

# CITY OF BLOOMFIELD REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

**April 8, 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, Curtis Lynch, 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.

**City Manager George Duncan** offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Councilor Finch** moved to approve the Agenda for the April 8, 2019, meeting, with a change of adding Public Recognition to follow approval of the Consent Agenda. **Councilor Hare** moved to approve the Agenda with the change and **Councilor Finch** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

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

**Former GIS/Planning & Zoning Director Donica Sharpe** requested the Council recognize San Juan County **Commissioner Mike Sullivan** for the generous donation of \$3,500 the San Juan County Commission donated to the City of Bloomfield to help find a solution for the Second Source challenge the city is facing. Commissioner Sullivan said it was an honor to be recognized by the Mayor and Council and offered his appreciation to the members of the Commission, including **Commissioner Jim Crowley**, who was also present. **Mayor Atencio** thanked Commissioner Crowley for his continued support of the City of Bloomfield's Fifth of July Fireworks Display. **Councilor Hare** said the City of Bloomfield has a \$5,000 contract with Once A Day Marketing, which will provide the City with an outdoor recreation assessment that will help Bloomfield move forward with its goal to make the City an outdoor recreation destination. Councilor Hare said surveys will be sent out to about 50 people, who help Once A Day Marketing and the City identify resources and provide an outdoor recreation plan. Councilor Hare added that the \$3,500 donation by Commissioner Sullivan and the other San Juan County Commissioners, along with a private donate of \$1,500 donation, will cover the cost of the

marketing firm's contract. Commissioner Sullivan congratulated the City for receiving \$650,000 in Capital Outlay fund from the recent Legislative Session.

**New Business:**

**D.J. Cristello** gave the City Council a presentation for his Eagle Scout Project, "Free Book Exchange Book House." D.J.'s goal is to place one book house in each of the three city parks in Bloomfield – Salmon Park, Liberty Park and Chris Keffaloes Park. By doing so, D.J. hopes to encourage reading in the City of Bloomfield. His project can help kids learn out to read and connect the community with possible book clubs. D.J. hopes to begin his project on May 11, 2019, and estimates it will take him about 20 hours to complete. **Councilor Finch** asked how the book houses would be built and D. J. said the houses will be on a stand and will be placed two feet into the ground with a concrete base. In response to **Councilor Hare's** question about where the books would come from, D.J. responded that he plans to do a book drive. **Councilor Pennington** congratulated D.J. on his ability to achieve the Eagle Scout distinction at the age of 13 years old and **Councilor Finch** said she appreciates D.J.'s efforts to encourage children to read. D.J. asked the Council to approve his project and **Councilor Lynch** moved to approve and **Councilor Finch** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

**Councilor Hare** reviewed Accounts Payable and had several questions, which Finance Director Brad Ellsworth and Public Works Director Jason Thomas answered to Councilor Hare's satisfaction. **Councilor Finch** moved to approve Accounts Payable and **Councilor Lynch** seconded. Approval was unanimous.

**Public Works Director Jason Thomas**, with the support of **Water Plant Supervisor Rubin Armenta**, gave a presentation regarding the Drinking Water 2019 Consumer Confidence Report. Under the direction and supervision of Mr. Armenta, the Water Plant staff met the requirements in July, 2018 that were stated in the Notice of Violation the City received in February of 2018. Improvements were made at the plant to ensure the drinking water of Bloomfield residents remains up to code. In addition Mr. Armenta and **Dale Brightman**, a member of the Water Plant Staff, were awarded a Certificate of Completion of Performance Based Training from the New Mexico Environment Department.

**John Davis**, the new **District Operations Manager for WCA**, which provides the trash pickup for the City, gave the Council an update on the issues that have plagued the company recently. Mr. Davis said there are many concerns about the problems residents have had with trash pickup and he is committed to improving the service and making it better. He has brought in an experienced mechanic to help with mechanical issues with the trucks and is analyzing the policies and procedures of the company. Ensuring the same driver uses the same truck and services the same route should improve service and limit complaints, Mr. Davis said. **Mayor Atencio** said the city has received many complaints regarding the lack of trash pickup and hasn't seen much of an improvement in services. **Councilor Hare** said the Utility Department keeps a log of all complaints regarding trash pickup and Mr. Davis requested a copy of the log, to help him as moves forward toward better customer service. **City Manager George Duncan** said the Utilities Department emails all complaints to WCA and Mr. Davis requested those emails be sent to him as well. Customers also complain that when they call the number provided for complaints, the calls are answered by someone in Oklahoma City. Mr. Davis

offered his personal cell phone number that the City can provide residents who have issues with their trash pickup. **Mayor Atencio** requested a return visit by Mr. Davis to give an update to the Council on his progress.

