CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
Thursday May 19, 2005

SPECIAL MEETING

Minutes

TIME & PLACE: The Mayor and the City Commission of the City of Truth or Consequences in the County of Sierra and State of New Mexico, met in Special Session in full conformity with the law and ordinances of said Commission in the Commission Chambers of said City, on Thursday, May 19, 2005 at 9:00 A.M., to discuss the following:


Mayor Rainey stated this budget for FY2005/2006 is a very tight budget, and thanked Joanne & Richard for all the hard work preparing the budget.

PRESIDING OFFICER: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rainey who presided and Hazel Peterson, Deputy City Clerk acted as Secretary of the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Upon calling the roll the following Commissioners were reported present:

Hon. Jimmy L. Rainey, Mayor
Hon. Lois Reaver-Black, Mayor Pro-tem
Hon. Evelyn B. Renfro, Commissioner
Hon. Glen E. Stevenson, Commissioner

Absent was:

Hon. Lori S. Montgomery, Commissioner

Also present:

Richard R. Ramsey, City Manager
Joanne Harper, Finance Director
Hazel Peterson, Deputy City Clerk

The following abbreviations –
JR – Mayor Rainey
LRB – Mayor Pro-tem Black
EBR – Commissioner Renfro
GS – Commissioner Stevenson

The following are verbatim transcripts.

QUORUM: There being a quorum present the Commission proceeded with the business at hand.

RESOLUTION #25-04/05 PREL. BUDGET 05/06:

Mayor Rainey stated he would like to go through the Grants to Sub-Recipients first.

City Manager Ramsey thanked the Mayor for his remarks, and indicated the credit goes to Joanne.
JH – Stated she made all the changes that were requested by the Commission, and explained due to some changes in personnel, etc., and with those changes, they came up with different figures for the sub-recipients.

She went on to explain, Civic Center Mgmt., budgeted $20,000, and they requested $26,000, SCEDO, $31,000, and they requested $31,000, Veteran’s Wall, $5,000, and they requested $10,000, and the other $5,000 would be in-kind, Domestic Abuse, $7,500, and they requested $10,000, JOA, requested $27,500.

EBR – Why did they cut them back, and stated that is what they gave them last year was $27,500.

JH – Right, I was just trying to...

EBR – I see they still have a cash ending balance of $58,379.

JH – I can put the other $2,500 in there.

EBR – So we’re just talking $2,500, and I think they need to give it to them, because she does not think it is fair to... when you have given somebody something and then you are cutting back... try to maintain them at least where they are at. She stated she would like to see that increase to the $27,500, if the Commissioners don’t have a problem with it.

The rest of the Commissioners did not have a problem with it.

JH – Stated she would increase it, RSVP requested $10,750, and they budgeted $9,750, Foster Grandparents requested $4,000, budgeted $3,000, Senior Companion requested $4,000, budgeted $3,000, Williamsburg Extrication requested $2,000, budgeted $2,000, HS Cemetery stated they put $3,000 in the Cemetery Fund, and Friends of Elephant Butte requested $1,000, budgeted $500.

EBR – They need to discuss lodger’s tax as they did not address these, and stated she had some questions.

Bobby Allen – Stated they are very pleased and they will be able to do their job with these figures. He asked for the JOA, RSVP, and the Foster Grandparents, and Senior Companion, and indicated there is about $45,000 for their budget, and it is his understanding that these are not matching programs anymore, and that they are State and Federal funded, and that they do not have to put any money into them at all unless they want to, is that true or not true?

JR – There is matching funds required, but the matching funds for these particular grants come from the Federal Government, and indicated it is a federal/state program.

EBR – She does not think they would be funded entirely.

GS – I pulled their contract and read it, and the City does not have to match any of it, stated SJOA is totally state and federal funding, and what they give them is out of the goodness of their heart, and stated they do not have to match any of theirs.

EBR – She does not think they are hurting and if they are giving others, she does not see why they shouldn’t help the Senior Citizens, as for the JOA they provide meals, transportation, care giving, and she feels these are very important services.
JH – Agrees with Commissioner Renfro regardless.

RR – In answer to Commissioner Renfro in regards to Friends of Elephant Butte requested $500.00 from Lodger’s Tax, and they were awarded $500.00.

