

**MINUTES OF CITY SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO
September 20, 2017**

The City Council of the City of Artesia, New Mexico met in the City Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, September 20th, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in special session with Mayor Phillip Burch presiding, and the following present to wit:

Kent Bratcher	Luis Florez
Nora Sanchez	Manual Madrid Jr.
Bill Rogers	Raul Rodriguez
Terry Hill	

The following were absent:

Jeff Youtsey

Also present:

Aubrey Hobson, City Clerk
John Caraway, City Attorney

It was determined that a quorum was present.

The invocation was given by Councilor Rodriguez and all joined Mayor Burch in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Discussion and possible action on the status of the public water supply

Mayor Phillip Burch explained that the meeting was to discuss the status of the water system and begin planning for solutions. He gave the Council and those in attendance a summary of the meetings which have taken place with the State of New Mexico. He stated the State had been notified that the City would make a decision at the October 10, 2017 Council meeting on how to proceed with solutions to the E.coli situation. Mayor Burch explained his recommendation for tonight's meeting was for the Mayor and Council to direct staff to engage an engineering firm to provide possible solutions as well as cost estimates for those solutions.

In response to a question from Mayor Pro Tem Hill, Mayor Burch explained the State had no problem with the City waiting until October 10th to make a decision. Mayor Burch further explained that the State was not being committal on whether or not they would force the city to chlorinate.

The Mayor responded to a question by Councilor Madrid stating the City could not switch testers during the time we are re sampling.

The Mayor then allowed a period of public comment.

Several attendees spoke to the Council with their concerns. Some of these included worries about the corrosiveness of chlorine as well as the danger that exists from handling of the gas cylinders. Jeremy Kearne suggested we contact MYOX out of Albuquerque who specializes in water treatment. They have a system whereby they use salt which is treated so the chlorine in the NaCl composition treats the water. He stated Lake Arthur has just had a system installed. Mayor Burch suggested he talk to Byron at the conclusion of the meeting.

Questions were presented about the timing of issuing a boil alert. Mayor Burch stated the State is responsible for issuing a boil advisory but will only do that after two confirming tests. Councilor Rogers explained that the delay is also multiplied by the fact the test require a 24 hour incubation period so only one test can be done each day.

Mayor Burch informed the attendees that the City would have a town hall meeting before a decision is made at the October 10th meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Councilor Rodriguez urged citizens to be part of the solution and not make derogatory remarks on social media as this only makes the process of finding a solution more difficult.

The Council agreed to direct staff to engage an engineering firm to provide design and cost estimates as well as solution alternatives.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.



Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

