CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018

REGULAR MEETING
Action 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, April 16, 2018 at 5:35 P.M.

INTRODUCTION:

PRESENT:

George Szigeti, Chairman
Jeff Dornbusch, Vice Chairman
Ron Pacourek, Member
Gil Avelar, Member
Randy Ashbaugh, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Juan Fuentes, City Manager
Bo Easley, Electric Division Director
Jesus Salayandia, Water/Wastewater Director
Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director
Traci Burnette, Grant Project Coordinator
Sonya Williams, Utility Office Manager
Ruby Otero-Vallejos, Water/Wastewater Administrative Assistant
Priscilla Fuentes, Electric Division Administrative Assistant
Kristin Weddle, Sanitation Department Administrative Assistant
Justin Armijo – Water Department
Renee Cantin, City Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chairman Szigeti called for approval of the agenda.

Vice Chairman Dornbusch moved approval of the agenda as submitted.

Member Pacourek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular meeting of Monday, March 19, 2018:

Vice Chairman Dornbusch moved approval of the March 19, 2018 minutes as submitted.

Member Avelar seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments from the public.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There was no response to public comment.

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

Jesus Salayandia, Water/Wastewater Director reported the following:

- Manholes - The Manhole Project was long overdue, and is coming along smoothly, other than the ground water issue they had with a couple of them. To resolve the issues, they are going to try and let the water table go down before they finish those manholes.
- Belt Filter Press – They will hopefully get the belt filter press sometime next week and they are going to bring in the new pump so it will work like it should. Right now, they are using the vacuum bed for their solids.
- UV System - They had issues with the control center due to a power outage, but everything has been fixed, and they are both working.
- North Date Lift Station – They’ve been having problems with that station for about 5 years. It’s an outdated lift station, and since the system is old, they were having problems with the panel in the dry wall. However, the system will be upgraded when they do Phase 2B. Well #7 - They will need to replace the well shaft on well #7. The replacement cost will be around $10,000 to $12,000 to replace the shaft, sink it back in, and flush it.

City Manager Fuentes – They have had some issues with using the effluent water for irrigation in the Parks and at the Golf Course, because there is a lot of algae and minerals in the water. They found a sulfur burning system, which is where they burn sulfur and inject it into the water to kill the algae, and keep the minerals suspended. The system is used at the Golf Course in Silver City, and they have been using that system for many years to help provide a better delivery of water. We are looking at doing that with the effluent water, which will help with the Ball Fields and the Golf Course.

Discussion/Update: Sanitation Department – Sanitation Director Andy Alvarez:

Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director reported the following:

- Vacant Position – He has a position open for a Solid Waste Relief Driver. Applications are available at the Human Resources Office.
• Swap-o-Rama - On April 21st they will be holding a Swap-o-Rama at the Geronimo Springs Museum, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
• Fiesta – They will have a truck and trailer in the parade for this year’s Fiesta.
• They applied for a grant for a new wood chipper and a two phased paving at the Recycle Center.

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

Electric Division Director Easley reported the following:

• High School Fitness Center - Contractors are coming along on that project.
• Cielo Vista Subdivision – They have a pre-bid conference this Thursday, and the bid opening will be on May 3rd.
• Substation Battery Replacement – They are in the process of getting 3 quotes to do the work for that project.
• First Savings Bank – They have been working with Raxis Engineering out of El Paso, Texas for the electrical portion at the bank.
• Power Outages – No power outages were reported (due to the high winds), but they did have a few service wedges break.

Discussion/Action: Energy Cost Adjustment – Chairman George Szigeti

Chairman Szigeti reported that he had some changes, but not with him today.

Electric Division Director Easley asked if they could put it on the next agenda. He has been working with Finance Director Torres and Ms. Williams, and they should be ready by then.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

Member Pacourek asked about the Electronic Meter Reading Project, and where we are with that.

Grant/Projects Coordinator Burnett responded they have received a couple of other proposals, they are waiting for more, and then they will bring it back to the board.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

There were no additional 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 APPROVE this 21st day of May, 2018 on a Motion, duly made by Gil Avelar, seconded by Ron Pacourek, and carried.