



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, April 18, 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 Atwell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Deputy Clerk Apodaca called the roll.

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

Deputy Clerk Apodaca declared a quorum was present.

Also, in attendance were 7 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

Gary Potasnik, 603 Country Club, Elephant Butte, NM, stated as a resident since 2011 and would like for the city to look into the development of a taxation type deal where everybody shares in the pickup of trash because cost are going up all the time. Mr., Potasnik feels that something similar to what T or C has could be beneficial and be done through Taxation with property tax even for part time residents, because they also generate garbage. Mr. Potasnik stated he has driven around and has seen plastic bags of trash all over, and those bags can sit for days, even weeks, and what do those bags bring mice, which is not good for the community.

Bill Belmonte, 300 Kiowa Loop, Elephant Butte, NM, stated that he would like to like to see a cemetery in the City of Elephant Butte. Mr. Belmonte feels that having a local cemetery would bring loved ones of deceased to the city to pray for their loved ones. Mr. Belmonte would like to see the cemetery on the side of reservoir since nothing can be built on that land. Mr. Belmonte stated that it would be something for the elderly to consider because why not be buried in your home town why have to go be buried in T or C, which is what has to be done at this time since the City of Elephant Butte does not have a cemetery at this.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS

Appointment of City Manager E. David Howard

Mayor Kent wanted to welcome the City's new City Manager E. David Howard.

**Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to Appoint E. David Howard as City Manager
Councilor Lafont seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.**

PRESENTATION

Oath of Office City Manager E. David Howard

Judge Dalrymple swore in new City Manager E. David Howard.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Manager Howard wanted to request the removal of MOU with the Sheriff Office and Discussion/possible action MOU with Sheriff's office as per a conversation with Sheriff Hamilton.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to approve the Agenda with the removal of the MOU with the Sheriff Office and Discussion/possible action MOU with Sheriff's office. Councilor Trager seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Kent reported that in previous meeting there were discussions about the Damsite. Some discussions involved the Bureau of Reclamation and Neal Brown. The Bureau of Reclamation requested a full list of what the City needed with pricing this was needed from the city after looking into needs for repairs and restorations. These requests were suggested so they could be put in the Bill and carried before Congressman Pearce left office. Mayor Kent also met with Manager Howard to inform him on projects that are in place and anything current or in the future for the City as well as with the Golf Course. Mayor Kent also stated that the City went out for Request for Proposal for the Lease of the Golf Course or setting up an Operating Agreement with any company that would like to come in and set up an Operating Agreement and actually operate the facility entirely. Also, Bids were opened and a committee is in place including Mayor Kent, Mayor Pro Tem Skinner, and Manager Howard in looking at the bids the next steps are being considered and will be discussed further in Executive Session later on in today's meeting so council can be involved in suggestions.

Councilor Atwell stated SCCOG meeting which included a presentation on the USDA Rural Development Program in which assistance for low income families and seniors in the city of Elephant Butte may be available for assistance if repairs need to be done to the homes. In speaking with Jay Armijo there may be funding available to do some drainage work.

Councilor Trager stated that Jay Armijo wanted it to be brought to everyone's attention that on May 2nd and May 3rd there is going to be a Conference with leaders from Wyoming, Utah, and Arizona on Economic Development on Public Lands. Everyone is encouraged to attend there is a fee of \$25.00 for two days. Also, Councilor Trager stated having discussions with State Parks on Media Day and came up with a date of August 25th which is late in the season in which water levels at the lake are already down, so since this will not be a State Parks Sanctioned event Councilor Trager would like to bring it to Councils attention in which they would give the City the opportunity to promote Sierra del Rio or the City the date of June 9th is what is being considered because Hobie days is already scheduled for that day. Councilor Trager stated that on April 14, 2018 there was a Bass Tournament with was it was reportedly one of the best tournaments that has been held in this area there was a total of 38 teams were in the tournament and 31 of them reached their limit of 5 fish limits. Mayor Kent wanted to send a special thanks to Ron Gilworth for his efforts in orchestrating the stocking of the fish when that was taking place. Councilor Trager also stated that attending the County Commission meeting in which Permission to publicize for Public Hearing of the Ordinance 18-015 Authorizing the operation of the recreational OHV's and ATV's to use the streets owned and controlled by the County of Sierra the end result was to move forward and publish and put it on the agenda. Councilor Trager also

attended the SCRDA meeting and the budget is being ready to be sent to the county so when looking at the City Budget those number will be available Councilor Trager gave those number to Clerk Rieth to see what needs to be contributed to SCRDA according to calls in which call have gone down.

