



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

January 27, 2015

REGULAR MEETING 4:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME – Chairman

A regular meeting of the Streets and Alleys Committee was called to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Juan Oropesa with the following members present:

Juan Oropesa
Jeanine Corn Best
Steve Henderson

Staff present included Glenda Allen, Civil Designer; Sharon Coll, City Clerk; Bernadette Lopez, Office Manager; Stephen Miko, Public Works; Louis Najjar, City Engineer; Steve Polasek, City Manager; Ryan Porter, Civil Engineer III; and William Zarr, City Attorney.

Other individuals present included Pastor Landjur Abukusumo; Astuti Abukusumo; Pastor Artis Allen; Janet D. Allen; Larry Connelly, YPAC; Debbie Gorham; Richard Gorham; Silvia Henson, Roswell Hispano Chamber of Commerce; Ismael Palacios, Roswell Hispano Chamber of Commerce; Savino Sanchez, City Council, Ward 4; Randal Seyler, Roswell Daily Record; Pastor Michael K. Shelton, Sr.; Alice Wagner; Steve Wagner; and Elena Velasquez, City Council, Ward 5.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Best moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Henderson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 25, 2014

Councilor Best moved to approve the minutes as printed. Councilor Henderson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

NON-ACTION ITEMS

1. Street Name Change process-City & NMDOT streets:

Mr. Najjar said the City does not currently have a formal street name process. He recommended the minimum criteria for the process as follows: (a) request go through Streets & Alleys Committee; (b) Streets & Alleys Committee Review; (c) Streets & Alleys Committee recommendation to City Council; (d) Upon recommendation, notify all property owners by certified letter; and (e) City Council will vote; if approved, time frame for adopting name change notification to all interested parties. Mr. Najjar also stated that, according to the Traffic Engineer

with the NMDOT; they will require the same process, but it will have to go before New Mexico Transportation Commission.

Councilor Velasquez discussed the idea of having both Cesar Chavez and Martin Luther King, Jr. street name changes. She stated that there is community support for this idea. She provided the Committee with a summary of Mr. Chavez's and Mr. King's Biography. Councilor Velasquez would like to honor and pay tribute to these men by naming a street after them.

Various Persons spoke on this topic:

Councilor Henderson stated that when he was on staff in the early 90's and Martin Luther King, Jr. was suggested as a street name change. Garden Street was the proposed street to be renamed, but the residents objected. A park located by Monterrey Elementary School was named after Martin Luther King, Jr. Councilor Henderson stated the City needs to develop a plan, and preferably choose a street in new development.

Councilor Sanchez stated that he asked Tim Williams, Parks and Recreation Director, if he can fix the name on the monument at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park because it had come off.

Chairman Oropesa stated that he agreed with Councilor Velasquez in honoring these men by naming a street after them because they are very important in our history and culture.

Ms. Silvia Henson with the Hispano Chamber of Commerce stated that she received positive feedback from the community. One suggestion she received was to change Bland Street to Cesar Chavez.

Rev. Landjur Abukusumo, member of the Martin Luther King, Jr. State Commission, stated that he was in favor of both Cesar Chavez and Martin Luther King, Jr. street name changes because there is a respect for what they have done and what they have brought to the table. He stated that the naming of the streets for these men produces involvement in the community by the African-American Community and the Hispanic Community.

Councilor Henderson stated that if they were inquiring about an existing street; a street with no historical value will have the least amount of objections.

Mr. Steve Polasek, City Manager, suggested establishing a criteria, initially, to help narrow the street selection.

Mr. Steve Wagner stated that when he lived in Denver, Colorado, and they were going through the same procedure in which they picked a numbered street and added MLK to it.

Councilor Oropesa stated that the process of street name change will be facilitated through the Streets and Alleys Committee.

Councilor Henderson stated that they also be open to the suggestion of other names with significance.

Councilor Corn Best stated that names added should have a historical significance as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez.

Mr. Polasek suggested adopting a street naming policy so that there is standardized criteria the Committee can follow. He said they will research a name change process policy within the City.

Councilor Oropesa asked the Engineering Staff to research the details on the procedure, and it can be on the Agenda for next time as a follow-up.

Councilor Henderson suggested asking other communities what their policy is on the matter.

Ms. Alice Wagner stated when she lived in Alamogordo, New Mexico, they went through the same process, and they would be a community to consult with.

Pastor Michael K. Shelton, Sr. of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Roswell stated he lived in Philadelphia and they had a three step process where (a) form a Committee for street selection; (b) feedback from residents of street selected; and (c) to City Council for approval. The City added the name on top of the original street name.

Mr. Najjar stated after collecting the information, Engineering can come up with a more formalized process to be presented at a future Streets & Alleys Committee meeting.

2. CDBG Project Update:

Mr. Najjar provided the Committee with the plans for sidewalk project. Mr. Najjar gave an update of project design. Glenda Allen is the lead Designer for this project. Engineering plans to send CDBG plans to NMDOT for approval, and bid in March or April, so they can start the project when school is out in May.

Councilor Henderson suggested once the City is ready to begin the construction, an informational meeting will be held at either Mesa Middle School or Nancy Lopez Elementary.

Mr. Najjar stated the project cost is \$580,000.00. Mr. Polasek stated they would send out letters informing those who will be impacted in both English and Spanish.

REGULAR ITEMS (ACTION ITEMS)

NONE

OTHER BUSINESS (NON-ACTION)

Chairman Oropesa welcomed Ryan Porter, P.E., Civil Engineer III, to the City.

No public comments were heard.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.



Juan Oropesa – Chairman