

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO  
April 13, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Artesia, New Mexico met in the City Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, April 13, 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
Kent Bratcher	Jarrold Moreau

Also, present:  
Aubrey Hobson, City Clerk/Treasurer  
Attorney Jay Francis

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 except 5 (G). Second by Councilor Hagelstein and upon vote, the motion carried 8-0.

Mayor Miller stated that we have a lot of departments that are short staffed and it has been discussed at length that these positions on 5 (G) are deemed to be necessary.

Councilor Rodriguez then made a motion to approve item 5 (G). Second by Mayor Pro Tem Hill and upon vote, the motion carried 8-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**  
**April 13, 2021**

1. **Approval of Minutes** \*March 23, 2021

2. **Consideration of Bids:**

3. **Contracts, Leases and Agreements:**

A. \*Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Changing Lives Coalition Inc. for the CLC Summer Meals Program

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>Summer Valverde</u>	F&A	Assistant Clerk/Treasurer	\$6333 per month CA55 +5%
2. <u>Marissa Chaves</u>	Police	Uncertified Police Officer	\$3178 per month CA32

B. Promote

1. <u>Michelle McConaughy</u>	Police	Administrative Assistant I	\$4014 per month CA25
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C. Accept the resignation of Kyla Gonzales, Infrastructure Department Administrative Assistant, effective April 30, 2021

D. Rodolfo Dominguez, Street Department Equipment Operator, was let go for failure to complete probationary period, effective April 6, 2021

E. Accept the resignation of Christopher Mendoza, Wastewater Assistant, effective April 2, 2021

F. Jadrien Reza, Water Technician, was terminated effective April 7, 2021

G. Request permission to advertise and fill:

- 1) Equipment Operator – Street Department
- 2) Wastewater Assistant
- 3) Water Technician
- 4) Evidence Technician
- 5) Community Service Officer
- 6) Detention Officer (to be hired in August 2021)

6. **Dates of Hearing:**

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

A. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the Executive Management Program in Elmhurst, IL

- B. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the Crime Scene Operations training in Hobbs, NM
- C. Police – Permission for two (2) employees to attend the First Line Supervisor class in Alamogordo, NM
- D. Fire – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the Highway Emergency Response Specialist (HERS) course in Pueblo, CO

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

- A. \*Consideration and approval of the question on 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

City Clerk/Treasurer Aubrey Hobson presented a transfer of liquor license ownership to Five-G Investments, LLC to 1808 South First Street, Artesia, NM.

Mayor Miller then asked if anyone would like to address the Council.

Aubrey stated Mary Root was on the phone and the Mayor asked if Mary would like to say anything.

Ms. Root greeted Council and stated she is an attorney with Root Consulting. She is representing the applicant Scott Goodall doing business as Five-G Investments, he is purchasing the liquor license currently held by Chapz that will be staying at the same location to be set-up as a restaurant.

Councilor Rodriguez made the motion to approve the transfer of the liquor license to Five-G Investments. Second by Councilor Mullen, and upon vote the motion carried 8-0.

**Period for Hearing Visitors**

None.

**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*) –

- E. Recreation – Councilor Rodriguez gave an update and possible action on summer programs with planning and recreation. They met last week discussing the recreation summer youth programs and are hoping to bring before the Council any information to have input to go to the recreation commission next Monday to prepare Summer youth and sport programs. They would also like to move forward with any laws, mandates and guidelines set before us which the Governor has made. Councilor Rodriguez then asked if Jim McGuire had anything for us. Jim stated that in the packets there is a spreadsheet on how much it will cost to hire the center employees.

Mayor Miller asked Luis Reyes, the Recreation Supervisor if there are fees associated with some of the programs that will show as income. Luis replied yes there would be fees charged, and they are working on the fees for approval. Mayor Miller wanted to clarify that there will be some income to off-set the cost as the budget is of some concern.

Mayor Miller asked if there were any questions or comments.

Councilor Rodriguez made a motion to go forth with the summer recreation programs pending everything going well with the Recreation Commission in accordance with mandates from the State. Second by Councilor Mullen. Upon vote, the motion carried 8-0.

- F. Infrastructure (Streets, Garage, Cemetery, Parks, Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste, Facility Maintenance) – None.  
G. Government – None.

### **Personnel**

Human Resource Director Sandi Countryman stated that there are no workers comp incidents to report for the month of March; there is one accident involving a city vehicle which will result in cost to the City, the streets department has addressed the incident with the employee and has applied appropriate discipline. Sandi then stood for questions.

### **Public Safety**

#### **Police**

Chief Roberts greeted the Mayor, Council and presented stats on the agenda which look good on crime for the month of March. As for the Animal Shelter stats Chief Roberts has requested that the animal shelter liaison do a five- year study to see if there has been an overall increase in intakes that would suggest to take a look at how we are doing things. Also, to see if there is a process change that can be adopted to keep folks from having their dogs running off as 200 for the first three month is a large number to have to catch and rather than guessing on how to alleviate the problem, a study will be done. Chief Roberts then stood for questions.

