



**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, May 23, 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 Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Deputy Clerk Apodaca called the roll.

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

Councilor Lafont presence was via phone

Councilor Rogers were not present

Deputy Clerk Apodaca declared a quorum was present.

Also in attendance was Sheriff Hamilton, No Members of the Public or No Members of the Media

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comment at this time

**PRESENTATIONS**

No Presentations at this time

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA –**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner made a motion to approve the Agenda**

**Councilor Trager seconded.**

**A Roll Call Vote was held:**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner voted yes.**

**Councilor Trager voted yes.**

**Councilor Lafont voted yes**

**Mayor Kent voted yes**

**Motion carried.**

Manager Lucero reported that Sheriff Hamilton and Manager Lucero met and agreed to contribute an extra \$30,000 to the JPA. Sheriff Hamilton agrees to dedicate an officer to Elephant Butte, with the possibility of getting citation cited into Elephant Butte Municipal Court to help recover some of the \$30,000. It would be beneficial to have the presence of an officer rather than to be paying per call as the County had originally suggested. Mayor Kent asked Sheriff Hamilton if a Sheriff is dedicated would this sheriff also be handling other areas, Sheriff Hamilton stated that he will be dedicated to here Monday through Friday, Monday through Friday or whatever schedule would work for the city. The City would still have 24 hour 365 day coverage by any available deputy in the event of any emergency. Sheriff Hamilton was not on board with the numbers the county had come up with. Even if the City of Elephant Butte did not agree to pay anything to the Sheriff's Department, the Sheriff would not stop coverage in the area it is still their responsibility to provide services for citizens of the county. The \$30,000 on top of the \$20,000 already contributed by the City of Elephant Butte would be to cover the equitable wages of one Sheriff Officer, with the wages and benefits which would come out to close to the \$50,000 to dedicate one officer annually. Council recommended that this information be relayed to Bruce Swingle so that way there is no confusion on why The City of Elephant Butte is not paying what the County wants to be paid. Sheriff Hamilton wants an equitable amount not anything that is unreasonable. Councilor Lafont

stated that the County provides nothing to Elephant Butte, besides the Sheriff services. Sheriff Hamilton looked at actual numbers to come up with numbers which came out to the \$50,000. Mayor Kent doesn't want a person here sitting here handing out tickets just to get them into the courts giving the Sheriff Officer something to do. Mayor Kent is all for an Officer responding if someone is breaking the law, but not wanting someone here running petty citations, it is not good for the businesses in the area as well as just being a waste of time. Mayor Kent was with the understanding that the city would only pay \$30,000 not \$50,000 which included the \$20,000 LEPF Funding. The County believes that the City of Elephant Butte because they are an incorporated Municipality the City has a responsibility to provide services such as Law Enforcement, Ambulance, and Fire. With the city being an incorporated municipality the city should pay at least the manpower of just one officer. The other option would be for the city to provide a City Police Department which the city would be out that money too. Sheriff Hamilton stated that even though one officer would be dedicated to Elephant Butte Sheriff Hamilton would not only provided that one officer the whole department would still be responding to calls out in Elephant Butte. The County can ask but in all reality the City has the final say so on what is contributed to the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Hamilton stated that by dedicated Deputy in the city, it will not be only if someone is available. There will be a deputy available when the city needs the deputy; it would not pull away support when needed. The City could always report to the county if funds become unavailable the city would reevaluate annually.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner made a motion to approve Discussion/Possible action Joint Powers Agreement-Sierra County Sheriff; Councilor Trager seconded.**

Manager Lucero Present a Profit/Loss for the Golf Course which would be included for the recorded. The restaurant will be taken over by the new owners the June 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> which will no longer be part of the City's expenses. Chamber Contract will be included in Professional Services. Mayor Kent wants to limit the use of Attorney Fees unless there are no other options. Council is suggesting that some money be taken off the top of Lodgers Tax funds for new events and any advertisements feasible for the City of Elephant Butte. The \$5,400 for Chambers Services will now be used for City Contracted Advertisements. Mayor Kent asked that funds be moved from the \$3,000 Oktoberfest funds to the Elephant Days Line funds bringing the total to \$7,000.

The Interim Budget is included for the record.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner made a motion to approve Discussion and approval of Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Interim Budget with changes made by council; Councilor Trager seconded.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner made a motion to adjourn.**

**Councilor Trager seconded.**

**Meeting adjourned at 4:33pm.**

*Minutes approved and adopted at the Regular meeting of the City Council on:  
June 7, 2017*

  
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Melissa Apodaca, Deputy Clerk

Attest:

  
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Karen Rieth, CMC  
Clerk-Treasurer

