CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
Tuesday, August 28, 2012

REGULAR 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 Regular Session in full conformity with the law and ordinances of said Commission in the Commission Chambers of said City, on Tuesday, August 28, 2012 at 6:00 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mulcahy 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. John Mulcahy, Mayor
Hon. Sandra Whitehead, Mayor Pro-tem
Hon. Steve Green, Commissioner
Hon. Jeff Richter, Commissioner

Also present:
Juan Fuentes, City Manager
Jay Rubin, City Attorney
Mary B. Penner, City Clerk

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

CEREMONY: Mayor Mulcahy called for fifteen seconds of Silent Meditation.

Mayor Mulcahy called for the Pledge of Allegiance with Commissioner Green leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

“Commissioner Green moved approval of the Agenda as submitted.”

Seconded by Commissioner Richter.

Mayor Mulcahy stated he would like to ask the Commissioners to address whether or not they think we should extract the Advisory Board minutes that include re-appointments and appointments so we can do like we did last time.

“Commissioner Green stated I was going to say that when we got to the Consent Calendar that we might take those individually, and put the others lumped together as one, and I agree with you that is the way it should be done.”

City Attorney Rubin – Good idea.
Seconded by Commissioner Whitehead. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ron Fenn came before the Commission with comments, consideration for re-appointment of Mr. Billy Howell for the Planning & Zoning Board. And that November 1st of last year I presented a 6 point document outlining violations by Mr. Howell of our Municipal Code…both zoning and sign code violations, also procedural deficiencies in his chairmanship of the Planning & Zoning. And provided information for the record.

Ms. Sophia Peron came before the Commission, and stated she agrees with Mr. Fenn, and remembers when she put in her application to the Planning & Zoning Board. And would like to say something about choosing another City Commissioner since we have a recall petition, and pointed out that was being promoted by one of the other sitting Commissioners…Mr. Steve Green.

Commissioner Green stated I believe I have a right to respond to that, and I would like to read an e-mail that I sent to my fellow Commissioners, and stated Ms. Peron sent out an e-mail that said something to the affect that Steve Green, and his wife Paula Green were promoting a City Commission recall petition for John Mulcahy at the Bountiful Alliance Community Garden table at the Farmer’s Market yesterday according to what I heard from a very reliable source…I did not witness the action, but I’m sending an IPRA to the City for a video…I’m not quite sure what that is about of Ralph Edwards Park Saturday, August 25th, 2012 8:30-11. And my response…As per Sophie Peron’s very reliable source, I categorically deny the allegation. The source was mistaken, blind, delusional or a bold face liar. For your information, I have never been nor am a board member of The Bountiful Alliance.

Mr. Gerald Trumbull came before the Commission, and I would like to thank City Manager Juan Fuentes for a timely and speedy response to our phone conversation yesterday.

He stated if you are going to consider item D-5…re-appointment to the Planning & Zoning Board, and had comments.

Mr. Hans Townsend came before the Commission, and would like to comment on D-6…Lodger’s Tax Advisory Board – Re-appointments to board, and re-appointments I take it there are no new names it’s only old names, and where is one of the old names is no longer eligible I don’t understand why it’s just re-appointments.

Ms. Wendy Sager-Evenson came before the Commission, and thanked them for sending more information about the meetings, and she feels there is an upgrade in communication. And wanted to speak about the appointment of a Commissioner, and as a voter she feels disrespected, and almost feels as the voting process doesn’t matter, and she would love it if it could get a lot less personal around here.

Mr. Mike Kertesz came before the Commission, and has a comment about Ms. Peron’s attack on Steve Green, and I think she is way off base, and that he supports Steve Green in most of the things he has done in this community.
Mr. Bill Buhler came before the Commission, and noticed on the Agenda in Closed Session discussion of the submission for the site by the City of T or C for the Welcome Center, and that he has heard a lot of positive comments about the location that has been chosen on the South Broadway Street.

