

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO
November 10, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Artesia, New Mexico met in the City Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 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 Haglestein	Raul Rodriguez
George G. Mullen	Jeff Youtsey
Jarrold Moreau	

The following were absent:
Councilor Kent Bratcher

Also, present:
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

None.

City Departments and Employees

None.

Special Reports

City Clerk Hobson spoke on the packets given for the CARES Business Continuity Grant with a list of amendments made; some of the funds were reallocated because one hotel had over 2 million dollar in receipts and a couple of businesses were located out of the city, so reallocation of those funds have been done with a new list sent to the state.

Mayor Pro Tem Hill made a motion to approve the CARES Business Continuity Grant as amended. Second by Councilor Hagelstein. Upon vote, the motion carried 7-0.

Consent Agenda

Councilor Rodriguez moved to approve the consent agenda as written. Councilor Moreau provided a second and upon vote, the motion carried 7-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA
November 10, 2020**

1. **Approval of Minutes** *October 27, 2020
2. **Consideration of Bids:**
 - A. *Approval of award of bid for the West Hermosa Drive Roadway Extension to Constructors, Inc., Carlsbad, NM
3. **Contracts, Leases and Agreements:**
 - A. *Ratification of the Mayor signing the surveyed easement plat for the Robert Addition, Block 24, the E1/2 of the Vacated R.O.W. of 2nd Street Storm Line Easement & a Portion of the W1/2 of the Vacated R.O.W. of 2nd Street Parking Easement
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>Lorenzo Cardona</u>	Police	Uncertified Officer	\$3178 per month CA32
 - B. *Ratification of hire:

1. <u>Rene Frazee</u>	Water	Operator I	\$2608 per month CA24
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 - C. Accept the retirement of William Lloyd Everett, Community Service Officer, effective February 20, 2021
 - D. Accept the resignation of Brandy Rogers, Utility Billing Supervisor, effective November 13, 2020
6. **Dates of Hearing:**
7. ***Travel and Training:**
 - A. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to participate in the online training Basic SRO Distance Learning Course
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.

- A. Consideration and approval an ordinance amending Section 1-6-5 (A) of the Artesia Municipal Code - Classification- Probationary Period

Human Resource Director Sandi Countryman stated that this was put on the agenda because when an ordinance is changed it does require a public hearing and she stated she would like to continue this until the next meeting to give an opportunity to both the Fire and Police Chief because there are going to be some exceptions in their department and would like them to be taken care of before coming back to council on the 24th of November.

Mayor Miller stated this is a public hearing and if anyone has anything they would like to address regarding this item to council that would like to hear from.

Mayor Pro Tem Hill moved for approval to continue the hearing for the ordinance with a second from Councilor Rodriguez. Upon vote, the motion carried 7-0.

Period for Hearing Visitors

None.

Comments from Public Officials and Contracted Services

None.

Committee Reports

None.

Personnel

Human Resource Director Sandi Countryman stood for questions.

Public Safety

Police

Police Chief Kirk Roberts greeted the Mayor and Council and quoted stats on the agenda as far as crime stats graffiti is up, everything else is down. There has been a lot of reclaimed, lost and rescued animals. Chief Roberts then stood for questions.

Fire

Fire Marshall Brenden Harvey greeted the Mayor and Council stood for questions.

Community Development

- A. Update on the Aquatic Center
- B. *Stats

Community Development Director Jim McGuire reported some concern on the aquatic center not getting much participation on Saturdays, they have averaged about 10 people. They have had a discussion with United Pools Management and thought that they would go ahead and leave the pool open on one Saturday per month and then go ahead and continue with the time trials and maybe have two sessions in the same day if they get enough participation; also, any special session if they are allowed to because of the pandemic. December 12th will be the Saturday for December, then if that picks up, they will see about opening up more.

They have met with the Chamber about using lodger's taxes for passes that are embossed and given to the hotels for their customers. They will get stamped so that the pass can be tracked as to where the passes are coming from; at the end of each month the passes will be returned to the Chamber and those passes will be paid out at \$5 per pass from lodgers taxes, which can also be used for advertising and marketing of the aquatic center. Jim then asked if anyone had any questions.

Infrastructure Department

Infrastructure Director Byron Landfair greeted the Mayor and Council and gave project reports: the intersection of Hermosa and 26th is now fully open. The booster pumps are running at JC Park and are maintaining between 70 and 80 psi for the SW section of the town. A report on 1st and Hermosa was received and it looks like the lights are not going to be operational until January - they are missing a couple of key safety parts before the lights can be turned on. Byron then stood for questions.

City Attorney

None.

City Clerk

- A. *Discussion and possible action concerning opting into the Statewide election program beginning in November, 2021

City Clerk Aubrey Hobson spoke about an Ordinance in the packets about joining the Statewide election process where the County runs our elections. We have discussed this before and last time we had decided not to go with them to try one more time to do ours. It is looking more and more like the State is wanting us to do this and right now it is costing the City between 8 to 12 thousand dollars and if we opt in, the County does it for free. It made sense to go ahead and let them run everything. Last year even though we ran the election with the County it was really their election anyway, the only thing we did was accept the filing for candidates. Aubrey stated this would have to be an ordinance, so this would have to be advertised to look at it for a later

meeting. We wanted to look at it early so that if they go with this it gives everybody more time to start campaigning before the next November election.

Councilor Rodriguez stated that this election would be held by the County rather than the City and that if they are the ones responsible for gathering the poll workers. Aubrey stated that they take over everything and that we don't do anything. What we can do now is advertise this for a public hearing and discuss this more at the December 15th meeting which he will have more information between now and then.

Mayor Pro Tem Hill made a motion to direct staff to set up a public hearing to set up an ordinance for the election process. Second by Councilor Hagelstein. Upon vote, the motion passed 6-1 with Councilor Youtsey voting against.

Aubrey stated on behalf of all the employees we wanted to thank the Council for the retention award, everyone is really happy with that.

Mayor

Mayor Raye Miller reported on meeting with Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales. While he did not get much notice on the meeting, he met with him Monday morning for about 30 minutes and joined with Mayor Pro Tem Hill and Councilor Mullen. It was a meet and greet and a discussion on seeing what was largely on our community's mind which started off discussing about our children being in school.

A. Executive session: In accordance with the State of New Mexico Open Meetings Act, Section 10-15-1-(H)(7):

1. Pending litigation

A motion was made to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation at 5:34 p.m. by Councilor Rodriguez with a second by Mayor Pro Tem Hill. Upon roll call vote the motion passed 7-0.

B. Action as a result of executive session

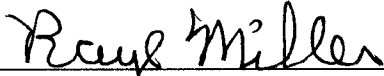
A motion was made by Councilor Rodriguez to come out of executive session at 5:45 p.m., stating pending legislation was discussed with no action taken. With a second by Mayor Pro Tem Hill, upon vote, the motion carried 7-0.

New or other business from Councilors

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48. On November 10, 2020.



Raye Miller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Aubrey Hobson - City Clerk