



**CITY OF ELEPHANT BUTTE
EMERGENCY CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE CALL**

Wednesday, May 15, 2020
Via WebEx Conference Call

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Edna Trager called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL

Clerk-Treasurer Rani Bush called roll.

Mayor Edna Trager – Present via phone
Mayor Pro Tem Kim Skinner – Present via phone
Councilor Travis Atwell – Present via phone
Councilor Gerald LaFont – Present via phone
Councilor Michael Williams – Present via phone

Clerk-Treasurer Bush declared there was a quorum present.

City Attorney Ben Young was also in attendance by phone. He explained that due to the fact the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) is requiring an answer today on substantial funding for the City's water system that the Open Meeting requirement of 72 hour notice had to be superseded in order to get direction from Council. This can be rectified by reporting within 10 days to the Attorney General's office the action taken and the circumstances creating the emergency provided that the requirements to report to the Attorney General is waived upon the declaration of a state or national emergency.

About an hour and a half ago, he received an email from City Manager Ballinger that required immediate action. It involves a \$400,000 appropriation bond to be used for water infrastructure for the City.

3. REGULAR ITEMS

- a. **Discussion/Possible Action:** \$400,000 capital appropriation bond with May 15, 2020 deadline from New Mexico Department of Finance Administration

City Manager Vicki Ballinger explained that she received an email from the DFA asking if Elephant Butte would be willing to wait for funding for the \$400k water project funded by Capital Appropriation Bonds until the December (or later) sale. The DFA needed an answer today. They sent a message on May 8 but apparently it did not go to all they meant to receive it until today.

Mayor Trager explained that the \$400,000 is to be used for backup generators and to widen the water flow. The backup generators are necessary due to the change at NM Water. Elephant Butte is in the unique situation of having two water systems feeding into one sewer system. When power goes down, NM Water has backup generators. Their system will continue working. Both their and Elephant Butte's need to work at the same time otherwise it can cause a potential mess. This is why it is an emergency. Elephant Butte needs those backup generators as soon as possible. Also widening the flow of water will help with fighting fires.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner added that she and Councilor Williams attended the emergency plan meeting and part of that is getting generators for water. In her opinion after being on the Municipal League Budget Committee, if they don't take the money now, it might not be there later. Councilor Atwell wanted to make sure the generators were for water only, no buildings. Mayor Trager confirmed water only.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to respond "No" to the DFA questionnaire about waiting until December (or later) for funding for the \$400,000 water project funded by Capital Appropriation Bonds. Councilor Atwell seconded.

Clerk-Treasurer Bush conducted a roll call vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner – Yes
Councilor Atwell – Yes
Councilor LaFont – Yes
Councilor Williams – Yes

Motion Passed.

City Attorney Young explained that the action will be ratified at the next regular Council meeting which will be on May 20, 2020. Then the minutes from this meeting and the minutes from next week's meeting will be submitted to the Attorney General's office along with a brief cover letter explaining what happened today.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor LaFont made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Williams seconded.

Clerk-Treasurer Bush conducted a roll call vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner – Yes
Councilor Atwell – Yes
Councilor LaFont – Yes
Councilor Williams – Yes

Motion Passed.

Minutes approved and adopted at the City Council Meeting on May 20, 2020.



Edna Trager
Mayor

ATTEST:



Rani Bush
Clerk-Treasurer