Ms. Julie Durham came before the Commission, and stated she is a member of the Lodger’s Tax Board, and in response to Mr. Townsend’s comment…the consideration for new member appointment will be done in September, and he can check with the Clerk for that date, and at the last meeting was to re-appoint a currently sitting member so there would be a quorum in order for the board to proceed.


“Commissioner Green moved that we approve on the Consent Calendar, #1, #4, #3, and that the rest of the Consent Calendar we would take item by item, and vote on it.”

Seconded by Mayor Mulcahy.
Motion carried unanimously.

“Commissioner Green moved approval of the minutes of the Recreation Advisory Board of 8/7/12, and also their recommendation for the re-appointments of Ms. McLeod, and Ms. Wheeler.”

Seconded by Commissioner Whitehead.
Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Mulcahy asked…did the Planning & Zoning in the 8/7/12 minutes recommend the re-appointment of Billy Howell.

Ms. January Roberts member of the Planning & Zoning Commission came before the Commission, and stated it was decided that it wasn’t on our calendar to do that…and honestly we as Planning & Zoning don’t do that, and stated we appoint our chair, and co-chair or vice-chair.

Mayor Mulcahy stated we have a request by Mr. Howell under item 5 to be re-appointed to that board.

Commissioner Green stated Mr. Fenn referred to documents of November pertaining to certain questions, and I don’t ever remember getting that, and I would like to see what Mr. Fenn was referring to.

Commissioner Green suggested that we postpone this re-appointment, and that maybe he copy all the new Commissioners with these concerns, and since this is an obvious sensitive position, and as the City moves forward that he would like to see additional information.
Commissioner Whitehead stated she agrees with Commissioner Green.

Commissioner Richter…when does his appointment expire.

City Manager Fuentes for the Planning & Zoning Board still has 3 members…so there is a quorum if there is a need for a meeting.

“Commissioner Green moved to postpone the re-appointment of Billy Howell to the Planning & Zoning Commission, and that staff provide the Commission a copy of Mr. Fenn’s November 1, 2011 letter.”

Seconded by Commissioner Whitehead.
Commissioners Green/Whitehead & Mayor Mulcahy Voted – Aye
Commissioner Richter Voted – Nay
Motion carried 3-1

Lodger’s Tax Advisory Board – Re-appointment to Board –

“Commissioner Green moved approval of the re-appointment of Celeste Rich to the Lodger’s Tax Advisory Board.”

Seconded by Commissioner Whitehead.
Motion carried unanimously.

Public Arts Advisory Board – Re-appointment to Board –

“Commissioner Green moved approval the appointment of Mr. Eduardo Alicea to The Public Arts Advisory Board.”

Seconded by Commissioner Whitehead.
Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION/ACTION – PROCESS AND/OR APPOINTMENT TO FILL REMAINDER OF TERM OF VACANT COMMISSIONER POSITION –

This item has been discussed in the last several meeting in length by the Commission with repetitive comments and thoughts.

“Commissioner Green moved for the 3rd time nominated Mike Kertesz to fill out the balance of Commissioner Torres’s term.”

Seconded by Commissioner Whitehead.
Commissioners Green/Whitehead Voted – Aye
Commissioners Richter/Mulcahy Voted – Nay

City Manager Fuentes stated he provided information, and that Commissioner Whitehead submitted a memorandum to my office suggesting a process that could be used to select a Commissioner, and he cited a couple of sections of the State Statute that allows the Commission the discretion they see fit to fill this position, and the recommendation/suggestion by Mayor Pro-tem Whitehead calls for almost like a drawing of lot which is allowed in the State Statutes, and referred to 3-8-60…In an election where two candidates are
tied for a vote usually the method is determined by those candidates by drawing of lot or some sort agreed upon game of chance, and again that is allowed by State Statute, and it was a suggestion recommendation suggested.

Mayor Mulcahy stated I entertain this idea because that is how Hatch settled their election with a tie vote on one of their Commissioners. And I reached out to my constituents, and I talked about it…and I worked through this, and I looked at it, and frankly I thought this would be a great way to solve this problem…my constituents have told me…you better not…you better not because you’re really taking away our right to vote when you have a game of chance on this, and you pick a name out of a hat…then no one is responsible for that choice, and so I’ve had to reconsider my position on this particular matter.

