



CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, March 21, 2018
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 Councilor Rogers 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.

Clerk Rieth declared a quorum was present.

Also, in attendance were 11 members of the public and 2 members of the press.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

PRESENTATION

Appreciation to Dee Rogers

Mayor Kent recognized Councilor Rogers for his 6 years as Councilor for the City of Elephant Butte. As well as all his hard work and time Councilor Rogers has dedicated to the City.

Mayor Kent presented Councilor Rogers with a plaque as a token of appreciation.

Oath of Office Travis Atwell

Judge Dalrymple swore in newly elected Councilor Atwell

Oath of Office Gerald Lafont

Judge Dalrymple swore in Re-Elected Councilor Lafont.

South Central Regional Transit District; David Armijo, Director of SCRTD.

Sharon stated a short history about the State allowing municipalities a transit district transportation services. In 2014 SCRTD attempted to start with some starter buses but that failed due to lack of funds. In 2016 SCRTD hired Director David Armijo. Since then funds have been increased and transportation has been more accessible.

Sharon stated that a plan has to be put in place regarding financial status. In 2 years 22 objectives have been met. SCRTD is ranked 10th due to the data that has been turned in.

Sharon stated that Director Armijo is great at writing grants. In the past 2 years SCRTD has received \$974,264 in federal grants, which comes from gas taxes. The expectation is more in funding these next upcoming years.

Sharon stated that the purpose of this transportation option is to help individuals that need to get to appointments which will benefit the community by keeping residents able to keep medical appointments, which

will keep local doctors' offices and businesses in business by allowing people the option especially for the ones that do not own or vehicle or are able to drive.

Each District will have an annual membership fee based on residents and the fee is \$0.50 per resident according to the Census. Elephant Butte at this point is not eligible for a grant but there are options available if the City of Elephant Butte was to combine with Truth or Consequences, and Williamsburg.

Director Armijo gave a slide show presentation and grant application processes. Director stated that there would be some stops in Elephant Butte, T or C, and Williamsburg. These stops will include Wal Mart, the Hospital, and Doctors' Offices as well as a few others. This Transportation will also provide transportation to Hatch and Las Cruces.

Mayor Kent asked if the citizens are not utilizing these services is there a process to opt out and is that even a possibility. Director Armijo said yes is this is not working for your municipality then yes the municipality does have the option to opt out but there is a process to follow.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to approve the Agenda
Councilor Lafont seconded.
Motion carried 4-0.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner reported working on the budget. Councilor Trager and Mayor Pro Tem have also met with Neal Brown regarding the Damsite Legislation.

Councilor Lafont had nothing to report at this time.

Councilor Atwell had nothing to report at this time.

Councilor Trager stated that about a month ago Councilor Trager attend the Minimum Pool Meeting and there is going to be some turn over and there will be a new person representing the County. Councilor Trager attended SCRDA and a meeting between DFA and Century Link and the issue has been addressed. Steps have been taken to help with SCRDA losing communication connections. Councilor Trager will keep Council updated.

Mayor Kent reported having a very busy 4 weeks. A Selection has been made but name will not be released at this time. This Individual will be sworn in at the April 4, 2018 Regular Meeting. At that point this individual will announce any credentials this person may have. A Planning and Zoning training was held and valuable information was obtained. Also, a meeting was held with Systems MD and a proposal was requested about protections and Firewalls for the Municipality to protect information and increase security of records.

Boards and Committee Reports and Appointments

Confirmation of Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem Skinner
Councilor Trager made a motion to confirm the appointment of Mayor Pro Tem Skinner.
Councilor Lafont seconded.

Motion Carried 4-0-0

Confirmation of Appointment of Clerk-Treasurer Karen Rieth
Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to confirm the appointment of Clerk-Treasurer Karen Rieth.
Councilor Trager seconded.

Motion Carried 4-0-0

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Boone reported attending The Local Emergency Planning Meeting of Sierra County, the Planning and Zoning training, a meeting regarding 100 Canadian Circle; also Chief Boone met with the T or C Public Schools about some traffic issues that have been taking place on Rock Canyon Road and bus stops. More information will be relayed as more research is performed regarding this issue.

Chief reported having 2 trainings which included Vehicle Extrication; there were 11 volunteers that attended some from Monticello Fire and Elephant Butte Fire. A special thanks to Leslie Boone, as well as Mrs. Finney, Mr. and Mrs. Kohler, Brittney Flora and Church at the Butte for providing meals for those trainings. There have been 8 EMS and 2 Fire calls in the last 2 weeks. There are now a total of 12 volunteers.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Code Enforcement Officer Spencer reported 22 phone calls or walk-ins this month regarding permits or questions. There has been a decrease in dog calls which is now at 2.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Director Cole reported an update on the proposal for the wall at the Annex. Approximately 113 blocks will be needed, which would bring a total of approximately \$21,000 would be needed to do this project. This is about half the amount of the bids that came in. The amount will be researched into where the money will be taken out of to fund this project. Mayor Kent gave the go ahead to move forward with this project after it is verified on the funding source.

