

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS 405 W. 3RD St.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

A. CALL TO ORDER :

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sandra Whitehead at 9:00 a.m., who presided and Renee Cantin, City Clerk-Treasurer, acted as Secretary of the meeting.

B. INTRODUCTION:

1. ROLL CALL

Upon calling the roll, the following Commissioners were reported present.

Hon. Sandra Whitehead, Mayor
Hon. Kathy Clark, Mayor Pro-Tem
Hon. Rolf Hechler, Commissioner
Hon. Paul Baca, Commissioner
Hon. George Szigeti, Commissioner

Also Present: Morris Madrid, City Manager
Renee Cantin, City Clerk-Treasurer

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

2. SILENT MEDITATION:

Mayor Whitehead called for fifteen seconds of silent meditation to include the anniversary of tomorrow for 9/11.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Whitehead called for Commissioner Hechler to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**Commissioner Hechler moved to approve the agenda as submitted.
Commissioner Szigeti seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

C. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 1. City Commission Regular Minutes, August 27, 2019**
- 2. Accounts Payable, August 2019**

**Commissioner Szigeti moved to approve Consent Calendar as noted.
Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

D. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Susan Brandt addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) She expressed her thoughts regarding the barricades that were recently placed at the Intersection of Foch and Main Street and spoke in support of Chief Aragon being our Chief of Police.
- 2) She expressed her thoughts about Erica Baker being in charge of the City of the T or C Police Department.

Steve Buckley addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) He Spoke on the behalf of two people he considers close friends who are the City Manager Madrid and Police Chief Aragon, and he spoke in support of Chief Aragon being our Chief of Police.

Stan Morton addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) He is a Student at Colorado State and mistakenly signed up for Comments from the Public.

Randall Lawson addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) He spoke in support of Chief Aragon being our Chief of Police.

Ron Pacourek addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) He thanked City Manager Madrid for last week's Town Hall Meeting.
- 2) He commented on the recent flooding at the T or C Golf Course.
- 3) He commented on the proposed Round-a-bouts on Date Street.

Susan Haefer, on behalf of the Sierra County SPARS, and the Animal Shelter volunteers addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) She spoke about Chief Aragon's support to have volunteers at the Animal Shelter and she also spoke in support of Chief Aragon being our Chief of Police.

Andy Underwood addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) He expressed his thoughts regarding the barricades that were recently placed at the Intersection of Foch and Main Street.

Diane Lombardo addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) She spoke in support of Chief Aragon being our Chief of Police.

Denise Addie addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) She spoke in support of Chief Aragon being our Chief of Police.

Hans Townsend addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) He spoke in support of Chief Aragon being our Chief of Police.

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Carole Wheeler, Corbett St. Dog Park Coordinator and member of the Animal Shelter group addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) She spoke in support of Chief Aragon being our Chief of Police.

Tom Smith addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) He had questions on why 6th Street was never paved when they paved Kruger Street.

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Whitehead responded to the following comments:

- She announced her appreciation for those who gave public comment today. She also reiterated that City Manager Madrid is the one who oversees Personnel issues and he is in charge of all of the city employees. She feels with his background and experience, he understands the process and will do whatever is in the best interest of the community, citizens and employees of the City of Truth or Consequences.

City Manager Madrid responded to the following comments:

- He addressed Ron Pacourek's comment regarding the Town Hall Meeting by saying one of the things discussed was our utility rate structure and he assured Mr. Pacourek that we will continue on that topic and he will make sure that the Public Utility Board is involved.
- The Kruger & 6th Street issue was brought up by Grant/Projects Coordinator & Designated Zoning Official Burnette and Streets Department Director Fuentes. Our budget has been approved by DFA so we can now start processing budget adjustments and hopefully get that resolved.

Commissioner Szigeti responded to the following:

- There are rumors going around about Chief Aragon so he would like to clarify that the Chief is on Administrative Leave at this time, but he has not been fired or anything else.

E. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING:

1. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 15 19/20 Adopting the ICIP for the Sierra Joint Office on Aging (SJOA):

City Manager Madrid explained that the Sierra Joint Office on Aging is required to submit their own ICIP and since their funding is through the city, we are required to sanction it. This is to show that we are in agreement and we sanctioned the plan that they have.

Grant/Projects Coordinator & Designated Zoning Official Burnette added the Department of Finance wants Municipalities to support the SJOA on their projects. When we did a tour of their building we realized there are several issues with that

building and we wanted to collaborate with them on the city's ICIP. We are not required to rank their items. We just have to show we are in support of it.

SJOA Interim Director Crystal Walton gave an overview of the process they have been through so far in relation to this item. The ICIP approval is an important part for them to be eligible for funding. She proposed the following projects for their ICIP:

- Phase 1: Remodel their existing building.
- Phase 2a: Building addition (included as Exhibit A in agenda packet).
- Phase 2b: Construct a new building (included as Exhibit B in agenda packet).
- Replacement of a Home Delivered Meals truck.
- Replacement of a wheelchair van that has a heavy duty lift, to accommodate for electric wheelchairs.
- Replacement of the H-VAC systems in the event that SJOA does not receive the funding for the first phase of our large building project.