He stated my constituents have come to me…a lot of them, and said you better have an election…and I want to have an election…it’s the right thing to do.

Commissioner Green stated I would not like to see an election, and thinks it’s just a waste of money.

Commissioner Whitehead stated I did suggest the draw of the hat, and that we need to get past this, and indicated we’re going nowhere. And that we’re still deadlocked…this is the 3rd Commission meeting…we need to go on appoint someone, and work for the community…get some things resolved.

Mayor Mulcahy stated I want the people to solve this.

City Manager Fuentes referred to Section 3-8-9…an election to be held within 42 days prior to a statewide General Election or within 30 days after the General special election so if we’re looking at the General Election being November 6th…30 days from that is December 6th, however if that is the will of the Commission the Clerk’s office would have to look at their calendar because of the publication requirements…looking at the calendar either December…as long as it within 42 days before the School Board election which is in February…so the window might be sometime in December.

Mayor Mulcahy…Commissioners I’m disappointed we can’t reach a consensus here.

“Mayor Mulcahy moved that we fulfill 3-14-9 Section B, and call for a special election at the earliest opportunity.”

Seconded by Commissioner Richter.
Commissioners Mulcahy/Richter Voted – Aye
Commissioners Green/Whitehead Voted – Nay

NEW BUSINESS: RECALL ELECTION PETITION – JOHN MULCAHY, MAYOR –

Mayor Mulcahy stated it appears tonight that the issue is surrounding my position on the replacement of this position…I don’t understand that exactly, but I accept that if in fact that is I haven’t seen the petition…I haven’t read it.
He stated he has listed some of the things that I have promoted with this Commission that we have in fact accomplished:

Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Program
Williamsburg Electrical Infrastructure Upgrade
Buckhorn/Youth Center Demolition
Billboards
Preservation Hot Springs
Water Storage Tank Project
Swimming Pool Bubble Project
Airport Improvements

And stated this Commission has moved forward, and that these…almost all issues left over from the prior Commission. And that these are a number of things that have been accomplished since the March Election, and very proud of the Commissions efforts in doing this.

Commissioner Green stated I think I’ve made myself perfectly clear about how I feel about a recall, and glad that you give the Commission as a whole credit for those because this is not driven by one individual. However I would like to once again compliment you on the Preservation of the Hot Springs, and I’m glad that you realize that some of these things started before you were Commissioner as well as Commissioner Richter and Commissioner Whitehead is was the follow over from the past Commission, and I don’t want to give the wrong impression that some of these things are only laid at the door step of this Commission, and that they were started under Mayor Montgomery, and the last Commission, and some of the final t’s and i’s dotted under this Commission.

Mayor Mulcahy stated I would hope Commissioners that no City funded or non-profit would be involved in the promotion of this petition.

DISCUSSION/ACTION – RESOLUTION #10-12/13 –
BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR FY 2012-2013 –

Ms. Linda Lanham, Finance Director came before the Commission to ask for approval of Resolution #10-12/13, and explained the summary of the proposed budget adjustments. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof.)

Commissioner Richter stated under the wastewater expenditures…what capital improvements are planning on being made…or have been made.

Ms. Lanham stated what they are planning on doing is they are increasing it by $50,000 for the odor control system.

City Manager Fuentes stated I believe the $50,000 is related to the Planning Grant that we received from the NMFA for the PER, and that NMFA provided $50,000, and stated the City matched that grant, and explained the funding was not closed until the PER was completed and submitted to NMED for approval, and now that we have the agreement in place we need to increase the budget.

“Commissioner Green moved approval of Resolution #10-12/13 in
the Revenue and Expenditure for FY 2012-2013.”

Seconded by Commissioner Whitehead.

