ITEM:
Approve the minutes of the Public Utility Advisory Board for December 19, 2016.

BACKGROUND:
None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:
Approve the minutes.

Submitted by: Renee Cantin, City Clerk-Treasurer
Meeting date: 1/24/2017
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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, December 19, 2016 at 5:30 P.M.

INTRODUCTION:

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

ALSO PRESENT:
Traci Burnette, Grant/Project Coordinator
Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director
Ruby Otero Vallejos, Water/Wastewater Admin. Assistant
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, NOVEMBER 17, 2016:

Chairman Szigeti asked that “the final date of completion” be added to the Wastewater Improvements Project portion of the minutes.

Member Pacourek moved approval of the November 17, 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/Update: Grants and Projects Update – Traci Burnette, Grant/Project Coordinator:

Water System Improvements:

Phase 1 of the Water Trust Board Application for improvements to the Cook Street Facility will include the installation of a new storage tank, and a replacement of the existing gas chlorination disinfection system. The application did make the first cut for the Water Trust Board and was recommended to the Legislature as a viable project. We will not hear anything official from them until May 2017.

Application to Colonias for a Downtown Drainage Masterplan:

An attempt will be made to coordinate an application to USDA for downtown waterline improvements.

Collaboration with South Central Council of Governments (SCCOG) on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG Grant):

The environmental review is being finalized and is a really long process. They are in the “tail end” of waiting for a few returned letters. Once those are received they will be making a request for an Obligation of Funds. Once that is approved, they can then go out for RFP for engineering services.

Phase 1 for Wastewater Improvements:

They are looking at a substantial completion of construction in January 2017, with a final completion set for February 2017. The completion will include the new belt filter press, a new concrete solids processing pad, new aeration equipment, new ultraviolet disinfection equipment, a new odor control system, manholes at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, flow meters and pumps, some electrical improvements and an update to the SCADA system at the Wastewater Plant.

Phase 2a - Clarifiers at the Wastewater Treatment Plant:

Both clarifiers will be replaced. They went out to bid and Smith Engineering has recommended that they award Phase 2a to Smith Co. They estimate the construction to begin in February or March of 2017. But first they have to wait for RMCI to clear the scene before Smith Co. can come in and do any work.

Phase 2b Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements:

The cost for Phase 2b is approximately 5.2 million dollars which has been allocated from USDA. Upgrades will include the installation of a new rectangular aerobic digester basin, rehab of the oxidation oval concrete, installation of concrete lining to the emergency pond, and Sewer Pump Station improvements to the Nickel lift station, Clancy lift station, Mims pump station and the North Date lift station.
Discussion/Update: Water/Wastewater Department - Jesus Salayandia, Water/Wastewater Director:

Mr. Salayandia could not make it to the meeting therefore there no updates were given.

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

Mr. Alvarez reviewed the holiday trash pick-up schedule with the Board.

On December 5th – December 9th there was a Recycling Certification Course held, and three (3) Sanitation Department employees passed the exam.

In 2017 Mr. Alvarez plans to look into purchasing some side-loader dumpster trucks. He also wants to eventually change from the use of commercial dumpsters to poly-carts for commercial buildings.

Chairman Szigeti complimented Mr. Alvarez on painting the recycle dumpsters.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

Chairman Szigeti asked that we add the Electric Pass-through to next month’s agenda. Chairman Szigeti also noted that he would like to see the Utility Summary Reports added back to the agenda on a quarterly basis.

Member Pacourek announced that the City now offers budget billing for utility customers.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

Deputy Clerk Torres reminded the Board that both January and February’s PUAB meetings fall on a holiday and will be scheduled the following day. January’s meeting will be held Tuesday, January 17, 2017 and February’s meeting will be held Tuesday, February 21, 2017.

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 17th day of January, 2017, on a motion duly made by [signature], seconded by [signature], and carried.

George Szigeti, Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board