



## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING STREETS AND ALLEYS COMMITTEE

February 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

Staff present included Bernadette Lopez, Office Manager; Stephen Miko, Public Works; Louis Najar, City Engineer; Ryan Porter, Civil Engineer III; Quinton Miller, Streets Superintendent, and William Zarr, City Attorney.

Other individuals present included Pastor Landjur Abukusumo; Astuti Abukusumo; Pastor Artis Allen; Janet D. Allen; Larry Connolly, YPAC; Richard Gorham; Bobby Villegas, Roswell Hispano Chamber of Commerce; Elena Velasquez, City Council, Ward 5; Jeff Jackson, Roswell Daily Record; Stanley Smith; Susie Carter and Jason Perry, City Council, Ward 4.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 27, 2015**

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

### **NON-ACTION ITEMS**

#### 1. Toss it Saturdays (renamed March out the Trash):

Mr. Miko handed out the flyer for the March out the Trash to committee members. He stated that every Saturday in March at separate locations; city residents can drop off trash, acceptable items only, flyer lists what is and what is not acceptable. He also added that the seniors and/or disabled, homebound or physically unable; can take items to any of these locations or leave trash (minimum of five items) on curb and call the Waste Water Department to pick up, three days prior to the scheduled Saturday.

2. Spring Slurry Seal:

Mr. Miko handed out a tentative list of streets that are to be resurfaced for the Spring Streets Resurfacing Project that will take place soon and go through May of this year. He stated there is no commitment on dates as to when the contractor will be able to do resurfacing project. Mr. Miko stated it will cover just over six miles which will finish their budget year program.

Councilor Henderson inquired whether prep work was done before the resurfacing and if there is an existing contract or do they go to bid? Mr. Miko stated that the City is "piggy-backing" on their state contract, and they are sealing cracks and removing weeds as part of the prep work.

Councilor Perry asked for the City to confirm with the Lions Hondo Little League if the March out the Trash, March 14, 2015 date conflicts with their opening day and/or games. Mr. Najjar followed up with Lions Hondo Little League (*a write-in to these minutes*).

### **REGULAR ITEMS (ACTION ITEMS)**

1. NMDOT Local COOP Project Application Resolution 15-11:

Mr. Porter provided the Committee with copies of NMDOT Local COOP Project Application Resolution 15-11. Mr. Porter stated that the Park Road is in bad shape with structural and drainage problems. He stated that the City does not have the funds to fix it, so they asked the NMDOT for a COOP Agreement. He stated it would be a 75/25 split; 75% from NMDOT and 25% from the City. He stated the estimated cost for the project is \$117,100.00. Councilor Henderson moved to recommend to full council for approval of Resolution 15-11. Councilor Best seconded the Motion and all were in favor.

2. NMDOT Local COOP Project Agreement Resolution 15-10:

Mr. Porter provided the Committee with copies of NMDOT Local COOP Project Agreement Resolution 15-10. He stated they were further along on this project; at the agreement stage. This project is also a 75/25 split, and the estimated cost is \$118,362.41. Mr. Porter then stated that this Resolution is for the existing pipe rail and broken concrete rail systems and retro-fit with metal guardrail system. Councilor Best moved to recommend to full council for approval of Resolution 15-10. Councilor Henderson seconded the Motion and all were in favor.

3. Proposed Permit Parking Ordinance:

Mr. Najjar stated that the complaint originated with Roswell High School residents. Councilor Perry stated that he received a call about students parking in the 1600 block of Madison, primarily in front of the houses located in the middle of the block. Follow-up was performed by Quin Miller, Streets Superintendent (*a write-in to these minutes*).

4. Street Name Ordinance Update:

Mr. Porter provided the Committee with a draft for the Street Name Ordinance. He stated information was gathered from Alamogordo; Hobbs; and Keller, Texas' existing ordinances to develop this draft. He explained the different aspects of the ordinance where it included renaming public lands and public facilities and possibly incurring a cost. He also stated that this would not apply to original naming. Mr. Porter stated one of the proposed requirements for the

application process was to have at least 75% approval from the abutting land owners. Mr. Najar stated this is just the first draft and they can give the citizens a couple of weeks or a month to give their feedback.

