



**CITY OF ELEPHANT BUTTE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 – 2:00 pm
Municipal Building, 103 Water St. Elephant Butte, NM 87935

Due to the current health risks associated with COVID-19 and orders from the New Mexico Governor's Office and the New Mexico Public Health Department, public attendance at this and future meetings of the City Council are temporarily suspended. Until the orders are lifted, and in accordance with the guidance from the New Mexico Attorney General, the City will make its meetings open to the public through dialing into WebEx number: (408) 418-9388, Access Code: 126 124 0239, Password: 87935 or www.cityofelephantbutte.com for information about accessing the meeting through your computer.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Edna Trager called the meeting to order, and Councilor Gerald LaFont led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Clerk-Treasurer Rani Bush called roll.

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

Clerk-Treasurer Bush declared a quorum.

3. STATEMENT CONCERNING CLOSED SESSION ON APRIL 12, 2021

Mayor Trager confirmed that no actions were taken during the meeting and that the only matter discussed was NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2) Limited Personnel Matters – City Manager's Annual Review.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Council Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Councilor Williams motioned to approve the agenda with the amendment of removing Regular Item e. Discussion/Possible Action: Sierra County GIS Addressing Services Agreement which was delayed. Councilor Atwell seconded. 4-0. Motion passed.

5. STATEMENT OF OPEN MEETINGS RESOLUTION & 3 MINUTE LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ALL ISSUES

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. PRESENTATIONS

a. Sacred Wind Communication Presentation – Greg Jaramillo, Director of Operations

Mr. Jaramillo went through his PowerPoint presentation and answered questions about his company coming into the area. He has also spoken with Truth or Consequences and Sierra County officials.

8. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Trager recognized Councilor LaFont for his 15 years of dedicated service on the Council. He was presented with a certificate.

She updated the Council on the Bass Anglers Club agreement. They are paid in full for the year. She then reported on the various meetings she attended. Water levels due to extreme drought will be very low this year. She also met with Trent Dolittle from the NM Department of Transportation. It was suggested that the Elephant Butte OHV ordinance be updated to include helmet wearing for those 18 and older. Mayor Trager will add it to the agenda for the next meeting. There will be a budget workshop on May 5, 2021.

Councilor Atwell attended the Council of Governments (COG) meeting. Minor budget adjustments were approved, and their audit had an unmodified opinion with zero findings.

Councilor LaFont attended a South Central Regional Transit District meeting. Transportation should reach Truth or Consequences (TorC) within the next three months. He recommends working on an internal system between TorC, Elephant Butte, and Williamsburg.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner reported on the various meetings she attended, including with the Workforce Development Board, the Tourism Department, the Sierra Vista Hospital Board, the Sierra County Economic Development Organization, and the NM Municipal League District 7 Delegates.

Councilor Williams attended a Sierra County Regional Dispatch Authority (SCRDA) Board meeting this morning.

9. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Vicki Ballinger updated the Council on new NM Department of Transportation funding opportunities, the Michigan Streets Improvement Project, and utility billing issues.

She then introduced the new code enforcement officer, Pam Harris-Gallo. City Manager Ballinger also let the Council know that Lindsey Moore (Fire Dept Admin) will move back to City Hall from the Annex and will work on land use full-time.

10. CLERK-TREASURER REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Bush thanked Michael Steininger, Special Director with NM Dept. of Finance and Administration, for his continued assistance with the City's finances. She also reported that the new file clerk, Kellie King, has been doing a great job reorganizing the City's paperwork. She will follow up about three payments to Spectrum Technology that appear on the April Expense Report.

11. FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Fire Chief Toby Boone updated the Council on his department's trainings and projects. There were 44 calls in March. He received \$25,000 from a Volunteer Fire Assistance grant for a Wildland coordinator. He will be meeting with Dr. Diven next Tuesday to finalize the Medical Director

contract. He met with State Parks and Friends of the Butte about this summer. There will not be fireworks this July, but possibly a small display at the Luminaria Walk in December.

12. LAND USE REPORT

Land Use Admin Lindsey Moore reported there are currently 52 open permits (41 residential and 11 commercial). Seven of the residential are complete new home builds. She also updated the Council on the Country Club gate. Chief Boone commented on the need for a transition period for the new fire department admin as Ms. Moore changes position in July.

13. CONSENT ITEMS (Roll Call Vote)

a. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, April 21, 2021

Councilor Williams motioned to approve the **Regular Meeting Minutes, April 21, 2021**. 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.

14. REGULAR ITEMS

a. Discussion/Possible Action: Engineering Services Request for Proposals

City Manager Ballinger explained that the deadline needed to be extended because of a mixup with dates in the Request for Proposal. Two proposals were received by the earlier date. They were opened and recorded but not reviewed.

b. Discussion/Possible Action: Resolution 20-21-119 Budget Adjustment FY21 #4

Clerk-Treasurer Bush and Michael Steininger, Special Assistant, Department of Finance and Administration, explained Budget Adjustment #4.

Councilor Williams motioned to approve **Resolution 20-21-119**. Councilor Atwell seconded. 4-0. Motion passed.

c. Discussion/Possible Action: Resolution 20-21-120 NMDOT MAP Warms Springs

City Engineer David Shields explained that this resolution is required for the application to participate in FY22 funding for Phase II of the Warm Springs Project.

Councilor Williams motioned to approve **Resolution 20-21-120**. Councilor Atwell seconded. 4-0. Motion passed.

d. Discussion/Possible Action: Michigan Survey & Drainage Analysis Agreement

City Engineer Shields explained the agreement and that timeliness is crucial given the deadline for this project. He also suggested incorporating Rock Canyon drainage into the design.

Councilor Williams motioned to approve the Michigan Survey & Drainage Analysis Agreement with the amendment of adding Rock Canyon drainage into the design. Councilor Atwell seconded. 4-0. Motion passed.

f. Discussion/Possible Action: Resolution 20-21-121 Sierra County Economic Development Organization

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner provided some history, then asked if Elephant Butte would be locked into a certain percentage if the resolution was passed. Councilor Williams replied that this resolution only demonstrates support for the organization, not a financial commitment.

Councilor Williams motioned to approve Resolution 20-21-121. Councilor Atwell seconded. 4-0. Motion passed.

15. COUNCILOR COMMENTS

None

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Williams motioned to go into Executive Session. 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.

*****EXECUTIVE SESSION BEGAN*****

a. Limited personnel matters pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2) – City Manager’s Annual Review

Councilor Williams motioned to come out of executive session. 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.


*****EXECUTIVE SESSION CAME TO AN END*****

As required by Section 10-15-1(J), NMSA 1978, matters discussed in executive session were limited only to those specified and no actions were taken.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Atwell motioned to adjourn. Councilor Williams seconded. 4-0. Motion passed.

Minutes approved and adopted at the City Council Meeting on May 19, 2021.


Edna Trager
Mayor

ATTEST:


Rani Bush
Clerk-Treasurer



