



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR RATON CITY COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 AT 6 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Neil Segotta called the meeting of the Raton City Commission to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE:

Answering roll call was: Mayor Neil Segotta and Mayor Pro-tem Linde' Schuster. Commissioners: Ronald Chavez and Donald Giacomo. Also present were City Manager Scott Berry, City Clerk Desire'e Trujillo, City Treasurer Michael Anne Antonucci, Public Works Director Jason Phillips and 14 visitors. Commissioner Lori Chatterley joined the meeting, via conference call at about 6:10 p.m.

III. MAYOR NEIL SEGOTTA LED EVERYONE IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

IV. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, CITIZEN OF THE MONTH AND/OR PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION, SERVICE AWARD, CONGRATULATIONS, CONDOLENCES, HOLIDAY SCHEDULES, AND CITY/MUNICIPAL EVENTS:

- Next Regular Commission Meeting Tuesday, September 26, 2023
- Notice of Potential Quorum: A quorum of the Raton City Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission, and the Extra Territorial Commission May Attend the Zoning 101 and Commission Workshop on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers located at 224 Savage Avenue, Raton, NM 87740.

V. Items from Citizens Present: None

VI. ACTION ITEMS/ PUBLIC HEARINGS/ORDINANCES/ RESOLUTIONS/ CITY MANAGER'S REPORT- The City Commission may discuss and/or take actions on the following agenda items:

A. DELIBERATE AND ACT on City Manager Contract

City Manager Scott Berry stated the subject of deliberation is Dr. Richard Mestas. He noted that the City Commission has deliberated on the new City Manager candidates in closed session for quite some time. Mayor Neil Segotta stated City Manager Scott Berry has been wanting to retire for a couple years now and that the Commission is very impressed with Dr. Richard Mestas' resume. A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Linde' Schuster to approve the City Manager Contract for Dr. Richard D. Mestas. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Donald Giacomo and carried 4-0 with a unanimous roll-call vote of "yes".

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Commissioner Lori Chatterley joined the Commission Meeting via conference call.

B. *PRESENTATION: Raton Public Schools – School Construction Bond Issue*

Raton School's Superintendent, Mrs. Kristi Medina and School Board President, Jason Phillips spoke in support of the New School Construction Bond that will be on the November 7, 2023 election ballot. The new school would be a consolidated campus for kindergarten through 12th grade with the younger students separated from the older ones. Mrs. Medina stated the current school buildings have several issues including leaks and walls separating. If the bond doesn't pass it would take almost thirty million dollars to maintain the current school buildings for the next couple years, which is a very difficult task due to the outdated systems replacement parts being nearly impossible to find. If the bond passes, homeowners would see an average amount of \$4.65 raise in their property taxes per month for the next four years, which would return to \$5.39 the fifth year. With this bond the state would be contributing 90% of the funding with the local tax payers contributing 10%. The full in-depth interview is on Enchanted Air KRTN, there is also more information at www.ratonschools.com/bond.html. No action was taken.

C. *CITY TREASURER REPORT: Acknowledgement of Fiscal Year 2024 Final Budget Approval from Department of Finance & Administration for the City of Raton, Raton Water Works and Raton Public Service Co.*

City Treasurer Michael Anne Antonucci stated the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration has approved the City of Raton's Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2024. Due to the Commission deciding to put some of the reserved funding towards non-recurring expenses depleting the General Fund cash balance by -22.16%, careful control of expenditures and attention to revenue collection efforts is recommended. She noted that Raton Water Works and Raton Public Service Company have not received their letters of approval but believes they should arrive soon. No action was taken

D. *DELIBERATE AND ACT on Approval of the August 22, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, August 25, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes, and August 28, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes*

The minutes were approved as written.

E. *DELIBERATE AND ACT on Purchase of 2023 Ford F-150 Utilizing Phil Long Ford CES Contract # 2020-31A-101C-ALL*

Public Works Director Jason Phillips stated this is a F-150 Sigle Cab Long Bed 4x4 that will be replacing a 1999 Pickup Truck. With the Government Discount the full purchase amount is \$42,380. A motion was made by Commissioner Donald Giacomo to approve the Purchase of the 2023 Ford F-150 Utilizing Phil Long Ford CES Contract # 2020-31A-101C-ALL. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Linde' Schuster and carried 5-0 with all voting "aye".

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F. *DELIBERATE AND ACT on Resolution 2023-55: Application for Water Trust Board Funding for Renovation of Potable Water Storage Tank*

City Manager Scott Berry stated, City Engineer Jaden Welch is working on a grant application with Raton Water Works for renovations to the three-million gallon water tank. The tank has been inspected and has some erosion. It will need to be taken out of service so a coating can be added. Its estimated renovation is \$1,500,000 with a local match of \$250,000 which would come from the Water Supplemental GRT Tax Fund. A motion was made by Commissioner Donald Giacomo to approve Resolution 2023-55: Application for Water Trust Board Funding for Renovation of Potable Water Storage Tank. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Linde' Schuster and carried 5-0 with all voting "aye".

