

TOWN MEETING/ PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, September 17, 2018

6 pm

Municipal Building
513 Williams Avenue
Estancia, NM 87016

MINUTES

1.0 The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:08 pm at Roll Call was taken:

2.0 Roll Call:

Trustee Romero- Present

Trustee Sedillo- Excused Absent

Trustee Chavez- Present

Trustee Hall- Present

Mayor Dial- Present

3.0 Approval of Public Hearing Agenda- Action Item

ACTION TAKEN: Trustee Romero made a motion to approve the Public Hearing Agenda, Trustee Chavez seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

4.0 Discussion of Adoption of Ordinance 18-06 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF ESTANCIA TO OPT IN THE ELECTION OF ITS MUNICIPAL OFFICERS IN THE REGULAR LOCAL ELECTION; DETERMINING THE TERMS OF OFFICE FOR CURRENT OFFICE HOLDERS TO BE LENGTHENED TO CORRESPOND WITH THE NEW ELECTION DATE; AND DIRECTING STAFF TO FILE THE ORDINANCE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 30 OF THE YEAR IN WHICH THE NEXT REGULAR LOCAL ELECTION IS SCHEDULED, AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 34B OF HOUSE BILL 98 FROM THE 2018 NEW MEXICO REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

Mayor Dial welcomed everyone to the Public Hearing. He explained that we were conducting the Public Hearing to get information about possibly 'opting in' to allow the County Clerk's Office to conduct our Municipal Elections, which is an option per NM House Bill 98. He introduced Torrance County Clerk Linda Jaramillo who also thanked all in attendance.

Senator Daniel Ivey-Soto, who sponsored House Bill 98, came to the meeting to explain the 'Opt- In' option and answer questions. Senator Ivey-Soto conducted a power point presentation which helped to explain the process. (A copy of the power point is contained in the file for this meeting).

In summary, House Bill 98: Local Election Act provides for a single election day in uniform process for certain local government elections. The first of these elections will be held on November 5, 2019. Municipalities who choose to 'Opt In' to the election of its Municipal Officers in the regular local election will opt in by passing an ordinance and registering it with the Secretary of State. The ordinance shall determine if the terms of office for current office holders will be lengthened or shortened to correspond with the new election date.

During the presentation Senator Ivey-Soto clarified some very important factors to be considered:

- The cost to the Town of Estancia to opt in at this time will be \$1,000.00 annually. This is a substantial amount, but less than we currently pay.
- We can opt in and then opt out if we change our minds.
- The County Clerk's Office will completely run our municipal elections, saving us money and time.
- We will have to either lengthen our current terms by 1 year and 10 months or shorten our current terms by 9 weeks in order to coincide with the odd year November election dates.
- Our constituents will be required to adjust to a new early voting location and a new election timeframe.


During the power point presentation, Senator Ivey-Soto answered several questions for members of the audience.

Mayor Dial closed the Public Hearing by sincerely thanking all who attended, especially Torrance County Clerk Linda Jaramillo and Torrance County Deputy Clerk Linda Kayser and Senator Daniel Ivey-Soto. The hearing was well attended and very informative.

Adjournment of Public Hearing

ACTION TAKEN: Trustee Romero made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. Trustee Chavez seconded the motion. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED**

The Public Hearing adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Approved 

Date 10/01/18

Attest 

Date 10/01/18