EBR – Then they will get the $1,000 that they wanted, or were they wanting a $1,000 from us, and...

LRB – They probably were... what they’re doing is buying fireworks, and however much they give them they can buy more fireworks.

RR – Their total request was $1,500, $1,000 from the City and $500.00 from lodger’s tax.

EBR – Well if their total request was $1,500...

JH – Well lodger’s tax has to be used for advertising only... that can’t go towards buying fireworks.

EBR – Then I would think... can’t they afford another $500, they put on a tremendous display, and I think they are always hurting financially, so I would think they could go the other $500, and give them a $1,000, I would think.

GS – I really truly believe that there are a lot of out of town people come just for that fireworks display.

RR – Do they want to go through the lodger’s tax?

EBR – I just have some questions. She noticed for the NM Old Time Fiddlers, weren’t being given anything, why, because as far as she knows the biggest part of the winners are from out of town.

JH – They didn’t meet their deadline, as they had to have their request in by April 1st.

EBR – She thinks that last year they had some people that didn’t have their request in by the deadline, and they went ahead and gave them something, and noticed they had about $66,000 in the cash ending balance, and all they are wanting is $1,500.

JH – Honestly, I would have to call them and find out.

EBR – Do the Commissioners have a problem funding the Old Time Fiddlers Association, as they bring many people in and from out of town?

EBR – For Fiesta it was cut to $4,000, and haven’t they normally been given $5,000.

Ms Imogene Stark – It was $7,500 when she was on the board, and they cut it back to $5,000, and she does not know why they can’t give them the $5,000 that is just $1,000 over what they budgeted.

EBR – She also notices for the Golf Course that it is -0-.

GS – But they did get money in there for their golf carts.

JH – Had a question for Mr. Garcia, and indicated they gave him $2,000 last year for lodger’s tax, and they did not spend it.
Mr. Garcia stated that the NM Magazine did not contact him.

EBR – They just requested $1,000, can’t they just give it to them, and if you don’t use it come next year, it’s going to be -0-.

EBR – The Powerhouse what was their request, as she can’t see where they would qualify for lodger’s tax.

What about the Sierra County Sheriff’s Posse?

JR – Someone was supposed to go and talk with Richard, or wait until mid-term budgets.

RR – Stated he spoke with Ms. Sullivan, and stated he thinks they are charging them property tax at the Arena, and she would like us to quit doing that.

EBR – Stated this event is tied in with the Fiesta, and she thinks it is important.

Ms. Stark remembers they gave them $1,500, and in the past, the request has been from $2,000 - $5,000.

EBR – Can they maybe at least budget $2,500.

RR – Stated they are assuming the list they provided is the ones who applied for funds, and that the Sheriff’s Posse is not listed, and he guesses they did not apply.

JH – There is another one that missed the deadline, and indicated it is the Elephant Butte Lions Club, and stated last year they received $1,000.00.

Kerry Kent – Why do they have deadlines and a board if they don’t apply goes ahead and gives them money?

JR – Sometimes accidents just happen where they don’t make the deadline and it is a program that would hurt the City if it were not funded.

LRB – I’m inclined to agree with Kerry, and if everybody knows this is the deadline…

EBR – how are the deadlines advertised, maybe everybody does not read the paper, and it is not where it is very obvious… She does not know if the ones who generally request get a letter.

LRB – It just seems to her if they are going to ask for money they should know when the deadline is.

EBR – She stills thinks they should budget $2,500 for the Sheriff’s Posse.

JH – Let me explain how they came up with the $60,000, and that this is the figure she gave them based on what they made in lodger’s tax.

EBR – You still show an ending cash balance of $66,203 for next June, so there is still that money there.

JH – We can still do it, but she was basing on what they brought in on lodger’s tax.
EBR – It’s 3-1, $2,500 for the Sheriff’s Posse.

I do not know if it would be too big of a problem for the City Clerk’s Office and have a list of everyone who generally requests lodger’s tax and send out a form letter and state if the request is not in they will not get funded, but she thinks they need someway to be notified.

JR – Asked for Callahan Auto Museum, is that for the Veteran’s Car Show, or the Auto Museum, as the museum is closed.

GS – It is his understanding he is going to re-open.

