

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF RUIDOSO DOWNS  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 9, 2012  
5:30 P.M.

The Council of the City of Ruidoso Downs met in regular session on October 9, 2012. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Williams asked Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer to take roll call. The following were present:

Councilor Holman  
Councilor Miller

Councilor Hood - via telephone conference  
Councilor Perry

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer informed Mayor Williams there was a quorum.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Williams stated next item on the agenda was Approval of Agenda.

Mayor Williams entertained a motion to approve the Agenda.

Councilor Miller moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilor Perry.

Roll call votes: Councilor Holman, Aye; Councilor Hood, Aye; Councilor Miller, Aye; Councilor Perry, Aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Williams stated next item on the agenda was approval of the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Williams entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Councilor Miller moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Hood.

Roll call votes: Councilor Holman, Aye; Councilor Hood, Aye; Councilor Miller, Aye; Councilor Perry, Aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2012

Councilor Miller moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 24, 2012. Seconded by Councilor Hood.

Roll call votes: Councilor Holman, Aye; Councilor Hood, Aye; Councilor Miller, Aye; Councilor Perry, Aye. Motion carried.

#### APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Councilor Miller moved to approve Accounts Payable. Seconded by Councilor Hood.

Roll call votes: Councilor Holman, Aye; Councilor Hood, Aye; Councilor Miller, Aye; Councilor Perry, Aye. Motion carried.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Williams said Kenny Ellard of the Fire Department was going to talk about something they have been in the works with the Forest Service.

Kenny Ellard gave a handout to the Governing Body. He said Tom Armstrong was working on getting the power line all along the City widened out for a firebreak more or less. Myself and the Mayor talked with John Kennedy, Fuel Management Specialist with the Forest Service last week and reached an agreement that it probably wouldn't be a good place to put a firebreak in mid-slope on the hill. We came to a conclusion and they told us they have done some fuel treatment from Turkey Canyon this way and toward Escalante in the Agua Fria area about ten years ago. If it was ten years ago it's already grown up by now. On page one you'll see the blue border and that's where our City limit is and there where they have the black stripes is where they are going to start thinning the trees from the City boundary up to that road. That will give us a pretty substantial firebreak in that area. What I mean by thinning is there were about thirty sticks to an acre. They will go in and clear out the brush and open it up really well. I mean at thirty sticks, thirty trees to an acre of land is a pretty good firebreak. I'm going to look with the Mayor and with Steve on trying to get a grant to clear our eighty acres there to the right of page one and the left of page two. That's up near the Springs water tanks and the spring up there and get that cleared out to another fire and tie in to what the Forest Service is doing on the other side. We will thin that out. There are several different avenues we can go. There is a CFRP grant and that is fed money that the feds give out to the State for the purpose of hiring a contractor to be able to thin out the property. I'll be in contact with them this week because I tried today and couldn't get in contact. The eighty acres that we have we can hopefully have the Forest Service continue on and you can see on page two where the black lines go into their boundary. It's kind of scratchy near G & C Lane area that I believe some of that on top of the hill is private but right behind that in that canyon is Forest Service and that is really thick. I was told by them that up on the ridge that there is a firebreak in the hand line that I put in there between us and the Reservation line that if a fire was to occur on top of the hill on the Reservation side we could go in there and cut a line fairly quickly to secure it and keep it from coming down.

Councilor Miller asked Kenny on that eighty acres what do you mean by thinning and clearing out? You're not going to take all the trees out are you because that's our watershed?

Kenny said if you thin some of that out it will open up the watershed and some of the water. The spring has the potential of going up on the water it processes after you get some of the vegetation out of there.

Councilor Miller said they need to think of the future because we had thought of making a walking trail on that eighty acres.

Kenny said if you want to look at Turkey Canyon the Forest Service has done a lot of work up there and a private company.

Councilor Perry asked about the oak timber because it was really bad up there and are they going to get that cleaned up?

Kenny said they will clear some of that out but it will be right back next summer. The good thing about oak brush is it doesn't burn really hot. It's a ground fuel but if we can thin out the ladder fuels that's where we need to be and clean out some of the dead trees too. It will give us a safety buffer. Regardless of how much we thin up here on this side of we have a fire to that intensity that we had of the White Fire it's not going to matter.

Councilor Miller said I used to be able to see the power line road and now you can't hardly see it anymore.

Kenny said there is a contract with Otero Electric that is fifty years old but I'm not sure we are going to follow up with them to get them to clear what they need to clear. That road is steep in some places. With the Forest Service I understand they are going to put it in the budget.

Mayor Williams said the Forest Service has a fund to do that and won't have to make it part of the budget.

Kenny said it will be a timely plan and we won't be able to see much of it from the road but it will be going on back there.

Councilor Holman said the most imminent danger is from the southwest. On page two it would be southwest of Gila Drive because the prevailing wind comes from the southwest and blows to the northeast. That's what made the fire behind K-Bob's so dangerous. That's what will get the whole town.

Kenny said the good thing is the thinning on Turkey Canyon that the Forest Service has done a lot of thinning toward Ruidoso. Mr. Hill had a contractor come in and do a lot of clearing on his property and it's really nice back in there.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Williams stated the next item on the agenda was - Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Williams said they would keep the Council informed on when and if the Forest Service starts that process.

Mayor Williams stated the next item on the agenda was - Councilor's Comments.

Councilor Miller said I would like to thank Kenny for helping us with our cleanup and bringing the grill and staying there and helping us cook and thank you to everyone else that helped us with the cleanup.

Mayor Williams stated the next item was from the Consent Agenda - Consider Approving Wastewater Treatment Plant Operating Invoice for August 2012.

Councilor Miller moved to approve Wastewater Treatment Plant Operating Invoice for August 2012. Seconded by Councilor Hood.

Roll call votes: Councilor Holman, Aye; Councilor Hood, Aye; Councilor Miller, Aye; Councilor Perry, Aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

**(Items are for discussion only - no action will be taken)**

Mayor Williams stated the next item on the agenda was - Other Business.

There was no Other Business.

PUBLIC INPUT

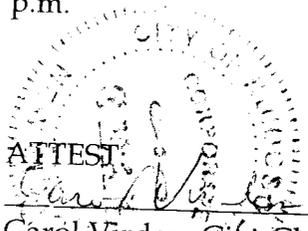
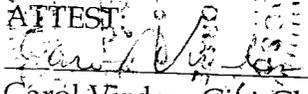
**(All concerns to be addressed only to the Governing Body as a Whole with a 3-minute Time Limit)**

Mayor Williams stated the next item on the agenda was - Public Input.

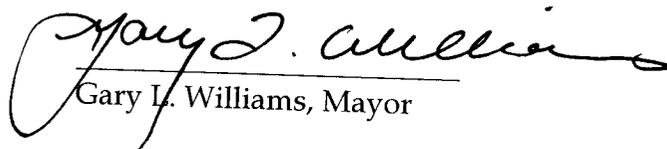
There was no Public Input.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to attend to, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

  
ATTEST  


Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer

  
Gary L. Williams, Mayor