Councilor Lafont had nothing to report at this time.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner stated working on the Budget with the City Clerk for the past two weeks. Mayor Pro Tem Skinner also attended the Quarterly Workforce Development Meeting in Socorro which talked about getting more secure jobs and education for Youth and Displaced adult workers. Mayor Pro Tem Skinner also attended the Middle Rio Grande Economic Development gave a presentation on grants that are available for low income seniors who may possibly need repairs to their homes these grants.

SHERIFF REPORT

Traffic on Rock Canyon Road/ Speed zone

Sheriff Hamilton presented a report update on last year's total number of calls within the City of Elephant Butte there has been a total of 937 dispatched calls which included Ambulance, Fire and Law Enforcement which is down for all entities meaning that the City of Elephant Butte will be seeing a reduction in the contribution. Of the dispatched calls The Sheriff's office took 125 of those which were criminal offenses not including traffic offenses basically from March 2017 through February 2018. On the Property crimes can correlate with the drug crimes these. Sherriff Hamilton has pulled three (3) years of data, including January through December 2015, 2016, and 2017 numbers have also dropped. From 2015 and 2016 there was a total of 34 property crimes same for each year in 2017 when Drug Interdiction and Dug Enforcement efforts started picking up there was a 32% drop in property crime. Sheriff Hamilton is very proud of the Community members for being willing to reach out to the Sheriff's Office if they witness any suspicious activity and Sheriff Hamilton is also proud of his Deputies success in targeting some of these incidents.

Sheriff Hamilton also wanted to report on the issue brought to the attention on Rock Canyon Rd. Sheriff Hamilton would like to suggest new Signage which might aid in the issue that was brought up about the school bus stop incident. According to reports in the past three years there has only been on crash at that location, which is due to a vehicle going over the posted speed limit. Sheriff Hamilton stated that he has been out in that area in his Personal Vehicle because he didn't want for drivers to notice the lights, which would change the way they normally drive. He has noted that in his time out there about 30% to 40% of drivers were exceeding the posted speed limit. Sheriff Hamilton suggests that a series of Selective Traffic Enforcement Programs be run out in that area which may include a Speed Enforcement Trailer with the flashing speed and will come in conjunction with Law Enforcement in the area who will be performing traffic stops. This program run for a couple of weeks may result in what is called Reconditioning of the public. These programs usually have a significant reduction in incidents. Another recommendation by Sheriff Hamilton would be a bright florescent easily noticeable signage especially for the School Bus Stop. Sheriff Hamilton stated that the Sheriff's Office will continue to monitor that area to see what other recommendation and corrective action can be taken. Sheriff Hamilton is going to publish these Selective Traffic Enforcement Programs in the paper to let traffic know that there is going to be more patrol in the area so that people will be aware and that would not give them any reason to raise complaints.

CLERK-TREASURER REPORT

Clerk Rieth was not present but Memo will be included for the record

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Boone reported attending the Community Wildland Program meeting on April 9th including areas of issue which would include the Golf Course. Chief Boone stated that Elephant Butte is not at a high level of fire danger in Sierra County and the Forest Service. There is a new sign at the Fire Station at 309 Rock Canyon which will show the Fire Danger as high

Chief Boone stated that a Type 5 Brush Truck which was loaned to the Elephant Butte Fire Department. This vehicle will need to be returned since no more fire funds can no longer be put into a vehicle that does not belong to the department.

Chief Boone also attended a County Fire Chief meeting which discussed the possible fire dangers as of right now. There is a prescribed Burn in the Gila's toward Silver City we may see some smoke from that burn. There is a black line around that area in which they are going to burn about 9,000 acres. There are also two (2) more burns that will be taking place in the Beaverhead Area by Adobe Ranch Area in that vicinity and we may see some smoke from that burn.

