



**NOTICE OF CITY OF ELEPHANT BUTTE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

103 Water Avenue, Elephant Butte, NM 87935

Wednesday, January 08, 2025 – 2:00PM

Minutes*

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mortensen called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Phillip Mortensen – Present

Mayor Pro Tem Kim Skinner – Present

Councilor Cathy Harmon – Present

Councilor Michael Williams – Absent due to illness.

Councilor Skylar Arnold – Absent due to prior engagement.

City Clerk Cobleigh conducted a roll call and declared a quorum.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Council Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Harmon seconded the motion. 2-0.

City Clerk Cobleigh conducted a roll call vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner – Yes

Councilor Harmon – Yes

Motion Carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Public comments can be made in person, by phone or given to the City Clerk by email (cityclerk@cityofeb.com) before the meeting.

Chester Anderson 701 Hallmark Street – Anderson spoke on the fencing that is being erected on Hallmark along the golf course. Anderson states this fence was snuck in on residents without any notice. Anderson states that this fence will now reduce his home value by \$100,000.00. Anderson is an ex-builder within the city. Anderson wanted everyone to know that Barbara and Chester Anderson have a home that looks down the fairway. Anderson stated several times that the proposed fence is to be 7' tall.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

a. Regular Meeting Minutes December 10, 2024

b.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Councilor Harmon seconded the motion. 2-0.

City Clerk Cobleigh conducted a roll call vote.
Mayor Pro Tem Skinner – Yes
Councilor Harmon – Yes
Motion Carried.

6. PRESENTATIONS

a. Sierra County Sheriff's Office – Sheriff Joshua Baker

Sheriff Baker presented the 2024 statistics by power point presentation to the public and the council. Baker compared 2023 to 2024 to show the increase across the arrests, DUIs, traffic stops, and cyber tips. Baker reported there were 1,208 calls in Elephant Butte alone. Baker reported on the geofencing, and hours patrolled for the Elephant Butte. Mayor Pro Tem Skinner stated that she had received a phone call from Chester Anderson regarding the speeding on Hallmark Street. Janet Porter-Carrejo reported that the city will be adding several speed limit signs. Baker presented the traffic heat map report. The HDMI screen share option stopped working and Baker continued by presenting via laptop view to the council. Baker stated that most speeding concerns and reports are a perception issue rather than true speeding.

b. Bohannon Huston

Diana Gomez presented the requested change orders to the council for their review. These had been requested by Councilor Williams at the previous meeting. Gomez went over the change orders for Warm Springs Blvd Phase 2: Change Order 1 – Adding time of 60-days, Change Order 2 – Redesign of Culvert, and Change Order 3 – Redesign Overrun and Underrun Credit. Gomez stated that there is a proposed Change Order 4 for Warm Springs Blvd project. This change order is for the driveway at Lynn's Landscape. Janet Porter-Carrejo asked Gomez when the paving of Ocotillo Drive would be completed. Gomez state that Ocotillo Drive will need to go back to design for a 10+ year roadway, there is no time frame to complete this project. Gomez stated that the remaining funds from the San Andreas project will be used to design an arroyo culvert for shovel ready project.

c. NM Gas Presentation – Grant Award For Elephant Butte Fire Department

Claire Anderson and Josh Moore with NM Gas were present for this presentation of this Grant Award to the Elephant Butte Fire Department.

Chief Long reported that the Elephant Butte Fire Department had applied for this grant to aid the community in an outreach to provide smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. The total amount of the awarded grant was \$25,000.00.

7. REGULAR ITEMS (DISCUSSION POSSIBLE ACTION)

a. Discussion/Possible Action: Resolution 24-25-115 BAR#2

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to approve Resolution 24-25-115 BAR #2 as presented. Councilor Harmon seconded the motion. 2-0.

City Clerk Cobleigh conducted a roll call vote.
Mayor Pro Tem Skinner – Yes
Councilor Harmon – Yes
Motion Carried.

8. CITY STAFF REPORTS

a. Discussion of Department Reports

Code Enforcement Report

Tudy Romero reported that last month code violations and notices provided to residents throughout the city. Mayor Pro Tem Skinner reported that she had received a code complaint from a resident regarding lighting and had referred them to contact Tudy Romero.

Fire Chief Report

Chief Long reported to the council that there had been a total of 30 calls: 3 Fire Calls, 1 MVA, and 26 EMS calls. Chief Long stated that there will be another CPR class held at Fire Admin on January 25, 2025. Chief Long announced that the Elephant Butte Fire Department will be having their annual awards meeting on January 21, 2025, in the council chambers and all members of council are invited to attend.

City Treasurer

Laura Whiteside presented her drafted reports. Whiteside also mentioned that she would be inquiring with the State Treasury on the City of Elephant Butte investing money.

City Manager

Janet Porter-Carrejo reported that the Public Works Department had received new uniforms for the entire crew. Porter-Carrejo mentioned that the quote that came in for the increased office security came in at \$75,000.00 for ballistic glass and two safety doors. Porter-Carrejo stated that there is currently funding to cover this. Porter-Carrejo stated that there will be a Legislative meet and greet in Santa Fe sponsored by Sierra County, Socorro County, and Catron County. This meet and greet in Santa Fe will be on March 6, 2025.

