



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, July 20, 2016
103 Water St. Elephant Butte, NM 87935
ACTION MINUTES

WORKSHOP 1:00pm

Manager Finzen presented Council with a proposed floorplan for the new City Hall project. Mayor Kent praised ASA Architects for the prompt response. Manager Finzen explained that some decisions need to be made prior to proceeding, and asked Council for direction on the long term plan for both the new City Hall, and the existing facility.

The new proposed floorplan shows Council Chambers would permanently stay in the existing facility. Council agreed that it would be more prudent to use the space for additional offices rather than duplicate a Chambers.

Manager Finzen presented figures for a \$350,000 loan. Payments would be \$28,133.87 for 15 yr., \$23,134.78 for 20 yr. and \$20,340.00 for 30 yr. Councilor Lafont feels that interest rates are low now, and are only going to rise in the near future. Councilor Rogers commented that if interest rates are low now, it may more cost effective long term to take out a large enough loan to complete the entire project now and avoid the higher overall cost of the project if it were done in phases.

Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner expressed concern that the City's budget may not be able to withstand a payment that would be required by a \$600,000 loan over a 30 year term.

Mayor Kent asked Clerk Rieth to explain concerns with the proposed floorplan. Clerk Rieth pointed out that the bullpen area is now separated from the copy room, causing a less efficient workflow. Also, space is wasted by adding a hallway between phase I and II areas. Also, the IT room is located in Phase II, but would have to be finished with Phase I.

Manager Finzen will explore the possibility of a \$600,000 loan and bring updated figures to the next meeting.

Mayor Kent asked Manager Finzen to look at the budget to see how a larger payment by be accommodated.

Mayor Kent, Manager Finzen and Clerk Rieth will schedule a meeting with the architects to go over necessary changes to the floorplan. Councilor Rogers suggested taking a physical tour of the facility and marking out the areas with paint to get a more accurate feel for the actual space.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - 2:00pm

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Kent called the Meeting to order at 2:00pm, and Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner 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.

2 Members of the press and 12 members of the public were in attendance.

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

PUBLIC INPUT

Rex Ploederer presented a petition with 180 signatures in favor of the OHV ordinance to Clerk Rieth. Mr. Ploederer admitted that not all signatures on the petition were residents of Elephant Butte, but felt they visited often enough to be relevant.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Kent asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

Councilor Rogers made a motion to approve the Agenda.

Councilor Lafont seconded.

Motion carried 4-0.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Susan Lafont, Chairperson for the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board presented Council with the recommendations for Lodgers Tax Awards for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Chairperson Lafont explained the reasoning behind each of the recommendations.

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Kent announced that last Friday was the closing date for Family Dollar to purchase the land at the corner of Warm Springs and Butte Blvd.

Councilor Trager attended the SCCOG annual meeting on July 8. All incumbents were re-elected. The comprehensive economic development strategy for the area shows this region to be overly reliant on government jobs. Goals are to come up with new businesses to reduce reliance on government, and increase tourism by 5% by 2025.

Councilor Trager attended the SCRTPO meeting gave a summary of the request for funds for the trail system access point sign project, and was asked to resubmit a request for more money since there were only two submissions received. Mayor Green from T or C and Mayor Stubblefield from Williamsburg both expressed support for the project and request Manager Finzen set up a meeting between all three entities to discuss an MOU.

Mayor Kent requested Manager Finzen also involve the County.

Councilor Rogers attended the SCRDA meeting last week. There was a report of a vehicle backing into a porta-potty with a child inside over the weekend, and there was a high speed chase that started in Socorro and ended at Damsite. The Generator from Mesilla Valley Dispatch Authority should be moved by the end of the month and will be stored until the new facility is finished.

Councilor Lafont reported Councilor Trager had already reported on everything except that the meeting he and Councilor Trager attended was extremely hot due to no air conditioning in the building.

Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner reported several very successful Facebook posts by the Chamber of Commerce: June 9 photo of sandcastle competition drew 14,809 likes; June 14 post about RV boat show, sandcastle, and Jr. Fishing got 5,708 likes; June 25 invitation to watch the fireworks 7807 likes; June 27 Damsite Marina photo got 10,572 likes.

Mayor Kent reported that Rebecca Latham had mentioned receiving good feedback on the fireworks display as well as the RV and Boat show and sandcastle competition.

Chuck Looney mentioned that Father's Day weekend is the 4th largest weekend for the State Park, and that is largely the reason for choosing that weekend for the RV and Boat show.

