

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING Wednesday, December 7, 2016 103 Water St. Elephant Butte, NM 87935 ACTION MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING-2:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Kent called the Meeting to order at 2:00pm, and Councilor LaFont 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.

5 members of the public and 1 member of the press were in attendance.

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

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input at this time.

PRESENTATIONS

Sierra Joint Office of Aging Johanna Tighe gave an update. Ms. Tighe appreciates all the work that the Council has been doing in the City. Ms. Tighe gave a report from the Board of Directors to the Council. Ms. Tighe says they are doing really good, have had to maneuver the budget around a little bit. All entities have given their share to the budget for SJOA. The kitchen general manager passed away so they are looking for a new Head Chef. Overall, the state of SJOA is running smoothly. Mayor Kent asked about Deb Stubblefield from Williamsburg getting a new person. AAA came in and did an audit. Financials are on time from the audit. The budget is a little smaller than expected from the state but we are still moving on. Mayor Kent stated that SJOA wasn't being funded the amount costing from the meals. Ms. Tighe says the thrift store has helped to subsidize some of the shortfall and donations are always needed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Kent hopes everyone had a good Thanksgiving. The Christmas Tree Lighting was on Monday night for the Community, about 50-60 people were in attendance. Staff did a great job in getting everything ordered and set up. Residents are welcome to put an ornament on the tree in honor of someone.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner reminded everyone the Luminaria walk starts at dusk on December 10th. Friends are busy making the luminaries. Donations for Make a Wish will be taken at Site 1 and 2 which is the Steel Soldiers sites. Friends of EB State Park will be taking donations for Independence Day Fireworks. The fireworks gain 90-100,000 people and the largest in Sierra County. Food, Santa, Hay Rides, etc. and it starts at 5:00-7:30 to 8:00pm. The weather is supposed to be good for the Luminaria walk. The annual lighting contest deadline to participate is December 12th at the Chamber Office. Judging is Tuesday the 13th with Leona Wagner of Sierra Vista Hospital, Brenda Nelson of Xacta Printing, and Jane Tennan of Bank of the Southwest will judge between 5:30-6:00pm. The award ceremony will be at 5:30 on the 15th at Elephant Butte Inn.

Councilor LaFont had nothing to report at this time.

Councilor Rogers reported that the Regional Dispatch Authority was on the environmental building report which was a lively discussion. Found a lot more issues at the building that has to be addressed. Action was tabled for the different entities. Looking at alternatives and the board does not want to tie up the GRT tax for a loan for the complex when the state budget cuts are so severe that it would affect the emergency equipment money. Looking at other options now. JPA was signed by Mesilla Valley Dispatch Authority as a backup for SCRDA. A generator was donated from Mesilla Valley and total cost with transport, crane, and electrical disconnect was less than \$3,000.00 on a quarter of a million dollar generator of which will be located at the North Fire Station.

Councilor Trager on November 10 attended Rio Grande Economic Social Development committee which was awarded seed money of which they are focusing on the ongoing participants. They will name officers in January and assign specific jobs and they are looking for memberships. Looking for municipal entities to commit to an annual fee of \$500.00. Hoping to get membership from small businesses which have an annual fee of \$50.00. All information was sent to Manager Finzen. She did attend MOLI November 16-November 18 spoke about having a safety culture. Our premium would be \$13,050.00 but because we have a low history and discounts it reduced it to \$11,529.00 saving the city \$1520.00 by having a good history and attending safety meetings. April 26 and April 27 safety meetings will be held in Las Cruces. The first meeting is for newbies and the second date is for veterans. Mayor Kent asks for the schedule for safety meetings so we can send the people we need to go. The State Auditor spoke about how so far behind we are as a state and there is a lot of unspent dollars.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Manager Finzen states Planning and Zoning Commission are appointed to 2 year terms. Commissioner Looney and Vickers would like to continue their terms. Councilor Rogers motions to approve Charles Looney and Mayor Pro Tem Skinner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Councilor Rogers motions to approve Cathy Vickers to another 2 year term, and Mayor Pro Tem Skinner seconded the motion.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mayor Kent announced that Manager Finzen is leaving the City of Elephant Butte per Special Meeting that was announced to media. Mayor Kent states Manager Finzen moved very quickly and hit the ground running in the City. Mayor Kent stated with a heavy heart accepts his resignation and commended him for his hard work in Elephant Butte. Councilor Trager thanked Manager Finzen for his hard work and wished him the best. Councilor Rogers thanks for the development of many things that were non-existent. Councilor LaFont stated he appreciates all Manager Finzen's hard work. Mayor Pro Tem Skinner thanked Manager Finzen for stepping into a tough job and understands he is probably tired of being in the frying pan. Commissioner Looney stated that Manager Finzen helped Planning and Zoning before Mr. Boyle got here and appreciates that.