Chief Boone attended a funeral service for an Assistant Chief in Sandoval County.

Chief Boone reported that hose testing took place on April 10th the opportunity was taken to provide training for the volunteers on hose lays and rolls and putting away equipment.

There have been 15 calls of service most were EMS Calls; 1 was a water rescue 1 Fire call in T or C in which were provided Mutual Aid with 5 volunteers. That major fire resulted in two (2) small injuries including smoke inhalation and a minor burn.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Code Enforcement Officer Spencer stated that there has been an average of 30 calls a month. Code Enforcement Officer Spencer stated that recently there has been an increase in reports for barking dogs. On the next agenda there will be a couple of Resolutions for Councils review that was taking to Planning and Zoning. These Resolutions will include Nuisance and storage containers.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Director Cole reported that we are administratively complete with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan. Director Cole will get with Bohannon-Huston to finish up planning and engineering design to move forward with the Montreal and Erie area. The Water Meter Project is getting closer to finishing which is the placement of water meters and meter setters in the Hot Springs Landing area. Questions have come to attention from residence of that area about the completion of Nambe Loop. That project is complete there. Director Cole is looking further into this area because residence state it looks unfinished but the rock placed in that area was above and beyond budget when it went from a dirt road to a paved road. Director Cole stated that he is looking into addressing the issue of affected driveways and address them on a case by case basis regarding curbing and guttering on the turn in to driveways. A list of Potholes Repair locations is in Director Cole's office and once there are a significant amount on the list Director Cole will schedule a time to repair those because that project usually takes about 4 guys and it is a full day work for the Pothole Patching Program.

CONSENT ITEMS

**Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to approve the Consent Items: Approval of Meeting Minutes; April 4, 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

Discussion/possible action - Resolution 17-18-123 Burn Ban; Chief Boone

Chief Boone presented a Resolution to pass an Emergency Burn Ban as a Moratorium Resolution that allows per State Statute 3-18-11 to declare an Emergency of Danger to a Public without publication. Chief Boone is asking for a vote on the Emergency Burn Ban on all inclusive Open Flame Burn. A Moratorium Resolution can be lifted at the discretion of the Council when the danger level goes down.

**Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to approve Resolution 17-18-123 Emergency Open and Control Burn Ban.
Councilor Lafont seconded.**

Motion carried 4-0.

Approval to add City Manager E. David Howard as a signer on the Bank Accounts

**Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to Approve adding City Manager E. David Howard as a signer on the Bank Accounts.
Councilor Lafont seconded.**

Motion carried 4-0.

Approval to apply for City credit card for City Manager E. David Howard

**Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to approve application for City credit card for City Manager E. David Howard.
Councilor Lafont seconded.**

Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Lodgers Tax Advisory Board recommendations for FY 18-19

**Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion approve the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board recommendations for FY 18-19.
Councilor Lafont seconded.**

Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Resolution 17-18-122 Budget Adjustments for 3rd Quarter FY 17-18

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to approve Resolution 17-18-122 Budget Adjustments for 3rd Quarter FY 17-18.

Councilor Lafont seconded.

Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of 3rd Quarter Financial report FY 17-18

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion approve the 3rd Quarter Financial report FY 17-18.
Councilor Lafont seconded.

Motion carried 4-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:22pm, Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to go into Executive Session pertaining to: The purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1 (H)(8); Sierra del Rio.

Councilor Lafont seconded.

A Roll Call Vote was held:

Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner voted yes.

Councilor Lafont voted yes.

Councilor Atwell 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.

ADJOURNMENT:

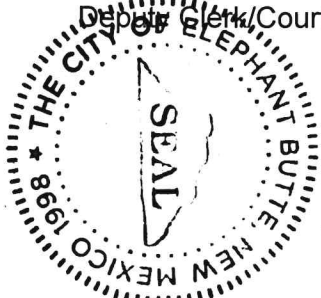
Meeting adjourned at 4:35pm.

Minutes approved and adopted at the meeting of the City Council on May 2, 2018.

Melissa Apodaca

Melissa Apodaca

Deputy Clerk/Court Clerk



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