CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2018

REGULAR MEETING

Regular meeting of the Public Utility Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico is to be held in the City Commission Chambers, 405 W. 3rd Street, immediately following the Impact Fee Board Meeting on Monday, June 18, 2018 at 5:05 p.m.

INTRODUCTION:

ROLL CALL:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Juan Fuentes, City Manager
Renee Cantin, City Clerk
Traci Burnette, Grant/Projects Coordinator
Kristin Weddle, Sanitation Department Administrative Assistant
Priscilla Fuentes, Electric Division Administrative Assistant
Jesus Navarro, Waste Water Treatment Plant

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chairman Szigeti called for approval of the agenda.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch moved to approve the agenda. Member Pacourek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular meeting of Monday, May 21, 2018

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch moved to approve the minutes. 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: Sanitation Department – Sanitation Director Andy Alvarez:

Kristen Weddle, Sanitation Department Administrative Assistant reported the following:

- They recently purchased a new truck.
- They currently have three vacancies in their department.
- They are wrapping things up for the end of the fiscal year.
- They have a side loader trash truck in Albuquerque for repairs. They were initially quoted $4,800 for the repair, however the quote changed to $12,216 because they found flakes of metal in the fuel system, so the entire fuel system will have to be replaced.

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

City Manager Fuentes announced that Water & WW Director Salayandia is out sick.

Grant/Projects Coordinator Burnette reported the following:

- Phase 1 of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – They are going to do their final walk through, sign off on that, and do the final closeout with USDA.
- Phase 2a of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – That part of the project is moving along, and she has not heard of any major issues or concerns.
- Phase 2b of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project – Is currently at USDA for review. Once they approve the final plans for review, we will go out to bid for contractors for that phase.
- They will be meeting with USDA for the water application.
- They received the Drinking Water, State Revolving Loan, Fund letter for the 2.9 million dollar project. They are going to see if they can pull USDA into funding the Cook Street portion, as well as everything listed in our Preliminary Engineering Report which is the downtown water lines.

Jesus Navarro, Water/Waste Water Department, reported the following:

- Back up Station on Mims Street– They ordered the module and it should be here on Wednesday.
- Water Wells:
  a. They videotaped Well # 4, Well # 8, as well as the River Wells.
  b. They will have to replace a column pipe for Well #4 and the casing will need to be replaced as well.
  c. Well # 8 – Had found lot of iron built up in the well, so they are going to scrub it, acidize it, and see if they can put a submersible pump on the turbine. That project will cost approximately $60,000.
  d. Well # 7 – Is in the phase of getting replaced.
City Manager Fuentes reported the following:

- Smith Co. recently replaced the sewer line by the Utility Office. They took off a section of the line because it tied into a PVC pipe, so they replaced the entire line with PVC and now the streets crew can go and put in the curb and sidewalk.
- He thanked Vice Chairman Dornbusch for his questions about Well #7 and stated that those are good questions that need to be brought up.
- He wanted to give Mr. Ashbaugh the opportunity to ask the questions he brought up to the City Commission.

Member Ashbaugh asked how many pumps are working on the Mims addition and what the modules are for.

Jesus Navarro responded that they have both pumps on right now, but the problem is that they are old. They just replaced one, serviced it, and ordered the other module (which is an air compressor) so they can maybe get the other one to work more efficiently.

Member Ashbaugh asked when Well #7 will be back in service and what the cost is on that. He also asked what the % of water is that they keep in the tank.

Mr. Navarro responded that they are expecting them to come in sometime next week. The pump and column pipe need to be replaced and he doesn’t have the cost information at this time. And as for the water level, they try to keep the tank about ¾ of a tank full. The tank is down about 1/3 right now, and that is due to the wells.

Member Ashbaugh asked about the replacement of the sewer line downtown.

City Manager Fuentes responded that should be finished today. He explained the project for all of the downtown lines which is being tested by Wilson & Co.

Member Pacourek asked when the water drainage downtown will be addressed.

City Manager Fuentes responded that they are not addressing the storm drainage issues. They are only addressing the water & sewer lines.

Member Ashbaugh asked what entities drain into the line that broke.

City Manager Fuentes believes it was just Sierra Grande.

City Manager Fuentes gave an update on personnel. They are publishing the Water/Wastewater Director’s Position, and they have some other vacant positions. They had three or four applicants and none of them showed up for the interviews. They have to start looking at increasing revenue to be able to raise the salaries.
Member Ashbaugh said there is a leak on Cherry Lane that has been running for weeks and wanted to know when it’s going to be fixed.

Mr. Navarro replied that there are a bunch of leaks around town. They are taking them as the calls come in.

Member Ashbaugh doesn’t email, but he did call in the leak from the County Fair Barn that was running down Broadway.

City Manager Fuentes stated that we might have to contract some of these projects out like we did with the sewer line, because we are short staffed.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch asked if the tanks are on the SCADA System.

Mr. Navarro said they are not on the system right now.

Chairman Szegedi said we also need to think about some water conservation measures.

City Manager Fuentes said the goal was to do the same as Waste Water, with the USDA Funding for the system upgrades including the wells.

Member Pacourek asked what was going on at 702 or 706 Riverside.

Mr. Navarro said that had to do with the Mims Station.

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

Electric Division Admin. Assistant Priscilla Fuentes reported the following:

- High School Fitness Center – The project is moving along smoothly.
- The Cielo Vista Subdivision – On June 12th they had a pre-construction meeting with Bixby Electric and so far the project is going well.
- Substation Battery Replacement – They received some quotes and the contract will be with HEI out of Albuquerque. We will move forward with that project in July. The money for that has been put in the budget for next year.
- Mud Mountain – They are working on getting quotes to replace the antenna.
- Pole Replacements – The Electric crew replaced the two poles by the substation, as well as the pole by Barton and Pershing. They are also replacing other various poles around town.
COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

Member Ashbaugh made the remark that it’s bothersome to see water running down the street for a long time when we are down to three wells. It would be nice if some of the other board members would cruise around the subdivisions to see what he is talking about. One of the main reasons he got on this board was so he can see how we can get infrastructure going. He thinks there are other means we can look at, and down the road he will bring some ideas to the board.

Member Avelar stated that he has been cruising these streets for about 30 years and to him it doesn’t look any different than any other summer that he’s been here. We are already down 3 guys in the Water Department and when you’re shorthanded, you are always going to be behind the “8 ball”. Hopefully we will be able to hire some people, but until that happens it’s going to be how it’s always been.

Member Ashbaugh stated that he is not saying anything about our city workers. He know that they have their hands full.

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 at 5:40 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 16th day of July, 2018.

George Szigeti, Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board