



**CITY OF GRANTS
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, March 8, 2023
3:00 PM
MEETING MINUTES**



MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 3:01 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present:

- Mayor Erik Garcia
- Councilor Zachery Gutierrez
- Councilor George Garcia
- Councilor Fred Rodarte
- Councilor Beverly Michael

Absent:

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Fred Rodarte Second: Zachery Gutierrez Ayes:4 Nays:0

1. Discussion of Charter Compliance

No citizens wished to address the Council on Charter Compliance.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

No Citizens wished to address the Council.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion/Action - Approval of Resolution No. 23-1806 NMDOT MAP Participation

Shannon Devine, Projects Manager, presented the Council with Resolution No. 23-1806. Ms. Devine summarized the Resolution stating the City of Grants is up for the monetary requests, and this project is on the top of the list on the ICIP. She stated this project requires that the Resolution is passed, and explained that the funding is every four years which has increased due to Sandoval County being part of the City's District. The dollar amount is not set on the Resolution, but when the funding is available it will be noted, and further approvals will be required.

Councilor Fred Rodarte asked if this includes curbs and gutters.

Shannon Devine responded, saying it could include these.

Councilor Beverly Michael asked how many miles this project is.

Shannon Devine responded that it will be about four thousand feet from the intersection of Sakelares Blvd.

Mayor Erik Garcia pointed out that a 25% match is a little much.

Motion: Zachery Gutierrez Second: George Garcia Ayes:4 Nays:0

2. Discussion /Action - Approval of GPD Salary Increase

Michelle Maes, Interim City Manager; Victor Villalobos, Finance Manager; and Maxine Monte, Chief of Grants Police Department (GPD) , addressed the Council regarding the increase of the GPD's Salary.

Michelle Maes explained that the City Manager's ask is in blue.

Victor Villalobos explained that the proposal was generated by reviewing the current budget line items' total salary for the police department. He then said in this year's budget that, 27 paydays in this year were budgeted for, the salaries were budgeted with a 3% increase, and the higher ranks were budgeted a little higher, and with this slight overage, there was a little extra money to utilize in the budget. Mr. Victor Villalobos then explained how he came up with a job grade and appropriate rate increases.

Chief Maxine Monte then pointed out the police department is six officers down and trying to accommodate the officers' vacation. She also stated she wanted to do whatever it took to keep the officers they had invested in the department. She then thanked the Council for consideration of the Grants Police Department's Salary Increase.

Councilor George Garcia asked if the plan would be sustainable.

Mr. Villalobos replied, yes, it would be.

Councilor Garcia asked what non-certified officers would be paid.

Michelle Maes replied that it was in the \$16-per-hour range.

Councilor Garcia asked if the increase was just for certified officers, admin staff, or admin throughout the city, and he thought the city was trying to get away from just hitting certain departments.

Mr. Villalobos replied, stating that there is a separate fund for a records evidence technician and that a reclassification of staff was needed in the future.

Chief Monte stated that the prior supervisor took away an administrative position which increased the job duties of the two who were left, which is needed to be addressed soon.

Councilor Fred Rodarte asked about the proposal and if the current budget which is proposed will cover the current staff.

Mr. Villalobos answered, yes, it will cover a fully staffed police department.

Councilor Zachery Gutierrez pointed out he was excited to know this could be done and the City has the ability to do it.

Mayor Erik Garcia stated this is good but not the total solution due to retirement increases needed and equipment. He then stated the Governor might lower taxes, and this might give the City a chance to keep it at 8% for much-needed money in public safety.

Councilor Beverly Michael stated the City did not need to increase taxes to give the officers a much-needed pay raise. She also pointed out that if people are concerned by the dropped tax rate to advocate for their concerns with state representatives. Councilor Michael then pointed out that the existing gross receipts tax Ordinance 05-1162 should be allocated to public safety, which includes fire and safety.

Mr. Villalobos then stated that he still is a little uncertain about the Ordinance.

Councilor Michael then expressed she was sorry for the late salary raises to the police officers.

Councilor Fred Rodarte made a motion to approve the GPD Salary Increases adopting the City Manager's Recommendations, which was unanimously approved.

Motion: Fred Rodarte **Second: Beverly Michael** **Ayes:4** **Nays:0**

3. Discussion - Overall Employee Increase Fiscal Year 2024 (Not-GPD)

Michelle Maes and Victor Villalobos discussed the overall employee salary increase with the Council.

Mr. Villalobos explained to the council that the City Manager would like to increase the employee's pay by 5% possibly. He then stated they were looking at a scale of increase by pay rate and that he was looking at a possible 8% pay increase over the next two years. He also pointed out he is collecting information for the Council and Mayor's requests.

Councilor George Garcia stated in the past we were compatible with other cities in the fire department but that he would like to see an increase for all City employees.

Mr. Villalobos stated he could not take credit for the previous budget, and the credit was due to Gloria Pargas.

Councilor Beverly Michael pointed out she liked the way the County did their raises and having the raises done at once instead of in increments will be more noticeable and appreciated by employees.

Councilor Fred Rodarte mentioned citizens' concerns about the police department officers' pay.

Mayor Erik Garcia asked if anyone knew how the Fire Department pay schedule works and challenged the Council to figure out how it works.

COMMENTS

Councilor Fred Rodarte stated it would be valuable to increase the Police Department's retirement benefits.

Councilor Zachery Gutierrez stated he felt it was unprofessional for his fellow Council members to "throw jabs" at each other when they were trying to get good things done. He then stated he hopes the Council starts working more like a team.

Councilor George Garcia encouraged citizens to review the proposed state bills being considered at the State Legislative Session.

Councilor Beverly Michael pointed out that the Hydrogen Bill died but that the State still wishes to proceed with the process.

Mayor Erik Garcia then explained the State Legislative Session is important to the City of Grants and that the Mt. Taylor Quadrathlon will be recognized at the Legislative Session.

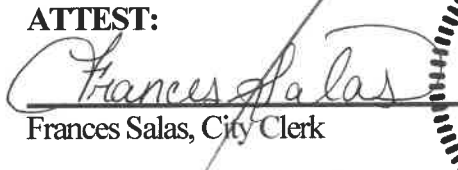
ADJOURN

Mayor Garcia adjourned the meeting at 3:46 PM.

APPROVED: Signature


Erik Garcia, Mayor

ATTEST:


Frances Salas, City Clerk

