



**WORKSHOP AND
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 7, 2015
103 Water St. Elephant Butte, NM 87935
ACTION MINUTES**

WORKSHOP -1:00pm

Council discussed a proposed plan from Turbo Design to provide services to help the Fire Department lower the ISO rating. Chief Tooley from the Truth or Consequences Fire Department was present to answer questions.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - 2:00pm

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Kent called the Regular Meeting to order at 2:00 PM, and Councilor Rogers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Rieth called the roll. Mayor Kent, Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner, Councilor Lafont, Councilor Rogers, and Councilor Trager were all present.

Also present was Manager Finzen, Chief Alirez from the Truth or Consequences Police Department, the Under Sheriff, and Mickey Howard, Director of SCRDA

Two members of the Press and 9 members of the public were also present.

STATEMENT OF OPEN MEETINGS RESOLUTION AND THREE MINUTE LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ALL ISSUES

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

PRESENTATION: PHYSICIANS ASSISTANT'S WEEK

Mayor Kent presented a proclamation to 4 Physician's Assistants that live in the City of Elephant Butte.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Kent asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

**Councilor Rogers made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted.
Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner seconded.
The motion carried unanimously.**

BOARDS AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Kent recommended the appointment of Nathan Lafont as an alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission, as Mr. Lafont has indicated he no longer wishes to serve full time.

**Councilor Rogers made a motion to appoint Nathan Lafont as an alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission.
Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner.
The motion carried with Councilor Lafont abstaining his vote due to a conflict of interest.**

Mayor Kent recommended the appointment of Bill Kirikos to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**Councilor Rogers made a motion to appoint Bill Kirikos to the Planning and Zoning Commission.
Seconded by Councilor Lafont.
The motion carried unanimously.**

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner reported on attending the Tourism meeting with the Governor at Bosque del Apache in Socorro; and the Hospitality legislative round table in Las Cruces. Issues were discussed with Lobbyists who will speak during the 60 day legislative session. Topics included the Southern Road to space station, Broadband, and Lodgers Tax. Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner also attended the MOLI advanced training in Santa Fe which covered Collaboration & strategic planning, procurement, round tables, & ethics. Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner also attended the last meeting of the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Councilor Lafont reported on attending the SCCOG meeting regarding developing bus service in Southern Doña Ana County. Councilor Lafont suggested the Mayor write a letter requesting the City of Elephant Butte waive fees, due to having no service in our area.

Councilor Trager reported that Russ Trager attended the Governor's conference on Tourism and was able to speak to the Governor about lake levels. Councilor Trager reported that Oktoberfest was successful.

Councilor Rogers reported on attending the SCRDA meeting.

Mayor Kent reported about 290 people attended Oktoberfest and seemed to enjoy themselves. Good feedback was received on the band. Mayor Kent attended the Elected Officials meeting in Silver City on Employment Statistics. In February at the Legislature meeting representatives

will speak about Capital Outlay and minimum pool level of the lake. Reports of people catching more fish this year have been positive. There is some consideration of the possibility of stocking more fish in the works.

Mayor Kent met with the people that do the 4th of July fireworks display, and reported that rates have gone up, so there needs to be some collaboration with all the County entities to advertise more and raise more money since this is a large draw that brings tourist activity to the whole County.

Mayor Kent acknowledged the Under Sheriff and Police Chief in the audience and thanked them for their service.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Finzen reported that the Personnel policies are still being reviewed by City Attorneys, and will be emailed to Council once the review has been completed.

The last 5 of the Clearances for the LGRF have been approved. The project has been engineered, the pre-bid conference is set for October 22 at 2pm, and the bid opening will be November 12 at 2pm. Recommendation of bid award will be presented to Council at the November 18 meeting.

Manager Finzen reported that the Uniform Traffic Ordinance amendments passed by the State will need to be adopted by Ordinance.

On September 29, the Planning and Zoning Commission approved a conditional use permit for Bentley's Plumbing and Heating, located at 701 Butte Blvd.

Manager Finzen is working with Randy Van Vleck, Attorney for the New Mexico Municipal League to do an on site training for the P&Z Commission and Council.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk Rieth gave a report on the state of Past due Utility Accounts and the current collection process. Clerk Rieth urged Council to consider revising the ordinance to allow for more efficient and successful collection of wastewater accounts, as Utility Liens are only good for 4 years, and cannot be renewed; making it difficult to collect unless the property sells or the City forecloses within the four year period.

Council instructed Clerk Rieth to work with the City Attorney to draft proposed changes to the current code regarding unpaid Utility bills.

CONSENT ITEMS

Mayor Kent asked for a motion to approve the Consent Items

- Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, September 16, 2015

**Councilor Rogers made a motion to approve the Consent Item(s) as submitted.
Councilor Lafont seconded.**

**A Roll Call vote was held:
Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner voted yes.
Councilor Lafont voted yes.
Councilor Trager voted yes.
Councilor Rogers voted yes.
Motion carried.**

REGULAR ITEMS

Michelle Howard, Director of SCRDA introduced herself. She prefers to be called "Mickey".

Councilor Rogers explained that Ms. Howard and Chief Alirez were there to answer questions regarding the JPA, and reviewed changes that had been passed by the Board.

Chief Alirez explained that the JPA had been amended to allow for more accurate sharing of funds based on number of calls per entity.

There being no questions by Council or further discussion:

**Councilor Rogers made a motion to approve the SCRDA JPA.
Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.**

Manager Finzen explained that a list of auction items is being compiled by all City Departments and requested direction from Council on whether to auction the Annex Accessory Building commonly referred to as the "Looney Bin".

**Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner made a motion to have City Staff look everywhere and gather as complete a list as possible for the auction, which will include the Looney Bin.
Councilor Lafont seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.**

Council discussed the pros and cons of moving Elephant Days Date for 2016 back to the 2nd weekend in September.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner made a motion to hold Elephant Days 2016 the second weekend in September. Councilor Lafont seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.**

Manager Finzen presented the Turbo Design Contract to Council that had been discussed in the previous workshop. The Turbo Design Services will cost \$8,000.

There being no further discussion:

**Councilor Rogers made a motion to approve the Turbo Design Contract.
Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Kent asked for motion to adjourn.

**Councilor Lafont made a motion to adjourn.
Councilor Rogers seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:04pm.

Minutes adopted at the Regular meeting on October 21, 2015



Karen Rieth, City Clerk -Treasurer