CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 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, June 30, 2005 at 6:00 P.M. to discuss the following:

1. Re-distribution of Lodger’s Tax Allocation
2. Appointment of Board Member to Lodger’s Tax Board
3. Preliminary Budget Line Item
4. Rank Grip-2 Projects
5. Closed Executive Session – Personnel 10-15-1H (2)
   A. City Manager Contract

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

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

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

Absent:

Also present:

Richard R. Ramsey, City Manager
Mary B. Penner, City Clerk

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

Jay Rubin, City Attorney stated he knows this is not on the Agenda this week but he suggests they vote to approve the Agenda just for the minutes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Rainey called for approval of the Agenda.

"Commissioner Stevenson moved approval of the Agenda as submitted."

Seconded by Commissioner Renfro
Motion carried unanimously.

RE-DISTRIBUTION OF LODGER’S TAX ALLOCATION:

Mr. Ramsey stated there was a letter from the Lodger’s Tax Advisory Board, which address two different items.

He stated the first one was that the Lodger’s Tax Advisory Board at their Special Meeting held June 29, 2005 voted unanimously to recommend that the two thousand dollars from the Golf Course Fund latterly move over to the Veterans Wall Fund.

He stated the other item was that the Board voted unanimously to appoint Debby Bodie to serve on the Lodger’s Tax Board.
Mr. Ramsey stated he would suggest the Commission take each item one at a time.
Mayor Rainey stated this was on the agenda at the last meeting and they had requested the Lodger’s Board meet and give them a recommendation on disposition of the two thousand dollars. He stated they have done that and at this time, they need to make a motion.

“Commission Renfro moved to accept the Lodger’s Tax Advisory Boards recommendation to move the two thousand dollars from the Golf Course Fund latterly to the Veterans Memorial Wall Fund.”

Seconded by Commission Stevenson
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ramsey stated that on the second item, Debby Bodie was the only application that was received and her qualifications are that she is a business owner of an RV Park for the past ten years and has a strong commitment in regard to increasing tourism in T or C and Sierra County.

Commissioner Renfro asked if by appointing her will they still be in line with the requirements set forth for the board.

Mr. Ramsey stated yes, they require a balance of different people and they will meet that.

“Commissioner Black moved to approve the appointment of Debby Bodie to the Lodger’s Tax Advisory Board.”

Seconded by Commissioner Renfro
Motion carried unanimously.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET LINE ITEMS:

City Manager Ramsey stated that under this item the Police Chief asked him to put this on the agenda. He stated there was some misunderstanding on how much the raise would be for police officers. He stated he understood there would be a two dollar an hour across the board raise plus an allowance for utilities for police officers. He stated that’s not the way the preliminary budget was handled and they do have a copy of the minutes from the preliminary budget which says, salaries including the utility payment up to almost two dollars an hour and stated it varies anywhere from $1.50 on up.

He stated we have non-certified officer up to $9.42 an hour and certified officers to $11.25 an hour, that’s starting salary. He stated he admitted that he made a mistake in telling the officers that it would be a flat $2.00 plus utilities and he said he would correct that with the officers. But evidentially one officer had talked to a Commissioner and the Commissioner said, how did you like your two dollar an hour raise and didn’t qualify exactly what it was and he said if any of you talk to him again, qualify it and tell them that it’s not just a flat $2.00. That’s all he was asking.

Commissioner Stevenson asked if this was a non-action item?

Mr. Ramsey stated yes.

Mayor Rainey stated they need to keep in mind that as they go through the budget procedure each year this is the first preliminary hearing. And they really don’t know the amount of money they are going to have to fulfill what they would like to do during the preliminary budget. He stated once they sign the final budget which will be on the 13th and 14th of July at which time what is in the budget will be as it will.

He stated this item was for information only.
RANK GRIP-2

PROJECTS: City Manager Ramsey stated he got a call from Bill Loomis and he would like to have these Grip-2 projects ranked and the identification form turned in to him by tomorrow. He stated what they have done was give each Commissioner a sheet that has a list of some of the projects that have been mentioned and he would like to discuss those.

He stated that, as you know any type of transportation project maybe be identified for consideration for this Grip-2 project. He stated examples include local road projects, state and federal highway system improvements, aviation, safe routes to school projects, safety and enhancement projects, transit, and ADA related projects.

He stated the projects that have been mentioned so far, and these are just merely for your consideration, would be a transit project, paving of Morgan Street, Veater Street, and Riverside Drive. He stated they needed to rank these, one, two, three, and they are going to turn in three of the forms for consideration.

Mayor Rainey explained what the Grip-2 program was.

Commissioner Black stated she sees Riverside Drive on there and she certainly knows Riverside Drive needs a lot of work, but she thought they had other funds committed for the completion of Riverside Drive.

Mr. Ramsey stated they have funds committed, not for the completion but for the phase that’s going now and the next phase.

Commissioner Black asked if they were all completed?

Mr. Ramsey stated no.

Mayor Rainey stated once they get through this one, next years phase should complete it.

Mr. Ramsey stated it wouldn’t quite complete it. It will take two more.

