

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
ARTESIA, NEW MEXICO
January 8, 2008**

The City Council of the City of Artesia, New Mexico met in the City Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, January 8, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in regular session with Mayor Pro Tem Burch presiding, and the following present to wit:

Luis Florez	Raul Rodriguez
Terry Hill	Judith Stewart
George Holmes	Antonio Torrez
Glenn Kaiser	

The following were absent:
Mayor Manuel Madrid

Also present:
Aubrey Hobson, City Clerk-Treasurer
John Caraway, City Attorney

It was determined that a quorum was present. The invocation was given by Councilor Rodriguez, and all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitors

City Attorney John Caraway introduced his daughter Katie and friend Regina.

City Departments and Employees

Danny Jones of the Planning Department was recognized for receiving certification as a New Mexico Flood Plain Manager.

Glenn Hinkle of the Water Department was recognized for receiving his Level III Water Certification.

Consent Agenda

Councilor Holmes moved to approve the Consent Agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hill and upon vote, the motion passed.

The Consent Agenda includes:

1. Approval of Minutes: * December 11, 2007 - Regular meeting
2. Consideration of Bids:
3. Contracts, Leases and Agreements:
 - A. *Approval of pole agreement with Xcel Energy
 - B. ✓Approval of outside water connection contract with Bob L. & Jo Ann Mayberry for 2701 W. Richey Avenue
4. Appointments:
5. Resignations:
6. Dates of Hearing:

7. *Travel and Training:
 - A. Planning – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the bi-monthly IAPMO Certification Exam Committee meetings (*all expenses paid by International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials -IAPMO*).
 - B. Museum – Permission for one (1) employee to attend Pest Management for Museums workshop in Roswell, NM. Request mileage.
 - C. Wastewater – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the NMWWA Annual Awards Banquet in Las Cruces, NM. Request actual expenses.
 - D. F&A – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the NM Historic Records Advisory Board meeting in Santa Fe, NM. Request actual expenses and mileage (*all expenses will be reimbursed by the board*).
 - E. √F&A – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the NM Education and Outreach Workshop in Las Cruces, NM. Request actual expenses and mileage.
8. Use of Facilities (*approval contingent upon receipt of all applicable fees, license(s) and dept approvals*):
9. Budgeted Items:
10. Non-budgeted Items:
11. *Payment of Bills

Public Hearings

Mayor Pro Tem Phillip Burch declared the meeting open for public hearing for the following:

1. Consideration and approval of an ordinance approving the replat of Block 2 Original Town Of Artesia, located at 2nd and Texas.

Community Development Director Tina Torres reported that the ordinance request includes an alley relocation as well as a vacation of easement. The request has been presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission and they have recommend approval. Ms. Torres stated that there were also some questions about the on-street parking on Chisum.

Richard Hefler, representing the developer, stated that they appreciate the variance being granted for the off-street parking spaces for Hotel Artesia and that they were willing to do the parking improvements for the south side of Chisum, but they did not plan to do the north side.

City Attorney John Caraway commented that in exchange for reducing the number of off-street parking spaces, the owners had expressed that they would expand the parking on both sides of Chisum.

It was stated that the Hotel Artesia would require 60 parking spaces, but that the plans only allowed for 30 spaces off-street.

Mr. Hefler asked who was responsible financially for the parking improvement costs, and that the developer was willing to do the South side of Chisum only.

Councilor Florez requested more information on this issue.

Administrative Assistant Terri Hamilton reported that in the phase I of the project (the hotel) there is sufficient space for a parking lot and off-street parking, but the phase II plan would remove most of that parking lot.

No public comment was received.

Councilor Holmes moved to continue the public hearing to the January 22, 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hill and upon vote, the motion passed.

2. Consideration and approval of an ordinance for replat (Phase I) of Encantada Heights.

Ms. Torres reported that this is a replat of two lots of the subdivision. The request has been presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission and they recommend approval.

No public input was received.

Councilor Holmes moved to adopt Ordinance No. 782, the replat (Phase I) of Encantada Heights. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rodriguez and upon roll call vote, with the following votes recorded:

Aye: Burch, Florez, Hill, Holmes, Kaiser, Rodriguez, Stewart, Torrez

Nay: none

the motion passed

ORDINANCE NO. 782

Visitors who did not request to be on the Agenda

Susie Taylor reported on activities at the Drug and Crime Coalition.

