



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

March 23, 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 (*appeared telephonically*)

Staff present included Bernadette Lopez, Office Manager; Stephen Miko, Public Works; Louis Najar, City Engineer; Quinton Miller, Streets Superintendent; Sharon Coll, City Clerk, and Stephanie Garay, Clerk Assistant.

Other individuals present included Rev. Landjur Abukusumo; Astuti Abukusumo; Larry Connolly, YPAC; Jose Zavala; Roswell Hispano Chamber of Commerce; Bobby Villegas, Soy Mariachi; Romo Villegas, Roswell Hispano Chamber of Commerce; Frank Sanchez, The Needmor Fund; Elena Velasquez, City Council, Ward 5; Jeff Jackson, Roswell Daily Record; Michael Trujillo, and Magil Duran.

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 – February 23, 2015

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

NON-ACTION ITEMS

None

REGULAR ITEMS (ACTION ITEMS)

1. Policy for Naming City Streets and City Facilities Update (Louis Najar):

Mr. Najar handed out the latest draft compiled with citizen's recommendations and changes to the Committee and interested parties. He also handed out an estimate of cost for signage. Councilor Best suggested (a) eliminating City Council Member and City department, under the

Application Fee; (b) \$150 application fee be non-refundable; (c) "Good Cause" be defined; (d) 75% of abutting property owner's approval for application; (e) Citizen of Roswell—minimum of five years; (f) Applicants in "good standing" only; and (g) Guarantee from applicant to pay remaining costs after the City's \$2,000 limit for costs.

Councilor Henderson stated he supports the 51% approval of abutting property owners for the application process. Chairman Oropesa agreed with the 51%. He asked for clarification on the notification process. Mr. Najjar responded that the process would be handled like a Planning & Zoning case in which the property owners would be notified by certified/return receipt mail. Councilor Henderson agreed to use the same methodology as Planning & Zoning. Chairman Oropesa asked if the required approval is based solely on the number of responses received. Mr. Najjar responded yes. Councilor Best opposed this process.

Councilor Velasquez wanted clarification on the petition and signatures. Mr. Najjar stated the signatures are proof that support has been received from property owners. He stated the petition is step one and comes with the application; and will need a vote by the Committee as to what the process will be.

Various Persons Spoke on this Topic:

Rev. Abukusumo stated that it would "self-defeating" if a person, property owner on the proposed street, receives the information and doesn't take the time or interest to respond, would be a negative vote? Mr. Najjar stated it wasn't a negative vote, but rather an "I don't care" vote and has no impact on the votes. Rev. Abukusumo asked if the percentile is based on the total responses received. Mr. Najjar responded, yes; the way he interprets it now.

Mr. Romo Villegas stated that the applicant should absorb all the costs related to name change.

Mr. Frank Sanchez agreed with the process of notification by certified letter to abutting property owners and those who respond should be counted as in any election. He also stated that the City of Roswell should bear the cost of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez street name changes because these men are national icons and are heroes to many people.

Mr. Magil Duran stated that the City of Roswell doesn't have any Hispanic or African American street names, and the City should name streets after these two iconic men.

Rev. Abukusumo stated that if the City of Roswell took an active role in propagating both these streets in Roswell as the applicant; this would avoid the polarity among the community.

Mr. Larry Connolly inquired about changing street names on partial streets. Councilor Best said partial streets need to be looked at closely and needs to be added in the Policy for Naming City Streets and City Facilities.

Mr. Najjar summarized the current changes and asked for direction on each of the following:

1. Citizen of Roswell:

Councilor Henderson stated that a citizen of Roswell should be established by residing in Roswell for a minimum of 30 days. Chairman Oropesa agreed with the 30 days, and Councilor Best did not.

2. \$150 Application Fee; Non-Refundable:

Councilor Best stated it should be non-refundable. Councilor Henderson and Chairman Oropesa agreed.

3. City Councilor Member and/or City Departments to initiate request with no fee:

Councilor Henderson and Chairman Oropesa agreed to this change. Councilor Best disagreed.

4. "Good Cause" Defined:

Councilor Best would like this defined in the policy. Mr. Najjar will get the verbiage on the next draft.

Mr. Najjar stated it was a 2/1 vote on the 51%, so that will be the percentage required of abutting property owners need to approve name change. He stated he would put language in the policy to clarify the certified mail to property owners and language stating "based on those responding." Mr. Najjar stated verbiage will be added for office verification of the petition. Mr. Najjar stated that he could add on the top of page 10, City Council formally approve a naming proposal, details and timing of cost; in which, City Council will decide. Councilor Henderson agreed with this. Mr. Najjar said he will come up with another draft.

OTHER BUSINESS (NON-ACTION)

1. Department Updates (Stephen Miko):

Mr. Miko stated that the contractor will complete the micro-surfacing of Sycamore, from 8th Street to Country Club by the end of the day. He stated the contractor will then move to 23rd Street, from Main Street to Garden Street, and then La Fonda Drive, from Garden Street to cul-de-sac, which will take until next week.

2. Public Comments:

None

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Jeanine Corn Best - Chairperson