Councilor Henderson stated they should give the citizens interested in this a month to submit their comments and compile them to be considered at the next meeting. Councilor Velasquez recommended that the Committee proceed in naming streets after Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez without the new policy; furthermore, include the “common sense recommendations” and signatures needed. Mr. Najar stated with a policy in place, due diligence has been established and City Council will have the information they need to recommend for approval.

Mr. Porter stated the time frame would be a couple of month’s process. Councilor Velasquez inquired about the cost, as a City Councilor, because she initiated the streets to be named. Mr. Najar stated that each application would have to be looked at case by case. Councilor Henderson suggested doing the process in “tandem” where the organization works on the application at the same time the City is working on ordinance. Councilor Best stated it could be a conflict-of-interest for a City Councilor or staff member to ask for a waiver on the cost, if passed.

Various Persons Spoke on this Topic:

Rev. Abukusumo stated that “the City of Roswell needs to come to a determination that they are going to change street names to accommodate these two icons, and that should be propagated by the City, supported by the community, but propagated by the City, so that there is not a polarity in terms of ethnicity or any other ‘icity’ that we want to mention.” He further stated that the City advancing the proposal could get it done.

Mr. Villegas stated that if it comes from the City, then everyone knows that it’s a team effort. Then he stated that street names Councilor Velasquez presented are about values to carry on to our kids to show them we are united.

Mrs. Abukusumo inquired if it was feasible for the City to take this on. Mr. Najar responded that they can put “civic language” into the ordinance, but they still need comments, City Council and City Manager approval, and the City Attorney needs to review it.

Councilor Henderson stated that either Councilor Velasquez or another Councilor could go before City Council and ask if they would be willing to take this responsibility in naming a street. He then stated that the City Council would then be put in a situation where they are not giving the residents on the chosen street an opportunity to act. Councilor Henderson stated that they need to go forward with the ordinance. Councilor Best stated that she is looking at this as a business. She suggested Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez be put on a list for new streets to be developed, so that signs and infrastructure don’t have to be changed and would be more cost-effective.

Rev. Abukusumo stated that “what their suggesting is the best of our cultures be disseminated so that we experience those things, and our children can experience those things coming up. The problem is that we can fix the infrastructure, locally and nationally, but if we don’t change the mindset of our children to respect those things that have been a major contribution to this nation—I think we’ve done ourselves a disservice, and I think that Roswell will pay the price,

ultimately, for that.” Rev. Abukusumo further stated that they want to name the streets after Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez so that the principles that they stood for would permeate this community and be supported by the City of Roswell.

Mrs. Allen stated that most of the new streets being developed are on the north end of town, and no one will know who Martin Luther King or Cesar Chavez are. She would like a more prominent street, not one that’s hidden.

Rev. Abukusumo stated that he is for the ordinance, but should include a section that deals with either/or double-naming of streets.

Mr. Smith stated “change that really means something takes sacrifice and when you’re willing to make that sacrifice to make that change, that is needed, the results out-weigh the costs.”

Councilor Perry stated that he liked the ordinance because it gives the community an opportunity to tell the City what they want. Councilor Henderson stated that he is in favor of the 30 day time frame for comments to be submitted and will consider them at next meeting and staff can do the final draft. Councilor Best stated she was content with the 75% approval of the residents on the street selected. Chairman Oropesa stated that the names have to be in a prominent place and educate our younger generation on who these two iconic men in our culture.

Mr. Gorham stated that city officials need to take a stand for what’s right and what’s best for the city.

Chairman Oropesa stated he would like comments back within two weeks from the citizens. Mr. Najar stated that if comments were to be received by March 9, 2015, then they will have a draft for the next meeting in March. Mr. Zarr stated that the City Council has the ultimate say as to what streets are to be named. Councilor Best stated she is not against naming the streets, but looking at it as a business perspective.

Mr. Najar stated that the cost for signage is about \$110.00 - \$150.00 each. He asked Mr. Miller to double check on the price per sign.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS (NON-ACTION)**

None.

#### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

  
Juan Oropesa – Chairman