CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2016

ACTION MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

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, August 15, 2016 at 5:30 P.M.

INTRODUCTION:

PRESENT:

George Szigeti, Chairman
Jeff Dornbusch, Vice-Chairman
Grant Montgomery Member
Ron Pacourek, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Juan Fuentes, City Manager
Traci Burnette, Grants Project Coordinator
Christina Bruch, Electric Division Administrative Aide
Bo Easley, Electric Department Director
Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chairman Szigeti stated he wanted to switch item K with item A on the agenda to allow the applicants to go first.

Member Pacourek moved to approve the agenda along with the changes Chairman George Szigeti suggested of switching item K with item A.

Member Dornbusch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING HELD MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2016:

Member Ron Pacourek moved to approve the June 20, 2016 minutes.

Member Dornbusch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Klaus Wittern came before the Board with comments regarding the YESCO Project, and the City ICIP Project. He believes that it is essential that the ICIP reflect the replacement of all meters. Mr. Wittern also noted that he would like to see a study to integrate the flood mitigation, which has not been performed to date.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Action: Recommendation to fill vacancy on the Public Utility Advisory Board. Applicants are Gil Avelar & Randall Ashbaugh:

The Board reviewed Mr. Gil Avelar and Mr. Randall Ashbaugh’s application(s) to serve on the Public Utility Advisory Board. Brief discussion ensued.

Member Ron Pacourek nominated Randall Ashbaugh to sit as a member on the Board.

Vice Chairman Jeff Dornbusch noted that he feels the current Board lacks experience about electricity. He feels that Mr. Ashbaugh would fit perfect into the Impact Fee portion of the Board. However, Mr. Avelar would be the best candidate for the Public Utility Board.

Vice Chairman Jeff Dornbusch then moved to nominate Mr. Gil Avelar to sit as a member on the Public Utility Advisory Board.

Member Montgomery seconded the motion. Motion carried 3 against 1.

Mr. Ashbaugh thanked the Board for their consideration.

Discussion/Update: Solar Array and Walmart Solar Usage- Christina Bruch, Electric Division Amin. Assistant:

Ms. Bruch provided the Board with a chart of the Solar Array and Walmart Solar usage. She briefly reviewed the rate savings from June 2015 thru June 2016.

Discussion/Update: American Electrical Testing Report- Bo Easley, Electric Division Director:

Boaz Easley, Electric Division Director noted that American Electrical Testing Company performed tests a few months back at the substation. The scope of work included: Repair, replace, and provide items for
the two (2) transformer Hi side bushings (H1, 2, 3) C2 taps. Resample transformer SN 19090100 Main tank oil and compare results from last results. Replace two (2) trip coil springs in circuit breakers. Replace Amp-meter with calibration. Supply reconditioned 15-VHK-600, 1200 amps, and perform inspection, assessment on circuit breaker grounding cart.

**Discussion/Update: ICIP Project - Bo Easley, Electric Division Director:**

Boaz Easley, Electric Division Director noted that one of the items that the ICIP called for was the replacement of a Steel Pole on Cedar and Riverside. That task has already been completed. Additional items on the ICIP included:

- Testing and Maintenance of existing equipment which is the substation, New and upgraded circuits, battery enclosure at the substation, replacement at the sub-station, underground feeder, electrical and main feeder upgrade, Capacitor Upgrades Cedar/Riverside Steel Pole, Testing & Maintenance of Existing Equipment, New and Upgraded Circuit Switches, Maintenance/Upgrades, Electrical Main Feeders Upgrade, Pole Replacement Program, and Corona & Camino De Cielo underground upgrades.

**Discussion/Update: Pole Replacement - Bo Easley, Electric Division Director**

Replacements:

Boaz Easley, Electric Division Director reviewed the replacement of Electric Poles by the State Police Office, and one on Iron Street by the Punk Greer Rodeo Arena.

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

Boaz Easley, Electric Division Director reported on Christina Bruch, Electric Division Admin Assistant, attending Grant Writing School and an update regarding the Electric Pole located at 1500 N Silver Street.

**Discussion/Action: OSE Approved Water Conservation Plan - Traci Burnette, Grant Project Coordinator:**

Traci Burnette, Grant Project Coordinator briefly reviewed the OSE Approved Water Conservation Plan noting that the data for 2015 was removed and will be added to the next Water Conservation Plan with will be available 5 years from now. They were advised to make a few changes to the Water Conservation Plan which included re-arranging goals, and including the City Ordinance which explains our water rates.

No action was taken on this item.

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

Traci Burnette, Grant Project Coordinator gave an update regarding the construction at the Plant which is going great. We have hired a few locals for the department and the USDA application has been submitted for Phase 2B.
Discussion/Update: Solid Waste Department – Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director:

Sanitation Director Alvarez reported that the seeding at the TorC Landfill has been completed and the Landfill has been covered. On December 6th-9th we will be holding a Recycling Certification Course at the Truth or Consequences Civic Center. Mr. Alvarez also reported that we will start trash services for the Village of Williamsburg starting October 1st.

Discussion/Action: Discount Utility Rates – George Szigeti, Chairman:

Member Dornbusch moved to send the Discount Utility Rates to the commission for approval.

Member Montgomery seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Sewer Calculation and Timing – Ron Pacourek:

Manager Fuentes recommended that customers go discuss their bills with Sonya Williams, rather than taking action and going backwards.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

Vice chairman Dornbusch asked if sewer averages will be showing on future Utility Bills.

City Manager Fuentes responded that Sonya Williams and Melissa Torres have looked into adding that additional information to the bills, since they are now processed in house.

Ron Pacourek had comments on changes regarding Renewable Energy, and issues regarding the disposal of Prescription Pills into the sewer system and trash facility.

Chairman Szigeti responded that he read in the local newspaper, that you can take your Prescription Pills to the Sheriff’s Department during office hours and they will properly dispose of them. You can also take them to the Truth or Consequences Police Department for disposal.

Ron Pacourek recommended that the City start a “Suggestion Program” for the Utility Department(s) to show appreciation for the employees.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

City Manager Fuentes responded to Mr. Wittern’s Public Comment regarding YESCO.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Public Utility Advisory Board, George Szigeti, Chairman, declared the meeting adjourned.
PASSED AND APPROVED this 19th day of September, 2016, on motion duly made by George Szigeti, seconded by Jeff Birnbush, and carried.

George Szigeti, Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board