CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 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 Monday, March 18, 2019.

INTRODUCTION:

ROLL CALL:

Jeff Dornbusch, Vice-Chairman
Ron Pacourek, Member
Ed Williams, Member
Don Armijo, Member
Gil Avelar, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Morris Madrid, City Manager
Bo Easley, Electric Division Director
Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director
Jesse Cole, Water/Wastewater Director
Kristen Weddle, Sanitation Administrative Assistant
Ruby Otero-Vallejos, Water/Wastewater Administrative Assistant
Traci Burnette, Grant Projects/P & Z Coordinator
Angela A. Torres, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Vice Chairman Dornbusch called for approval of the agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch moved to approve the minutes of Regular meeting of Monday, February 19, 2019. Member Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

City Manager Madrid introduced our new Water/Wastewater Director, Jesse Cole to the PUAB Board.
RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None.

Discussion/Action: Re-organization of Chairman and Vice-Chairman:

Member Pacoureik made a motion to nominate Jeff Dornbusch as Chairman. Member Avelar seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Member Pacoureik made a motion to nominate Ed Williams as Vice-Chairman. Chairman Dornbusch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Bo Easley, Electric Division Director reported the following:

- The Mud Mountain Tower Project is will be complete once they remove old the cement slab where the previous tower existed. That will be completed next week.
- The AMI Meter RFP is ready to go out for bid.
- They have not heard anything further regarding the NMDOT Roundabout Project.
- The apprentice position will be out for two more weeks. They will be advertising the position in El Paso and Albuquerque.
- They ran a new single phase and set two poles and a transformer for the Verizon tower at the Louis Armijo Ball Field.
- His crew members Willie and Chris went to Rio Rancho for overhead school.
- Marto Electric will be here next week to do some projects at the Tradewinds Apartments on Pershing Street. They will be putting new conduit in the ground as well as replacing the underground. They will also re-string a new 3 phase across the North Interstate, and replace a pole on the west side, and on the east side going to the gun club.

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

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

- They helped the Bountiful Alliance do a yard sale last Saturday. The yard sale brought in $544.10 in proceeds that will be used for various things such as advertisements pertaining to recycling.
- They will hold the Free Spring Cleanup Day for the City and other outside areas on April 27th from 8am-3pm at the City of T or C Recycling Center. Flyers and additional information will be advertised in the local newspaper, available on the city website, and listed on the back of utility bills.
- They applied for the RAID Grant to pay for a 53 yard metal recycling container for cardboard.

Chairman Dornbusch recalls them talking about the amount of money the city saved doing recycling. He thinks that is something we should put out there to let people know that it is paying off. We can either add it on the utility bills, on the website, or a sign at the entrance of the Recycling Center that says "total
saving for recycling FY 18/19” and then we can add the total saving. That way we can get people talking about it, because he was impressed on how much we saved last year, and hopefully this year will be more.

Member Armijo offered to assist Mr. Alvarez during the Free Spring Cleanup Day.

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

Jesse Cole, Water/Wastewater Director reported the following:

- They put in a requisition for some parts for the Vac Station.
- He has been trying to get settled in, get permits in place, and make sure we are following all of the requirements for the State and Federal Regulations.
- He is looking into preparations for lab testing to be done in-house.
- He has reviewed the ordinance that pertan to grease traps and he will be working on getting a grease trap program in place to help alleviate some of the lines that are chronically under grease interceptor deficiencies.
- They have piping in place for the clarifiers. They will use the vactor truck to get the last of the sludge out of the bottom of the clarifier, and they will switch clarifiers over to make sure that the weir is leveled out and operating properly. That will be completed by the end of the week, at which point they can come in and continue working on the south clarifier.
- He is wanting to promote crew members that are getting certified to do lab testing. We would be well off to bring somebody up through the ranks and promote them, that way we can make sure that they are doing the testing based on our standards and methodologies vs. bringing in an outsider who is used to doing bigger lab work and will change a lot of the SOP’s around. There are some really great standard operating procedures in place right now and the employees that we have are very well adapted to the facilities that we have.
- He gave kudos to Jesus Navarro by saying that he has done an outstanding job filling in since Jesus Salayandia retired.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

Member Pacourek reported the following:

- He wanted to mention that we are still short a member on the Impact Fee Board.
- At the last meeting he asked that two items be added to this month’s agenda and he was told that those items were administrative issues. He would like clarification on who can add stuff to the agenda, as well as authorize the agenda.

Manager Madrid stated that the Chairman is appointed to represent the the board and direct the actions of the board. He recommends that the agenda items be reviewed and approved by the Boards Chairman and himself and once they are reviewed, they will be handed over to Ms. Torres so she can formulate the agenda.
Chairman Dornbush reported the following:

- Since we’re having a huge success with the free trash day he would like to propose a monthly trash pass for the citizens of T or C. He would like to keep the illegal dumping down and he feels that one of the reasons why people illegally dump is because they don’t want to pay $6 to take it to the transfer center. If we would allow a free monthly trip to the dump, and cap it at 500 lbs, 1000 lbs, or limit it to some small unit, this would help to get people to come in here. We can make it to where they would have to bring in their city utility bill to prove that they are a resident, the bill would be stamped, and they would dump their load. Then on the following month if they have something large to dump, they wouldn’t have to wait for the bi-annual free day. He wants this to be something for everyone to think about because it would be nice PR to have a free pass to take stuff to the dump every month, and it would limit the amount of illegal dumps we have. Also, if they see a sign of how much we save with recycling, then maybe they will start recycling.

- Chairman Dornbush announced that a citizen brought to his attention a program that is called CUFF (Catastrophic Utility Failure Forgiveness). So if you have a water leak on your service line from your meter to your house, you would get forgiveness on a % of your bill. He would like to come up with some way to forgive a % of anything over the water average. It would also be dependant on how quickly they notify the city and how big the leak is. Las Cruces has this program, and they forgave almost 90% of the normal water bill.

- He discussed the issue of combining the duties of the Water and Wastewater Department. He asked that we separate the duties of each department to limit the potential of cross contamination.

- He would like the city to come up with some sort of compensation package for people who pass and move up in their certifications, so they can get some sort of monetary pay on the back for that.

City Manager Madrid reported that they are already working on the separation of the Water and Wastewater Department duties as well as working with each department on compensation for those who have received their certifications, trainings and competency over a period of years. That compensation will be tied to that level of expertise and satisfaction.

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, Chairman, declared the meeting adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED April 8th, 2019.

Angela A. Torres, Deputy City Clerk