Mayor Mulcahy responded Aye to a Roll Call Vote
Commissioner Whitehead responded Aye to a Roll Call Vote
Commissioner Green responded Aye to a Roll Call Vote
Commissioner Richter responded Aye to a Roll Call Vote

Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION/ACTION – RESOLUTION #11-12/13 – ADOPITION OF REQUIRED CDBG POLICIES –

Mr. Tony MacRobert, Planner with SCCOG came before the Commission to explain the required CDBG Policies that need to be adopted.

He stated we have four requirements - #1 – Is a Citizen Participation Plan, #2 – Fair Housing Plan, #3 – Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, and, #4 – Section 3 Plan, and indicated the Citizen Participation Plan – encourages citizen participation with particular emphasis on low and moderate income persons; outlines the objectives and plan to implement those objectives. The Fair Housing Plan – affirms commitment to further the efforts of Fair Housing which prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, leasing and financing of housing or land to be used for the construction of housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status or national origin. Residential anti-Displacement & Relocation Assistance Plan – certifies that it will replace all occupied and vacant occupiable low/moderate-income dwelling units demolished or converted to a use other than as a low/moderate income housing as a direct result of activities assisted with Housing and Community Development Funds. Section 3 Plan – encourages the use of small local businesses and the hiring of low income residents of the community. And stated based on that the SCCOG has done along with the NM Department of Finance is come up with one Resolution with the four requirements, however we do include the back-up documentation.

“Mayor Mulcahy moved to adopt Resolution #11-12/13 – Required CDBG Policies as described by Mr. MacRobert.”

Seconded by Commissioner Green.

Mayor Mulcahy responded Aye to a Roll Call Vote
Commissioner Whitehead responded Aye to a Roll Call Vote
Commissioner Green responded Aye to a Roll Call Vote
Commissioner Richter responded Aye to a Roll Call Vote

Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION/ACTION – RESOLUTION #12-12/13 – FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION –

Mr. MacRobert stated this is also combined with four Federal requirements with the first Resolution.

“Commissioner Green moved approval of Resolution #12-12/13 –
Fair Housing Resolution.”

Seconded by Commissioner Whitehead.

Mayor Mulcahy responded Aye to a Roll Call Vote
Commissioner Whitehead responded Aye to a Roll Call Vote
Commissioner Green responded Aye to a Roll Call Vote
Commissioner Richter responded Aye to a Roll Call Vote

Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION – COMMISSIONER GREEN – TOWN OF MESILLA, NM MARKETING PROGRAM –

Commissioner Green stated about a month ago I was in Mesilla, NM, and that he serves on a board with Mayor Nora Barraza.

He shared a brochure that consisted of a walking map of every single business which also listed events, and hours that the businesses are open what they serve what they do, and what type of business they have.

Commissioner Green stated he visited a shop, and spoke to the owner, and he said…tell me how did you guys do it how long did it take when did you start to see results…give me some hints here. And stated they don’t have a Chamber of Commerce, and that they have a business association of all these members, and they started with realizing that the traveling public travels on the weekend, and therefore if you want to capture some of that GRT you have to be open on the weekends, and that in commercial leases they require the businesses to be open on weekends.

He indicated there were a number of ways to approach future advertising, branding and marketing T or C, and urged the Commission and the community to look at similar options. And thanked them for the time for his presentation.

Mayor Mulcahy referred to their brochure, and that it was a terrific idea showing our downtown if we want to focus on that area.

REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER –

City Manager Fuentes stated he would like to address Mr. Gerald Trumbull’s request, and that he did have the opportunity to go visit the area where his home is located with our Fire Chief, and our water supervisor. And they looked at that area, and there are a couple of fire hydrants however in discussing the site we may have other issues that we certainly need to address, and even though Mr. Trumbull’s house maybe within 500’ of a fire hydrant we have a couple of other residences that are above him that do not have adequate fire protection, and that they are going to be looking at installing one, but the line that is servicing that area is a 4” line, and that it is not recommended that you have a fire hydrant, but at least it is something, and indicated that is not the only area that we have that issue, and we have that same issue in other parts of the City… so with that we’re gonna start looking at identifying those areas, and begin to hopefully allocate some funding that we can begin to replace all those lines, and what is recommended for a fire hydrant is 6” or bigger or 8” preferably.
He stated he wanted to update them on the Community Design Workshop that was held this last weekend for ideas, and public input on what they would like to see where the Youth Center was located, and that he would like to recognize the design team from NM Main Street. And present throughout the day was Mr. Bill Slettom Community Development Director, and one of our employees from the Utility Office, and Ms. Linda DeMarino from MainStreet, and stated there was big crowd, and what they lacked in quantity we received in quality by their input on what they would like to see for that site, and I’m sure that additional information, and proposed draft plans will be forth coming to the Commission.