G. *DELIBERATE AND ACT on BIL – Airport Infrastructure Grant No. 3-35-0033-027-2023 for the Raton Municipal Airport*

City Manager Scott Berry stated this item has been discussed for several months. The electrical vault provides power to the airport hangars, beacons, and lights. The grant is for \$73,988 with a 1% City of Raton match. A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Linde' Schuster to approve the BIL – Airport Infrastructure Grant No. 3-35-0033-027-2023 for the Raton Municipal Airport. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ronald Chavez and carried 5-0 with a unanimous roll-call vote of "yes".

H. *DELIBERATE AND ACT on Resolution 2023-56: Perpetual Public Benefit Resulting from the Bartlett Mesa Ranch Acquisition*

City Manager Scott Berry stated that at the 2023 Regular Legislative Session a grant agreement in the amount of \$564,000 was appropriated to the City of Raton in House Bill 505. The funding will go towards the purchase of 2,224 acres which would become a part of Sugarite Canyon State Park to expand the existing area for public use and enjoyment. A motion was made by Commissioner Ronald Chavez to approve Resolution 2023-56: Perpetual Public Benefit Resulting from the Bartlett Mesa Ranch Acquisition. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Donald Giacomo and carried 5-0 with all voting "aye".

I. *DELIBERATE AND ACT on Resolution 2023-57: Support of Recreation Centers/Quality of Life Grant Application*

City Manager Scott Berry stated this was discussed at the previous Commission meeting. There is currently \$40,000,000 available for this program with an application due date of September 13th. The webinar stated that applications are limited to one application per entity. The City of Raton budgeted \$500,000 towards the restrooms at the Little League Fields, concession stands, bleachers and sunshades in the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget. The grant application is for improvements to the city's baseball and softball complexes in the amount of \$499,000 with a \$100,000 match requirement by the City of Raton. A couple local citizens, who are pickleball players, spoke of the desire and need for pickleball courts to host tournaments. The Commission assured the pickleball players that they have not forgotten about the pickleball courts and that they have every intention of constructing some courts in the

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near future. Commissioner Chatterley requested adding an additional whereas to the resolution stating the City of Raton has supported field use for the public schools and the Little League program. A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Linde' Schuster to approve Resolution 2023-57: Support of Recreation Centers/Quality of Life Grant Application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Donald Giacomo and carried 5-0 with all voting "aye".

J. *DELIBERATE AND ACT on 2023-2024 Dispatch Agreement Between the City of Raton and Colfax County*

City Manager Scott Berry stated the Commission approved the annual agreement at the June 27th Commission meeting. The County then requested a sixty-day agreement which was approved by City Commission and will expire at the end of September. The annual agreement states that Colfax County is to pay the City of Raton \$75,000 per year for dispatch services in monthly installments of \$6,250. A motion was made by Commissioner Donald Giacomo to approve the 2023-2024 Dispatch Agreement Between the City of Raton and Colfax County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ronald Chavez and carried 5-0 with a unanimous roll-call vote of "yes".

K. *DELIBERATE AND ACT on Body Camera Purchase Utilizing Axon State Price Agreement # 80-000-18-00048AF*

City Manager Scott Berry stated this is for a bundle of fifteen cameras, hardware, software, and storage of data through 2027 for \$45,242.54. The funds will come from the Law Enforcement Protection Fund. He noted that the New Mexico Self Insurers Fund usually funds these types of purchases, and that the City of Raton intends to request funding if possible. A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Linde' Schuster to approve the Body Camera Purchase Utilizing Axon State Price Agreement # 80-000-18-00048AF. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Donald Giacomo and carried 5-0 with a unanimous roll-call vote of "yes".

L. *DELIBERATE AND ACT on Downtown Tower Lease Between the City of Raton and Baca Valley Telephone Company Inc.*

City Manager Scott Berry stated this a renewal of an existing lease agreement for a tower that is located next to the RPS generator that is east of BTU. The lease agreement is for the amount \$12,500 over a ten-year term. A motion was made by Commissioner Donald Giacomo to approve the Downtown Tower Lease Between the City of Raton and Baca Valley Telephone Company Inc. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Linde' Schuster and carried 5-0 with all voting "aye".

M. *CITY MANAGER REPORT*

- City Manager Berry reported the City of Raton is advancing to phase three of the host selection process for the Economic Recovery Corps Program application recently submitted.
- City Manager Berry reported he and staff are working with engineers and consulting with Amtrak on the Platform Replacement Project and are currently working on drainage system improvements.

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- City Manager Berry recognized Financial Operations Clerk Sheri Romero for the good job she did while working for the City of Raton due to her leaving to pursue a new job opportunity. He also welcomed Tarrin Giacomo who was hired as the new Financial Operations Clerk.
- City Manager Berry reported the NM DOT Transportation Project Fund awarded the City of Raton \$550,000 for the replacement of three small bridges.


ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

CITY OF RATON


James Neil Segotta Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:


Desiree Trujillo, City Clerk

