CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

REGULAR MEETING

Regular meeting of the Public Utility Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico held in the City Commission Chambers, 405 W. 3rd Street, at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 19, 2019.

INTRODUCTION:

ROLL CALL:

Jeff Dornbusch, Vice-Chairman
Ron Pacourek, Member
Ed Williams, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Bo Easley, Electric Division Director
Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director
Priscilla Fuentes, Electric Division Administrative Assistant
Kristen Weddle, Sanitation Administrative Assistant
Ruby Otero-Vallejos, Water/Wastewater Administrative Assistant
Jesus Navarro, Water/Wastewater Interim Supervisor
Traci Burnett, Grant Project/P & Z Coordinator
Angela A. Torres, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Vice Chairman Dornbusch called for approval of the agenda.

Member Williams moved to approve the agenda. Member Pacourek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Member Pacourek moved to approve the minutes of Monday, October 15, 2018 and Monday, November 19, 2018. Member Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.
Discussion/Update: Electric Department - Bo Easley, Electric Division Director:

Bo Easley, Electric Division Director reported the following:

- They are finished with the Substation Battery Replacement project.
- Advanced Tower removed the old towers from Mud Mountain. They are now waiting BLM to do the inspection.
- A transformer has been set at First Savings Bank. The primary wires have been pulled, and all of the connections have been made.
- Marto Electric Company was here a couple of weeks ago and they replaced 4 poles. Two poles were between Whitehead Auto and the Bowling Alley, and the other two poles were by the substation.
- City Attorney Rubin is looking through the RFP for the AMI Meter Project. Once the RFP is finalized through the City Attorney and City Manager, they can start the bid process.
- Estimates have been paid for the Housing Authority Solar Project. His crew installed a pole on 3rd and Coleman, and they will be installing a pole on Riverside and Cedar.
- They are still waiting to hear from NMDOT to see whether or not the roundabouts are going to be funded.
- Two of his crew members are on their second year of the Merchants testing.
- They are currently advertising for an Apprentice Lineman.

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

Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director and Kristen Weddle, Sanitation Administrative Assistant reported the following:

- Andy Alvarez and Kristen Weddle reviewed the annual recycling reports for aluminum, cardboard, electronic scrap, mixed newspaper, office paper, plastics, scrap metals, white goods, and metal.
- They now have two additional CDL drivers in the Sanitation Department.
- The public is doing a great job at reporting illegal dumping.
- They plan on putting money aside to order new dumpsters.
- Andy and Vice-Chairman Dornbusch briefly discussed yard waste disposal fees at the Recycling Center.

Discussion/Update: Water/Wastewater Department - Jesus Navarro, Water/Wastewater Interim Supervisor:

Jesus Navarro, Water/Wastewater Interim Supervisor reported the following:

- They received a new dump truck last week, so that will take a little stress off of the backhoe having to run back and forth.
- They are still experiencing a few issues with the Vac Station. They have some parts on back order that should be in by the end of March.
Member Williams stated that the Vac Station has been an issue for a while and it should be a #1 priority because of the chance of tort claims being filed against the city, as well as the amount of overtime and equipment being used. The city is basically wasting money and we need to get a new structure, and update the technology.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch asked what the alternatives would be.

Jesus Navarro, Water/Wastewater Interim Supervisor responded that if worst comes to worst, they would have to suck it out with the vacuum truck.

Traci Burnette, Grant Project/P & Z Coordinator went over a few options for funding a new Vac Station. Most of the funding now requires a PER, so either the Wastewater Department would be funding the improvements themselves (and we know that the budget is a little tight and that money is not there), or we will have to look into applying for a grant to have a PER done on the Vac Station, and then we would have to apply for a grant to get funding for the improvements. We can maybe get a proposal on what a PER would cost for having an engineer come in and do it, and then maybe the Wastewater Plant could fund that, and then we could go in for the next grant cycle. However, there is limited funding both within the departments and also through funding sources.

Discussion/Action: Recommendation to appoint Don Armijo and Gil Avelar to fill vacancies on the Public Utility Advisory Board – Angela Torres, Deputy City Clerk:

Deputy Clerk Torres stated that we now have two vacancies on the Public Utility Board due to the resignation of George Szegeti and Randy Ashbaugh. On January 18th we advertised for the vacancies and we received two applications. One application was submitted by Gil Avelar and the other was submitted by Don Armijo. Both gentleman are here tonight should you have any questions.

Don Armijo stated that he knows it's hard to get anyone to volunteer for anything. The City of T or C was always good to him, so he wanted to apply.

Gil Avelar stated that the reason he re-applied was because as far as he's concerned, this was unfinished business. He left the last time due to communication issues and he never intended of dropping out. But now the opportunity has risen again where he can get back in, and he'll give it his best once again.

Vice Chairman Dornbusch made a motion to recommend the appointment of Gil Avelar and Don Armijo to the Public Utility Advisory Board. Member Pacourek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

Member Pacourek stated that an inaccurate statement about solid waste is on the back of city utility bill and he asked that it be added to next month's agenda for discussion/action.

Deputy Clerk Torres recommended that he bring that issue up with the Utility Office.

Member Pacourek insisted that it be on next month's agenda.
COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

There were no additional comments from staff.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Public Utility Advisory Board, Jeff Dornbusch, Vice Chairman, declared the meeting adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 18th day of March, 2019.

Jeff Dornbusch, Vice Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board