Eddy County Commissioner Lewis Derrick reported that he will bring petitions requesting a traffic signal at First and Richey. It was reported that the City is already working with the Department of Transportation to request a traffic count.

Committee Reports

Budget and Finance

Councilor Holmes reported that the recommendation regarding outside requests was to fund the remaining 50% for all entities except Safehouse and Grammy's House. Councilor Holmes moved to approve the amended Purchase Service Agreements with the outside entities for the second half funding, excluding Safehouse and Grammy's House. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stewart and upon vote, the motion passed.

Personnel

Councilor Stewart moved, upon recommendation of the Mayor, to hire Auden Urias and Raven Vasquez to the positions of Recreation Aides, at \$6.50 per hour, subject to successful completion of pre-employment testing. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kaiser and upon vote, the motion passed.

Councilor Kaiser moved, upon recommendation of the Mayor, to hire Tracy Lynch, Nathan Worley and Clydea Smith to the positions of Lifeguards at \$6.50 per hour, subject to successful completion of pre-employment testing. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rodriguez and upon vote, the motion passed.

Councilor Kaiser moved, upon recommendation of the Mayor, to hire Robert Lopez and Louie Reyes Jr. to the positions of Referees at \$10.00 per game, subject to successful completion of pre-employment testing. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rodriguez and upon vote, the motion passed.

Human Resources Director Bill Thalman presented a proposal to adjust the Christmas holiday so that for most years, employees would have four-day weekends for Christmas. Discussion took place regarding the years that Christmas falls on Thursday, which would require employees to work on Christmas Eve. It was recommended that staff be directed to inform those departments who are normally open after 5 pm, that they could opt to close one hour earlier. Councilor Holmes moved to adopt the adjustment to the employee holiday schedule, Resolution No. 1280. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stewart and upon vote, with Councilor Hill voting “nay”, the motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 1280

Mr. Thalman distributed the safety statistics for December 2007.

Public Safety

Police Department

Chief Raley distributed the statistics for December 2007.

Fire Department

Chief Hummingbird distributed the statistics for December 2007.

Community Development
Planning

Code Enforcement Officer Cheryl Hinkle requested that Council proceed with foreclosure on a lien against 601 W. Centre Ave. The property has not been able to be passed to the heirs, and by foreclosing on the current lien of \$669.98, the property could be sold and the city may be able to recoup the lien amount. Councilor Holmes moved to proceed with the foreclosure, adding our attorney fees to the cost. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hill and upon vote, the motion passed.

The Building Permits issued for 2007 totaled \$22,474,000.

Public Works

Street Supervisor Alonzo Acosta reported on current street projects.

Water Supervisor Jamey Schwiger presented a short demonstration on the new SCADA system.

City Clerk

Councilor Holmes moved to adopt the budget adjustment resolution, Resolution No. 1281. The motion was seconded by Councilor Florez and upon vote, the motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 1281

Mayor

Councilor Florez moved that in accordance with 10-15-1-H(2) & (7), the Council and Mayor go into executive session regarding limited personnel matters and pending litigation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Stewart and upon vote, the motion passed.

Council recessed to executive session at 8:52 p.m.
Council reconvened at 9:35 p.m.

Councilor Stewart moved that the only matters discussed in executive session pertained to limited personnel matters and pending litigation, and no action was taken. The motion was seconded by Councilor Florez and upon vote, the motion passed.


Councilor Kaiser moved to uphold the disciplinary action of a 30-day suspension, effective December 12, 2007 for David Rossman, for a violation of city policy; and to extend Mr. Rossman's probationary period for an additional eight months. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hill and upon vote, the motion passed.

Councilor Torrez moved to extend the leave without pay for Leon Gormley until January 22, 2008. The motion was seconded by Councilor Holmes and upon vote, the motion passed.

New and other business from Councilors

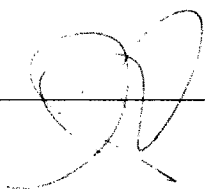
Councilor Holmes requested that the city investigate what it would take to have a video cameraperson at all meetings, not just when the training class sends someone.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM., January 8, 2008.



Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



City Clerk