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 Monday, October 16, 2017 at 5:30 P.M.

INTRODUCTION:

PRESENT:

George Szigeti, Chairman
Jeff Dornbusch, Vice-Chairman
Ron Pacourek, Member
Randy Ashbaugh, Member

ABSENT:

Gil Avelar, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Jesus Salayandia, Water/Wastewater Director
Bo Easley, Electric Division Director
Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director
Traci Burnette, Grant Project Coordinator
Ruby Otero-Vallejos, Water/Wastewater Administrative Assistant
Tammy Gardner, Electric Division Administrative Assistant
Angela A. Torres, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chairman Szigeti called for approval of the agenda.

Vice Chairman Dornbusch moved approval of the agenda as submitted.

Member Pacourek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular meeting of Monday, September 18, 2017:

Chairman Szigeti mentioned a few revisions to the minutes, prior to the meeting.

Vice Chairman Dornbusch moved approval of the September 18, 2017 minutes with changes previously noted by Chairman Szigeti.

Member Pacourek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments from the public.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

Discussion/Update: Electric Department - Bo Easley, Electric Division Director:

Electric Division Director Bo Easley reported the following:

- The electrical portion of the Hospital Project is complete.
- The High School approved ESA (out of Las Cruces) to start the job on the High School Fitness Center.
- Contractors are making progress at the Animal Shelter.
- YESCO is scheduled to be on the next City Commission agenda.
- All locates at the Cielo Vista subdivision are complete, and they are starting the surveying in order to get the subdivision engineered for the primary underground.
- They replaced two (2) poles at the New Mexico State Veterans Home. The electricians were here last week, and the cement pad was poured for the new Padmount Transformer.
- Two of his employees are in Rio Rancho this week for underground training.
- He has been working with Décor Engineering to refurbish the Nickel and North Date lift station.
- Utility Assets tested 150 poles last week. The poles that were tested were on Riverside, North Riverside, and the downtown area.

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

Water/Wastewater Director Jesus Salayandia reported the following:

- Smith Co. started on the splitter box last week. They will be pouring concrete tomorrow at 6 a.m., and it should be completed by Wednesday.
- Water tables have dropped since they stopped flow in the river.
- The problem with the belt filter press has been solved.
They contracted Wilson and Company for the Ground Water Permit.
Well #7 is back online. The pumping level is at 62 ft., and the static level is at 49. It varies from 920 to 880.
They interviewed for three laborer positions. All of them have construction experience.

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

Sanitation Director Andy Alvarez reported the following:

- The Recycling Committee will be hosting a yard sale in honor of America Recycles Day. The event will take place on Saturday, November 11th at 9:00 a.m. at the Solid Waste Collection Center, 601 Nadyne Court. Funds raised by this sale will be used to promote recycling, discourage illegal dumping, and support environmental groups at the Hot Springs High School.
- South Central Solid Waste Authority transferred three (3) recycle trailers. One trailer went to the City of Truth or Consequences Sanitation Department, and two (2) of them went to the Spaceport.
- New Mexico Ranch Properties purchased (through an MOU) six (6) refurbished dumpsters labeled cardboard, mixed paper, and plastic.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

Chairman Szigeti – In regards to the pass thru charge, all the ordinance does, is give the Electric Department the authority to put on a surcharge based upon the wholesale cost of electricity. It doesn’t stipulate how it is calculated or anything else. He believes that it is written in an internal document in the Electric Department. He discussed this with City Attorney Rubin, and they both agreed that there is no need to amend the ordinance. He would like to get the way we calculate the pass thru charge amended, and call it the electric cost adjustment. Since it was in June when the City Commission approved it, we need to go back and revise that document. He will be glad to come in and sit down with whoever has that document, and help them get the wording changed, and help with the formulas and calculation.
He started looking at the utility ordinances, and in the first paragraph, it talks about creating the position of the Utility Director. As far as he knows, we do not have a Utility Director, and he doesn’t think we have any intention of hiring anyone as the Utility Director. He just wanted to clarify that. He also wants to look into the wording that involves the Joint Utility Fund, because it was his understanding that all of the utilities have been separated into individual funds and the code still states that the utility funds are combined.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

Water/Wastewater Director Jesus Salayandia - They have 20 tons of compost to give away at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.
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 20th day of November, 2017, on a Motion, duly made by [Signature], seconded by [Signature], and carried.

George Szigeti, Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board