

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO
March 9, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Artesia, New Mexico met in the City Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, March 9, 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	Ignacio Mariscal
Sam Hagelstein	Raul Rodriguez
George G. Mullen	Jeff Youtsey
Jarrold Moreau	Kent Bratcher

Also, present:
Aubrey Hobson, City Clerk/Treasurer
Attorney Jay Francis (by telephone)

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

None.

Consent Agenda

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

**CONSENT AGENDA
March 9, 2021**

1. **Approval of Minutes** *February 23, 2021
2. **Consideration of Bids:**

3. Contracts, Leases and Agreements:

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>Rick Bently</u>	Fire	Firefighter/EMT I	\$3019 per month CA27

B. Accept the resignation of David Avina, Firefighter, effective March 7, 2021

C. Accept the resignation of Aaron Flores, Detention Officer, effective February 7, 2021

D. Angelina Davila to temporarily assume the payroll duties of Finance Supervisor effective March 1, 2021. This will be a 10% temporary increase to her salary

E. Correction to increase for Carolyn Jo Nickerson-Harper (Acting Library Supervisor) effective February 1, 2021. This will be a 10% temporary increase to her salary

F. Report the retirement of Tabetha Salazar, Court Admin/Tech Services & Site Coordinator, effective March 11, 2021

G. Accept the retirement of David Grousnick, Part-time Airport Attendant, effective March 4, 2021

6. Dates of Hearing:

A. Approval to set a public hearing on April 9, 2021 on the question whether the Alcohol and Gaming Division of the NM Regulation and Licensing Department should approve or disapprove the transfer of ownership of Canopy Liquor License No. 1327 for:

- 1) Application Number: 1178928
- Name of Applicant: Five-G Investments, LLC
- Doing Business as: Five-G Investments, LLC
- Proposed Location: 1808 South First Street, Artesia, NM 88211

7. *Travel and Training:

A. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the online training Exploring Crime Analysis: Essential Skills II training

B. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the online training Fundamentals of Crime Analysis

8. Routine Requests for City Facilities:

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

10. Budgeted Items:

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

None.

Comments from Public Officials and Contracted Services

None.

Committee Reports

Personnel – None.

Police and Fire – None.

Planning (Project Management, Code Enforcement, Permits and Inspections) - None.

Recreation – None.

Infrastructure (Streets, Garage, Cemetery, Parks, Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste, Facility Maintenance) – Councilor Bratcher stated that they met last week to discuss the new waste water policy, they will be reviewing the policy and will hopefully have it out for approval soon.

Government – None.

Personnel

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

Councilor Mullen made a motion to advertise the part-time airport attendant position. Second by Councilor Rodriguez. Upon vote, the motion passed 8-0.

Public Safety

Police

Chief Roberts greeted the Mayor and Council and had nothing on the agenda other than stats; they are down all way across the board other than injury crashes which there has been an increase overall in collisions that is in common with springtime. Chief Roberts then stood for questions.

Councilor Youtsey stated that he has seen an increase in ATVs. Chief Roberts has noticed as well and has discussed this with the officers that ATVs are not legal with the City Ordinance not allowing off road vehicles, also that we have too much truck traffic in the town moving through.

Mayor Miller stated that he will mention it on the radio to remind everyone of the Ordinance of not allowing off road vehicles in town.

Fire

Chief Hope greeted the Mayor and Council stated that the only thing on the agenda is the statistics for the month. Chief Hope stated that after speaking with the Mayor about transports, the code analysis report is in from July to current; that out of town transports are down which is to be expected given the staffing. Additionally, they are averaging about eight requests per month for the out of town transports which they are picking up one or two per month out of eight monthly. Chief Hope then stood for questions.

Community Development

Community Development Director Jim McGuire greeted the Mayor and Council stated that he has the monthly stats and wanted to give an update on the property on 10th and Main; they have been working with an attorney to talk with the Environmental Department on what to do. The reason they retained an attorney is because of the way some of the regulations are written; if you're an owner you are the responsible party for the solvents they found on the sites. As the solvents were there before the property was purchased we feel that we are not responsible. The Environmental Department has finally agreed to meet and talk about the ultimate goal to get the property cleaned up to market the property for economic development. There will be a zoom meeting Thursday March 11, 2021 with the Environment Department. Jim stated that what will have to be looked at is the budget for the attorney as the cap of approved agreement has been reached; therefore, need to speak with the attorney to reevaluate to determine how much more funding will be needed to take care of the property issues. Initially they were going to meet with the Environmental Department as staff but because one of their department attorneys got back with our attorney, we will then need to have a lawyer present as we have these discussions. Jim then stood for questions.

Councilor Bratcher asked if we need to give approval to go over the budget.

Mayor Miller replied that we are asking the attorney for an estimate of additional cost and we will come back at the next meeting with a request for expenditures of GAEDC funds for additional attorney expense related to the property.

Jim stated that it is possible to get grants for the phase 1 and 2 environmental study but in the Environmental Department letter they mentioned that we are still responsible for paying them for oversight when cleaning up the property. There is also the cost of the cleaning up which we claim that we are not a responsible party but we want to work with the necessary agencies to get it cleaned up and will need to look for other grants for the actual remediation as well.

Councilor Bratcher asked what steps are after phase 2.

Mayor Miller stated the clean up is after phase 2 and then an assessment is made that there is not a risk for occupancy; there are two problems in the property which are hydrocarbons and solvents. The hydrocarbons will be addressed with the tank fund clean-up while there is an additional issue with solvent contamination.

Infrastructure Department

Infrastructure Director Byron Landfair greeted the Mayor and Council and stated that he does not have anything before us tonight; just one item that we get the new vector truck on Thursday. Byron then stood for questions.

Councilor Hagelstein asked if there is an update on Jamaica Park.

Byron replied that they are in the final stages of getting prepared to open up. The safety rails are due in at the end of the month and then the sod would be put out. Then we will be able to open the park in the sodded areas.

City Attorney

None.

City Clerk

City Clerk/Treasurer Aubrey Hobson has received an e-mail on the Library; computers are being utilized and they still have open availability.

Mayor Miller stated that Aubrey gave an eight-month update in the packet of two-thirds of the calendar year with every department being under budget in relation sixty-six and two-thirds percent, which our revenues are so far reasonable.

Mayor

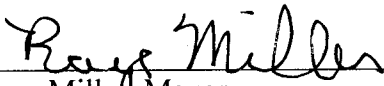
Mayor Miller stated that he put a document on the Councilors desk from the lobbyist for the City and County with his weekly report.

New or other business from Councilors

None.

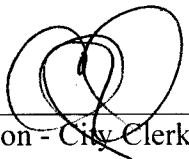
Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30. On March 9, 2021.



Raye Miller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Aubrey Hobson - City Clerk