CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES  
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 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, November 21, 2016 at 5:30 P.M.

INTRODUCTION:

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

ALSO PRESENT:  
Ken Hughes, Energy Conservation and Management Division  
Jesus Salayandia, Water/Wastewater Director  
Bo Fasley, Electric Division Director  
Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director  
Angela A. Torres, Deputy City Clerk  

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:  
Vice-Chairman Dornbusch moved approval of the agenda.  
Member Pacourek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2016:  
Chairman Szigeti found a typo under the WWTP Phase 1 Improvements (Construction Phase) portion of the minutes.  

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch moved approval of the October 17, 2016 minutes with the changes suggested by Chairman Szigeti.
Member Pacourek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:
There were no comments from the public.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Randy Ashbaugh came before the Board and explained why he would like to serve as a member on the Public Utility Advisory Board.

Ed Williams came before the Board and explained why he would like to serve as a member on the Public Utility Advisory Board.

Member Pacourek noted that he feels the Board should have a contractor on the Board; such as Mr. Ashbaugh.

Chairman Szigeti agreed with Mr. Pacourek.

Member Pacourek made a motion to nominate Mr. Ashbaugh to serve as a member on the Public Utility Advisory Board.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch seconded the motion.

George Szigeti, Chairman voted aye
Jeff Dornbusch, Vice-Chairman voted aye
Ron Pacourek, Member voted aye
Gil Avelar, Member voted nay

Motion passed three votes to one.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation: Solar strategies for low income communities - Ken Hughes, Energy Conservation and Management Division:

Mr. Hughes, Energy Conservation and Management Division discussed the benefits of Solar, the plan other States are looking at, and what other partners in this project can help with. He had some suggestions on how we can work together and collaborate on this strategy, noting that other Energy
State Alliance members are pursuing a long series of dialogs that can help with Solar Installation for low income communities.

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

Water/Wastewater Director Salayandia reported that the upgrades are moving along. There are 63 days left in the Phase 1 portion of the Wastewater Improvements Project, which would make the preliminary completion date January 18, 2017 and the final date February 17, 2017. They put up the belt filter press building; and all they are waiting for is the belt filter press to come in. They are working on the Admin. Building, and hopefully after the holidays they will start bypass on headworks and replace the two manholes in the Plant that are deteriorating. We will be receiving funding for Phase 2B which will include upgrading the Lift Stations, adding an Anaerobic Digester at the Wastewater Plant. He also reported that the Federal Permit became active on October 1st and the budget for the additional testing is almost $16,000.

**Discussion/Update: Electric Department — Bo Easley, Electric Division Director:**

Electric Division Director Easley reported that RT Electric started working on the North Interstate lights last week and there has been discussion to go to LED lights. The Electric crew has been replacing poles around town, as well as trimming trees. YESCO emailed him regarding the audit of the work they did. The email mentioned that YESCO and RTS have completed the water meter test, pursuant under the PDA signed agreement between YESCO and Truth or Consequences. The audit testing was on a group of water meters that fell under the AWWA test standards developed entirely to T or C’s meter sizes, age, and usage. They have requested the last 24 months of water, and electric billing to calibrate the module to our test results. Mr. Easley also reported that all of the electrical work is complete at the Veterans Home. They will soon be re-doing the meter side, on the lower part of the Veterans Center.

Vice Chairman Dornbusch thanked Mr. Easley for adding light covers to the lights on Riverside.

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

Sanitation Director Alvarez reported that the afterhours Recycle Trailers in Williamsburg are doing really well. Recycle Trailers will not be out on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday due to the holiday. He had two employees attend a Transfer Station Certification Course in Deming. On December 6th- December 9th the NMED will be holding a Recycling Certification Course here in Truth or Consequences. We currently have a vacancy for a Solid Waste Relief Driver and we had a very nice turnout for the yard sale that took place last week at our Transfer Station Facility. All proceeds go toward advertising and recycling.

Mr. Alvarez also reported that we received a Grant for a new Fork Lift. The Fork Lift has been ordered, and we should be receiving it within 16 to 18 weeks.

**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:**

Member Pacourek asked Chairman Szigeti to explain to him what the “pass through” is.
Chairman Szigeti noted that the "pass through" is what other utilities would call a fuel and energy cost adjustment. It is supposed to be there to account for fluctuations in the price we pay for electricity. The intent is to allow the City to maintain a constant profit on the electricity they sell in light of the varying cost that we pay to obtain the energy.

Member Pacourek had concerns regarding sewer rate calculations and customers receiving "two" bills in the mail.

It was noted that the double bills were due to printing errors.

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 19th day of December, 2016, on motion duly made by Ron Pacourek, seconded by Jeff Darnbusch, and carried.

George Szigeti, Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board