

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Las Animas, County of Bent, State of Colorado, met in regular session in the City Council chambers on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. The City Council meeting was in person and on Facebook live. There being present at roll call were the following members:

Mayor:	Scott Peterson
Council members:	Joseph Frazier Andrew Montoya Cassandra Siefkas Robert Smith Lynette Wolfe Troy Abdulla
Youth Advisor:	Grace Gardner, Absent

Mayor Scott Peterson declared a quorum present.

Others Present:

David Armstrong:	Las Animas Travel Club
Bridgette Brown:	Interested Citizen
Brandon Dittman:	City Attorney (by zoom)
Ronald Clodfelter:	Superintendent of Light & Power
Roy Davis:	Interim Public Works Director
Richard Gallegos:	Deputy City Clerk
Amanda Leck:	Bent County Administrator
Mike Torrez:	Pete's Fan Zone Owner
Charmaine Tripp:	City Clerk & Treasurer
Lynn Wright:	Las Animas Light & Power

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Scott Peterson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Robert Smith moved, Councilwoman Lynette Wolfe seconded to approve the Consent Agenda including the Regular Minutes of the September 13, 2022 meeting, the Special Call Minutes of October 4, 2022 and the September 2022 vouchers. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

- a. David Armstrong- Request for the Las Animas Travel Club

Mayor Scott Peterson recognized David Armstrong from the Las Animas Travel Club. Mr. Armstrong asked the City Councilors to consider a donation to the Las Animas Travel Club. Mr. Armstrong stated the he has set up a 501-C3 to legitimately handle any donations made to the club. The club is for High School students and allows them to participate in group travel. The next trip will be in 2024 and will be a trip to Europe. Mayor Peterson assured Mr. Armstrong that they would consider a donation in the 2023 budget.

b. Bridgett Brown-Housing concerns

Mayor Scott Peterson recognized Bridgette Brown. Ms. Brown addressed the City Council about a property located across the street from her property and asked why the City Attorney has not started the condemnation of the garage. City Attorney Brandon Dittman stated that the issue was trespassing and needed to be addressed by the owner of the property.

Ms. Brown also mentioned that her neighbors are growing marijuana and it is visible to the public. Ms. Brown asked that the plants be addressed with the owner. Code Enforcement Officer Greg Champney stated that he has notified the owner and the plants will be taken care of.

Ms. Brown addressed the advertising by the marijuana businesses. Ms. Brown expressed her concerns about the flags, cartoon characters and inflatables that are displayed by the businesses. City Attorney Brandon Dittman suggested that she send in a formal complaint to the Marijuana Enforcement Division.

Ms. Brown supplied documents for the City Attorney and the City Councilors.

WATER SURCHARGE RELIEF DUE TO WATER LEAKS

Councilwoman Lynette Wolfe moved, Councilman Robert Smith seconded to give a credit for the water surcharge due to water leaks for Amy Morlan at 234 St. Vrain Ave. in the amount of \$29.83. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

CITY COUNCIL REQUESTS APPRECIATION BASKETS

Councilwoman Lynette Wolfe moved, Councilman Robert Smith seconded to purchase appreciation baskets for Cheryl Miller, Sherri Montoya and Sandra Durga in the amount of \$30.00 for the extra work done on the billing changes for each person. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

BUDGET WORK SESSION SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 27, 2022

Mayor Scott Peterson scheduled a Budget work session for October 27, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. The dilapidated housing and the parks grant will also be added to the work session Agenda.

APPOINTMENT OF ROY DAVIS AS THE INTERIM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

Councilwoman Lynette Wolfe moved, Councilman Andrew Montoya seconded to appoint Roy Davis as the interim Public Works Director. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF DAVID ARMSTRONG AND LILLIE MAE TRUJILLO TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas moved, Councilwoman Lynette Wolfe seconded to appoint David Armstrong and Lillie Mae Trujillo to the parks and recreation committee. On a voice vote Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

COUNCIL APPROVE DAY OF THE DEAD CELEBRATION AND THE SANTA VILLAGE EVENTS

Councilman Robert Smith moved, Councilman Joe Frazier seconded to approve the Day of the Dead celebration on November 4, 2022 and the Christmas Village event on December 10, 2022 and to commit \$500.00 for the events. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

STATUS OF PAINT AND CONNECT

Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas reported that we had missed the deadline to participate in the Paint & Connect with Group Missions in 2023. The next event will be in 2024. After discussion of the Paint & Connect refund, it was decided that Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas would request a refund from Group Mission of the remaining funds from 2022. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-DISCUSSION OF DILAPIDATED HOUSING

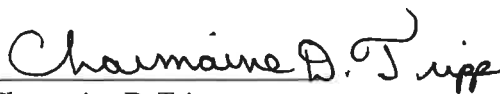
City Attorney Brandon Dittman opened the discussion back up concerning dilapidated/vacant housing. Mr. Dittman went over the procedures for condemnation and explained that if the process was done the City would own the property. Councilman Robert Smith wanted the fees clarified to move forward with billing the home owners. Superintendent of Light & Power Ron Clodfelter was asked by City Attorney Brandon Dittman to work with him on the fee schedule.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-FOOD TRUCK DISCUSSION

Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas addressed the comments that were made by other Councilors concerning food trucks were not appropriate and that she was asked by the business owners to bring up the issue.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Scott Peterson adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.


Charmaine D. Tripp
City Clerk & Treasurer

ATTEST: 
Scott Peterson, Mayor