PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO

Monday, May 19, 2008

REGULAR MEETING
Minutes

TIME & PLACE: The Public Utility Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, in the County of Sierra, and State of New Mexico, met in Regular Session in full conformity with the Law and Ordinances of said Board, at the Commission Chambers of said City, on Monday the 19th day of May, 2008 at 5:30 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER: The meeting was called to order by Alvin Siffring, Chairman and Hazel F. Peterson acted as Secretary.

ATTENDANCE: Upon calling the roll the following members were reported present:

Alvin Siffring, Chairman
Bill Jacka, Member
Mike Potia, Member
Al Wilkinson, Member

Also Present:

Bernadine Garcia, Utility Office Manager
Hazel F. Peterson, Deputy City Clerk II

Absent Was/Were:

James Hunt, Member

QUORUM: There being a quorum present the Board proceeded with the business at hand.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Alvin Siffring, Chairman called for approval of the Agenda.

“Bill Jacka moved approval of the Agenda as submitted.”

Seconded by Mike Potia
Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Alvin Siffring, Chairman called for review and approval of minutes of the Regular meeting held Monday, April 21, 2008.

“Bill Jacka moved approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting held Monday, April 21, 2008.”

Seconded by Al Wilkinson
Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Jay Hopkins stated that he was asked a question that he would like to bring to this Board for an answer.

He stated he was asked if T or C being the municipal power company was ever going to allow people to sell back power to put into a generation grid. He stated he thought this was a good idea because people are looking at solar, wind and all of that kind of stuff. He stated that in other places the grid buys it back from the individual if they don’t use it, but he didn’t know if this Board was going to look at this as part of the cities conservation.

Alvin Siffring stated this Board did talk about doing this at one time and is one thing that they probably should look at again. He stated that at the time it was decided it was not a practical thing because it would be to costly for both the resident and the city.
Bernadine Garcia, Utility Office Manager stated that her understanding from Steve Gee at Sierra Coop is it’s very expensive and people don’t realize that the amounts that they would still be paying for doesn’t offset what would be bought back. She stated the city does offer the capability, if the city wants, to sell green energy which can be purchased from Sierra Coop and in turn sell that to the customer if they wanted to purchase green energy. She stated Sierra Coop is required by law to purchase so much from each renewal resource, and since we purchase from them we have the capability of buying a percentage or block of that green energy from them as well.

Al Wilkinson asked if that would be more costly.

Ms. Garcia stated yes it would be, and that would be the same as Sky Blue from PNM.

SEWER FEES – ZIA ICE, LLC:

There was a lengthy discussion as to several possibilities that could be offered to Zia Ice that might address their sewer concerns of producing ice.

“Bill Jacka moved to have Bernadine inform Zia Ice that they might peruse the avenue of a separate meter to meter just the water used in the making of the ice and keep that totally separate from what they would be using for domestic water and the water used to cool the compressors.”

Seconded by Mike Potia
Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD MEMBER TERM EXPIRATION:

“Al Wilkinson moved to reappoint Alvin Siffring, Bill Jacka, and Mike Potia to the Public Utility Advisory Board for another two year term and submit to the City Commission for their consideration.”

Seconded by Bill Jacka
Motion carried unanimously.

WATER CONSERVATION STUDY:

Al Wilkinson stated he would like to revisit the conservation issue that was discussed at the last meeting and asked Bernadine if she could get what the cost might be to insert conservation information in with the monthly billing.

Discussion ensued.

The Board asked Ms. Garcia to find out the cost of inserting information into the monthly utility billing and how it would be done.

FINANCIAL REPORT:


Discussion ensued.

Bill Jacka asked Ms. Garcia what was decided by the City Commission as far as the Board’s recommendation of the Utility Office to continue with their current internal policy requiring photo identification and proof of social security numbers for applicants for service.

Ms. Garcia stated that the City Commission tabled both of the recommendations for right now. She stated that the Mayor asked her to include a portion that stated how they follow the State guidelines for destruction of documents and if shredding is an acceptable form, and she would like to see some more things in the policy.

She stated that as far as the change in the deposits, she was asked to look at how Silver City, Deming and a few other places handle Snowbirds. She stated it was a concern of a few of the
Commissioner's that by requiring a deposit or letter of credit, because the Snowbirds don't have a twelve month letter of credit, and they are Snowbirds we are pinpointing them to have to pay deposits.

She stated one of the commissioner's did not like the idea that she was only using utility bills as a form of credit. She thought they should be able to use any form of credit, whether it was a credit card, vehicle payment, anything.

Ms. Garcia stated that at the Budget Hearings for her department she was trying to convince the Commission at she needed another clerk in her office. She stated she only has two and when the work load is really bad like today when one clerk is out and she had interviews how this impacts the customer service. She stated that in this hearing they began to discuss red tags and how the red tag process works.

Ms. Garcia explained to the Board the red tag process at which time discussion ensued.

"Al Wilkinson moved to recommend to the City Commission for their approval that the utility red tag fee be raised to $50.00 and that the expected increase in collections be used to provide safety glass protection for personnel in the Utility Office."

Seconded by Bill Jacka
Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Public Utility Advisory Board Alvin Siffring, Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVAL: PASSED AND APPROVED this 16 day of June, 2008, on motion duly made by Al Wilkinson, seconded by Bill Jacka, and carried.

Alvin Siffring, Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board