

**MINUTES**  
**TOWN OF EDGEWOOD**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 23, 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, and Audrey Jaramillo.

Also Present: Clerk/Treasurer Juan Torres, Deputy Clerk Carla Salazar, Attorney Randy Autio, 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 January 9, 2019
- B. Planning and Zoning Meeting Minutes for October 22, 2018
- C. Planning and Zoning Meeting Minutes for November 19, 2018
- D. Planning and Zoning Meeting Minutes for December 17, 2018
- E. Library Advisory Meeting Minutes for October 18, 2018
- F. Librarian Report: Quarter 2 FY19

Councilor Abraham requested a correction be made to the Planning and Zoning Minutes for November 19, 2018. Councilor Holle requested changes be made to the Council Minutes for January 9, 2019.

**MOTION:** Councilor Abrams made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the proposed changes. Councilor Holle seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** All Councilors voted aye. The motion carried.

**III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Public Comment on General Matters.

Planning & Zoning Administrator **Tawnya Mortensen** stated that she thought it was time that everyone heard from staff. She went on to say that working for Mayor Bassett has been the easiest Mayor out of the three she's worked for. She added he helps out like no other Mayor she's been around. Tawnya also touched on how hard staff works and that the information that is being spun saying the IPRA requests aren't being filled is simply untrue. She also touched on the fearmongering that is going on around town regarding the Sewer Ordinance and asked the Council to please change the language of the 2015 Ordinance if they don't like the way it reads.

Commissioner **Cheryl Huppertz** stated that Mayor Bassett has accomplished a lot since he became Mayor. She also commended Councilor Holle for the volunteer work she does for the town.

Commissioner Huppertz stated that she believed that Councilor Abraham has caused unnecessary work for Staff and encouraged Councilor Abraham to go to the Town Office and conduct her own

research. She also suggested Mayor Bassett make copies of every letter from NMED and provide them at the Council meetings, so everyone is informed. Commissioner Huppertz also suggested that the Wastewater Ordinance be rewritten by Council because it is causing unnecessary anxiety in the community.

**Janelle Turner** stated the Comp Plan meetings were inspiring. She stated that she is looking forward to working with the Commission and the Town Staff and she appreciates the work they do.

Ms. Turner stated that she hoped the Mayor and Councilors will begin to work together as a team that works for the community. Ms. Turner stated that she has worked with Mayor Bassett and Councilor Abrams on numerous occasions and never have they been disrespectful and the criticism that was put upon them is unacceptable.

Ms. Turner also stated that she would like to see the Wastewater Ordinance be rewritten to help ease the fear in the community that has been brought on by social media.

**Monica Parker** stated that she read the Independent newspaper and listened to the audio from the December 19<sup>th</sup> and January 9<sup>th</sup> meetings. Ms. Parker asked how the Governing Body is going to resolve the issues and hopes they can begin to work together.

**Chris Orr**, resident of Coyote Crossing Estates, spoke about his concerns regarding the road conditions on South Horton Road. He stated that the asphalt on the road from Camino Coyote to the Frontage road has been removed and has since become difficult to drive on due to the weather. He stated his concerns and asked when the road was going to be fixed.

Mayor Bassett stated that the reason behind the removal of the asphalt was because the Town had funds that needed to be spent before the end of the year and the Town wanted to fix up Horton Road. They didn't expect such bad weather to occur and cause bad road conditions but will chip seal the road as soon as weather allows.

**Louis Abraham** voiced his concerns about December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Abraham also spoke about the Local Election Ordinance, Ordinance No. 2018-13, in which Santa Fe County will run the municipal elections and will also extend the terms of the Governing Body. He stated that in his opinion the Governing Body should have voted to shorten their terms instead of extending their terms. Council voted on the Ordinance during the December 19, 2018 Council meeting. Mr. Abraham also commended Councilor Abraham stating that he believes she is serving the community by helping to keep everyone informed about the wastewater treatment plant.

