NOTICE OF CITY OF ELEPHANT BUTTE CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
DISCUSSION ONLY, NO DECISIONS TO BE MADE
103 Water Avenue, Elephant Butte, NM 87935
Wednesday, October 28, 2026, – 10:00AM

Minutes*

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

1. ROLL CALL

Mayor Richard Holcomb – Present
Mayor Pro Tem Kim Skinner – Present
Councilor Cathy Harmon – Present
Councilor Michael Williams – Present
Councilor Skylar Arnold – Present

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

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

Councilor Williams made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Mayor Pro Tem Skinner seconded the motion with all amendments. 4-0.

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

3. PRESENTATION

a. Strategic Planning Workshop Update – Eugene McPeek

Eugene McPeek set the ground rules for this presentation workshop and requested all members of council to review his SWOT document along with the decisions the council previously made collectively at the last workshop. McPeek stated for the council to take a break to read in silence. 10:09am.

10:15am McPeek asked if there were any additions that needed to be added to the SWOT. Mayor Pro Tem Skinner stated that they needed to talk about the lake being drained. Mayor Holcomb stated he received a video on lake levels and will send it to the city clerk to send to the council. Mayor Pro Tem Skinner stated to send the video to Eugene McPeek as well. Councilor Harmon stated that Wolf Creek needs three yeas at 400" of snow pack to fill the lake to overflow. Mayor Pro Tem Skinner stated that with the lake levels the city needs to move forward with OHV.

City Council circled on Toby Velasquez's presentation that took place at the last city council meeting.

Councilor Harmon stated we need to address the negative press that effects the community. There was still plenty of water. Councilor Harmon stated the lake can be drained a lot lower than the 1.4%. Mayor Holcomb

asked for recommendations on how to mitigate this. Councilor Harmon suggested adding information to website and social media. Mayor Pro Tem Skinner stated the city just needs to buy the electronic sign and keep it updated. Councilor Arnold stated to do press releases. Mayor Holcomb stated there is no effective way to get the information out.

City Clerk Cobleigh reminded all attending that the website and Facebook have to remain government pages and do fall under the IPRA regulations.

Council agreed for a press release from the Clerk's Office was the best option.

Eugene McPeek speaking on pre-identified threats to the community. Critical threat is the lack of communication with Facebook Groups and Community Members. McPeek wants press releases on water levels, weather, etc.

Eugene McPeek went over the goals that had previously been set.

1. Comprehensive Plan – assigned to the city manager.
2. Small Town Identity – No Lead
3. Business Opportunities – No Lead

   McPeek stated this was unfinished business from the previous workshop.

Eugene McPeek began introducing the group to the use of AI. McPeek urged all present to use AI to write smart objectives for the city to operate on. McPeek urged the city to move to using AI more than staff writing.

City Clerk Cobleigh stated there needs to be an AI Policy in effect prior to directing staff to utilize AI for objectives. Mayor Pro Tem Skinner requested City Manager Smith and City Clerk Cobleigh create an AI policy.

Eugene McPeek created a timeline breakdown on the AI Policy process:

November 18 – Present policy to city council

December 9 – Train all staff and members of council

January 1 – Implement AI into daily work

Mayor Pro Tem Skinner requested a summary of the meeting from Eugene McPeek.

Discussion of city council meetings for upcoming 2027; second Wednesday to remain a meeting and fourth Wednesday to be a scheduled workshop monthly.

January 1, 2027, Dam Walk to be the goal as the first press release from the City Clerk's Office. Council requested the city clerk to meet with the State Parks to gain information to include on the press release.

Brainstorming for 1, 3, 5 year plans for the January 27, 2027, workshop event. Workshop to be held at 10:00am.

4. MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Holcomb spoke briefly on the on OHV and a possible presentation on where the city is going with it. Mayor Holcomb stated the Butte General Store has now added OHV to their name and will be hosting a large grand opening and OHV event on November 7, 2026. Mayor Holcomb talked about supporting resolution for the city to approve in conjunction with the county's resolution regarding OHVs.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Holcomb adjourned the meeting at 12:04pm.
Minutes approved and adopted at the City Council meeting on November 18, 2026

Richard Holcomb, Mayor

THE CITY OF ELEPHANT BUTTE, NEW MEXICO 1998 SEAL

ATTEST:

Lindsey Cobleigh, City Clerk