

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO
October 27, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Artesia, New Mexico met in the City Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in regular session with Mayor Raye Miller presiding, and the following present to wit:

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

The following were absent:
Councilor Jarrod Moreau

Also, present:
Aubrey Hobson, City Clerk/Treasurer
Matt Byers by phone

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

None.

City Departments and Employees

None.

Special Reports

City Clerk Hobson reported the CARES Business Continuity funds had been received from the state. He stated he believed we had supporting documents from all but about seven awardees and there were two that had been located outside the city limits. If there are funds that need to be reallocated because of documentation, there will be another request presented to the state with no net change in funding but just an update to awards.

Clerk Hobson also reported that a COVID case at the Library is suspected so the library will be closed while employees get tested and the library is sanitized.

Consent Agenda

Councilor Rodriguez moved to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Hill provided a second and upon vote, the motion carried 7-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

October 27, 2020

1. **Approval of Minutes** *October 13, 2020
2. **Consideration of Bids:**
3. **Contracts, Leases and Agreements:**
 - A. *Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Carlsbad, City of Artesia, County of Eddy and the 5th Judicial District Attorney's Office for the development, implementation and operation of a drug enforcement task force to be named Pecos Valley Drug Task Force (Task Force)
4. **Appointments:**
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>Joseph Martinez</u>	Fire	Firefighter	\$2668 per month CA22
2. <u>Tanner Berry</u>	Fire	Firefighter	\$2809 per month CA22
3. <u>Aaron Flores</u>	Police	Detention Officer	\$2363 per month CA20
 - B. Accept the resignation of Matthew Hernandez, Water Technician, effective October 23, 2020
6. **Dates of Hearing:**
 - A. Approval to set a public hearing for November 24, 2020 to consider the approval of an ordinance for Case No. 20-11: Zone Change from SU-1, Special use district, to C, Business district; Lot 2, Block 7, Murphy Addition; Location: 604 S. 13th St.; Owners: Robert and Patty Jill Ballew
7. **Travel and Training:**
8. **Routine Requests for City Facilities:**
9. **Routine Resolutions (to be assigned a number by staff):**
 - A. *Approval of annual CDBG Resolution and approval of Federal Requirements
10. **Budgeted Items:**
11. **Quarterly Journal Entries**
12. **Non-budgeted Items:**
13. ***Payment of Bills**

Period for Hearing Visitors

None.

Comments from Public Officials and Contracted Services

None.

Committee Reports

Councilor Rodriguez reported there had been a Planning and a Recreation Meeting to discuss routine items.

Councilor Bratcher reported there would be an Infrastructure Committee meeting this Thursday. Mayor Pro Tem Hill reported on a zoom meeting he attended with Ambassador Birx of President Trump's staff as well as Governor Lujan and members of her staff to discuss actions that could be taken to assist with the curtailing of the spread of COVID-19. The Governor pointed out the rise in cases in Bernalillo County as well as Southeastern New Mexico Counties. Hill reported that Representative Townsend was on the call and asked the Ambassador if Governors should consult with their legislatures before making decision on restrictions. Although no definite answer was given, the Ambassador indicated the pandemic should not be politicized. Mr. Townsend also asked if they were taking a position that the upcoming holidays would cause a spike in the spread. The hosts responded that people need to make hard decisions on bringing family together for the holidays. The Mayor thanked Mayor Pro Tem Hill and Human Resources Director Sandi Countryman for attending that Zoom meeting.

Personnel

Human Resource Director Sandi Countryman presented a request to pay out the Safety Pays program. She presented a synopsis of the program as it had been administered in the past as well as some changes due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Mayor Pro Tem Hill moved for approval as presented with a second from Councilor Bratcher. Upon vote, the motion carried 7-0.

Public Safety

Police

Police Chief Kirk Roberts stood for questions. Councilor Bratcher congratulated the Chief on the Department's capture of armed robbers. The chief stated the same people were also suspects in an armed robbery in Carlsbad.

Fire

Fire Chief stood for questions. Mayor Pro Tem asked how the transfers were going. Chief Hope sated the program started out well but now the on-call employees are not taking the calls we receive.

Community Development

Community Development Director Jim McGuire reported on a possible change of hours and days of operation for the Aquatic Center. He then stood for questions. Councilor Bratcher asked about a burned-out trailer in a mobile home park on the West side. McGuire stated the Code Enforcement Officer was working on that property.

Infrastructure Department

Infrastructure Director Byron Landfair gave project updates and stood for questions.

City Attorney

None.

City Clerk

City Clerk Aubrey Hobson asked the Council to set the December Council meeting for December 15, 2020. This will be the only meeting in December.

Mayor

Mayor Raye Miller reported on some items that he wanted to share with the Council:

He stated he would be mentioning on the radio a rent and mortgage assistance program through the MFA for those behind on rent and mortgage payments because of the pandemic.

Chief Roberts had asked the Mayor about the possibility of hiring a person in Detention so we could have them on board to send them to a police academy in August. Mayor informed the Council he would be looking at that possibility and if they had comments to please get with him.

A. Discussion and possible action of expense of COVID related reimbursement funds.

Mayor Miller reviewed the City's CARES Reimbursement grant. The State had awarded \$2.61 million to the City for expenses related to the pandemic. He stated the City Clerk had applied for expenses through June 30, 2020 in the amount of \$1.7 million. The state has sent the City that money and the Clerk has applied for the remainder of \$925,000. Because the employees did not receive any raises this past year, the Mayor and Council were recommending a retention awards program giving non probationary full-time employees \$2,000 now with an additional \$2,000 in six months for future work performed. Part-time employees would receive \$1,000 each time. If the employee resigns or is terminated within 6 months of the award, the employee would be required to repay a prorated portion of the award. The payment would be subject to federal and state taxes as well as retirement. Probationary employees would receive their award after coming off probation and again 6 months after that date. Cost for the awards including benefits would be approximately \$400,000 each time. Councilor Mullen moved to approve the recommendation of retention awards of \$2,000 twice in the next 6 months for non-probationary full-time employees

and \$1,000 for part-time probationary employees. Also included in the motion was to approve the same award for employees when they come off probation and six months after that date. Employees affected would be all active employees hired before December 31, 2020. He also included in the motion approval of the agreement to be signed by all employees (Item 17 B. on the agenda). A second was made by Councilor Bratcher and upon vote, the motion passed 7-0.

A motion was made to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation at 7:10 p.m. by Councilor Rodriguez with a second by Councilor Mullen. Upon roll call vote the motion passed 7-0.

Ayes: Councilors Mullen, Hagelstein, Rodriguez, Mariscal, Bratcher, Youtsey, and Mayor Pro-Tem Hill

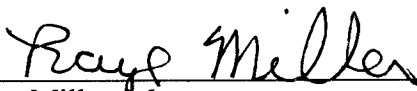
Nays: None

A motion was made by Councilor Rodriguez to come out of executive session at 7:21 p.m., stating pending legislation was discussed with no action taken. With a second by Mayor Pro Tem Hill, upon vote, the motion carried 7-0.

New or other business from Councilors


None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24. on October 27, 2020.



Raye Miller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Aubrey Hobson - City Clerk