Mayor Kent mentioned August 24 from 10 – 12 will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new SVH clinic.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Finzen reported the city's online auction is underway. Interested bidders can visit govdeals.com/elephantbutte. Work on the French drain on Rock Canyon Road is slated to begin Monday. Manager Finzen will attend the NMML City Manager's conference next week in Ruidoso. The LED sign installation is scheduled for Friday.

Manager Finzen explained that the state of New Mexico requires the City pass an Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan by September 1. There are 10 items on the plan from last year, and will be on the agenda for the next meeting for public input. Planning & Zoning Commission will meet August 2 at 9am.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk Rieth had nothing to report at this time.

CONSENT ITEMS

Mayor Kent asked for a motion to approve the Consent Items:

- Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting Minutes July 6, 2016

**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 Rogers voted yes.
Councilor Trager voted yes.
Motion carried.**

PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 163 – Allowing OHVs to operate on City Streets

At 2:34pm, Mayor Kent opened the hearing for public comment. There being none, Mayor Kent closed the public hearing. Mayor Kent asked for a motion.

Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner made a motion to approve Ordinance 163 – An Ordinance enacting a new chapter 72 of the Elephant Butte Municipal Code providing for the operation of off highway motor vehicles on City streets and providing fines for violations.

Councilor Rogers seconded.

A Roll Call vote was held:

Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner voted yes.

Councilor Lafont voted yes.

Councilor Rogers voted yes.

Councilor Trager voted yes.

Motion carried.

Mayor Kent asked if Councilor Rogers would like to acknowledge the OHV Committee Members in the audience. Councilor Rogers introduced Jim McDonald, Mike Williams, Rex Ploederer, Carla Ploederer, and Councilor Trager, and congratulated the Committee on a job well done. Councilor Trager also thanked everyone, explaining that there is still work to be done to get the Trail Signage throughout the County.

Councilor Rogers also thanked the Sheriff's Department for their help and information. Mayor Kent addressed Lt. Baker in the audience regarding feedback from constituents who have expressed concern with OHVs racing on residential streets.

Lt. Baker assured the Council that the Sheriff's Office has a contingency plan in place. The problems will be handled as they arise, "There are always a few weeds in the yard that need to be pulled. We will deal with them as they pop up".

REGULAR ITEMS

Resolution 16-17-105 – Acceptance of Fiscal Year 2015-2016 4th Quarter DFA report
Manager Finzen explained that the Local Government Division of DFA requires formal approval of two documents from the Governing Body; the Final Budget resolution and the 4th quarter report resolution. There are no overdrawn accounts, and therefore no need for a final Budget Adjustment resolution. This is the first time since Fiscal Year 2009-2010 that this is the case. The following funds increased fund balance this year: General fund, Correction fund, EMS fund, fire fund, Water fund, Deposit fund, and Trust and agency fund.

Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner made a motion to approve resolution 16-17-105 – A resolution approving the 2015-2016 final quarter financial report for the year ending June 30, 2016.

Councilor LaFont seconded.

Motion Carried 4-0.

Allocation of Lodgers Tax awards FY 16-17

Clerk Rieth asked for direction from Council regarding the Recommendation of Lago Rico to receive \$6600 for the Centennial Dam Celebration due to Lago Rico not being a 501C(3). At the suggestion of Mayor Pro-tem Skinner and direction from Council, Clerk Rieth edited the Award recommendation list to reflect the City allocating \$6600 to market the Centennial Dam Celebration.

Clerk Rieth reviewed the amended recommendations.

Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner made a motion to approve the Awards as amended

**Councilor Rogers seconded.
Motion Carried 4-0.**

Final allocations are included for the record.

Resolution 16-17-106 Approval of Final Budget Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Manager Finzen outlined the budgeted projects for the upcoming fiscal year and summarized the final budget before Council.

Councilor Rogers made a motion to approve resolution 16-17-106 – A resolution relating to the presentation and acceptance of fiscal year 2016-2017 Final operating budget.

Councilor LaFont seconded.

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution 16-17-107 Road Transfer Rock Canyon Road

Manager Finzen introduced a resolution to move forward with the Road Transfer process.

Councilor Rogers made a motion to approve resolution 16-17-107– A resolution determining agreement with the New Mexico Department of Transportation on a road transfer of State road 195P within the City corporate limits.

Councilor Trager seconded.

Motion Carried 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Lafont made a motion to adjourn.

Councilor Trager seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 2:53pm.

Minutes approved and adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council on August 3, 2016.



Karen Rieth, City Clerk