



COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, March 15, 2017
103 Water St. Elephant Butte, NM 87935
ACTION MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Kent called the Meeting to order at 2:00pm, and Manager Lucero led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Rieth called the roll.

Mayor Kent, Mayor Pro Tem Skinner, Councilor Lafont, Councilor Trager and Councilor Rogers were all present.

Clerk Rieth stated a quorum was present.

Also in attendance was Attorney Rennick, 4 members of the Public and 2 Member of the Press.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Klaus Wittern, 618 Charles, T or C and Arrey, NM, stated that Mr. Wittern would like to address item 10.b. discussion and possible action: Joint Powers Agreement with the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Wittern suggests that this discussion or action be tabled due to the fact that there is still a lot of work to be done to make it presentable for the County to approve. Mr. Wittern provided data showing unreasonable costs allocation between services with different entities being served by the county. There is not a police department with this primary jurisdiction. Therefore it is unreasonable to expect immediate change and also the costs are unreasonable and unfair to the residents who pay a good portion of the subsidy that is received by the Sheriff's Department. Sierra is such a small county with 2 or 3 police departments. Sierra County has 50 commissioned officers. With the population that Sierra County has that averages to 225 Persons for each commissioned officers. Mr. Wittern encourages that a Regional Police Force be put together to reduce the cost to tax payers.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

Councilor Rogers made a motion to approve the Agenda
Mayor Pro-Tem seconded.
Motion carried.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORT

Councilor Trager did not have anything to report at this time.

Councilor Rogers did not have anything to report at this time.

Councilor Lafont did not have anything to report at this time.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner did not have anything to report at this time.

Mayor Kent reported that the Town Hall Meeting was held and well attended. Attendance reached capacity. The Sheriff's Officers had to stop any more from entering so there were people standing outside. Citizens have expressed their appreciation on getting the facts out to the public. Mayor Kent and Councilors will continue to work on due diligence for the transaction.

Manager's Report

Manager Lucero reported that the grant application for the Local Government Road fund was submitted. Also Manager Lucero is also preparing to send one in for Resilient Communities for \$7,000 for the Walking Trail A 501 C(3) is required to partner with the city. Also, Manager Lucero will be looking at the MAP Grant application.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report

Clerk Rieth reported that Council met in Special Closed Session on March 10, 2017 at 9:00am pursuant to NMSA 1798 Section 10-15-1(H)(8) Purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body.

The Full Council was in attendance, with Councilor Rogers joining shortly after roll call. Mayor Kent called recess at 10:15am, the meeting reconvened at 10:25am.

Councilor Lafont certified that only matters on the agenda were discussed, no decisions were made, and no action was taken. The meeting adjourned at 11:37am.

The Lodgers Tax Advisory Board met on March 9 in Special Workshop to attend a training presentation on the process of Lodger's Tax application and reimbursement. The training was well received and 3 members of the public attended. James Pecherski, a member of the Lodger's tax Advisory Board has submitted his resignation. The Lodger's Tax Advisory Board formally requests that a replacement member be appointed.

Councilor Trager reported that President of the Chamber, Jerry Foster resigned. Tammy Smith will be moving from Vice-President to President and Will Dooley is moving up to Vice President, which leaves an opening for a board member on the Chamber.

CONSENT ITEMS

Councilor Rogers made a motion to approve the Consent Items: Approval for the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2017
Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner seconded.

A Roll Call Vote was held:

Councilor Trager voted yes.

Councilor Rogers voted yes.

Councilor LaFont voted yes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner voted yes.

Motion carried.

REGULAR ITEMS

Manager Lucero presented **Resolution 16-17-119 MAP Application 2017-18**. Application for Warm Springs to end of City Limits road improvements with an estimated project cost of \$1,157,000, which leaves the City's portion of \$289,000 if approved for that grant money.

Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner made a motion to approve Resolution 16-17-119 MAP Application to the New Meixoc Department of Transportation Councilor LaFont seconded.

Manager Lucero presented the Joint Powers Agreement Sierra County Sheriff was already in the works. Sheriff Hamilton did not have the paperwork needed to proceed. The funding has already been set aside. Sheriff Hamilton has finished the paperwork for the Mayor Kent to sign.

Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner made a motion to approve Joint Powers Agreement Sierra County Sheriff Councilor Rogers seconded.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 2:22pm, Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss NMSA 10-15-1(H)(8) purchase, acquisition or disposition of real property of water rights by the public body: Turtleback Mountain Properties

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.

Council came out of executive session at 5:31pm.

Councilor LaFont certified that only matters on the agenda had been discussed, no decisions had been made, and no action had been taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Lafont made a motion to adjourn.

Councilor Rogers seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 5:39pm.

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

April 5, 2017

Karen Rieth

Karen Rieth, Clerk-Treasurer

