Regular meeting of the Public Utility Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico to be held in the City Commission Chambers, 405 W. Third, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 5:30 P.M.

INTRODUCTION:

PRESENT:
George Szigeti, Chairman
Jeff Dornbusch, Vice-Chairman
Ron Pacourek, Member
Gil Avelar, Member

ALSO PRESENT:
Juan Fuentes, City Manager
Paul Tooley, Fire Chief
Jesus Salayandia, Water/Wastewater Director
Traci Burnette, Grant/Project Coordinator
Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director
Ruby Otero-Vallejos, Water/Wastewater Admin. Assistant
Marty Davis, Interim Water Dept. Supervisor
Angela A. Torres, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Member Pacourek made a motion to move item D up to item A.

Vice Chairman Dornbusch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016:
Member Pacourek moved approval of the December 19, 2016 minutes with the changes suggested by Chairman Szigeti.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments from the public.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion: Fire Hydrants – Ron Pacourek:

Member Pacourek reviewed the map of fire hydrants throughout the city that was provided by Fire Chief Tooley. Member Pacourek feels that there are insufficient hydrants throughout the community.

Chief Tooley reported that the map may be missing around eight (8) to a dozen fire hydrants because there have been four new hydrants recently put in at the new Elementary School. There are some areas in town that do not have water mains that run down the street and the water mains are located a street over; that's why certain locations do not have fire hydrants.

Chief Tooley also reported that pressure checks are done on the hydrants every year but according to ISO they are only required to do a flow test every 5 years. When he comes across pressure issues the Water Department is then contacted and the hydrants get replaced. All in all they don't really have problems with the hydrants.

Chairman Szigeti suggested that the city look into installing proper lines that will support the number of hydrants that need to be added to the areas that don't have any. That can possibly be done during the process of replacing water lines throughout the city.

Member Pacourek asked who is going to take responsibility for the hydrants operations.

Fire Chief Tooley replied that the Volunteer Fire Department will be taking on that responsibility and if there are any problems they will contact the City water department.

Discussion/Update: Solid Waste Department – Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director:

Mr. Alvarez reported:
Two (2) of his crew members passed their Recycling Certification Course.
He has been on the floor quite a bit because his department has been shorthanded.
Hopefully he will have another staff member by the end of the month.

Chairman Szigeti asked that Mr. Alvarez provide a usage report at the next meeting.

Discussion/Update: Water/Wastewater Department - Jesus Salayandia, Water/Wastewater Director:

Mr. Salayandia reported:
Training will soon start on odor control.
There will be a pre-construction meeting held tomorrow January 18, 2017 for Phase 2a at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
The flooding this past weekend caused a few issues/problems.
There was a Main Water break on Morgan Street.
Discussion/Update: Electric Department – Electric Division Director:

Due to Mr. Easley’s absence, no report was given.

Discussion/Review: Utility Usage Report:

Chairman Szigeti noted that the reports that were provided were generated from the Tyler system. He feels that the water and electric portion has a little more detail then they really need. They would like to see the summary totals for water and electric to be possibly be broken up by residential, commercial, and government. They would also like totals from the Solid Waste Dept. and also well level reports.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

Member Pacourek noted that according to the minutes the electric pass thru should have been on this agenda.

Chairman Szigeti responded that he wanted to wait for Mr. Ashbaugh’s appointment before that item was brought back. And he’s also missing some information for the presentation.

Chairman Szigeti reported that there was a letter to the editor some time ago in one of the local newspapers. It was a complaint over the electrical rates, charges that were made last year, the errors in billing and such. The lady in question referred to data she got off some Facebook post. He wanted to say that Facebook posts are not an authoritative source for information. In the article she keeps talking about a “rate increase.” He just wanted to make it clear that there has been no electrical rate increase.

Member Pacourek thanked Fire Chief Tooley for coming to the meeting and sharing information with the Board.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

There were no comments from staff.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Public Utility Advisory Board, George Szigeti, Chairman, declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVAL:

PASSED AND APPROVED this 21st day of February, 2017, on a motion duly made by Gil Averar, seconded by Jeff Dornbusch, and carried.

George Szigeti
Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board