Director Cole reported the Waste Water improvements will be taking place soon and projected time frame will be about 90 days, but there may be more alarm call outs due to having to monitor levels.

Director Cole reported the Phase 4B Montreal Erie area grant is going to help with engineering expenses and will free up some money a date has not yet been set just yet but possibly going out for bid in September or October.

CLERK-TREASURER REPORT

Clerk Rieth reported attending the 2018 State Audit training this year. The City will be going out for Bid on the Audit since we are in the 3rd Year. Also, on March 23, 2018 Clerk Rieth will be in Santa Fe at the Budget Training.

CONSENT ITEMS

Councilor Rogers made a motion to approve the Consent Items: Approval of Meeting Minutes; March 7, 2018

Councilor Lafont seconded.

A Roll Call Vote was held:

Councilor Trager voted yes

Councilor Atwell voted yes.

Councilor Lafont voted yes.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner voted yes.

Motion carried.

REGULAR ITEMS

Disposal of Real Property by the Public Body; Fire Department Ambulances

Chief Boone explained that in the recent year we received 2 donated ambulances by Lovington. With this donation we are in need of selling those ambulances. Rescue 9-3 which would be more beneficial to sell and use the money for the department instead of investing money into it. There are other vehicles that were acquired with the acquisition of the Lakeshore Fire Department that are out of service.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to allow disposal of 5 Ambulances, Rescue 9-3, Vanbulance, Chevy 30, and 2 others
Councilor Lafont seconded.

Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Resolution 17-18-121; Transfer of funds from General Fund to Sierra Del Rio

Clerk Rieth reported that in the Debt Services had some errors and with communicating with DFA. In those Communications with DFA, Errors were found on DFA with the DFA Speadsheet protected cells. DFA acknowledges that the error were on their behalf so DFA is giving time for those errors to be corrected on the City side before the next quarterly report is due. This resolution is required to correct the Sierra Del Rio being in the negative because of the DFA error to correct that issue a transfer per this resolution has to be made that amount is \$39,817 from the General Fund to the Sierra Del Rio fund.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to approve Resolution 17-18-121 moving \$39,817 from the General Fund to the Sierra Del Rio Fund; This Budget Adjustment is due to the Errors in the DFA Computer System.
Councilor Lafont seconded.

Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion of Damsite Legislation; Neal Brown.

Neal Brown stated that Senator Pearce is drafting a bill giving the Damsite to the City of Elephant Butte. The Water is being pumped from the river and is emptied into three tanks. Mr. Neal is suggesting that the City add on that some money be set aside to have a potable water tank provided. Also, need to be added is that Mr. Neal be able to restore that area. Mr. Neal asked that the City of Elephant Butte request that the contract be kept the same with no changes. Finally, State Parks places a patio area on the restaurant area and a study be done to the restaurant moving and what needs to solve the issue of the movement of the restaurant.

Mayor Kent stated that there are some issues and that is the purpose of these suggestions be put in the bill.

Director Cole stated that there is a waste water tank out at Damsite. Director Cole's main concern is the sewer lines in that area. Director Cole does not see a huge issue with this area other that the infrastructure and the age. Mr. Neal stated that there are grants out there that would help any issues that may arise if the City acquires this property but not if the Bureau of Reclamation keeps it. One other concern is a well being placed. Mr. Neal stated that it may be 1 to 3 years before this bill may be acted on.

Mayor Kent asked to meet with Mr. Brown to change the verbiage in the Bill.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:44pm, Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to go into Executive Session pertaining to: NMSA 1978 10-15-1(H) (8) The purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights by the Public Body; Rock Canyon Easement; and NMSA 1978 10-15-1(H) (2) Limited personal matters; City Manager.
Councilor Trager 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 4:15pm.

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

Discussion/Possible Action; Encroachment license or quit claim deed on 5 properties on Rock Canyon Road effected be Easement discrepancy.

**Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to Quit Claim 5 properties affected by NMDOT discrepancy
Councilor Lafont seconded**

Motion Carried 4-0-0

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 4:16pm.

Minutes approved and adopted at the Special meeting of the City Council on April 4, 2018

Attest:



Karen Rieth, CMC
Clerk-Treasurer

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