

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO  
November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The City Council of the City of Artesia, New Mexico met in the City Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in regular session with Mayor Phillip Burch presiding, and the following present to wit:

Nora Sanchez	Luis Florez
Ken Bratcher	Jeff Youtsey
Bill Rogers	Raul Rodriguez
Terry Hill	

The following were absent:  
Manuel Madrid Jr.

Also present:  
John Caraway, City Attorney  
Aubrey Hobson, City Clerk

It was determined that a quorum was present. The invocation was given by Councilor Rodriguez and all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Consent Agenda**

Councilor Rodriguez moved to approve the consent agenda removing Item 3A from the agenda for separate consideration. Councilor Florez provided a second and upon vote, the motion passed 7-0.

The consent agenda includes:

**CONSENT AGENDA  
November 7, 2017**

1. **Approval of Minutes:** \*October 24, 2017
2. **Consideration of Bids:**
3. **Contracts, Leases and Agreements:**
  - A. Approval to change wireless carrier from Verizon to AT&T
4. **Appointments:**
5. **Resignations:**
  - A. Accept the resignation of Aaron Marquez, Solid Waste Equipment Operator, effective October 20, 2017
  - B. Accept the resignation of Jorge Olivas, Water Technician, effective November 10, 2017
  - C. Accept the retirement of Becky Mathews, Part-time District Attorney Liaison, effective January 5, 2018
  - D. Accept the resignation of Toby Bratcher, Firefighter/EMT, effective November 17, 2017
  - E. Accept the resignation of Andrew Jacob Cobos, Wastewater Assistant, effective November 15, 2017
6. **Dates of Hearing:**

- A. \*Permission to set a public hearing for November 28, 2017 for consideration of an ordinance amending 12-1-3 of the Artesia Municipal Code Repealing (B)(2) and Adopting 12-10-1.12 A (B)(2) as written in the 2010 Compilation of the Uniform Traffic Ordinance with all revisions to date

**7. \*Travel and Training:**

- A. Fire – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the Statewide EMS Advisory and PRC Ambulance Advisory Committee meetings in Las Cruces, NM
- B. Police – Ratification of Mayor Burch's approval for one (1) employee to attend the Internal Affairs class in Glynco, GA
- C. Police – Ratification of Mayor Burch's approval for one (1) employee to attend the Bleeding Control – Train the Trainer course in Ruidoso, NM

**8. Routine Requests for City Facilities:**

**9 Budgeted Items:**

**10. Non-budgeted Items:**

**11. \*Payment of Bills**

**Consent Agenda - Item #3A**

3. A. Approval to change wireless carrier from Verizon to AT&T

Councilor Bratcher inquired about the timeline for the FirstNet program that will be available on the AT&T network. Chief Roberts stated that he believes that the City of Artesia is one of the next areas of the state that should be upgraded. He explained that the State had contracted with AT&T to build and carry the FirstNet network. Chief Roberts also indicated that the cost with AT&T would be lower than Verizon and that in addition the Police Department would be receiving unlimited data for their mobile units. There was some discussion regarding the benefits of the switch and issues the City has faced with the current carrier.

Councilor Bratcher moved to approve the change of wireless carrier from Verizon to AT&T. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hill and upon vote, the motion passed 7-0.

**Period for Hearing Visitors**

There was no public input at this time.

**Committee Reports:**

Police and Fire

Councilor Bratcher reported that the committee had met with Chief Kevin Hope and are hoping to schedule a meeting with the Budget & Finance committee as well as Personnel to go over some ideas.

**Personnel**

A. Hiring

1. Councilor Rodriguez moved, upon recommendation of the Mayor, to hire Leyton Norsworthy to the position of Equipment Operator I, Streets Department, at a salary of \$2482 per

month (CA22), subject to the successful completion of required pre-employment testing. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hill. Upon vote, the motion passed 7-0.

