

MINUTES
TOWN OF EDGEWOOD
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – FEBRUARY 20, 2019 @ 6:30 P.M.
TOWN OF EDGEWOOD COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 171A State Rd. 344

CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Bassett called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Councilors Present: Sherry Abraham, John Abrams, Linda Holle, Audrey Jaramillo.

Also Present: Clerk/Treasurer Juan Torres, Deputy Clerk Carla Salazar, Chief of Police Ron Crow, Planning and Zoning Administrator Tawnya Mortensen, and Staff Amelia Alderete and Courtney LaBrum.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Councilor Abrams made a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilor Holle seconded the motion.

VOTE: All Councilors voted aye. The motion carried.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Town Council Meeting Minutes for February 6, 2019
- B. Planning & Zoning Meeting Minutes for January 7, 2019
- C. Wastewater Report for the month of January 2019
- D. Road Department Report for the 4th Quarter 2018
- E. Police Report for the month of January 2019
- F. Court Report for the month of January 2019
- G. Call for a Public Hearing: Zoning Ordinance 2018-08 regarding performance-based setbacks.

Councilor Holle requested Item II.A. the Council Meeting Minutes for February 6, 2019 be pulled for further work.

MOTION: Councilor Abrams made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the proposed amendment of removing Item II.A. Councilor Holle seconded the motion.

VOTE: All Councilors voted aye. The motion carried.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Matters from the Chief of Police: Chief Ron Crow

Chief Crow stated that Edgewood Police Department has never had a Strategic Plan in place and he is working on putting together a three-year plan from 2019-2021, which will be complete in March. He also stated that the Department is working on the 2018 Annual Report which should also be complete in March.

Chief Crow stated that the Department is looking to hire a new Officer. They have narrowed it down to four applicants and should have a decision soon. At that time, the new hire will be brought to Council. He also stated that he is planning to start a Volunteer Program in which the volunteers would be responsible for administrative duties, and to attend local events and training events. He also spoke about the recent events the Police Department has put on including the Police at Lunch Program and played a clip of the News Broadcast for the event.

Chief Crow spoke about the new epoxy floor at Animal Control that is scheduled to be complete by Saturday, February 23rd. He stated that epoxy floor will help to eliminate disease within the facility. He thanked Walmart for their contribution towards the remodel, which paid for about half of the project via grant. Chief Crow closed by thanking the Mayor for his support.

B. Public Comment on General Matters.

Thomas McGill spoke about the acquisition of the water system. He spoke about successful water system takeovers in history and about approximate costs of obtaining a water system per his research.

Bill Canon spoke about the sewer plant. He stated that he has studied on wastewater operations and spoke about his experience with wastewater systems.

Laine Heiser spoke about the sewer. She stated that she would like more information regarding the sewer as she has heard information on social media and would like to be informed. Mayor Bassett suggested she speak with Deputy Clerk Carla Salazar. Ms. Heiser also asked about the acquisition of the water system as she would like more information.

Bryce Simons handed to the Governing Body an analysis of the Wastewater customer billing information that he prepared via information he obtained per IPRA (Inspection of Public Records Act) request. He presented the information he prepared. He stated that there is some incomplete information and would like some answers.

Chuck Ring stated that he hopes to continue to see everyone be respectful of each other. He also thanked the Chief of Police regarding the Police at Lunch Program. Mr. Ring also stated that he would like to see more action taken by the Town to get Edgewood cleaned up.

Louis Abraham spoke about the Preliminary Engineering Report of the water system purchase and the associated approximate costs. Mr. Abraham asked a series of questions that have not been addressed regarding the acquisition of the water system.

Commissioner Cheryl Huppertz asked the Governing Body to please take their time and do their research while working on updating the current sewer ordinance.

Gerald B. Curtis spoke of the Preliminary Engineering Report of the water system purchase and quoted Hector Balderas regarding the Open Meetings Act.

Ron Monty declined to speak.

Heather Mitchell stated that she attended a private meeting with the Town regarding Phase II of the Wastewater Collection System Expansion Project, in which the proposed expansion area is the neighborhood in which she resides. Ms. Mitchell stated that she was not properly informed of the meeting that took place and asked to please inform the residents properly.

C. Matters from the Councilors

a. **Councilor Audrey Jaramillo**

Councilor Jaramillo thanked the public for their attendance and for voicing their concerns. She also congratulated Chief of Police Ron Crow for his efforts within the community and all his accomplishments. She also stated that she would like to see that Town cleaned up as brought up by Chuck Ring during Public Comment. She thanked Bryce Simons for his analysis of the Wastewater billing information and asked the Clerk to please look into the information that was presented. Councilor Jaramillo also asked about the private meeting that was mentioned by Ms. Mitchell during the meeting. Councilor Jaramillo spoke about Municipal Day, which she attended along with Deputy Clerk Carla Salazar, Planning and Zoning Administrator Tawnya Mortensen, and Councilor Holle. Lastly, she spoke about Policies and Procedures for the Town. She stated that she has brought forth a Capital Asset Policy that she obtained from Valencia County and she would like to see it updated to fit the Town.

b. Councilor Sherry Abraham

Councilor Abraham spoke about the EBRA (Estancia Basin Resource Association) Water Board Meeting she attended in which they offered to help with water related ordinances if needed and also the topic of Home Owners Association changes that have come forth.