City Manager Fuentes reported that the Village Of Williamsburg has decided to restructure their Fire Department, and have asked our T or C Fire Department to take over fire protection services, and stated we are in the process of developing a fire protection services agreement, and that it will be presented to them as well as to the Commission for adoption, and this will be a similar agreement that we currently have for police protection. And indicated that Fire Chief Tooley has been in touch with the State Fire Marshal, and that they will be working on that to get it resolved.

Commissioner Green asked would there be grant money available that we could apply for, and you mentioned Mr. Trumbull’s property and the property above him, and you eluded also there might be other places that need upgrading as well, and since we spent the money to get this software program to research grants would that not be advisable to do or maybe work with COG to see if we could isolate some money that’s out there that maybe we don’t have to foot this whole bill ourselves, and we can do what’s right for the citizens.

City Manager Fuentes stated we will be looking at funding sources for example the Water Trust board might be one source since they do provide a loan grant component for these types of projects, and that they are looking at all the different resources that are available to us to be able to address those issues.

CITY ATTORNEY – No report.

COMMISSIONERS –

Commissioner Richter stated he has been receiving calls from citizens concerning high rates of flood insurance from Morgan Street down by Whitehead Chevrolet…all that area clear to the River. And that several years ago there was an extensive flood control project done that was supposed to resolve…I think in a map amendment to where a lot of that area would be taken out of Zone A, and stated that hasn’t happened yet, and that the people that have called him, and stated they have a mobile home in that area, and that the flood insurance is $1,200.00 a year.

He stated he had a call from someone in the County…of course I can’t do anything for him, and that he is in Monticello Canyon, and that he was going to refi his existing mortgage, and that if you go with a lender that is federally insured…you have to buy flood insurance if in fact your property is in the (inaudible)…and to refi
his flood insurance premium was going to $12,000 (inaudible)…

Commissioner Richter stated he contacted Bill Slettom, and that they contacted the National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator in Albuquerque, and that they are going to be working on this program, and see if we can’t get a letter map amendment, and get some of these areas out of this flood zone.

Commissioner Green read an e-mail from our solid waste department, and thanked Leonard for this. We are now recycling…and now able to sell our hard drives, radios, car stereos, lap tops, rechargeable batteries, and other items, and stated the company took over the recycling business is located in Belen, and that they are purchasing all of these recyclables, and the business is called Wise Recycling, and have several businesses throughout the Albuquerque area as far as Belen, and that we received $210.00 of revenue rather than a cost to get rid of it, and would appreciate if we could e-mail this information to both newspapers…maybe as a public service announcement.

He stated we’ve talked about appointments to boards, and I want to know…my idea if the Commission thinks this is appropriate…would be to hold a bar-b-que for all those who volunteer to serve on City boards, and stated we do nothing for them, and would ask staff to research to see we could make this happen where it would be an annual event of appreciation of members who serve on City boards and their families, and I think it is the very least we can do.

Commissioner Whitehead – No report.

Mayor Mulcahy stated the design workshop that was held this past week-end was huge, and would like to encourage everybody…if you see information about this get involved as you can because it is a critical issue for us.

He stated at the invitation from the Mayor of Elephant Butte he would like to invite all the Commissioners, and that he needs some commitment to join them in their parade to represent the City of T or C on September 8th.