**Unfinished Business:**

**There was no unfinished business to discuss.**

**Department and Public Input:**

**O. Paul Griffith** offered his appreciation of the work Bloomfield Police Department Sgt. Caleb Coate did to solve a criminal damage to property issue in his neighborhood.

**Vickie Christy** also extended her appreciation to the Bloomfield Police Department. Ms. Christy's mother pulled over to the side of the road to take a phone call and a police officer stopped to make sure her mother was OK. Ms. Christy asked if Animal Control would address the issue of dogs not being treated well and doing without food and water. She congratulated Bloomfield Police Chief David Karst on his efforts to improve the department and asked him to get an Animal Control Officer.

**Councilor Sue Finch** said the Bloomfield Pride Committee held a Paint in the Park project, and restrained the wood fence around Salmon Park. Councilor Finch thanked Janice Snell and her Bloomfield High School Honor Society students for their help, as well as Bloomfield Pride Committee Member Terry Greiman for helping. Councilor Finch said Dumpster Day will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2019, and challenged the other City Councilors, the Mayor and all city employees to help clean up the southern portion of Highway 550 from the city limits to the Animas Bridge. The city will provide gloves, trash bags and vests and volunteers will meet in front of the Super 8 Motel, at the intersection of Highways 550 and 64 at 8 a.m. to begin the cleanup. Bloomfield residents and business were encouraged by Councilor Finch to clean up yards, streets and store fronts. Dumpsters for Dumpster Day will be at the lot by the Super 8 Motel and residents are reminded that no hazardous waste will be accepted. Other items that will not be accepted include mattresses and box springs, tires, couches, appliances, large tree stumps, large pieces of concrete, batteries, freezers, refrigerators, antifreeze, chemical/oils or paints in liquid form.

**City Manager George Duncan** said the Bureau of Reclamation will hold a meeting at 6 p.m., Tuesday, April 30, 2019, in Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting will include information on the snowpack the area has received this year, as well as drought conditions. He encouraged the public to attend and participate in the meeting.

**Councilor Hare** complimented Bloomfield Senior Center Director Jessica Polatty on her dedication to the seniors and the Senior Center, adding that Ms. Polatty brings many talents and assets to the city.

**Bloomfield Police Chief David Karst** said Dominic Detsoi was recently sworn in as a Bloomfield Police Officer and two more officers will complete the training at the Law Enforcement Academy. Officer Detsoi has three years of law enforcement experience. The Chief said assessments for Code Enforcement Officers/Animal Control Officers will be held. The Aztec Code Compliance Officer will be part of the assessments. A Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held at 6 p.m., Tuesday, April 16 at the Police Department. The PAL (Police Athletic League)

will host a bike rodeo the weekend of April 13 at the Police Department, and the first Citizens Police Advisory Committee (CPAC) meeting will be held the week of April 15-19, 2019. **Mayor Atencio** explained that the CPAC was first implemented by former Mayor Sam Mohler to offer advice and suggestions to the Police Department. Mayor Atencio re-instated that committee when she was elected. Chief Karst said he is currently reviewing city ordinances and will have suggestions for updates of those ordinances in the future.

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no need for a Closed Executive Session.

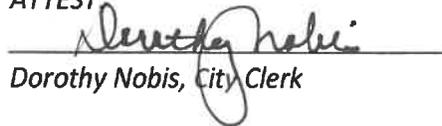
**Adjournment:**

**Mayor Atencio** called for adjournment at 7:33 p.m. All were in favor.



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Mayor Cynthia Atencio

ATTEST:



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Dorothy Nobis, City Clerk