

CITY OF BLOOMFIELD
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
March 25, 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 Sue Finch, Ken Hare and Matt Pennington. Councilor Curtis Lynch was absent.

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

City Manager George Duncan offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance, City Manager Duncan led everyone in the singing of Happy Birthday to Police Chief David Karst.

Councilor Finch moved to approve the Agenda for the March 25, 2019, meeting, and **Councilor Pennington** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Consent Agenda:

Councilor Pennington moved to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2015, meeting and **Councilor Finch** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

New Business:

Councilor Hare reviewed Accounts Payable and had several questions, which Finance Director Brad Ellsworth, Public Works Director Jason Thomas, Police Chief David Karst, and Parks Director Melinda Gomez answered to Councilor Hare's satisfaction. **Councilor Pennington** offered his appreciation to Finance Director Ellsworth for his efforts regarding Accounts Payable. **Councilor Hare** moved to approve Accounts Payable and **Councilor Finch** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Finance Director Brad Ellsworth introduced Colleen Gabaldon, an auditor for Ricci & Company, which conducted the City's audit for 2018. Ms. Gabaldon gave a short presentation on the audit and complimented Finance Director Ellsworth on the help he provided and the efforts he put forth to assist with the audit. She also stated that the scrutiny Councilor Hare does regarding Accounts Payable helps ensure a positive outcome of the audit. Ricci & Company gave the City of Bloomfield a "Clean Opinion," which states "Financial Statements are presented fairly in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United

States of America.” Ms. Gabaldon explained the process the auditors use for the audit and said four findings from the previous year were resolved in 2018, but stated she is working with Finance Director Ellsworth regarding internal controls, which are due to positions that have remained vacant because of the economic downturn the City has endured for the last several years. **Finance Director Ellsworth asked the Council to approve Resolution 2019-06, Acceptance and Approval of the FY18 Audit. Councilor Hare** moved to approve the Resolution and **Councilor Finch** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Parks Director Melinda Gomez requested approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with Four Corners Youth Soccer League (FCYSL). Councilor Finch moved to approve the Agreement and **Councilor Pennington** seconded. Approval was unanimous. Councilor Pennington said the soccer fields “look amazing,” and there are double the number of kids who are participating in youth soccer this year than in the past, and that it is nice that the kids have good facilities to use.

Parks Director Melinda Gomez requested approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with Bloomfield Youth Baseball. Logan Gallegos, President of Bloomfield Youth Baseball, extended his appreciation to the Bloomfield Parks Department staff and Director Gomez for their efforts in keeping the fields in great shape and for always being available when needed. **Councilor Hare** moved to approve the Agreement and **Councilor Pennington** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

City Manager Duncan requested approval of the Lodger’s Tax Boards recommendations for use of the City’s Lodger’s Tax fund. Parks Director Melinda Gomez requested \$13,045 for metal art work signs to replace the existing banners on light poles on Highways 550 and 64. Ms. Gomez explained the metal work is less expensive and will last longer than the vinyl banners the City has used in the past. Parks staff is creating the metal art work and the \$13,045 will cover the metal, paint, brackets and straps. There was some discussion on the metal art work, with positive comments from the Mayor and Council. **Councilor Hare** stated the statutes are clear in that Lodger’s Tax dollars can only be spent on events/equipment/material that promote tourism. He added that the City needs to focus its efforts on the beautification of the City, which will not only attract tourists, but economic development as well. Councilor Hare offered his appreciation to previous Mayors and Councils for the landscaping project on Highway 64. He also requested the Mayor put together an Arts Committee to help guide the Parks Department staff on the design and location of the metal art work. A discussion on the number and design on the metal artwork provided Ms. Gomez ideas and direction for her staff as they start on new signs. **Councilor Hare** moved to approve the Lodger’s Tax Board’s recommendation, with the stipulation that the Mayor create an Arts Committee, and **Councilor Finch** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

The funds for **Bloomfield Youth Baseball -- \$1,500 – was also approved by the Council**, with those funds coming from the Lodger’s Tax Fund. Bloomfield Youth Baseball will host tournaments that will include teams from Colorado. Bloomfield Youth Baseball President Logan Gallegos said the tournaments bring people in from throughout the area, who help the local economy when they support local businesses. **Councilor Pennington** asked Mr. Gallegos to let the City know when those tournaments are held, and City staff can promote the tournaments in its newsletter and on social media. **Councilor Hare** also suggested coupon packages that

would encourage tourists and visitors from out of town to shop in Bloomfield. **Councilor Finch** moved to approve the funds for BYB and **Councilor Hare** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

Department and Public Input:

Linda Corwin offered her support of the metal art work and expressed her concerns regarding trash pickup. She said a recent post on the City's Face Book page regarding changes in trash pickup was not on the City's web site, and that the number provided for Transit Waste was incorrect.

Arnold Montoya asked the Council for help regarding a large hole in front of his business, the Wooden Nickle. The hole is in front of the entrance to the business and is a hazard to his customers. The hole was created several years ago by a construction company, which is no longer in business. The company created the hole during a City project and promised to fix the problem. City Manager George Duncan said he would look at the hole and see what the City can do to help.

Public Works Director Jason Thomas said work will be done on Saiz Lane for the next couple of weeks. He also said the preliminary engineering report for the repair of the City's water tank should be completed by the end of May.

Police Chief David Karst said more than 30 applications were received for the Community Service Officer position. He expects to interview 10-15 applicants on April 3. Chief Karst also said the Police Department has hired an experienced officer, which brings the number of BPD officers to 17. The Chief added one of his primary goals is the training and enforcement of the City's codes and ordinances.

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 Here** moved to go into Closed Executive Session to discuss those issues and **Councilor Pennington** seconded. Approval was unanimous and the council went into Closed Executive Session at 7:37 p.m. At 8:58 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. Councilor Finch moved to return to the regular meeting and Councilor Pennington seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Adjournment:

Mayor Atencio called for adjournment at 8:58 p.m. All were in favor.

Mayor Cynthia Atencio

ATTEST:

Dorothy Nobis, City Clerk