CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2016

ACTION MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

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 17, 2016 at 5:30 P.M.

INTRODUCTION:

PRESENT:

George Szigeti, Chairman
Jeff Dornbusch, Vice-Chairman
Gil Avelar, Member

ABSENT:

Ron Pacourek, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Juan Fuentes, City Manage
Mike Base, RMCI
Bo Easley, Electric Division Director
Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director
Traci Burnette, Grants Project Coordinator
Ruby Otero-Vallejos, Water/Wastewater Administrative Aide

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch moved approval of the agenda.

Member Avelar seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2016:

Chairman Szigeti found two typos on page 3.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch moved to approve the September 19, 2016 minutes with the changes suggested by Chairman Szigeti.

Member Avelar seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Klaus Wittern asked if the Board participates in discussion of water meters.

Chairman Szigeti noted that the Board has not been involved in that process.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Update: WWTP Phase 1 Improvements (Construction Phase) – Allen Bollinger, Smith Engineering and Mike Base, RMCI:

Mr. Bollinger reported that the Bid price for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements was $3,635,325.05. So far they completed about $900,000 worth of work, and they still have about 2.7 million to go. The contract date is 240 days and they have 140 days remaining.

Mr. Bollinger explained that they are adding new composting pads (which will double the size for composting) and a belt press. They also plan on re-doing the Administration Building at the plant, but so far a large portion of the work has mostly been electrical upgrades.

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

There was no update at this time.

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

Boaz Easley, Electric Division Director reported that the Veterans Center is now running on full power. Mr. Easley also reported that Sierra Health Care has been switched over to new underground wires, YESCO will be coming down soon to do their audit, and American Electrical Testing will be here hopefully toward the end of November. He also noted that he met with NMDOT last week and they will be doing the North interstate lights.

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

Sanitation Director Alvarez reported that Miguel Alvarez retired this month. They will be setting out a recycle trailer in Williamsburg every Monday – Friday at 2:30 p.m. and it will remain there overnight.
The Williamsburg Trash Service has been going very well, they are cleaning up trash throughout town and are currently getting ready for the Recycle Center yard sale.

The Board had concerns regarding waste being disposed into the recycle trailers. Discussion ensued regarding the Board's concerns.

Discussion/Action: Recommendation to fill vacancy on the Public Utility Advisory Board. Applicants are Randy Ashbaugh & Ed Williams:

Chairman Szigeti noted that Mr. Ashbaugh could not stay, but he introduced himself at the last meeting.

Ed Williams introduced himself to the Board and briefly reviewed his qualifications and reasons why he wanted to serve as a member on the Board.

The Board agreed that they would like to wait until Ron Pacourek is present to make a decision.

Discussion: Re-calculation of Electricity Pass-thru charge- George Szigeti, Chairman:

Chairman Szigeti reviewed his calculations of the Electricity Pass-thru charge.

City Manager Fuentes suggested that they look at different scenarios as if this change were implemented now.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

Chairman Szigeti stated that he is still receiving several complaints regarding the Utility Billing.

City Manager Fuentes noted that City Staff is fully aware of the discrepancies and they are taking the proper changes to get this issue resolved.

Chairman Szigeti noted that the discrepancies may have to do with the fact that the meters are not read at the same time each month.

Vice-Chairman Dombusch stated that the Sanitation Drivers are doing a fantastic job on trash pickup.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

City Manager Fuentes noted that our audit will start tomorrow. And he hopes to eventually go to automated meter readings.

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 November, 2016, on motion duly made by Jeff Dornbush, seconded by Ron Racovick, and carried.

George Szigeti, Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board