B. Matters from the Councilors

a. **Councilor Audrey Jaramillo**

Councilor Jaramillo thanked Tawnya Mortensen for speaking on behalf of the staff and their concerns. She also stated there is misinformation out there and the Sewer Ordinance needs to be put on the Agenda soon for discussion and editing.

b. **Councilor Sherry Abraham**

Councilor Abraham stated that there is information that she needs in order to do her job as Councilor. She stated that had she been informed and understood the project completely, she could probably support the plan, but she stated that she hasn't been informed of the plan. She stated that she would like to see a monthly report on the wastewater project added to future agendas. Councilor Abraham also stated that the Sewer Ordinance needs to be updated, but also asked why the Town would design residential collection lines if connection isn't going to be mandatory.

**c. Councilor John Abrams**

None.

**d. Councilor Linda Holle**

Councilor Holle commended the Edgewood Community Library for being selected to host a Summer Reading Program Training. She stated that the Library is a value to the community and she praised the dedicated Staff. Councilor Holle stated the First Choice Healthcare Center has delayed its opening to mid-February due to weather and the Grand Opening will take place in March of 2019. Councilor Holle attended a public meeting held by Santa Fe County to review the Sustainable Land Development Code. There will be three other meetings scheduled, for further information contact Tawnya Mortensen in Planning and Zoning or Councilor Holle.

Councilor Holle spoke about her goals when she decided to run for Town Council. She introduced herself and spoke about her background, education, and experience. She spoke about the multiple improvements that have been made since the Mayor Bassett Administration came into office including saving the Town and taxpayers money by moving the Library and Administrative Office to the current location. Councilor Holle also stated that since Mayor Bassett has been in office, the top-ranked ICIP (Infrastructure and Capital Improvement Plan) requests have been improvement to the Wastewater System. She also spoke about the current Sewer Ordinance #2015-03 that includes a mandatory connection requirement, which was approved by a unanimous vote by Council in August 19, 2015. Councilor Holle said in closing that as members of the Governing Body, their actions should reflect the best interests of the community.

**C. Matters from the Clerk/Treasurer**

Clerk/Treasurer Juan Torres stated that the Financials for the month of December will be on the February 6 agenda. He also stated that the Engineers from Smith Engineering will attend the February 6 meeting as well to give an update of the Wastewater Extension Project. At this time, the project has been suspended due to weather.

Councilor Abrams asked if Santa Fe County has been contacted regarding housing their road equipment in Edgewood. Mr. Torres stated that he did contact Santa Fe County and offered the yard at the Road Department to hold their equipment. He was waiting for a response from Santa Fe County. Councilor Abrams went on to explain that it took Santa Fe County hours to get their road equipment to Edgewood during the snow storms and it would benefit the community if they housed their equipment in Edgewood.

**D. Matters from the Mayor**

Mayor Bassett voiced his frustrations with Councilor Abraham. He spoke about his interactions with Councilor Abraham and her many requests. He spoke about the IPRA (Inspection of Public Records Act) request violations that were filed with the Attorney General's Office by Councilor Abraham against the Town of Edgewood and voiced his frustrations.

Mayor Bassett spoke about the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He spoke about the history of the plant and the violation received from NMED (New Mexico Environment Department). He stated that misinformation has been in circulation via social media regarding a failing Wastewater Treatment Plant. He stated that there are two full time employees, Mike Butler and Mike Garcia, that can verify that the plant is working better than it ever has.

Mayor Bassett stated that the Town will be working towards providing the citizens with information regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant to discredit the misinformation that has been in circulation.

**IV. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Discussion, Consideration and Action on the hiring of Mike Butler as the Chief Plant Operator at the WWTP.

Mike Butler spoke about his background and experience and stated that his passion is in Wastewater Operations and wants to be involved in the community and the success of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**MOTION:** Councilor Abrams made a motion to approve the employment of Mike Butler as the Chief Plant Operator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Councilor Abraham seconded the motion.

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

- B. Discussion, Consideration and Action on Resolution 2019-02; Town of Edgewood Operating Resolution.

