

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO  
June 8, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Artesia, New Mexico met in the City Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in regular session with Mayor Raye Miller presiding, and the following present to wit:

Mayor Pro Tem Terry Hill	Raul Rodriguez
Jeff Youtsey	Ignacio Mariscal
George G. Mullen	Kent Bratcher
Sam Hagelstein	Jarrold Moreau

Also, present:  
Summer Valverde, City Assistant Clerk/Treasurer  
Attorney Jay Francis

Absent: Aubrey Hobson, City Clerk/Treasurer

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

**New Requests for City Facilities:**

A. \*Artesia Arts & Cultural District/Artesia MainStreet – Request approval to hold the Red Dirt Black Gold Festival Friday, August 27, 2021 thru Sunday, August 29, 2021. Request approval of use of city services and road closures as stated on application and waiver of fees. *Contingent upon proof of insurance*

Councilor Rodriguez made a motion to approve the Artesia Arts & Cultural District/Artesia Main Street to hold the Red Dirt Black Gold Festival. Second by Councilor Hagelstein and upon vote, the motion passed 8-0.

**City Departments and Employees**

A. Recognition of Mayor Pro-tem Florez, Councilor Madrid and Councilor Rogers (*terms expired 2020*)

Mayor Miller presented Councilor Florez a recognition plaque of appreciation of service to the City of Artesia and then pictures were taken by the Artesia Daily press and Chamber of Commerce.

**Special Reports**

None.

## Consent Agenda

Councilor Rodriguez moved to approve the consent agenda as written. Second by Mayor Pro Tem Hill and upon vote, the motion carried 8-0.

### CONSENT AGENDA June 8, 2021

1. **Approval of Minutes** \*May 25, 2021
2. **Consideration of Bids:**
3. **Contracts, Leases and Agreements:**
  - A. \*Approval of Service Agreement A-21-59 with Eddy County
4. **Appointments:**
  - A. Approval of the reappointment of Joyce Moore to the Commission on Aging Advisory Council (*term to expire June 2023*)
  - B. Approval of the reappointment of Olympia Posey to the Commission on Aging Advisory Council (*term to expire June 2023*)
  - C. Approval of the reappointment of Mary Reyes to the Commission on Aging Advisory Council (*term to expire June 2023*)
  - D. Approval of the reappointment of Emma Salgado to the Commission on Aging Advisory Council (*term to expire June 2023*)
  - E. Approval of the reappointment of Claude Whisenhunt to the Commission on Aging Advisory Council (*term to expire June 2023*)
  - F. Approval of appointment of Devyn Garcia to the Lodger's Tax Advisory Board (*term to expire June 2024*)
5. **Personnel Resignations, Hirings, Promotions, and Transfers:**

Upon recommendation of the Mayor, subject to successful completion of required pre-employment testing, permission to:

  - A. \*Hire:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate of Pay</u>
1. <u>Aaron Brockman</u>	Fire	Firefighter	\$2482 per month CA22
2. <u>Trent Benedick</u>	Fire	Firefighter	\$2482 per month CA22
3. <u>Ray Downs</u>	Fire	Firefighter	\$2482 per month CA22
4. <u>Heath Cospers</u>	Fire	Firefighter	\$2482 per month CA22
  - B. Ratification to hire (*\*from approved list*) subject to successful completion of required pre-employment testing:
    - 1) Temporary Recreation Positions - \$10.50 per hour

6. **Dates of Hearing:**

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

- A. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) in Bernalillo, NM
- B. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the Assisting Individuals in Crisis & Group Crisis Intervention online training

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

9. **Routine Resolutions (to be assigned a number by staff):**

10. **Budgeted Items:**

A. \*Lodger's Tax Funding Requests:

1) Artesia Arts Council	year-round	\$	40,000
2) Artesia MainStreet	year-round	\$	25,000
3) Artesia Aquatic Center	year-round	\$	40,000
4) Eddy County Fair	7/24-31/2021	\$	15,000
5) Red Dirt Black Gold	8/28/2021	\$	42,000
6) Green Chile Cook-off	9/18/2021	\$	5,000
7) Clays Crusher	9/18/2021	\$	5,000
8) Horse Council High School Rodeo	10/1-3/2021	\$	1,200
9) Balloons & Tunes	11/2-7/2021	\$	9,000
10) AHS City of Champions Basketball	12/2-4/2021	\$	7,200
11) AHS Varsity Baseball Tournament	3/17-19/2021	\$	4,400
12) AHS Varsity Softball Tournament	3/18-19-2021	\$	4,400
13) Main Event Car Show & Cruise	3/25-26/2021	\$	15,000

**TOTAL \$ 213,200**

B. Advertise Artesia Campaign

1) Precision Digital Marketing Campaign	\$	60,000
2) Print advertising	\$	40,500
3) Digital Billboards (Roswell, Artesia, Carlsbad)	\$	45,000
4) Printed Materials	\$	2,000
5) Design, Consulting, Admin	\$	51,000

**TOTAL \$ 198,500**

11. **Quarterly Journal Entries:**

12. **Non-budgeted Items:**

13. **\*Payment of Bills**

**Public Hearings** – including consideration of final passage of any ordinance as to which proper notice has been published.

None.

### **Period for Hearing Visitors**

Councilor Florez thanked the City Council for his years here with their cooperation of getting a lot of done, also the staff, groups and community that have made Artesia shine and stand out in high esteem in communities. Mr. Florez stated that he appreciates the gesture of the award presented to him.

### **Comments from Public Officials and Contracted Services**

None.

### **Committee Reports:**

- A. Budget and Finance – None.
- B. Personnel – None.
- C. Police and Fire – None.
- D. Planning (*Project Management, Code Enforcement, Permits and Inspections*) – None.
- E. Recreation – Councilor Rodriguez stated that the Summer programs are up and going.
- F. Infrastructure (Streets, Garage, Cemetery, Parks, Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste, Facility Maintenance) – None.
- G. Government – None.