## Fire

Chief Hope greeted the Mayor and Council, and presented stats on the agenda and in packets, he then gave a quick update on personnel; they have an interview on Thursday that is ten year certified currently finishing paramedic classes and they are hopeful. Concerning additional spots unfilled, they have more than 14 viable candidates that they will test in May and are hopeful that it may fill the positions available. Chief Hope then stood for questions.

## Community Development

- A. Aquatic Center updates – Infrastructure Director Jim McGuire gave an update on the aquatic center stating that John met with the contractors last week on some of the repair work that needs to be done. They are assured they can get everything done by Memorial day weekend.

Mayor Pro Tem Hill asked Jim if most of the repairs are still under warranty. Jim relied yes.

- B. \*Stats – Jim stood for any questions on building and code enforcement stats.

## Infrastructure Department

- A. Discussion of use of Jaycee Park fields – Infrastructure Director Byron Landfair greeted the Mayor and Council and spoke on JC Park fields to say that the red tag for the new soccer fields and football complex has been lifted so they are ready to go to work there. It has been discussed in staff that the community would like to see published regulations or at least see what is allowed in the ball fields.

Jim McGuire stated as far as the State goes, we are in the turquoise level at 75% capacity that would give the community three out of four fields.

- B. Discussion of water line crossing – Byron has been working with Navajo on a water problem for about three or four years now on the southside of the plant. They are getting ready to start on the RDU unit. The valve will have to be put in since they were out there turning them and the valve broke. Byron would like to propose a line to get this fixed.

Councilor Moreau made a motion to replace valves, necessary permits and moving forward with the new line service of the new facilities with Navajo, as well to expand services with existing customers off of Fremont Street. Second by Councilor Bratcher and upon vote, the motion carried 8-0.

Byron gave a couple of quick project update that they are getting ready to go out for bid on 20<sup>th</sup> Street, a reconstruction from Hermosa to Grand with an alternate from Grand to Main. They will be scheduling a Town Hall meeting within the next three weeks to try and get residents to come in to talk about phasing.

Byron stated that the quarterly report has been sent into the EDA for the Industrial Park; the plans are ready as soon as some of their legality is cleared up they will be ready to start that job. Bryon then stood for questions.

**City Attorney**

None.

**City Clerk**

A. \*Approval of Budget Adjustment Resolution (Fire Department vehicle)

City Clerk/Treasurer Aubrey Hobson had a budget adjustment resolution. The Fire Department had \$200,000 set aside for their ladder truck with \$63,000 left over, so they would like to take \$47,000 to replace another vehicle; there will be no increase to the budget.

Mayor Miller asked if anyone had any questions or discussion on this.

Councilor Rodriguez made a motion to approve the budget adjustment Resolution – 1752. Second by Councilor Hagelstein, upon vote the motion passed 8-0.

**RESOLUTION 1752**

Aubrey received an e-mail from the library that they had a board meeting and would like to open up to 33 percent subject to staffing with limited hours until they get everything set-up.

**Mayor**

Mayor Miller stated that under capital improvement we had asked to be considered for \$500,000 of improvement from 20<sup>th</sup> Street to Hermosa Drive improvements for the engineering aspect of that project; It was approved and signed by the Governor. Also, they had asked for \$500,000 for the engineering of Hermosa from 13<sup>th</sup> down to Main that was approved. In addition, the City pays 40 percent of the expense for the regional emergency dispatch authority, the County pays 60 percent; House Bill 2 Junior was approved for \$230,000 for emergency technology.

A. \*NM Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Mayor Miller stated that we have a notice to let the community know about the Emergency Rental Assistance Program where there is money for rental and utility assistance of \$170,000,000 for New Mexicans.

B. \*NMML District meeting information

The Mayor also reminded everyone that this Friday we have the Municipal League District Meeting at 10:00 in the conference room.

- C. Executive session: In accordance with the State of New Mexico Open Meetings Act, Section 10-15-1-(H)(7)(8):

Councilor Rodriguez made a motion at 6:20 p.m. to go into executive session for purpose of discussion of litigation item 1 and 2 disposal of real property. Second by Council Bratcher. Upon vote, the motion passed 8-0.

1. Litigation
2. Disposal of real property

- D. Action as a result of executive session

Councilor Rodriguez made a motion to come out of executive session at 6:35 with discussion of litigation and real property with no action taken. Second by Councilor Moreau and upon vote, the motion carried 8-0.

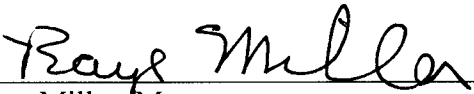
**New or other business from Councilors**

Councilor Moreau wanted to let everyone know that Boys Scouts is back up and going, that the kids are getting back to the things they love.


Councilor Rodriguez thanked all the City employees for everything that they do. In addition, welcomed back Summer Valverde and stated that he looks forward to getting ready and geared up for the budget.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41. On April 13, 2021.

  
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Raye Miller, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Aubrey Hobson - City Clerk