ITEM:

Approve the minutes of the Public Utility Advisory Board for April 17, 2017.

BACKGROUND:

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes.

Submitted by:  Renee Cantin, City Clerk-Treasurer

Meeting date:  05/24/2017
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017

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 17, 2017 at 5:30 P.M.

INTRODUCTION:

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

ABSENT:
Randy Ashbaugh, Member

ALSO PRESENT:
Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director
Jesus Salayandia, Water/Wastewater Admin. Director
Bo Easley, Electric Division Director
Arnie Castaneda, Water Department Supervisor
Traci Burnette, Grant Project Coordinator
Ruby Otero-Vallejos, Water/Wastewater Admin. Assistant
Tammy Gardner, Electric Division 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, MARCH 20, 2017:

Chairman Szigeti found an error in the minutes on page 3, under the Electric Department Update. It should say “3 phase connection” rather than “Phase III.”

Vice Chairman Dornbusch moved approval of the March 20, 2017 minutes as amended.

Member Avelar seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Perry Wolf, (1107 Bosque North) had concerns regarding the cost of the monthly garbage bill. He doesn’t understand why he needs such a large Poly-Cart at the price of $24.66 when he hardly generates any trash. He suggested that the City start a system to where the trash is only picked up, at the consumer’s discretion. That way the consumer is not getting charged for trash services they don’t need.

Ron Fenn, (316 N. Foch) came before the Board with comments regarding the Solar Farm and solar rates, and why he feels we have such a terrible discrepancy compared to other communities. He asked if any of the Board members have looked into that. He also had concerned about the 2014 City contracted C&D Service’s inventory audit. He had concerns that the audit was not complete. He is also curious as to why the city dropped the pass thru for city buildings.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director reported the following:

- They are having an “Earth Day” on April 22nd at the Healing Waters Plaza from 11am to 4pm.
- The free Spring Clean-up day will be held Saturday, April 29th from 9am to 4pm.

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

Electric Department Director Easley, Electric Division Director reported the following:

- Tesla Inc. will be building a charging system at the Holiday Inn for electric cars.
- They got the pole and transformer bank built at the Micro-Brewery.
- They are 95% finished on the planning for the High School Fitness Center.
- The Hospital is moving forward with their (2) two story building.
- The Electric Dept. will be building a new 3 Phase line on the Southside of the Hospital.
- He and Tammy have been working on the NMFA Grant to replace the electric primary underground on Corona Street and Camino De Cielo.
- The Line Crew has been replacing poles around town.
Member Avelar asked who was coordinating the Tesla project.

Electric Division Director Easley responded “Engineers from Boston.”

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

Jesus Salayandia, Water/Wastewater Director reported the following:

- Phase I is pretty much done and they are working on the cleanup.
- Phase 2a: Smith Co. has dropped off the material for that project.
- Phase 2b will be all of the lift stations.
- There will be an inspection for the sanitary survey on the 26th of April.
- They will hopefully start using the new pad by next week.

Member Avelar asked when the primary system will be completed.

Water/Wastewater Director Salayandia responded that there is still some equipment that hasn’t come in on the mechanical bar screen, so they will still be coming back, here and there. The SCADA System should be complete and running by June 10th.

Vice Chairman Dornbusch asked if the new aeration system and UV lights have been in long enough for the city to notice an electrical increase or decrease in the cost of operation.

Water/Wastewater Director Salayandia stated that he hasn’t looked at that.

Discussion/Update: Utility Report - Sonya Williams, Utility Department Manager:

The Utility Report was distributed to the board however; no report was given due to the absence of Ms. Williams.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

Ron Pacourek would like copies of the documents Ron Fenn dropped in the “comment box”. He also apologized to Mr. Fenn for not looking into the solar rates.

Vice Chairman Dornbusch addressed Mr. Wolf’s comments about the situation with the trash. He agreed with Mr. Wolf’s comment and asked Sanitation Director Alvarez if there is anything like that can be structured.

Sanitation Director Alvarez stated the biggest issue with a program like that would be the cost, but it can be done. They can maybe look into a bi-weekly pick up, a senior citizen discount, or possibly a smaller Poly-Cart. Another idea is to have a flat fee, and purchase a Poly-Cart truck that will have a weight system. It would also be nice to have a curb side recycling container so people can do more recycling which would lead to less trash.
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 APPROVED this 15th day of May, 2017, on a motion duly made by____________________, seconded by____________________, and carried.

____________________
George Szigeti, Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board