Commissioner Baca moved to approve Resolution No. 15 19/20 supporting the ICIP for the Sierra Joint Office on Aging (SJOA). Mayor Pro-Tem Clark seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 16 19/20 Authorizing and approving submission of a completed application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority Water Trust Board for Water Booster Station improvements and designating signatory authority for related documentation:

Grant/Projects Coordinator & Designated Zoning Official Burnette explained that the Water Trust Board cycle has opened up and we've submitted a notice of intent for an application. We are requesting \$540,000 for the design and construction of the Booster Pump Station on Morgan Street and Cielo Vista. The Cook Street Pump Station is mentioned within our PER for USDA funding, but we still need to take care of our Booster Stations to ensure we have consistent operation, and eliminate any failure of our distribution lines due to the current conditions. NMFA requires approval by the City Commission before any applications are submitted. The award will be in May of 2020 and then it would come back before the Commission for review and approval.

Commissioner Szigeti moved to approve Resolution No. 16 19/20 authorizing and approving submission of a completed application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority Water Trust Board for Water Booster Station improvements with the amended the funding year, and designating signatory authority to City Manager Madrid for related documentation. Mayor Pro-Tem Clark seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion/Action: Ordinance 707 for publication amending the Uniform Traffic Ordinance (UTO):

City Manager Madrid explained that this Ordinance is updated each year according to changes in the law made by the New Mexico State Legislature. We are required to incorporate those changes into our code and the redlined version provided includes those changes.

City Attorney Rubin reviewed the specific changes in the redlined version included in the agenda packet.

Commissioner Hechler moved to approve Ordinance 707 for publication amending the Uniform Traffic Ordinance (UTO) with the changes recommended. Commissioner Szigeti seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

F. REPORTS:

City Manager Madrid reported the following:

- He attended the Municipal League Annual Conference and he was in quite a few of the City Manager and Finance related sessions. In one of those sessions he learned we may not have used the full amount of Gross Receipts Tax that we have available. He will be reviewing that in the next few months.
- We are having an Engineer come in and give an assessment on how we can address the flooding issue at the Golf Course (long term) without spending millions of dollars. Once the assessment has been completed, he will report it to the Golf Course Advisory Board and to this Commission.

City Attorney Rubin reported the following:

- None.

Commissioner Szigeti reported the following:

- AmeriGreen Organics, a company headquartered in Santa Fe, wants to open their first Hemp Growing Facility in all of the available space in the Shopping Center from where Bealls used to be all the way to the US Forest Service. They will be working on the negotiations for that space and if that happens, it could be a major boost for our economy.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark reported the following:

- None.

Commissioner Hechler reported the following:

- None.

Commissioner Baca reported the following:

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- He asked if we could look into hiring a contractor to assist with the Water and Wastewater Department improvements.

City Manager Madrid responded we are in the process of getting quotes for a contractor on an emergency basis. We are also in the process of hiring at least three more temporary workers so they can get us caught up and get ready for the winter.

Mayor Whitehead reported the following:

- The National Christmas Tree will be coming through our community on November 13th & 14th and she is hoping we can get everybody involved to make it a big event.
- She reminded everyone that the next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 25th at 9:00 a.m. and there will not be any public comment at that meeting, but Mr. Madrid will have his Town Hall Meeting at 6:00 p.m. here in the City Commission Chambers.

G. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. Real Property (various properties) *Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.8)*
2. Limited Personnel Matters Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2):

Commissioner Baca moved to approve going into executive session at 10:10 a.m. to discuss Real Property (various properties) *Pursuant to 10-15-1.H (8) and Limited Personnel Matters, pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2)*. Commissioner Szigeti seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Whitehead reconvened the meeting in open session at 11:18 a.m.

Commissioner Szigeti stipulated that only matters pertaining to Real Property (various properties), *pursuant to 10-15-1.H(8) and Limited Personnel Matters, pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2)* was discussed in Executive Session and no action was taken.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark left the meeting at 11:19 a.m.

**L. ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION, if any.
ADJOURNMENT:**

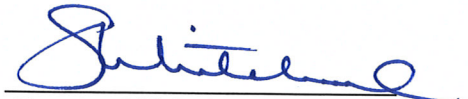
Commissioner Szigeti moved to proceed with sale of property discussed. Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Motion carried by a vote 4-0.

M. ADJOURNMENT:

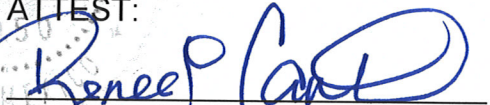
Mayor Whitehead adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Passed and Approved this 25th day of September, 2019.

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Sandra Whitehead, Mayor

ATTEST:


Renee L. Cantin, CMC, City Clerk