B. Consideration and approval of a Resolution adopting a Website and Social Media Policy  
Human Resources Director Sandi Countryman presented a policy for Website and Social Media usage. She stated that it was the same policy the council had previously been presented with but with some changes suggested by Department Heads. Councilor Youtsey inquired as to what changes had been made and Director Countryman stated that the changes were grammatical and punctuation only.

Councilor Youtsey moved to approve the adoption of the Website and Social Media Policy. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hill and upon vote, the motion passed 7-0.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 1647**

#### C. Openings

Councilor Rogers moved to advertise and fill the positions of:

1. Solid Waste Department Equipment Operator
2. Water Technician
3. Part-time District Attorney Liaison
4. Firefighter/EMT
5. Wastewater Assistant

The motion was seconded by Councilor Bratcher.

Councilor Youtsey inquired whether all of the positions were to fill currently vacant positions. Director Countryman stated that yes, they were.

Upon vote, the motion passed 7-0.

#### D. Other

Director Countryman presented stats and stood for questions.

#### **Public Safety**

##### Police

Chief Roberts presented stats and stood for questions. There was discussion regarding the crime rate in Artesia and how various software and erroneous reporting has affected it.

##### Fire

Chief Kevin Hope presented stats and stood for questions.

#### **Community Development**

Community Development Director Jim McGuire presented stats, gave updates on ongoing projects, and stood for questions.

## Infrastructure Department

### A. Consideration and approval of Water Disinfection System.

Infrastructure Director Byron Landfair presented a request for consideration and approval of a Water Disinfection System. He briefly reviewed previous presentations and asked the council for a decision regarding permanent disinfection for the City of Artesia. Councilor Youtsey inquired regarding Item B. Consideration and approval of Emergency Purchase and whether this purchase would integrate into the permanent system if approved. Director Landfair indicated that it would. There was discussion regarding types of systems, the current procedures for maintaining residuals and the dangers to the Water Department staff. There was also discussion regarding the divisiveness of the citizens in regard to permanent disinfection.

Councilor Rogers asked what the next steps would be if the council approved permanent disinfection. Director Landfair explained that the engineers would begin working on what type of system would be best for the City of Artesia and that a Town Hall meeting would be held sometime in January in order to disseminate the information to Artesia's citizens. There was discussion regarding water quality and the laboratories used for testing.

At this time, Councilor Youtsey asked the public if they had any input.

Mr. Jerry Fanning Sr. inquired about well testing. He asked Director Landfair if each and every well was being tested. Director Landfair indicated that yes, each well is tested for water quality.

Mayor Pro Tem Hill moved to approve the request for a permanent Water Disinfection System. The motion was seconded by Councilor Florez.

There was discussion regarding the seriousness of the decision as well as the difficulty facing the council and the citizens. Several Councilors discussed their feelings on permanent disinfection but also indicated that they felt it necessary to take a proactive approach to the issue rather than a reactive approach. There was discussion regarding the possibility of contamination even with disinfection and how likely or unlikely that may be.

Upon vote, the motion passed 7-0.

### B. Consideration and approval of Emergency Purchase

Councilor Youtsey moved to approve the Emergency Purchase of three Disinfection units for the Water System. Councilor Sanchez seconded the motion.

Councilor Rodriguez inquired regarding the cost of the units. Director Landfair stated that it was estimated to be \$72,000.00 for all three units.

Upon vote, the motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Burch thanked the Infrastructure Committee for their continued dedication to the issue and appreciated that their primary concern has always been the safety of Artesia citizens.

### Other

Director Landfair presented stats, gave updates on ongoing projects, and stood for questions.

At this time, Mr. Fanning inquired about water pressure in his home. After some discussion, Director Landfair indicated that he would check into it.

**City Attorney**

City Attorney John Caraway stood for questions.

**City Clerk**

City Clerk Aubrey Hobson stood for questions. Councilor Rogers inquired about expenditures in the Street Department and after some discussion, City Clerk Hobson stated he would provide an updated report.

**New or other business from Councilors**

The Council expressed thanks for the discussions regarding the water situation and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilor Sanchez thanked Director Landfair and the Infrastructure Department for their hard work.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