Councilor Jaramillo suggested changes be made to the presented Resolution. She suggested item E. 2. be moved to Section H under Quasi-Judicial Hearings and striking “are deemed to be in violation of the Open Meetings Act”. She stated that during Quasi-Judicial Hearings, the use of electronic devices cannot occur, but may have access to these devices outside of Quasi-Judicial Hearings. Mayor Bassett stated that private conversations should not occur with the use of electronic devices per the Open Meetings Act. Councilor Jaramillo stated that Council and Staff should have access to their devices in their legislative role. Councilor Abrams stated that private conversations should not occur, and he believes that the Resolution should remain as it has been presented in the agenda.

Councilor Jaramillo also suggested adding the wording “unless the participant is an attorney, or the participant affirms upon returning to Open Session, for the record, they did not record the session and it was not heard by another person” to item J.4. She stated this could save the Town money on attorney fees and if any participant is unable to physically attend the meeting, they can still be involved in Closed Session via telephone. Mayor Bassett stated that he did not like the idea. He stated that he prefers all to be physically present, especially when it comes to the discussion of personnel matters. Councilor Jaramillo suggested adding that if personnel matters are to be discussed, then all participants must be physically present.

**MOTION:** Councilor Jaramillo motioned to approved Resolution 2019-02-Town of Edgewood Operating Resolution to include the proposed amendments. Councilor Abraham seconded the motion.

Councilor Abrams called for discussion. Council went on to further discuss the proposed changes and voiced their opinions. Attorney Randy Autio stated that if Council so chose to add these amendments to the Resolution, they can do so.

**VOTE:** Councilor Abraham voted aye. Councilor Jaramillo voted aye. Councilor Abrams voted nay. Councilor Holle voted nay. Mayor Bassett voted nay. The motion failed.

**MOTION:** Councilor Abrams made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-02-Town of Edgewood Operating Resolution as presented in the Agenda. Councilor Holle seconded the motion.

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

**V. CALENDAR REVIEW**

A. Next Regular Council Meeting – February 6, 2019

**VI. CLOSED SESSION**

- A. As per motion and roll call vote and pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section (§ 10-15-1(H)(7)) the following will be discussed in Closed Session: Pending Litigation. Specifically, City of Albuquerque vs. State of New Mexico Tax and Revenue Department
- B. As per motion and roll call vote and pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section (§ 10-15-1(H)(2)) the following will be discussed in closed session: Limited Personnel Matters. Specifically, as it relates to the employment contract of the Clerk/Treasurer

**MOTION:** Councilor Abrams made a motion to go into Closed Session to discuss Pending Litigation. Specifically, City of Albuquerque vs. State of New Mexico Tax and Revenue Department and Limited Personnel Matters. Specifically, as it relates to the employment contract of the Clerk/Treasurer. Councilor Jaramillo seconded the motion.

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

Council left for Closed Session at 8:40 p.m.

Council returned to Open Session at 9:22 p.m.

**MOTION:** Councilor Abrams made a motion to return to Open Session, returning from Closed Session where only the topics of Pending Litigation and Limited Personnel Matters was discussed, and no decision were made. Councilor Abraham seconded the motion.

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

Councilor Holle affirmed that nothing was discussed in Closed Session except Pending Litigation and Limited Personnel Matters noted on the Agenda and no decisions were made. Councilor Abrams so affirmed. Councilor Jaramillo so affirmed. Councilor Abraham so affirmed. Mayor Bassett so affirmed.

**VII. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Discussion, Consideration and Action on an amendment to the employment contract of the Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor Bassett presented the amendment to the employment contract of the Clerk/Treasurer and asked Councilor for a motion. No motion was made.

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**VIII. ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** Councilor Jaramillo made a motion to adjourn the meeting of January 23, 2019. Councilor Abrams seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** All Councilors voted aye. The motion carried.

Mayor Bassett adjourned the meeting of January 23, 2019 at 9:24 p.m.

**PASSED, APPROVED, ADOPTED THIS 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2019.**



John Bassett, Mayor

**ATTEST:**



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Juan Torres, Clerk/Treasurer