Councilor Abraham stated that she isn't going to defend herself from the accusations brought on by some members of the Governing Body, rather she is going to play an audio clip from a previous Council meeting where she brought up the topic of The Maids and let everyone draw their own conclusions. She then played an audio clip from the Council meeting of September 5, 2018.

c. Councilor John Abrams

Councilor Abrams stated that he spent time speaking with the Stage Legislators and spoke about his time spent in Committee Meetings and House and Senate Legislative Sessions. He also stated that he would like to see the road on 344 near Municipal Way widened. He spoke about how narrow the road is currently and the many accidents that have happened in this area.

d. Councilor Linda Holle

Councilor Holle stated that the First Choice Clinic is set to open their doors for business on February 25th. She also stated that First Choice is planning to open a Wellness Clinic in conjunction with the Medical Clinic. Lastly, she thanked the public for their attendance and for participating in their local government.

D. Matters from the Clerk/Treasurer

Clerk/Treasurer Juan Torres gave an update to Council regarding the audio recordings of Council Meetings, which are now being uploaded to YouTube. He stated that it is more user-friendly. He thanked IT Administrator Jesus Velazquez for the many projects he has completed including getting the internet hooked up and working better than ever at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Torres stated that the Financial Server is on its last leg and it will need to be replaced soon. He also stated that the Town is looking into implementing Policies and will be brought to Council for approval throughout the year.

Councilor Jaramillo asked about the overall cost of the PER (Preliminary Engineering Report) for the Water System purchase. Mr. Torres stated it was approximately \$39,000. Councilor Jaramillo asked about the analysis presented by Bryce Simons. Mr. Torres stated that at this time, the Town does not have a utility billing system, everything is manually tracked via Excel and therefore records are manually pulled when information is requested. He stated that he will investigate the data presented and get back to Council.

E. Matters from the Mayor
None.

F. Sewer Ordinance Discussion: Governing Body

The Governing Body discussed the proposed revisions of the sewer ordinance. Many members of the public spoke and voiced their opinions and concerns regarding the ordinance and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Commissioner Cheryl Huppertz suggested the Governing Body revisit the sewer ordinance revisions during a Workshop where only the topic of the sewer ordinance is to be discussed as no progress was being made during the current discussion. Council agreed.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Discussion, Consideration and Action on Resolution 2019-03: A Resolution indicating financial hardship and requesting participation in the NMDOT Annual Hardship Sale

Mayor Bassett introduced Resolution 2019-03. He stated that this worked out well last year and recommends it again for this year. Councilor Abraham asked about the budget and if the Town should allow more money towards the budget in the next fiscal year. Clerk/Treasurer Juan Torres stated that it can be added to the budget if the Governing Body so wishes.

MOTION: Councilor Abrams made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-03: A Resolution indicating financial hardship and requesting participation in the NMDOT Annual Hardship Sale with the proposed correction changing 2018 to 2019. Councilor Jaramillo seconded the motion.

VOTE: Councilor Holle voted aye. Councilor Abrams voted aye. Councilor Abraham voted aye. Councilor Jaramillo voted aye. The motion carried.

B. Discussion, Consideration and Action on Resolution 2019-04 Goals and Objectives for the Comprehensive Plan

Planning and Zoning Administrator Tawnya Mortensen introduced Resolution 2019-04. She spoke about the Planning Committees, the Comprehensive Plan Survey which had a total of 432 responses, the public workshops held, and the goals and objectives that were defined by the comprehensive plan process. Councilor Holle commended Ms. Mortensen, the Committees, and the Planning and Zoning Commission for the product brought forth and their hard work and efforts. Mayor Bassett and Councilor Jaramillo concurred. Commissioner Cheryl Huppertz spoke about the workshops and the community's request for a swimming pool. Councilor Abraham stated that a swimming pool may be a good idea with the plans of a First Choice Wellness Clinic.

Councilor Abrams stated that this document is only the Goals and Objectives, this is not the Comprehensive Plan.

MOTION: Councilor Jaramillo made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-04 Goals and Objectives for the Comprehensive Plan. Councilor Abrams seconded the motion.

VOTE: Councilor Abrams voted aye. Councilor Abraham voted aye. Councilor Jaramillo voted aye. Councilor Holle voted aye. The motion carried.

