May 12, 2020

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## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Las Animas, County of Bent, State of Colorado, met in regular session in the City Council chambers on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City Council was live streamed to the City of Las Animas Facebook Page. There being present at roll call were the following members:

Mayor: Jim Collins

Council members: Troy Abdulla

David Armstrong

Kimberlie King

Jaxon Meardon

Cassandra Siefkas

Robert Sonny Smith

Senior Advisor: Sonora Servaes

Youth Advisor: Steven Salazar Jr.

Mayor Jim Collins declared a quorum present.

Others Present:

Ronald Clodfelter: Superintendent of Light & Power

John Cebulski: Interested Citizen

Sammie George: Bent County Development Foundation Director

Stephanie Gonzales: SECED Director

Terry Kim: Interested Citizen

Eric Pearson: RESADA Director

Charmaine Tripp: City Clerk & Treasurer

Samuel Vigil: City Attorney

Ken Wagner: Public Works Director

Other Citizens joining on Facebook Live

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Jim Collins asked John Cebulski to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Councilman Jaxon Meardon moved, Councilman Troy Abdulla seconded to strike item #14-COVID-19 Discussion of safer at home phase and approve the remainder of the Agenda. On a voice vote, Mayor Jim Collins declared the Motion carried.

**DISPOSITION OF MINUTES**

Councilman Jaxon Meardon moved, Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas seconded to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of April 14, 2020 as presented. On a voice vote, Mayor Jim Collins declared the Motion carried.

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Councilman David Armstrong moved, Councilman Jaxon Meardon seconded to approve the Special Call City Council meeting on May 4, 2020 with the following correction: Correct the

spelling of Jaxon Meardon’s name from Jaxson to Jaxon. On a voice vote Mayor Jim Collins declared the Motion Carried.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** a. Eric Pearson-Director of RESADA

Mayor Jim Collins recognized Eric Pearson from RESADA. Mr. Pearson introduced himself and gave a short presentation on the history of RESADA. Mr. Pearson stated the RESADA came into existence 45 years ago and was joined by six surrounding counties. The purpose of RESADA is to provide drug and alcohol treatment programs. RESADA is a social detox and not a medical detox. They offer group and individual counseling and employ most staff members from the Las Animas community. RESADA also is currently working with Fort Lyon to provide services. Mayor Jim Collins thanked Mr. Pearson for his presentation.

b. Steven Salazar-Las Animas High School Senior

Mayor Jim Collins recognized Steven Salazar, Las Animas High School Senior. Mr. Salazar was presented a gift basket by Councilman Troy Abdulla from the City Council and City employees. Mr. Salazar was “adopted” by the City Council through the Las Animas High School. The basket was funded by personal donations. Mayor Jim Collins thanked Steven for his service as the Las Animas youth advisor.

c. Stephanie Gonzales-Director of SECED and Sammie George-Director of the Bent County Development Foundation

Mayor Jim Collins recognized Stephanie Gonzales-Director of SECED and Sammie George-Director of the Bent County Development Foundation. Ms. Gonzales provided brochures about the various programs offered by SECED. Ms. Gonzales gave an overview of the services provided by SECED. Several business in Las Animas have benefited from business loans provided by SECED. A housing needs assessment was done. Opportunity zone and Enterprise zone tax credit programs have been set up. A grant has been received to provide bus shelters in Las Animas. A special fund for COVID-19 grants has been established for up to $1,000.00 for qualifying businesses. Sammie George stated that she gives her full support for SECED. Ms. George stated that she has been working with possible investors to develop the 40 acres owned by the City of Las Animas.

The City Councilors asked Ms. Gonzales to provide a detailed list of projects that were done in the City of Las Animas to determine if the City wants to continue to be a member of SECED. Once the list is reviewed, a decision will be rendered by the City Councilors at the June 9, 2020 Regular City Council meeting. Mayor Jim Collins thanked Ms. Gonzales and Ms. George for their presentation.

d. John Cebulski-Security provider

Mayor Jim Collins recognized John Cebulski. Mr. Cebulski asked about the status of the security discussion related to the marijuana businesses. Mayor Jim Collins invited Mr. Cebulski to be a part of the Marijuana Committee to discuss possible changes to the current ordinances and resolutions. Mr. Cebulski offered his services to provide security to the City of Las Animas.

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**NEW BUSINESS:** Mayor Jim Collins announced a Council work session to be held on May 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss possible policy changes to the Marijuana ordinances and resolutions and to discuss the repayment options for utility bills.

DONATION OF THE 2005 ASTRO VAN TO RESADA

After a brief discussion, Councilman David Armstrong moved, Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas seconded to donate the 2005 Astro Van from Code Enforcement to RESADA. On a voice vote, Mayor Jim Collins declared the Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL REVIEW USE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY RESADA

Upon recommendation from the Las Animas Planning Commission, Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas moved to approve the Special Review Use Application from RESADA for 215 2nd Street to operate a drug and alcohol treatment center and a peer house. This location will be in addition to the original location of 11000 Co Rd GG 5. On a voice vote, Mayor Jim Collins declared the Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:** Councilman David Armstrong moved, Councilman Jaxon Meardon seconded to approve the vouchers for April 2020 as presented. On a voice vote, Mayor Jim Collins declared the Motion carried.

# ADJOURNED

Mayor Jim Collins declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Charmaine D. Tripp

City Clerk & Treasurer

ATTEST:

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Jim Collins, Mayor