Mayor Mulcahy stated he spent the last couple of days with 45 legislators from State Government, and that these are people that make law, and he made a presentation, and that they debated a lot of issues. He stated they talked about the domestic wells because the State Engineer was here…and this was a water committee, and that they also talked about the Spaceport, and I saw the fight first hand…this was where Attorneys from both sides were there speaking to the legislature…and tough questions…tough issues about informed consent, and how important it is. He stated we as a community if we want the Spaceport to be a success need to get behind this legislation, and get that bill passed in January, and I’m gonna need the Commissions help to do that, and I’m also gonna need help of members from the community to go with me in January, and make a giant presence to let them know that there is a quarter of a billion dollars sitting out there in the desert in our County that was intended not so much for space but for economic development…40% of our children are below the poverty rate…that’s supposed to be helping us out there, and I want it to help us…and we need that legislation in order to do this, and that 5 other
States have done it.

Ms. Carole Wheeler came before the Commission, and spoke about the process of the Commissioners finding another Commissioner.

Mr. Ron Fenn came before the Commission, and stated this evening we had a presentation by the City Manager about the upcoming trash transfer…collection center.

Mr. Hans Townsend came before the Commission, and stated he had an e-mail from Mr. Mulcahy regarding events over the weekend.

Ms. January Roberts came before the Commission regarding Commissioner Green’s comments about the Town of Mesilla, and reported that she is doing some research about the Airport Overlay.

Ms. Linda DeMarino came before the Commission, and talked about the Community Design Workshop that was held. And updated the Commission about the billboards, and hand a handout for the Commission.

Mr. George Szigeti came before the Commission with comments regarding Commissioner Green’s presentation, and that a lot of what he said that they did in Mesilla have to deal with appearances.

Ms. Diane Lambardo came before the Commission, and spoke about beautification of T or C, and do something that is us…that’s Southwest…getting an identity.

Ms. Sophia Peron came before the Commission, and agrees with all the other speakers. And stated this town is a reactionary town, and that we are not pro-active. And thinks it is a great idea to have an election.

Mr. Ron Sullivan came before the Commission to speak about landfill issues.

“Mayor Mulcahy moved that the meeting be closed Executive Session pertaining to – a. Purchase, Acquisition or Disposal of Real Property 10-15-1H (8) 1. Related to – Property at 439 McAdoo, and – b. Purchase, Acquisition or Disposal of Real Property and/or Potential Litigation 10-15-1H (7) & (8) 1. Related to – NMSA Welcome Center.”

Seconded by Commissioner Green.

Mayor Mulcahy responded Aye to a Roll Call Vote
Commissioner Whitehead responded Aye to a Roll Call Vote
Commissioner Green responded Aye to a Roll Call Vote
Commissioner Richter responded Aye to a Roll Call Vote

Motion carried unanimously.

“Commissioner Green stated that the Commission was now in Open Session.”
“Commissioner Green certified that only matters pertaining to – a. Purchase, Acquisition or Disposal of Real Property 10-15-1H (8), 1. Related to Property at 439 McAdoo, and – b. Purchase, Acquisition or Disposal of Real Property and/or Potential Litigation 10-15-1H (7) & (8), 1. Related to NMSA Welcome Center, discussion ensued, and no vote was taken in Executive Session.”

“Commissioner Green stated I would like to make two motions, #1 as pertaining to in Executive Session – a. Related to – Property at 439 McAdoo moved to authorize staff to proceed to look into options per easement with the property at 439 McAdoo.”

Seconded by Commissioner Whitehead.
Motion carried unanimously.

At this time Commissioner Richter recused himself.

“Commissioner Green stated on item pertaining to Executive Session - b. #1 – Related to – NMSA Welcome Center moved to authorize staff and City Attorney to proceed with the letter of response pertaining to the site of the NMSA – Welcome Center, as per Mr. Jackson’s letter to the City.”

Seconded by Commissioner Whitehead.
Motion carried unanimously.

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

PASSED AND APPROVED this ________ day of ____________________, 2012 on motion duly made by Commissioner ___________________________, seconded by Commissioner ________________________, and carried.

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JOHN A. MULCAHY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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MARY PENNER
CITY CLERK