

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

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

Manuel Barragan	Raul Rodriguez
Luis Florez	J.B. Smith
Terry Hill	Antonio Torrez
Raye Miller	

The following were absent:

George Holmes

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**

Stephanie Bretz, representing Artesia MainStreet, requested permission to use Central Park on Saturday, April 26, 2008, from 8 am to 3 pm for the WPA Oilfield Cook-off/Arbor Day Celebration. Councilor Hill moved to approve this request for the use of Central Park. The motion was seconded by Councilor Florez and upon vote, the motion passed.

Nancy Jorren, representing West Main Baptist Church, requested permission to use Roberts Park on Sunday, August 17, 2008 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm for Community Day. Ms. Jorren also requested the use of barricades and/or cones for the closure of the south road, from the middle of the park east to 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Councilor Rodriguez moved to approve this request for the use of Roberts Park. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hill and upon vote, the motion passed.

Bill McFarland, representing Smith Engineering, presented updates on the City projects. Mr. McFarland reported that grading has begun on Grand between 28<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> streets. Paving should begin as soon as the asphalt mix meets specifications. The sewer line project should finish in June. Next month, the lighting project at MLK Recreation area and the Hermosa Lift Station project should begin.

**City Departments and Employees**

Mayor Burch presented a proclamation naming April 13-19<sup>th</sup> as National Animal Control Appreciation Week to Animal Control Officer James Herrera.

Mayor Burch presented a proclamation naming April 13-19<sup>th</sup> as National Telecommunicators Week to Jeannette Brennan, Supervisor for the Dispatch Authority.

## Consent Agenda

Councilor Torrez 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: \* March 25, 2008 - Regular meeting
2. Consideration of Bids:
3. Contracts, Leases and Agreements:
4. Appointments:
5. Resignations:
  - A. Accept the resignation of Dora Sotelo, Street Department Foreman, effective March 30, 2008
6. Dates of Hearing:
  - A. \*Request permission to set a public hearing on May 13, 2008 for consideration of an ordinance amending section 5-1C-5 of the Artesia City Code (Petty Larceny; Fraud)
7. \*Travel and Training:
  - A. Museum – Permission for one (1) employee to travel to Las Cruces, NM to receive the Museum’s film collection. Request actual expenses and mileage.
  - B. Police – Permission for three (3) employees to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Gang conference in Santa Ana Pueblo, NM. Request actual expenses.
  - C. Police – Permission for one (1) employee to attend the Managing the Detective Unit training in Orlando, FL. Request actual expenses. (*contingent upon 08/09 budget funding*)
  - D. Police – Permission for three (3) employees to attend the Practical Homicide Investigation seminar in Highlands Ranch, CO. Request actual expenses. (*contingent upon 08/09 budget funding*)
  - E. Police – Permission for three (3) employees to attend the Crimes Against Children conference in Dallas, TX. Request actual expenses. (*contingent upon 08/09 budget funding*)
  - F. √AC&B – Ratification of Mayor Burch’s approval for one (1) employee to attend a Grant Review session in Santa Fe, NM. Request actual expenses and mileage. (*expenses are grant reimbursed*)
8. Use of Facilities (*approval contingent upon receipt of all applicable fees, license(s) and dept approvals*):
9. Budgeted Items:
  - A. Fire – Approval to purchase and install vehicle emergency lights for Fire Chief’s unit
10. Non-budgeted Items:
  - A. Police – Approval of remodel of office space (*budget transfer needed*)
11. \*Payment of Bills

## Public Hearings

Mayor Burch declared the meeting open for public hearing for the following:

1. Consideration and approval of a Home Occupation License for Aida Florez, operating Big Heart Travel World, located at 606 w. Chisum Ave.

Community Development Director Tina Torres reported that the this request has been presented to Planning and Zoning and they recommend approval.

Councilor Florez stated that this is his wife's business, most of the access will be through on-line/ web site access, and that she hopes to donate some proceeds to cancer research. Councilor Florez stated that he would be abstaining from the vote.

