



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL RATON CITY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING – BUDGET WORKSHOP HELD ON**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023 AT 10 AM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Neil Segotta called the special meeting of the Raton City Commission to order at 10:04 a.m. in the K-Bob's meeting room.

**II. ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE:**

Answering roll call was: Mayor Neil Segotta and Mayor Pro-tem Linde' Schuster. Commissioners: Ronald Chavez and Lori Chatterley. Don Giacomo was unable to attend. Also present were City Manager Scott Berry, Clerk/Treasurer Michael Anne Antonucci, Community Facility Director Jolene Greene and 1 visitor Brandy Dietz with GrowRaton.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THE FY24 BUDGET**

Brandy Dietz was present on behalf of GrowRaton and arrived after the meeting had started but participated in the discussions during the budget work session and provided a few ideas for the Civic Plaza Project.

**IV. WORK SESSION – CITY OF RATON 2023-2024 BUDGET**

City Manager Berry gave a brief overview of the budget challenges the City of Raton faced 10 years ago that included declining revenues and hiring freezes with a primary focus of providing basic services only. He also discussed how over the years the mentality has been that the City cannot spend any money, however the City finances have improved due to good fiscal management in addition to an increase seen in GRT from construction projects and online sales that have allowed the City of Raton to build a General Fund reserve close to 8/12 exceeding the mandatory DFA requirement of 1/12. City Manager Berry stated that the City of Raton has foregone building improvements, staffing, replacement of parks equipment and other City needs for many years. He suggested that a plan be developed to spend excess reserves and to establish a goal of maintaining at least a 4/12 reserve which would give the City Commission the ability to commit an amount between \$2-\$3 million to non-recurring expenses. City Manager Berry then provided the Commission with a memo, facility lists and a large project listing to begin the discussions regarding staffing raises, new positions, infrastructure, parks, recreation and trails, economic development and brownfield efforts. He also reported that Raton Fire and Emergency services is proposing the purchase of a new Type II Transfer unit for out-of-town transports at an approximate cost of \$180,000. A construction budget breakdown was also provided for phase one of the Kearny School film project. City Manager Berry reported that staff raises have historically been 1-2% and that this year he is proposing 4% for a limited number of staff including the possibility of some merit increases. He also noted the remainder of employees are part-time minimum wage or increases governed by a union contract.

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Commission discussion then followed regarding available grant funding, legislative capital outlay, private donations, options to finance building improvements and available funding from General Fund reserves. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the legislative capital outlay funding received for the El Portal Civic Plaza project and various ideas from each Commissioner for the best use of the property. City Manager Berry suggested that the Commission solicit an RFP to initiate a planning and design contract for the Civic Plaza Project. City Manager Berry stated that there are lots of ideas but encouraged the City Commission to develop a systematic approach for FY24 and future years. The City of Raton will have ongoing budget discussions to develop a draft budget for presentation and adoption in May to meet the June 1<sup>st</sup> submission deadline to the Department of Finance and Administration. There was no further discussion and no action was taken.

**V. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

**CITY OF RATON**

  
James Neil Segotta Jr., Mayor

**ATTEST:**  
  
Michael Anne Antonucci, City Clerk