C. Discussion, Consideration and Action on the adoption of the Road Paving Priority List for The Town of Edgewood

Mayor Bassett introduced the Road Paving Priority List for the Town of Edgewood. Councilor Abraham asked about the status of Church Road. Mayor Bassett stated that it is currently in the design stage. Deputy Clerk Carla Salazar stated that the Town has asked for Capital Outlay funds and stated that as soon as the Town has funding for the project they plan to move forward. Councilor Abraham asked about the project cost. Ms. Salazar stated it will cost approximately \$1.3 million dollars. Councilor Abrams thanked Planning and Zoning for their hard work to produce this list. Councilor Abraham asked about the estimated daily traffic counts. Mayor Bassett stated that the traffic count equipment is currently broken, so the traffic counts have not been done. Councilor Abraham stated that she would like to get the traffic count information. She also stated that she would like to receive status information of the paving projects, Ms. Mortensen stated that she can send the information requested. Greater Edgewood Area Chamber of Commerce Executive, Linda Burke asked that the Town please consider paving roads that may lead to economic development in the future.

MOTION: Councilor Holle made a motion to approve the adoption of the Road Paving Priority List for the Town of Edgewood. Councilor Jaramillo seconded the motion.

VOTE: Councilor Abraham voted nay. Councilor Jaramillo voted aye. Councilor Holle voted aye. Councilor Abrams voted aye. The motion carried.

D. Discussion, Consideration and Action on adoption of the Town of Edgewood's Technology Policy

IT Administrator Jesus Velazquez introduced the proposed Technology Policy. Councilor Abrams suggested editing the Password requirement to require less complex password creation standards. Councilor Holle recommended formatting and grammatical corrections. Councilor Abrams stated he thought the Policy was too broad and should be broken down. Council asked Mr. Velazquez to further work on the Policy and bring back to Council for consideration at a later Council meeting. No motion was made.

V. **CLOSED SESSION**

A. As per motion and roll call vote and pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section (§ 10-15-1(H)(8)). Discussion of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights. Specifically, as it relates to encroachments onto existing easements and the acquisition of additional easements for trail and road projects.

MOTION: Councilor Abrams made a motion to go into Closed Session to discuss the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights. Specifically, as it relates to encroachments onto existing easements and the acquisition of additional easements for trail and road projects. Councilor Holle seconded the motion.

Councilor Jaramillo called for a discussion. She asked if Council was legally allowed to enter into Closed Session for discussion without discussing a specific property. She stated she was hesitant to have a discussion about property in general. Mayor Bassett stated that there is enough information that is semi-specific for discussion.

Councilor Abraham wished to state for the record that she does not agree with stating "no decisions were made" after returning to Open Session.

VOTE: Councilor Holle voted aye. Councilor Abrams voted aye. Councilor Abraham voted aye. Councilor Jaramillo voted nay. The motion carried.

Council left for Closed Session at 9:33 p.m.

Council returned to Open Session at 10:03 p.m.

MOTION: Councilor Abrams made a motion to return to Open Session, returned from Closed Session where only the topic of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights. Specifically, as it relates to encroachments onto existing easements and the acquisition of additional easements for trail and road projects was discussed and no decisions were made. Councilor Holle seconded the motion.

VOTE: Councilor Holle voted aye. Councilor Abrams voted aye. Councilor Abraham voted aye. Councilor Jaramillo voted aye.

Councilor Abrams affirmed that nothing was discussed in Closed Session except the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights noted on the Agenda and no decisions were made. Councilor Holle so affirmed. Councilor Abraham so affirmed only the topic of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property was discussed and she did not make any decisions. Councilor Jaramillo affirmed only the topic of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property was discussed and she did not make any decisions. Mayor Bassett so affirmed that only the topic listed on the agenda, NMSA 1978 Section (§ 10-15-1(H)(8)), was discussed and no decisions were made.

VI. CALENDAR REVIEW

A. Next Regular Council Meeting – March 6, 2019

Councilor Jaramillo stated that she would like to be informed of meetings that happen with the community. She stated that she should not have been surprised to hear of the Phase II Wastewater Collection System Expansion Project neighborhood meeting. She asked that Council be informed of such meetings in the future. She also stated that she would like to have a Workshop to discuss the Sewer Ordinance as suggested by Commissioner Huppertz.

Councilor Abraham stated that she would like to see on a future agenda a discussion of the acquisition of the water system.

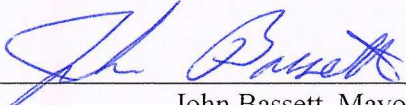
VII. ADJOURN

MOTION: Councilor Abraham made a motion to adjourn the meeting of February 20, 2019. Councilor Abrams seconded the motion.

VOTE: All Councilors voted aye. The motion carried.

Mayor Bassett adjourned the meeting of February 20, 2019 at 10:10 p.m.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 20TH DAY OF MARCH 2019.



John Bassett, Mayor

ATTEST:


Juan Torres, Clerk/Treasurer