Commissioner Stevenson stated he put Riverside Drive on there and he did it for several different reasons.

1. If they go ahead and do Riverside Drive with this money, not only would it free up the State Highway money that they could pave other streets with like Morgan and Veater. But if you will drive down that road it is a danger to drive down, it’s also a school bus road, and it’s also a road that senior citizens walk on, and he sees bicycle traffic on it. He would like to see Riverside Drive put also with some type of curbing or retainer on it all the way down at least to Arrowhead so that the road would not unravel on the edges like pavement does over the years and it would stay there for many, many years. They have promised these people for a long time they were going to pave it, and this looks like this would be a faster more complete way to do it and it would free up their highway money to do other paving projects they have in town. And since that road is a danger, is a school bus road, is a bicycle path, and is a hiking path he thinks it qualifies for this project.

Commissioner Black stated apparently there was a committee selected to select these things since Commissioner Stevenson mentioned he wanted to have Riverside Drive put on there, was there?

Commissioner Stevenson stated there was not a committee. He stated he walked in on his own when he read this and said this project would fit in this and he went in and told the City Manager that he thought this would be one for them to consider at tonight’s meeting.
Commissioner Black stated she brought to the last commission meeting the transit project for the Grip-2. She stated she brought it to the commission meeting because she thought the Commissioner's should vote on it or agree to it.

Commissioner Montgomery stated she noticed on the list for the Grip-2 projects it does list ADA projects. She asked if there was anything in town that's in dire need to meet ADA?

Mr. Ramsey stated he doesn't know of anything. He stated the street project a few years ago was an ADA project and pretty well addressed everything that he knows of.

Further discussion ensued on different possible projects.

Commissioner Montgomery asked how quickly the funds come down and if we apply and earmark the money accordingly if Riverside Drive gets approved do we continue with the State Highway money and just do that and if this money comes down and use it to finish Riverside, if that were the case.

Mr. Ramsey stated his suggestion would be to leave the present State Highway Improvement Coop Funds in place if you get this. He stated there was an article in the paper in Las Cruces, this is asking for 3.3 million dollars worth of roadwork under this program so if you ask for enough to finish Riverside Drive and were to get it then it would finish Riverside Drive. Then we could start allocating the coop funds in future years to other projects.

Commissioner Montgomery stated then her questions is if these funds don't come down expeditiously, if they don't come down quickly and we finish Phase 2 of Riverside Drive and then this is awarded, if it's more money than what you need to finish Riverside Drive can the money be used for additional roads or does it have to be...

Commissioner Renfro stated we could just add an amendment to the State Department of Transportation.

Mr. Ramsey stated that we don't know yet, there's a meeting in Socorro on July 12th and these are supposed to be at that meeting, and you're supposed to get more information.

Commissioner Montgomery stated there were no amounts on any of these, so is there an idea of what we would be asking for each one?

Mr. Ramsey stated if they pick and rank the ones you want, he will put an estimate on them tomorrow.

Further discussion ensued.

Commissioner Stevenson stated his priorities are Riverside Drive number one, Transit number two, Veater Street number three, and Morgan Street is number four.

Commissioner Montgomery stated her priorities are Riverside Drive is number one, Transit is two, Morgan Street is three, and four is Veater Street.

Commissioner Black stated her priorities are Riverside Drive is one, Transit is two, Morgan Street is three, and they could only do three so she has only three.

Commissioner Renfro stated her priorities are Riverside Drive is one, Transit is two, Morgan Street is three, and Veater would be fourth because of the fact that they would still be using...
Commissioner Stevenson stated he had no problem changing his three and four.

Mayor Rainey stated there was one other item that he had listed on his and that was the River Walk. He stated the River Walk was strictly an economic development tool.

Mayor Rainey stated the way it looks like Riverside Drive will be number one, Transit System number two, and Morgan Street number three.

"Commissioner Montgomery moved the Grip-2 Projects to consider in the order of one Riverside Drive repaving, two the Transit System and three is the Morgan Street repaving."

Seconded by Commissioner Black
Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
"Commissioner Black moved that the meeting be closed for Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel 10-15-1H (2) – City Manager Contract."

Seconded by Commissioner Montgomery
All responded Yes to a Roll Call Vote.
Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Rainey stated they would take a five-minute break and return to Closed Session.

MEETING OPENED:
"Mayor Rainey stated that the Commission was now in Open Session."

CERTIFICATION
"Commissioner Black certified that only matters pertaining to Personnel 10-15-1H (2) – City Managers Contract was discussed in Executive Session."

Seconded by Commissioner Renfro
Motion carried unanimously.

"Commissioner Stevenson moved that the City Attorney be authorized to fax the City Manager contract to Mr. Bercher and for a Special Meeting to be scheduled for July 5, 2005 at 8:30 A.M."

Seconded by Commissioner Renfro
Motion carried unanimously.

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

APPROVAL: PASSED AND APPROVED this 25th day of July, 2005 on motion duly made by Commissioner Stevenson, seconded by Commissioner Renfro and carried.

ATTEST:

MARY B. PENNER, CITY CLERK

JIMMY L. RAINLEY, MAYOR