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

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

Councilor Sue Finch offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Special Presentation

City Manager George Duncan presented Police Chief Randy Foster with a plaque of appreciation for his service to the City of Bloomfield. Chief Foster is retiring from the City and has accepted a position as Town Marshal/Police Chief in Camp Verde, Arizona.

Consent Agenda:

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 appointment of Lt. Randon Matthews as the Interim Police Chief. Councilor Finch moved to approve the appointment, Councilor Hare seconded, and approval was unanimous.

City Manager George Duncan asked the Council to approve the appointment of Pat Lucero and Elizabeth Gomez to the Bloomfield Library Board and to re-appoint current member of the board, Kathy Schlapp, for a second four-year term. Councilor Finch moved to approve the appointments and Councilor Lynch seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Municipal Judge Sadie Smith-McDaniel presented an updated Penalty Assessment Schedule for the Municipal Court and asked for Council approval. Judge Smith-McDaniel said the penalty assessment schedule had not been updated since 2009. She also said she reviewed assessments from the cities of Farmington, Aztec, and other communities in New Mexico to

ensure the City of Bloomfield's updated penalty assessment is in line with other similar communities. Judge Smith-McDaniel also said she checked New Mexico statutes to ensure the city's schedule meets state requirements. The schedule includes a base fine and court costs, with the total fine due upon a plea of guilty or a verdict of guilty at a trial. The Judge said $29 of penalties received goes to the state to cover supplies, and the rest of the money collected goes into the city's general fund. Those who cannot pay the total penalty will be offered several options for payment, including a 30-day payment plan, community service in lieu of payment or a donation to a charity. Court costs will have to be paid, however, no matter how the payment plan is agreed upon. Councilor Hare moved to approve the penalty assessment schedule and Councilor Finch seconded. Approval was unanimous.

City Manager George Duncan introduced Ronald Poor, the general manager of WCA, which is contracted by the city to collect trash. Mr. Poor requested council approval of a 3.1 percent increase on trash pickup, stating that an increase is automatic every two years, according to the contract. Mr. Poor addressed several concerns from the council, including WCA's handling of citizen complaints and the importance of maintaining a regular trash pick-up schedule (and when that schedule is changed, to inform the city). City Manager Duncan said Mr. Poor has been very responsive when the city calls for assistance. Councilor Hare moved to approve the price increase with WCA and Councilor Finch seconded. Approval was unanimous.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business to be discussed.

Department and Public Input:

Janet Mackey, president of the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, invited the council and the public to attend the chamber's San Juan River Balloon Rally, scheduled for June 15-17 at the city's soccer fields. Nineteen balloons are expected to lift off at 6:30 a.m. June 15, 16, and 17, and a balloon glow is planned for the evening of the 16th.

Sgt. Josh Calder of the Bloomfield Police Department informed the council that the Police Athletic League (PAL) will host the annual Junior Police Academy June 18-22. Sgt. Calder said about 30 kids are expected to participate in the academy, which will be held at the Bloomfield Police Department from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The academy is open to kids from 8-16. Participants must complete and submit an application, which includes references from the applicant's school and church.

Fire Chief John Mohler gave the council an update on the upcoming Fifth of July Fireworks Display. Chief Mohler said that, because of the extremely dry conditions our area is facing, an alternative location for the fireworks has been secured. The location is on Bureau of Land Management land, next to B Hill, just north of City Hall. Chief Mohler also said the city has contacted AcmePro, which provides the display for the city, to ensure all necessary insurance is in place. He also encouraged the public to be careful with fireworks this year, again because of the drought conditions the area is facing. He reminded everyone that if fireworks someone sets off causes damage to someone else's property, the individual is responsible for those damages. Municipal Judge Sadie Smith-McDaniel said there is a fine of $500 and/or 90 days in jail if the city's fireworks code is violated.

Elwin Roark, a resident of Bloomfield, asked the council to look at the possibility of getting rid of a prairie dog community that is on Fifth Street and Blanco Blvd.

Councilor Hare gave an update on the progress the council is making regarding issues with the city. A budget committee has been meeting to discuss the current budget and new revenue ideas for the city. He said cutting costs and enhancing revenue are priorities for the committee and the council. Councilor Hare said Jack Scott, the City of Bloomfield's representative on the San Juan Water Commission, Lynne Raner, the city's alternate on the commission and Public Works Director Jason Thomas are attending Water Commission meetings. He said the city continues to look for a second source for water and enhancing the city's current reservoir. Councilor Hare, City Attorney Ryan Lane, City Manager Duncan and Councilor Finch are working on the legal issues with the Bloomfield Irrigation Ditch board and seeking a resolution to those issues. City Manager Duncan made a trip to the Durango, Colo., Recreation Center to see how its swimming pool is being managed. City Manager Duncan said the city is looking for ways to cut costs at the city's pool and narrow its revenue loss. Councilor Hare said the city continues to work with KOSH, the company that handles the city's internet technology and cybersecurity, and he and the council are pleased with KOSH. Councilor Hare also stated that former Planning and Zoning/GIS Director Donica Sharpe is consulting with the city and, along with City Manager George Duncan, is providing great leadership.

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 Lynch seconded. Approval was unanimous and the council went into Closed Executive Session at 6:58 p.m. At 9:22 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 9:23 p.m. All were in favor.

Cynthia Atencio

Mayor Cynthia Atencio

ATTEST:

Dorothy Nobis

Dorothy Nobis, City Clerk