



**WORKSHOP AND  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
January 20, 2016  
103 Water St. Elephant Butte, NM 87935  
ACTION MINUTES**

**WORKSHOP -1:00pm**

Council reviewed the draft of Ordinance 158 allowing golf carts to operate on City Streets.

Councilor Lafont suggested charging a \$25 per year fee, and having \$5 of that go into a separate fund for replacement of signs, etc. as needed.

Councilor Rogers agreed, and would like to have the permit required to be renewed each year so that carts could be inspected annually to verify safety equipment, etc.

Mayor Kent asked Clerk Rieth and Manager Finzen to do a cost analysis to make sure that \$20 would cover the administrative costs if \$5 was put into a contingency fund.

Council would like the effective date of the Ordinance to be drafted as February 22, 2016.

Council would like the "no golf cart" signs to be a pictorial sign with a red circle and line through a picture of a golf cart.

Manager Finzen is working on a memo of understanding with Turtle back Mountain Resort since the City did not take ownership of the Streets within the PUD.

There may be an issue with allowing golf carts on Rock Canyon Road, since that is still a State Highway, not under the control of the City. Rex Ploederer and Councilor Lafont will take the issue back to the Golf Cart Committee for further research and review, and bring back recommendations to the Council.

Manager Finzen will look at possible improvements to the turning lane at Hawthorne & Warm Springs to avoid possible confusion.

Mayor Kent will make an appointment with Dave Martin, Cabinet Secretary to discuss allowing golf carts into the State Park.

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - 2:00pm**

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Kent called the Regular Meeting to order at 2:00pm, and Councilor Rogers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Clerk Rieth called the roll. Mayor Kent, Councilor Lafont, Councilor Rogers, and Councilor Trager were all present. Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner was absent.

Also present was Manager Finzen.

Two members of the Press and 7 members of the public were also present.

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

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

None.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Kent presented a commendation to Doyle Nelson, for exemplary service in construction of the City's Monument Signs.

Mayor Kent announced that the presentation for Lynn Camerer would be postponed until the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, due to Lynn being unable to attend today.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Kent announced that Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner had requested the Special meeting minutes of January 6, 2016 be removed from the Consent Agenda, as the presentation that council attended was a town hall meeting and public presentation of plans for the hospital, and not an official meeting of the JPC, so legally there was no need to take minutes.

Mayor Kent asked for a motion to approve the Amended Agenda.

**Councilor Rogers made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended.**

**Councilor Lafont seconded.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **BOARDS AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Clerk Rieth recommended appointment of the Municipal Election Precinct Board as follows:

Presiding Judge: Dorothy Bell

Judge 2 & Clerk 1: Ron Phillips

Judge 3 & Clerk 2: Charles Looney

Alternate#1: Julie T. Crespin Rogers

Alternate#2: Rick Harrison

Translator: Jessica Vasquez-Newberry

**Councilor Rogers made a motion to approve the Precinct Board as submitted by the City Clerk.**

**Councilor Lafont seconded.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilor Trager gave an update on the New Mexico Southwest Regional Tourism Board Webinar by Secretary Latham. There are two version of a budget that have been submitted.

One is at 2.3 million and is being supported by the Governor, and one is at \$850,000. Both versions will place heavy emphasis on Dallas and Houston out of state markets.

Councilor Trager announced that Christmas trees being put into the lake will be on January 30. Councilor Trager reported good participation from several local businesses with the Outdoor Expo in Las Cruces.

Councilor Rogers gave an update on SCRDA. The Communications Systems Review for Sierra County has been completed. The Regional Communication Center and water tank hill and radio communications equipment on that hill were reviewed, as well as the license for the communication center. Also reviewed was T or C, Sierra County Sheriff, Winston Volunteer Fire Department, Sierra Vista Ambulance, Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Department, Elephant Butte Volunteer Fire Department, Proverty Creek, and the Emergency Manager. Final recommendations are available for review through the City Manager.

Councilor Rogers reported that the Sierra Valley Regional Dispatch Authority to back up the PSAP was also discussed at the December 10 SCRDA meeting. Councilor Rogers reported that Hugo Acosta, Director of Sierra Valley presented information on Dispatch Now, which is a computer generated dispatch software.