Manager Finzen reports that the Black Range and San Mateo Paving is nearing completion but the streets have been asphalted. The Fire Truck auction has been approved and can be accessed at govdeals.com/elephantbutte. Manager Finzen believes this is a great way to raise funds for the Fire Department. Planning and Zoning met on December 6th and submitted a recommendation to approve the comprehensive plan goals at a future meeting. Manager Finzen says that it has been a pleasure to work for this council and have shown incredible kindness and graciousness in particular Mayor Kent for being a friend, mentor, and boss for Manager Finzen. Manager Finzen will continue to be available after his departure.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk Rieth stated for the record: Council met as a whole in special closed session on November 11, 2016 at 8am to discuss the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)8. Councilor Lafont certified that no action was taken and no decisions were made. The meeting adjourned at 10:53am.

Council met again in special closed session on November 29, 2016 at 9:00am pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(2) Limited Personnel Matters; City Manager. Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner led the meeting and Mayor Kent appeared telephonically. Councilor Lafont certified that no action was taken and no decisions were made. The meeting adjourned at 9:46am.

Clerk Rieth reported planning to attend re-certification training and testing for CPO on January 25-26 in Las Cruces.

Clerk Rieth informed Council that the Annual Statement of Municipal Policy and Fiscal Year 16-17 Annual Resolutions has been delivered. There are several resolutions that if passed will

have an impact on current City Policy, and both documents are available in the Clerk's office for review.

Clerk Rieth commented that the records retention project has been delayed due to staffing issues and higher priority projects, but hopes to bring a resolution before Council by the end of the next quarter.

Finally, Clerk Rieth announced the Holiday Fiesta Open House would be held December 9 from 11am – 1pm, and invited everyone to come and enjoy a meal to celebrate Staff and Volunteers coming together to make events throughout the year a success.

Mayor Kent asked Chuck Looney to please notify Planning & Zoning Commission. Mr. Looney agreed.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting November 2, 2016

Councilor Rogers made a motion to approve the Consent Item as submitted. Councilor LaFont seconded.

Councilor LaFont voted yes.
Councilor Trager voted yes.
Councilor Rogers voted yes.
Mayor Pro Tem Skinner voted yes.
Motion carried.

REGULAR ITEMS:

Holiday and Event Schedule for 2017:

Manager Finzen advised that the council approves a yearly holiday and event schedule for the city. The 2017 Event and closure calendar was distributed to the Council. Manager Finzen notes that Planning and Zoning Commission would meet on July 4th but that is Independence Day so they will meet July 11th for a reschedule of that meeting.

Councilor Trager made a motion to approve the 2017 holiday and event schedule as submitted.

Councilor Rogers seconded.

Councilor Trager voted yes.

Councilor LaFont voted yes.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner voted yes.

Motion Carried.

Traffic Calming:

Manager Finzen advises of adjustments to the original Traffic Calming procedures presented previously to the Council. He adjusted the fee structure in the policy. Manager Finzen tightened up a few things from the last discussion. Staff recommends approval and adoption of the traffic calming policy. Councilor Rogers asks if the petition comes from 75 percent of the residents for this policy. Manager Finzen explains that is the case a fee would be assessed after 75 percent is put together for a petition.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to approve the traffic calming policy.

Councilor Trager seconded.

Councilor LaFont voted yes.

Councilor Rogers voted yes.

Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body and limited personnel matters; City Manager and Fire Chief.

Councilor Rogers made a motion to go into executive session at 2:48 pm.

Councilor Trager seconded.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner voted yes.

Councilor LaFont voted yes.

Councilor Trager voted yes.

Motion Carried.

Council came out of executive session at 4:42pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor LaFont made a motion to adjourn.

Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 4:43pm.

Minutes approved and adopted at the Special meeting of the City Council on:

December 21, 2016.

Karen Rieth, Clerk-Treasurer