### **Personnel**

Human Resource Director Sandi Countryman stated that stats are in the packet and then stood for questions.

### **Public Safety**

#### **Police Department:**

Commander Beasley read the stats in the packet and stood for questions.  
Councilor Mariscal asked if there was a welding truck that was stolen and  
Commander Beasley replied yes there was.

#### **Fire Department:**

Fire Chief Hope stated that stats are in the packet that it had been a standard month.  
The 911 Memorial Exhibit venue has changed location to the Bulldog Bowl parking  
lot due to the size of the truck.

## **Community Development**

### A. \*Discussion and possible action on Artesia Aquatic Center Budget and Staffing

Community Development Director Jim McGuire stated that when meeting with the budget and staffing committee there was an increase of personnel cost of the aquatic center for custodian staff and contract custodians of an adjustment of \$8,000.

Councilor Youtsey made a motion to adjust and approve the aquatic center budget. Second by Councilor Bratcher and upon vote, the motion passed 8-0.

### B. \*Stats

Jim stated that he has the monthly reports for building inspections and then stood for questions.

## **Infrastructure**

Infrastructure Byron Landfair discussed a couple of updates and problems they have with the truck shed, they have started their excavation and about half the pad is in an old burn section, about 3ft will have to be taken out to get it structurally sound to put a building; which Byron will then bring to Council as soon as he gets an estimate. Also, the last piece of the Hermosa extension is done it is striped and opened. The Industrial Park is over with EDA and Byron is expecting their review next week and he will answer them back and it looks like we will be going to bid in about two months on that project. Bryon stated that the spring cleaning has begun as the alleys have become really bad. They are short on staff and the on call budget is getting thin. Byron has been bringing in folks to help out trying to get some of these alleys cleaned up that are the worst. The Infrastructure Department will be at or a little over budget for professional services. Bryon then stood for questions.

Councilor Moreau asked if the Boys Scouts have started out with Artesia Clean & Beautiful. Byron stated Artesia Clean & Beautiful is not quite on-line yet which he thinks in the next couple of weeks they will start doing their hires and then getting out there.

Councilor Youtsey asked Byron if he could use some of the solid waste money to clean up some of the alleys. Byron replied that they could but it is not in the line item; he has reserves that he can move over if they choose to do that but that the line items for the year are at the end of that fiscal year. Councilor Youtsey stated that he's in agreement with this if we need to get the alleys cleaned up with action by the Council if we have the extra money.

Mayor Miller stated that they might want to get with Aubrey to determine how to pay for it.

Mayor Pro Tem Hill asked about the status on the Freeman water line. Byron stated that there are two pieces; an emergency valve on 1<sup>st</sup> Street, when they get an insurance certification to the state, then they will release the traffic control permit where the valve can be replaced and are

hopeful that will happen in the next couple of weeks the contractor is ready Thursday if the certification is ready. On the Freeman loop line everything is in place and they are waiting for the two permits from the State highway for the bores for 1<sup>st</sup> Street and across Hwy. 82. We will need to talk with AirGas and Holly to get permission from these two landowners. Byron stated that the plans are just about complete that it's not a complex job. Mayor Pro Tem Hill thanked Byron.

### **City Attorney**

None.

### **City Clerk**

- A. \*Consideration and approval of resolution clarifying PERA Employer contribution (*postponed from May 11 and 25, 2021 meetings*)

City Assistant Clerk/Treasurer Summer Valverde presented to the Mayor and Council for consideration and approval, the clarifying Resolution – 1755 for the PERA Employer contribution match of 25% by employee and 75% by the City new additions in the coming years. Aubrey had PERA look over the resolution which they are good with. Summer stated that the resolution is an overall breakout of total contributions and then stood for questions.

Mayor Pro Tem Hill made a motion to approve the PERA Employer contribution Resolution-1755. Second by Councilor Bratcher and upon vote, the motion passed 8-0.

## **RESOLUTION 1755**

### **Mayor**

- A. Executive session: In accordance with the State of New Mexico Open Meetings Act, Section 10-15-1-(H)(2)(7):
1. Limited personnel matters – Infrastructure Department
  2. Pending litigation

Councilor Rodriguez made a motion to go into executive session to discuss limited personnel matters in the Infrastructure Department and pending litigation at 5:46 p.m. Second by Mayor Pro Tem Hill and upon rollcall vote, the motion passed 8-0.

Councilor Rodriguez made a motion at 6:00 p.m. to come out of executive session limited personnel matters and pending litigation was discussed no action was taken. Second by Councilor Mullen and upon vote, the motion passed 8-0.

- B. Action as a result of executive session

Councilor Rodriguez made a motion for action to be taken in the open for ratification of termination of employment for an Infrastructure Department employee. Second by Councilor Moreau and upon vote, the motion passed 8-0.

**New or other business from Councilors**

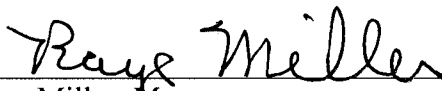
Councilor Hagelstein stated that he had been receiving calls with concern about zoning of cannabis shops.

Councilor Youtsey reminded everybody that Community Gardens is having an open house Saturday morning from 8 to 10.

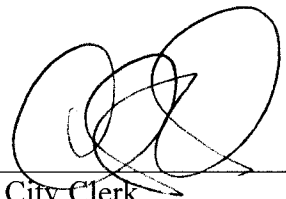
Councilor Mullen stated he will be absent for the next Council meeting as he will be in New Orleans.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m. On June 8, 2021.

  
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Raye Miller, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Aubrey Hobson - City Clerk