Councilor Rogers reported on January 13 there was a meeting with Sierra Vista Hospital Dispatch staff to introduce contract negotiations for an increase in contract costs that are currently being paid. The Board submitted documentation concerning the assigned calls that are made for Sierra Vista Hospital Emergency Services. Last year there were 20,103 assigned calls. Of those calls, Sierra Vista Hospital Ambulance accounted for 2472 calls, or 12% of all calls made through regional dispatch. Twelve percent (12%) of the budget equates to \$54,228. This is the amount that the SCRDA Board has proposed to Sierra Vista Hospital Emergency Ambulance Services.

Councilor Rogers reported that the Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch CAD system being used is called Dispatch Now. Adding 4 stations will cost \$45,000 one time licensing fee and a \$15,000 Annual Maintenance fee. This is not allocated in the current budget, but is part of the reserves. Councilor Rogers announced that there has been some discussion of a donation of a generator from Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority. The generator would be used as a back-up generator, and it has less than 200 hours on it. Councilor Rogers reported a process is now in place to create a report of call of service with an annual breakdown of calls to determine costs per area. The database was developed by Paul Tooley. SCRDA is operating within budget through 6 months of the year.

Councilor Lafont commented on the status of the Golf Cart Committee.

Mayor Kent announced plans to attend a Joint Powers Commission meeting next Wednesday. There will be a vote to move forward with the budget for the new hospital. Michael Zimmerman will be on the agenda for February 3 to provide an update to Council. Mayor Kent, Manager Finzen, Councilor Lafont and Mayor Pro-Tem Skinner will be in Santa Fe next week to lobby for capital outlay and review with the legislators the ICIP. Manager Finzen gave presentation of the City's priorities to Senator John Arthur Smith and Representative Diane Hamilton, which was well received, but Senator John Arthur Smith cautioned that the budget will be very tight this year.

## MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Finzen reported that the FEMA funding had been used to repair damage to Sunset Ridge Road that occurred with heavy rains in 2013. Repairs included a low water crossing, and Rip Rap. Manager Finzen mentioned that the portion of San Mateo that does not currently have wastewater service access is being planned. This will provide approximately 40 new connections to the sewer system, including some commercial properties that are currently not developed. The project consists of 2 phases, each is under \$9,000, so it would not need to go through a bid process.

Manager Finzen will be meeting with the architect regarding the annex project early next week and will update Council at the next meeting.

Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a meeting tomorrow morning which will be a hearing on a variance case and discussion of the comprehensive plan.

Contract with the Elephant Butte Chamber of Commerce has been signed and goes into effect on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Contract renewal of Financial software services will be finalized this week.

## CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk Rieth reviewed crucial dates for the municipal election. February 2 at 5pm is deadline to register to vote. First day to issue absentee ballots is January; 26. Early voting begins February 10.

Clerk Rieth reported that the section 218 divided vote referendum passed with all employees unanimously voting in favor of continuing to pay into Social Security.

## CONSENT ITEMS

Mayor Kent asked for a motion to approve the Consent Items as amended.

- Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, January 6, 2016

**Councilor Rogers made a motion to approve the Consent Item(s) as amended.  
Councilor Lafont seconded.**

**A Roll Call vote was held:  
Councilor Lafont voted yes.  
Councilor Trager voted yes.  
Councilor Rogers voted yes.  
Motion carried.**

## REGULAR ITEMS

Manager presented options for an electronic message board to replace the City Hall sign at the corner of Warm Springs and Water. The large color 2 sided option would cost around \$18,000.

Council would like Manager Finzen to pursue the project further.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**At 2:53pm Councilor Rogers made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(7) Threatened or pending litigation and 10-15-(H)(2) Limited personnel matters.  
Councilor Lafont seconded.**

**A Roll Call vote was held:  
Councilor Lafont voted yes.  
Councilor Trager voted yes.  
Councilor Rogers voted yes.  
Council went into Executive Session.**

At 4:25pm Council came out of Executive Session and the regular meeting resumed.

