



**WORKSHOP AND
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 18, 2015
103 Water St. Elephant Butte, NM 87935
ACTION MINUTES**

WORKSHOP -1:00pm

Council discussed proposed updates to the City Personnel Policies.

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 Public Works Director Cole 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 and Public Works Director Cole.

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.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Kent presented a commendation to Patsy Barnett for her excellent work with SJOA.

Director Cole presented to Council an alternative Dirt Road repair option called Terra-Pave. Director Coles report is included for the record.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Kent asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

Councilor Rogers made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted.

Councilor Lafont seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner reported that the Chamber casino night had a terrific turnout. There were no vacant seats until 11:30pm. The Luminaria Beach Walk will be December 12 from dusk – 8pm. The Holiday lighting contest judging will be December 15 at 5:30pm, and there will be an award ceremony at the Elephant Butte Inn on December 17.

The JPC SVH Board meeting will be December 14 at 2pm, with a workshop to discuss changes in the JPA.

Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner reported attending “Stronger Economics Together” on October 27th, and New Mexico Tourism Department training Hospitality Top Hat Awards on November 10.

On November 12, Mayor Pro-Tem attended a water rights hearing in Socorro, regarding an application from the Augustine Plains Ranch to drill 37 wells that would be 3,000 feet deep each and pump 54,000 acre feet per year piping to Albuquerque and Rio Rancho. Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner urged the public to get informed and involved, as this case has serious effects on the aquifer in Sierra County.

Councilor Lafont reported that the South Central Transit Authority met today at 1:30pm, so he was not able to attend, due to the Council Meeting. The Gold Cart committee is making progress, and will hopefully have a public update soon.

Councilor Rogers reported that SCRDA met on October 12. The Budget and Staffing look good and the next meeting will be December 10.

Councilor Trager reported attending the Tourism Board meeting on November 10. There will be a presentation this evening by Randy Shaw in Las Cruces regarding a Desalination research facility in Alamogordo.

Mayor Kent thanked all the Councilors, staff, & volunteers for putting out flags o Veteran's Day. At least 5 people stopped to thank the volunteers as the flags were being put up. Some of the flags need some maintenance. Director Cole will put together replacement costs needed for the budget.

Mayor Kent reported that Randy Van Vleck, Council for the New Mexico Municipal League, held a training on Planning and Zoning on November 17.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Finzen reported that 9 companies attended the Rock Canyon Road Phase III Project Pre-bid conference. The bid opening will be November 24 at 10am, with an expected completion date of 120 days after January start date.

Manager Finzen reported that the P&Z Commission met yesterday, and approved rules of procedure, and is looking at access requirements for Butte Blvd. and Warm Springs Blvd. As a stop-gap measurement, the State regulations may be adopted.

Manager Finzen reported Phase Iva Wastewater project is in its clos-out stages. Letters have been sent to residents on Jade & Nambe Loops. Punch list has been completed. Connection deadline for Residents to be hooked up is June 1, 2016. The project can be closed out and

Sierra Valley Contractors can submit for final payment. Warranty will be until November 22, 2016. After that, the City takes full possession.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk Rieth gave the Clerk-Treasurer's report. Included for the record.

CONSENT ITEMS

Mayor Kent asked for a motion to approve the Consent Items

- Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, October 21, 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.**

PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 155: Uniform Traffic Ordinance

At 3:02pm Mayor Kent opened for public hearing. There being no comment from the public, the hearing was closed.

**Councilor Rogers made a motion to adopt Ordinance 155.
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

Discussion and possible action: Detention Center Contract

Manager Finzen reviewed the Detention Center Contract with Council.

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

Resolution 15-16-114: Adopting New Personnel Policy for Employees of the City of Elephant Butte.

Manager Finzen reviewed sections 12-18 of the proposed Personnel Policy Manual with Council. Councilor Rogers suggested changing "Executive Secretary" in all sections to "Clerk-Treasurer". In Section 17 Drug and Alcohol Policy, Clerk Rieth commented that after discussions with the State Fire Marshal's office, it was made very clear that the Volunteer Fire Department is a Department of the City, for which the City is Liable, and all Volunteer Fire Fighters fall under the same guidelines as City Personnel. Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner noted that adding that all Volunteer Firefighters would be subject to the City's Drug testing policy. Manager Finzen will make the suggested changes.

**Mayor Pro-tem Skinner made a motion to approve Resolution 14-15-114 adopting the Personnel Policy Manual with the suggested changes discussed.
Councilor Lafont seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.**

Resolution 15-16-115: Designating City of Elephant Butte a Colonia within Sierra County

Manager Finzen explained that the City had pockets of residential areas that have existed long before the City incorporated, and therefore meet the requirements of a colonia. Having Colonia designation provides more possibility of funding options for certain projects.

**Councilor Rogers made a motion approve resolution 15-16-115.
Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.**

Resolution 15-16-116: Election 2016

Clerk Rieth presented the election resolution for the March 1, 2016 election to Council, and explained that per State Statute, the Council must call the election by way of resolution. The resolution was presented in both English and Spanish as required, and shall be published as required. Candidate packets will be available December 1, 2015 and the Candidate Filing Date is January 5, 2016.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner made a motion to approve Resolution 15-16-116.
Councilor Rogers seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.**

There being no further items on the agenda, Mayor Kent asked for motion to adjourn.
Councilor Lafont made a motion to adjourn.
Councilor Rogers seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.

Minutes adopted at the Regular meeting on December 2, 2015

Karen Rieth

Karen Rieth, City Clerk -Treasurer