JH – Did not change any of the revenues, and reported that they had a good gross receipts check this month, $179,000.

Page 6 – Governing Body – Will have to change the grants to sub-recipients, and SCRDA she dropped it down.

Page 7 – City Clerk – No changes.

Page 8 – Municipal Changes – Took out the $1,000 for delayed comp.

Page 9 – City Manager – Took $5,000 out of salary and put it in Professional Services.

Page 10 – Adm. Offices – No change.

Page 11 – Fire Dept., no change.

Page 12 – Homeland Security – Salaries, the Ray Chavez situation. City Manager Ramsey stated he was going to get a 3% like everybody else was. He stated he received some certificates from some OSHA training, and they were going to give him another 3% for that.

RR – Explained if employees receive training for their job performance that they will do that, and his recommendation would be that they give him an additional 3%.

The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the City Manager.

Page 13 – Police Department – Salaries including the utility payment up to almost $2.00 an hour, and stated it varies, any where from $1.50 on up. She stated she suggested for non-certified, $9.42, and certified $11.25. She stated she went over this with Russ, and indicated he was very happy.

GS – I believe they need the money, but he is still hesitate on the utilities sitting here doing utility raises for the seniors citizens and businessmen and then you give away utilities, and he still has reservations about that, but he will go along with it.

EBR – Stated she agrees and that is why she voted against the increases.

Page 14 – Code Enforcement/Animal Control – No changes.

Page 15 – Municipal Recreation – No changes.
Page 16 – Building Inspector – No changes.

Page 17 – Street Dept. – Stated the pot hole crew is not in here they are in fund 45, page 50.

Page 18 – Fleet Maint. – No changes.

Mayor Rainey stated in going through each department that is with the 10% cut on the gasoline, and she stated she did that in every department.

Page 20 – Facility Mgmt. – There was one position they had a big raise, and it was brought down to 6%.

EBR – Stated she noticed they included the seasonal decorations.

JH - Page 21 – Parks Dept. – One position that was brought down to 6%, and stated it was brought down to 3%.

Page 22 – Library – No changes.

Page 23 – Hospital – No changes.

No changes on the next few pages until they get to page 28 – Cemetery, This is where they added the $3,000.

JH – On lodger’s tax, she will make all the changes they discussed.

Page 37 – The only thing changed in Joint Utility was the salaries back down to 3%.

JH – Did not change any of the revenues.

In the Electric, they will be loosing someone, and she dropped down the salary a little bit.

No changes in the water department.

Page 43 – Solid Waste – Changed the salaries a little. She stated that after she spoke with Ford he indicated there was only one person that received a certificate.

EBR – Asked if they compared the gas usage for that department.

RR – Stated they would have to look at this during mid-year, as these trucks run every day.

JH - Are they going to put out a memo to everyone about driving around?

RR – Yes they are going to have to.

Page 45 – Wastewater – Indicated they are going to have to make some changes for salaries, but they are not sure what they are going to do about it yet.

RR – Explained that after Franz passed away indicated that Jesus and Mike are running it together, as one is on the water production side and one on the wastewater. He stated they need to see about having one person at the top for personnel and that sort of thing.

JH – No other changes in the rest of the budget.
She explained that she added the pot hole crew, on page 50, two temporary positions.

EBR – They need to look at making these permanent once their revenues step up.

Imogene Stark stated that during last year’s budget they submitted a request for additional funds for the golf course budget for repairs and upgrades of equipment.

She suggested that if they come up with any extra monies they do need some for repairs and upgrade on the equipment.

JR – Suggested they come back during mid-year budgets and they will know if they have money.

RR – Do they have an estimate?

Imogene stated the one they turned in was for $90,000 over a period of 3-4 years, and indicated it was not a lump sum request.

RR – So they are thinking of $20-30,000 a year.

Imogene – that would help quite a bit to maintain the equipment.

“Commissioner Renfro moved approval Resolution #25-04/05 for the Preliminary Budget.”

Seconded by Commissioner Stevenson.
Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVAL: PASSED AND APPROVED this 13th day of
June, 2005, on motion duly made by
Commissioner Renfro, seconded by
Commissioner Stevenson, and carried.

ATTEST:

JIMMY L. RAINLEY, MAYOR

MARY PENNER, CITY CLERK