Councilor Lafont certified that only items on the agenda were discussed and no decisions had been made or action taken.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items on the agenda, Mayor Kent asked for motion to adjourn.

**Councilor Lafont made a motion to adjourn.  
Councilor Rogers seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:26pm.

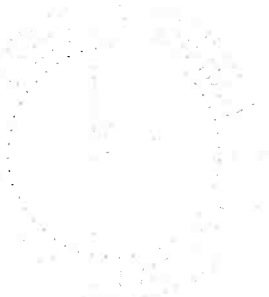
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**Minutes adopted at the Regular meeting on February 3, 2016**



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Karen Rieth, City Clerk -Treasurer



## CLERK-TREASURER REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

**To:** Mayor Kent & City Councilors  
**From:** Karen Rieth, Clerk-Treasurer  
**Date:** January 20, 2016

### 2016 Election update

- February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm, the County Clerk will close voter registration. Anyone wishing to register to vote in the Municipal election on March 1<sup>st</sup> needs to do so by that deadline.
- Applications for absentee ballots are available now in the Clerk's office. 1<sup>st</sup> day to issue absentee ballots by mail is January 26.
- Early voting will begin February 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Section 218 Divided Vote Referendum

A divided vote referendum of all employees in positions covered by the Public Employees Retirement Association of New Mexico was held on January 19<sup>th</sup> on whether to be included under the Agreement entered into on September 29, 1955 by the State of New Mexico and the Commissioner of Social Security pursuant to Section 218 of the Social Security Act.

The vote was conducted under the supervision of the referendum committee having been duly appointed to represent W. Grant Wright, Social Security Administrator for the State of New Mexico.

Employees voted unanimously to be included in the Section 218 Agreement.

The vote was canvassed by the referendum committee, and results have been forwarded to the Social Security Administrator.

**City of Elephant Butte**  
*Certificate of Commendation*

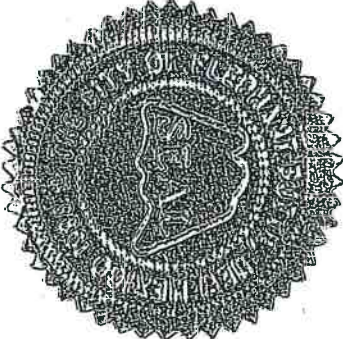
**WHEREAS:** Lynn Camerer, owner of Lynn's Landscaping cares deeply about the Elephant Butte Community; and

**WHEREAS:** Lynn Camerer is an expert on matters of landscaping and beautification; and  
**WHEREAS:** Lynn Camerer selflessly volunteered time, labor, landscaping design and materials for the City monument signs;

**THEREFORE:** I, Eunice Kent, Mayor, along with the rest of my colleagues on the City Council on this 20th Day of January, 2016, do hereby recognize and commend:

*Lynn Camerer*

for exemplary service and dedication to the City of Elephant Butte.



*Eunice Kent*  
Eunice Kent, Mayor

**City of Elephant Butte**  
*Certificate of Commendation*

WHEREAS:

Doyle Nelson of Black Canyon Builders was contracted to Construct monument signs for the City of Elephant Butte, and

WHEREAS:

Doyle Nelson went above & beyond the required scope of the project; and

WHEREAS:

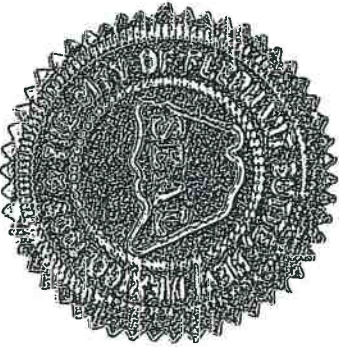
Doyle Nelson donated his time and work in additional improvements to the monuments;

THEREFORE:

I, Eunice Kent, Mayor, along with the rest of my colleagues on the City Council on this 20th Day of January, 2016, do hereby recognize and commend:

**Doyle Nelson**

for exemplary service in the construction of the City monuments.



  
Eunice Kent, Mayor