



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 15, 2015 2:00 P.M.
103 Water St. Elephant Butte, NM 87935
MEETING MINUTES

WORKSHOP – 1:00PM

FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET

Manager Finzen presented a line item account of the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget and discussed recommendations with Council. There will be a budget workshop on July 28 at 10am, and Manager Finzen and Clerk Rieth will be meeting with Michael Steininger, Special Director of DFA, and will present the Final Budget for approval on July 29 at 2pm during the Special Meeting.

ELEPHANT DAYS

Mayor Kent discussed with Council the various events planned for the Elephant Days Celebration, including a hula hoop contest and pet parade, as well as the entertainment, and parade.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Kent called the Regular Meeting to order at 2:00 PM, and Councilor Trager 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 were Manager Finzen and Planner Dyjak.

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

PUBLIC INPUT – Rick Harrison reported on the RV and Boat Show, mentioning that the Friends of Elephant Butte Lake State Park were considering holding the event on Father's Day next year. Mayor Kent commended everyone involved for their effort in putting together a new event. Mr. Harrison presented Chief Leavitt with a T-shirt in gratitude for taking a personal day in order to help provide water for the Sand Castle Competition.

PRESENTATIONS–None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Rogers made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted Councilor Lafont seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARDS & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Appointment of Councilor Edna Trager To SCCOG

Mayor Kent recommended appointment of Edna Trager to SCCOG and asked for a motion.

Councilor Rogers made a motion to appoint Councilor Trager as the representative for the South Central Council of Governments. Councilor Lafont seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration and possible appointment of alternate to SCCOG

Mayor Kent confirmed with Council that Councilor Rogers had already been serving as the alternate for SCCOG and would continue to do so.

MAYOR and COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Mayor Kent thanked the two newspapers for the coverage of the Fourth of July at Elephant Butte. Mayor Kent mentioned the good job the Police did over the Fourth of July weekend. There were 35-40 volunteers to put flags up for the weekend, including several people from out of state. Mayor Kent thanked all parties that helped make the weekend a success.

Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner reported that the annual Workforce Investment Act meeting was held at the Elephant Butte Inn last week. In the investment Act there are changes that will be passed to chief executives and Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner will pass them on to Mayor Kent. A Letter was sent out to the Tourism Department regarding the Fourth of July and Elephant Butte Days not being on the front page of the Tourism website. Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner stated that the State Park had over 125,000 visitors over the Fourth of July weekend, and 20,000 people in Caballo. Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner added that the number of visitors to events here in Elephant Butte help to bring money into all of state parks in New Mexico. Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner received a letter back from the Tourism Department stating they will be working to have better coverage for events. Councilor Trager and Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner will be attending training on Yelp social media in August 2015. Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner will also be lobbying for Elephant Butte on August 12 & 13 with the New Mexico Department of Tourism.

Councilor LaFont talked about the placement of the fireworks this year, stating that most people had good feedback on the new location. Truth or Consequence residents reported to Councilor Lafont that they loved it because they could see and enjoy the fireworks from T or C. Councilor LaFont also mentioned that the city has seen an increase in visitors from Texas, which is really good for the city.

Councilor Rogers reported that the director of the Sierra County Dispatch Authority resigned and took any other position in the County. SCRDA is looking to fill the open position. The Regular board meeting with the Dispatch Authority will be tomorrow at 10:00 am, and there will also be a JPA workshop at 1:00 pm tomorrow.

Councilor Trager Mentioned the good newspaper coverage of the Fourth of July weekend, and reported receiving positive comments coming in from surrounding cities.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Finzen gave a budget report with revenue and expense lines for. Elephant Days. . Manager Finzen completed the budget report continued from the workshop.

Mayor Kent recognized Russ Trager for going out to get sponsors for the Kayak Event which helps promote events, and urged all event committees to work on getting more sponsors for all the events, so that the events will be able to sustain themselves. Mayor Kent recognized Manager Finzen and Clerk Rieth for all the work on showing event expenses and revenues for events.

Manager Finzen discussed Oktoberfest revenues from last year and is planning ahead for this year for all events. Review of this year's budget was presented by Manager Finzen and Clerk Rieth.

Manager Finzen is continuing to work on the LGRF project, and will be bringing it to Council in the next few months. **Planner Report-** Planner Dyjak gave his report, attached for the record.

Clerk-Treasurer Report- Clerk Rieth reported on positive changes in the office with the hiring of the new Deputy Clerk/Court Clerk and Utility Clerk. The Clerk's office has put several changes in place that will increase the efficiency of processes.

CONSENT ITEMS

Approval of Minutes Regular Meeting July 1, 2015

Councilor Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes from July 1, 2015 as presented. Councilor LaFont seconded.

**A Roll Call Vote was conducted by Clerk Rieth.
Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING

FINAL HEARING FOR PUBLIC INPUT ON BUDGET FOR FY 2016

Mayor Kent Opened the floor for public comment on the budget for Fiscal Year 2016. There were no comments from public. Mayor Kent closed the public hearing.

REGULAR ITEMS –

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – CLOSING OF WATER STREET AUGUST 21-23, 2015 FOR ELEPHANT DAYS

Mayor Kent asked the Council for input on closing Water Street during Elephant Days.

Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner made a motion to close the portion of Water Street that includes the frontage of the event site during Elephant Days.

Councilor Lafont Seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

At 3:24pm Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner made a motion to go into executive session regarding a) Threatened or pending litigation pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(7); Hinojos, and Section 218; AND B) 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) Dam site.

Councilor Rogers seconded.

Clerk Rieth conducted a Roll Call Vote.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Council came out of executive session at 4:35pm.

The regular meeting reconvened.

Councilor Lafont certified that only matters on the agenda were discussed during executive session, and no decisions had been made.

Councilor Skinner made a motion to adjourn.

Councilor Lafont seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 4:36pm

Minutes adopted at the Regular Meeting August 5, 2015

Karen Rieth

Karen Rieth, City Clerk Treasurer

