGD well. He said the city can continue to investigate up-river on other properties, at a cost of between \$50,000 and \$100,000; or we re-focus on the Second Source project. If the city decides to move forward with the plan for Second Source, Mr. Thomas said we should begin that process as soon as possible.

Police Chief David Karst said he has been busy since taking over the chief's position and has had the San Juan County Sheriff's Office audit the department's evidence room and the department's firearms. Chief Karst added that the department now has 16 officers and many applicants, and that he is looking to hire experienced officers to eliminate the need to send new officers for mandated training, which can be costly and time consuming. The department is fitting officers for body armor vests and Chief Karst is working on a \$20,000 grant which would provide funding for new computers. The Chief has been meeting with staff and community members and reminded Council that the department still needs cars and he's looking for alternatives to purchasing new units. Chief Karst said he receives many questions about the city contracting with the San Juan County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement. **Mayor Atencio** responded by saying, "No, we're done with that."

Amy Garcia, tourism specialist for the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce, invited the Council to a Business After Hours, set for 6 p.m., Wednesday, February 13, 2019, at the Chamber. Ms. Garcia also invited the Council to the Chamber's Annual Awards Banquet, which will be held March 8, 2019, at SunRay Park and Casino.

Elwin Roark commended the Council on the continuing work with the Bloomfield Irrigation District.

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 Finch** moved to go into Closed Executive Session to discuss those issues and **Councilor Pennington** seconded. **Council Hare** also approved; **Councilor Lynch** voted NO. The council went into Closed Executive Session at 7:36 p.m. At 8:15 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 8:15 p.m. All were in favor.

Mayor Cynthia Atencio

ATTEST:

Dorothy Nobis, City Clerk