Land Use Administrator

Lindsey Cobleigh reported the end of year report for 2024. There was a total of 173 permits issued. 110 – Residential, 21 – Commercial, 30 – New Builds, 8 – Public Hearings, and 4 – Right of Way Permits.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. Closed pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(8) for discussion of the purchase, acquisition, or disposal of real property.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a motion to enter into executive session for NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(8) for discussion of the purchase, acquisition, or disposal of real property. Councilor Harmon seconded the motion. 2-0.

City Clerk Cobleigh conducted a roll call vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner – Yes

Councilor Harmon – Yes

Motion Carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner made a disclosure statement that there was no discussion of items other than the discussion of NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(8) for discussion of the purchase, acquisition, or disposal of real property.

10. ACTION

- a. Action required following discussion closed pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(8) for discussion of the purchase, acquisition, or disposal of real property.

No Action.

11. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner reported that she had attended the Sierra County Tourism meeting, Sierra County Lodgers' Tax meeting, State Disability Board meeting, Spaceport meeting, and the Middle Rio Grande meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Skinner also noted that the allocations for Sierra County Regional Dispatch Authority (SCRDA) have increased to \$30,000.00.

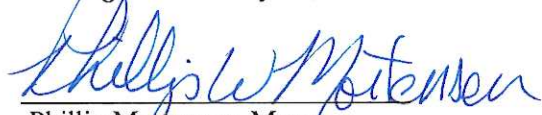
Councilor Harmon reported that she had attended the regional transportation planning meeting, ranked NMDOT projects, discussion on the new bus route and the addition of more routes. Janet Porter-Carrejo stated she had contacted the bus company to relocate the bus stop that is currently across from City Hall. Councilor Harmon brought up that Major Arterial Projects (MAP) will be opening soon for submission.

Mayor Mortensen reported that he had planned on attending the Chief Executive Officer meeting, but it had been cancelled due to a lack of a quorum. Mayor Mortensen stated that this year is the final year of his term as Mayor started. Mayor Mortensen stated that his focus is still on infrastructure and storm water.

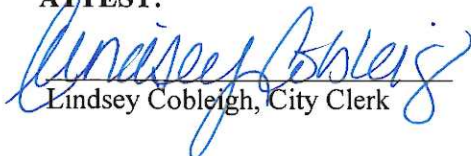
12. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Mortensen adjourned the meeting.

Minutes approved and adopted at the City Council meeting on February 12, 2025.

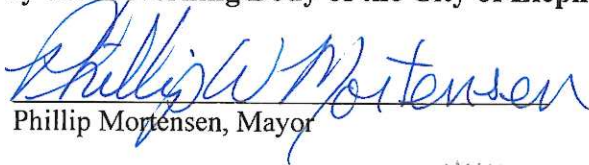

Phillip Mortensen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lindsey Cobleigh, City Clerk

1. The New Mexico Legislature is urged to adopt legislation establishing a minimum pool for Elephant Butte Lake, ensuring that its water level never falls below 5.7%.
2. The minimum pool should be based on sound scientific and ecological principles, balancing the needs of irrigation, recreation, and environmental sustainability.
3. The City of Elephant will actively engage with State Representatives, Senators, and other stakeholders to advocate for the adoption of this minimum pool.
4. The City Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the New Mexico Legislature, Governor's Office, and relevant state agencies.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Body of the City of Elephant Butte on this 12th day of February 2025.


Phillip Mortensen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lindsey Cobleigh, City Clerk



**CITY OF ELEPHANT BUTTE
RESOLUTION NO. 24-25-116**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ELEPHANT BUTTE URGING THE NEW
MEXICO LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT A MINIMUM POOL FOR ELEPHANT BUTTE
LAKE TO PROTECT THE ECOSYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Elephant Butte feels that Elephant Butte Lake is a key component as a vital resource for our community, supporting recreational activities, tourism, economic growth, and most importantly ecological growth and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the City of Elephant Butte supports the reservoir maintaining a minimum conservation pool of 113,196-acre feet or 5.7% of the reservoir's capacity. By storing a minimum of 5.7% of capacity this will maintain the lake's water level at 4,300 feet; and

WHEREAS, the Elephant Butte Lake supports ecological functions, such as maintaining instream flows, preserving aquatic organisms and their habitats, and protecting downstream ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, It has long been suspected that the large water-level fluctuations experience at Elephant Butte Lake were harmful to the fishery and ecosystem. As annual spring flows diminish, the water cycle of the reservoir suffers fluctuations detrimental to the nest-building strategies of fish, other aquatic organisms, as well as some wildlife. These fluctuations increase disease and adversely affect their mortality, particularly in bass and bluegill spawns. It kills aquatic vegetations and interrupts the native natural vegetation propagation. There is an increase in erosion and sedimentation; and

WHEREAS, Anoxia, a combination of warm water temperatures and low water levels, has historically caused large numbers of fish mortality in Elephant Butte Lake. Lakes with critically low water and elevated temperatures have decreased oxygen available for life, thus triggering large-scale fish die-offs. August 10, 2018, it was noted by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish that several lakes including Elephant Butte Lake were experiencing fish die-offs caused by recent weather patterns. At this time the Elephant Butte Lake was at or below the recommended minimum pool level of 5.7% for 162 days straight; and

WHEREAS, numerous organizations, including the City of Elephant Butte support securing water to sustain the lake's ecosystem, preventing an ecological disaster at the lake, and creating a strategic water reserve to protect New Mexico's future.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY
OF ELEPHANT BUTTE THAT:**