

Minutes of the Work Session of the Gallup City Council, City of Gallup, New Mexico, held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 110 West Aztec, at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, November 30, 2010.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Harry Mendoza.

At such meeting, the following were present, constituting a quorum:

Mayor:	Harry Mendoza
Councilors:	John J. Azua Mike Enfield Allan Landavazo E. Bryan Wall
Also present:	R. David Pederson, City Manager & City Attorney

The following items that will be considered during the next Regular Session were presented to the Mayor and Councilors for discussion only:

1. Task Force Recommendations:
 - a. Senior Citizens and Veterans Issues – Councilor Mike Enfield

Councilor Enfield said the members of his task force recommended the construction of one consolidated Senior Citizens Center. He recommended the appointment of another group to focus on possible funding sources for the construction of the center and to consider possible construction sites for the facility. He also recommended the formation of a group consisting of about five patrons from the Northside Senior Center and representatives from the Girls and Boys Club to review and provide input on the renovation plans for the Northside Neighborhood Center. The task force also supports the existing plans in place for improvements to the Veterans' Cemetery at Hillcrest Cemetery. As with the construction of a new Senior Center, a funding source will need to be identified for the Veterans' Cemetery improvements. He recommended the formation of a non-profit organization consisting of local veterans to manage the affairs of the Veterans' Cemetery.

Mr. Pederson said if the City is able to proceed with the improvements to the Veterans' Cemetery it should also consider creating a funding mechanism for the maintenance and upkeep of the remainder of Hillcrest Cemetery.

- b. Utility Policies – Councilor E. Bryan Wall

Councilor Wall thanked the following members of his task force: Joe DiGregorio, Jay Mason, Tommy Haws, Larry Winn, Jeremy Boucher, Jason Jones, Bill Bright, Kari Isbell and John Milligan. The areas of concern that was discussed by the task force was the

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Navajo-Gallup Water Pipeline, utility rates, infrastructure needs, alternative energy, G-22 Well Project, Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) Contract, Public Service Health Hospital, pro-growth, Red Rock Park, Gallup-Gamerco, Wingate Army Depot, Airport, Allison Road Corridor-Interstate 40 Interchange and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He presented an overview of the task force recommendations that were submitted, marked as "Exhibit B" and made a part of the official Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of September 21, 2010. He recommended that his task force remain intact and would like to have more studies conducted on the previous topics discussed.

Mr. Pederson said he will present the Golf Course Task Force Recommendations and Mayor Mendoza will present the Major Facilities Task Force recommendations at the first Regular Council Meeting in December 2010. In the next few weeks, he will compile all of the task force recommendations for public review and will present the recommendations for possible implementation by the Mayor and Councilors that involve policy changes.

In additional business, Mr. Pederson informed the Mayor and Councilors of the recent death of former Councilor George Hight. Mr. Pederson said Councilor Hight was a dedicated public servant who was instrumental in pursuing action to establish the original local 911 emergency system and pursuing action to obtain emergency equipment for the Police and Fire Departments. Mayor Mendoza said he had the privilege of serving with Councilor Hight during his first term as a Councilor during the 1980's.

Mr. Pederson said an exit interview was conducted with the City's Auditor earlier in the day and based on the meeting the City should receive a clean audit. The Auditor also complemented Judi Starkovich, Executive Director, Administrative Services Division and her staff for their work in maintaining the City's financial controls.

Mr. Pederson received the final invoice from the County for the operation of the Adult Detention Center in the amount of \$379,000. Mayor Mendoza said he received information that the County is contracting with other entities for the housing of additional prisoners to reduce the operational losses of the Adult Detention Center.

Mr. Pederson said he is working with the City Clerk on preparations for the next Regular Municipal Election which will be held on March 8, 2011. He is proposing to include two questions on the ballot; one question is whether to impose a 1/8 of 1% capital outlay gross receipts tax and the other question is whether to impose a 1/8 of 1% quality of life gross receipts tax. The quality of life gross receipts tax would provide funding for a new public library or a museum. The capital outlay gross receipts tax may be used for a new golf course or improvements to be made to the existing Fox Run Golf Course. Mr.

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Pederson said he received a letter from Frank Mraz of Gamarco Associates stating that Gamarco Associates was not interested in any type of land transaction with the City for the construction of a new golf course. Mr. Pederson said he will distribute the Molzen-Corbin report to the Mayor, Councilors and the Golf Course Task Force concerning the study conducted on the eight possible sites for a new golf course.

Councilor Enfield asked about the status of the Molzen-Corbin study on the proposed quiet zone. Stan Henderson, Executive Director, Public Works Division, said the report should be completed and distributed before Christmas. Mr. Pederson said he received information from a vendor that provides stationary directional horns that sends a sound that is less disruptive up and down the railroad track when a train approaches. A site visit with representatives from the BNSF Railroad and the New Mexico Department of Transportation will be conducted at the Second Street and Third Street railroad crossings.

Councilor Wall said he would like a question placed on the ballot to repeal the provisions for runoff elections. Mr. Pederson said a proposed Charter Amendment to repeal the provisions for runoff elections has been prepared and will be presented for action by the Mayor and Councilors at the first Regular Council Meeting in December 2010 to be placed on the ballot. If the voters approve the Charter Amendment, the Amendment would not go into effect until the 2013 Regular Municipal Election.

Councilor Azua said he attended the dedication of the Ramah Navajo Food, LLC meat packing plant last Monday. Although the City was involved in trying to locate the Ramah Navajo Food meat packing plant at the old Kachina Packing Plant, the City was not successful due to possible contamination factors. As a result, the County, Ramah Chapter and Blue Mountain Meats of Monticello, Utah proceeded with the project under the Local Economic Development Act that will create twelve new jobs for the new meat processing wholesale facility. The project, which was planned under the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments, focuses on providing jobs and economic development for the area with matching funds for the project to be provided from the State of New Mexico. The project is significant since the facility will be the first Native American Chapter project initiated with outside entities.

Mr. Pederson said the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the New Eastside Fire Station will take place on Thursday, December 9, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Pederson also said he received a letter from Chief Robert Soto of the Gallup Fire Department announcing his intentions to retire on December 31, 2010. Mr. Pederson said Chief Soto has done an excellent job for the City and wishes him well in the future. The Human Resources Department has initiated the advertising process for the selection of a new Fire Chief and Mr. Pederson will name an Acting Fire Chief until a permanent Fire Chief is selected.

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Mayor Mendoza provided information from Congressman Ben Ray Lujan's office announcing the passage of legislation that finally resolves the Cobell settlement and provides \$180 million for the construction of the Navajo-Gallup Pipeline Project. Mr. Pederson said City staff is in the process of reviewing the latest revision of the repayment contract with the Bureau of Reclamation. Mr. Pederson said the legislation is a giant step forward in having funds appropriated to initiate the actual construction of the project since construction by the Bureau of Reclamation is to commence in 2012. Mr. Pederson also said the City is making progress in working with the Jicarilla Apache Nation on a water purchase contract. Mr. Pederson is hopeful in accomplishing the procedural details of the contract, including the pricing of the water by the Jicarilla Apache Nation, after the first of the year.

There being no further business, the Work Session adjourned.



Mayor Harry Mendoza

ATTEST:



Alfred Abeita, City Clerk

Approved 12/14/2010