No public input was received.

Councilor Barragan moved to approve the Home Business Occupation License for Aida Florez, operating Big Heart Travel World, located at 606 W. Chisum. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hill and upon vote, with Councilor Florez abstaining, the motion passed.

### **Visitors who did not request to be on the Agenda**

Susie Taylor, representing the Artesia Drug and Crime Coalition, reported that the documentary "Crystal Darkness" would air in New Mexico on Thursday at 6:30 pm.

### **Personnel**

Councilor Torrez moved, upon recommendation of the Mayor, to hire Janlee Fanning to the position of Firefighter Trainee in the Fire Department at a salary of \$2,141 per month (CA16 step min). The motion was seconded by Councilor Hill and upon vote, with Councilor Barragan voting "nay", the motion passed.

Councilor Hill moved, upon recommendation of the Mayor, to hire Naomi Florez to the position of Part-time Museum Registrar at \$7.03 per hour (PT11 step min). The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith and upon vote, with Councilor Barragan voting "nay", the motion passed.

Councilor Hill moved to ratify Mayor Burch's approval to hire Amanda Genzling and Stephanie Fierro as Temporary Lifeguards at \$6.50 per hour, subject to the successful completion of required pre-employment testing. The motion was seconded by Councilor Torrez and upon vote, the motion passed.

Human Resources Director Bill Thalman presented the safety statistics for March 2008.

### **Public Safety**

#### **Police**

Chief Raley presented the department statistics for March 2008.

#### **Fire**

Chief Hummingbird presented the department statistics for March 2008.

Chief Hummingbird presented a request to apply for the Assistance to Firefighter's Grant (AFG) in the amount of \$826,000 with a 5% city match (\$41,300). The Chief reported that the funds would be used to replace a pumper (\$500,000), replace SCBAs (\$225,000) and purchase a mobile air compressor (\$101,000). Councilor Hill moved to apply for the Assistance to Firefighter's Grant. The motion was seconded by Councilor Florez and upon vote, the motion passed.

### **Community Development**

Community Development Director Tina Torres presented the departmental statistics for March 2008.

Ms. Torres reported that there will be an Open House to discuss the Public Safety Complex on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm. It was recommended that the city put together a page of FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) to distribute at the Open House.

Ms. Torres reported that the Building and Plumbing Permit Applications are now available on-line, as well as the Comprehensive Plan.

### **Infrastructure**

Mayor Burch introduced the new Infrastructure Director, Robert Forrest.

### **City Clerk**

City Clerk Aubrey Hobson presented the annual resolution to waive the payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) for the Housing Authority. Councilor Barragan moved to approve this resolution, Resolution No. 1294. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hill and upon vote, the motion passed.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 1294**

Mr. Hobson presented draft changes to the airport hangar lease that includes language to allow either side to terminate the lease with a 30-day notice. Councilor Hill moved to approve the changes to the airport hangar lease. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rodriguez and upon vote, the motion passed.

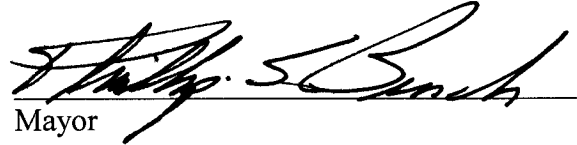
### **New and Other Business from Councilors**

Councilor Barragan requested that the City look at making J. J. Clarke a two-way street. This matter was referred to the Infrastructure committee.

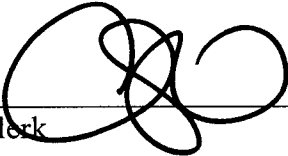
Councilor Barragan requested that something be done about the Graffiti ordinance. This matter was referred to the Infrastructure committee.

Councilor Barragan requested that the discussion of J.J. Clarke, the graffiti ordinance and the house numbering ordinance be added to the retreat agenda.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.,  
April 8, 2008.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk