

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3RD St.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 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.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**Mayor Pro-Tem Clark moved to approve the agenda as amended.
Commissioner Szigeti seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

C. PRESENTATIONS:

1. Presentation related to an update on the Parks Department improvements. O.J. Hechler, Parks Department Manager:

Parks Manager Hechler gave an update on the improvements to the Felts Field and Sports Complex which included painting of the announcer stand, painting of the canopy and replacement of the fencing at the Sports Complex.

Mr. Gary Whitehead said he is humbled they asked him to be a part of this project. He was the spokesperson for a group of people in the community who made contributions in honor of Dr. Felts. They invested a little over \$13,000 in this project. They paid a little over \$3000 for the painting, and they also helped support the fencing project by providing \$9,800. Parks Manager Hechler managed this as a city project. We only provided the funding portion. He is hoping the Commission will find a way to support future improvements so they can perhaps one day make this eligible for a little league project.

Parks Manager Hechler received word that we have been awarded \$51,000 for the new sprinkler system at Ralph Edwards Park.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark, Mayor Whitehead thanked him for his efforts.

City Manager Madrid is also very happy with his performance. He added we will have to incorporate the match and he's already started the cost estimates.

2. Presentation related to New Spaceport Visitor Center. Randy Ashbaugh, Requestor:

Mr. Ashbaugh gave his presentation on a new facility on the north side of town. The Spaceport Visitor Center for the north end of town is completely designed and could go to bid tomorrow morning. He is proposing that the Visitor Center be built on his vacant 6 acre tract of land located by Walmart. There are 25,000 to 50,000 people who travel the highway a day, and it would be a tremendous exposure for the Visitor Center to be built in that location. He is here today to encourage the city to get behind his idea.

Mayor Whitehead announced there will be a few changes in June. The first meeting of the month we will have public comment and response to public comment. The second meeting there will not be public comment, but there will be a Town Hall meeting at 6:00 p.m. with Mr. Madrid. You can bring your comments and concerns to him and he will report them during the first meeting in July. Again, this will be a trial to see how it works out, and if it does work the change will be included in our Rules of Procedures. And if it does not, we will go back to the way it is now.

D. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Hans Townsend, Desert View Inn and Chamber of Commerce addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) Some of Mr. Ashbaugh's comments are very accurate. This is one of the nicest places you can find. There are so many prospects for bringing people here. We have so much water and so many things that we do not make use of the way we should. We don't expand things the way we should, and we don't use money to bring in more money. We just ride along and that's not working. Las Cruces is "eating our lunch" as far as the Spaceport is concerned. We're getting nothing out of it. Spaceport is going to Las Cruces with everything and it's sad because we're closer, and we have a lot more to offer if we would only put the right packet

out there, and show people what we have. As far as having the Spaceport by the freeway, it will make the downtown area die. We are lucky we have the Brewery, but we should be concentrating on the downtown and making that attractive. When people go into town they spread out into the other places anyway. We could put something along the freeway that says Spaceport America with signs to go downtown. You've got space downtown to make parking if you'd like, and we've got buildings down there that need to be used. We need to concentrate on blowing up our downtown and making it a real place to visit, and a place to be, but it needs thought, imagination, and money. We need to spend money in the right way to build things and attract things. He came here and invested in his business because he saw that Spaceport was coming. This County put in their tax money just like Dona Ana did, but we are losing out. Every time something advances, it goes there because we are not pushing hard enough and we are not putting forward a plan that asks people to see what we are, and what we can offer. We need to make a package that really shows those people from Spaceport that we have a lot more to offer than Las Cruces, because Las Cruces is a city, and there is not a lot down there except for stores. If you want something special, we've got it, and we need to show what we've got.

Linda DeMarino addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) The Downtown Hall Meeting is tomorrow at the Lee Belle Johnson Center at 6:00 p.m. They will be rolling out the most recent plans for the Foch Street Renovation Project, as well as get public input on issues affecting the downtown area, like live/work spaces, vacancies, and national chains in the downtown area.

Marilyn Pope, Geronimo Springs Museum addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) The Geronimo Springs Museum is open 7 days a week, and they offer programs, tours, and so on. She has worked at the museum three different times, and this is the first time she can look at the entire City Commission and know that everyone on here is familiar with the museum. Commissioner Baca is probably too familiar because he has an aunt and a mother who are very involved, and he probably hears about it more than he wants to. She wanted to bring up youth sports. Sometimes when people get in arguments they are nasty and mean, and she wants to say to them "have you ever played on a team?" She thinks sponsoring team work in our community will help us for the future, and it will help keep kids off the streets and away from drugs. She doesn't think there is anything we can do for our community that will be more positive.

Ron Pacourek addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) He spoke about the Roundabouts at the last meeting and he feels like NMDOT is trying to sell us a bill of goods. He heard a report at the PUAB meeting from Electric Department Director Easley who said he has the preliminary layout for where he has to move the electric poles. Who is going to pay for those poles to be moved, because there was no mention of any infrastructure during the Roundabouts presentation? He doesn't think it is the right thing for our community.

- 2) He was watching 60 Minutes, and they talked about a little town of 12,000 people who got hacked. The hacker got into their computer system and locked it down. They would only unlock the system if the town paid them \$5 million dollars. He feels like this is something we need to be proactive about, and we should maybe look into some sort of Ransomware insurance.

E. RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark had a conversation with Linda DeMarino about the Downtown Hall meeting, and downtown is part of the entire community and everyone is invited.

Mayor Whitehead thanked everyone for their comments. She explained that City Manager Madrid's door is always open. He is always accepting phone calls and would be happy to meet with you to resolve any issues, concerns, or questions you may have.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. **City Commission Regular Minutes, May 8, 2019.**
2. **Acknowledge the Lodger's Tax Advisory Board Minutes for the January 31st and February 7th, 2019 Special Meetings.**
3. **FY19 Lodger's Tax funding 3rd Quarter Reports.**
4. **Approve the Lodger's Tax Advisory Board recommendation to amend the Lodger's Tax 2018/2019 Budget for Sierra County Arts Council.**

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

G. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING:

1. **Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 43 18/19 amending and restating Resolution No. 37 18/19 adopted on April 24, 2019 approving the Drinking Water Revolving Loan (DWRL) Application (DW-4794) for the purpose of financing the costs of replacing high risk water lines identified in the Asset Management Plan. City Manager Madrid:**

City Manager Madrid reviewed Resolution No. 43 18/19 noting that the Commission previously approved the Resolution related to this Drinking Water Revolving Loan Application. However, in the loan application and agreement we referred to a Joint Utility Fund, and the language should have been specific to name Water, Wastewater and Electric, so that each Enterprise Fund is named and identified separately. In order to make that adjustment in the language we need a new resolution, and that requires a change in the timeline. There will be no additional changes to the application, and the terms and conditions will remain the same.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark moved to approve Resolution No. 43 18/19 amending and restating Resolution No. 37 18/19 adopted on April 24, 2019 approving the Drinking Water Revolving Loan (DWRL) Application (DW-4794) for the purpose of financing the costs of replacing high risk water lines identified in the Asset

Management Plan. Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Discussion/Action: Request for approval of the recommendation from the Recreation Advisory Board related to a mural on the Dog Park Wall and Dog Park Walkway for ADA Accessibility and safety. Greg D'Amour, Recreation Advisory Board Chair:**

Chairman Greg D'Amour stated that the Dog Park is a happening place, and there is a wall that used to be part of the Old Fire Station. An idea popped up for the wall to be painted with a mural which would be called The Bonner Memorial Wall. They have a foundation who gives money to the Dog Park for different things, and they agreed to fund the mural and its entirety.

Ms. Carole Wheeler said the foundation still wants each area to have in-ground water, but OJ needs about two more people on his crew before we can do that and maintain it properly. She suggested a mural be painted on the white wall, and the foundation liked that idea. They contacted a local artist and he offered three paintings that will be sent to the foundation for their approval.

Mr. D'Amour said this being city property, they weren't sure what the process would be.

Parks Manager Hechler said his only concern would be that it be approved ahead of time.

Commissioner Hechler said because of his knowledge of the demands for the Parks Dept. at this time of year, he recommended that City Manager Madrid put together a Wolf Pack to help move the project along.

Ms. Wheeler mentioned in order for the dog park to be used on a daily basis there would really need to be another service gate between the single use area and the large dog area.

Commissioner Szigeti also brought to their attention the house next door which is not pleasant to look at.

Chairman D'Amour announced part two of the project is making it ADA Accessible.

Carole Wheeler reported they would also like to see a dog water fountain.

City Manager Madrid does not believe the issues brought forward today require action by the Commission and the requests can be handled administratively. The Commission agreed and proceeded with the next item presented.

- 2. Discussion/Action: Lodger's Tax Funding Allocations for Fiscal Year 2019/2020. City Manager Madrid/Jake Foerstner, LTAB Chairman:**

City Manager Madrid began by giving some background on the process. He understands that the board would like to see the advertising and marketing go more toward digital and media, and he feels that change will be in next year's round of applications, and it should be a good thing. There was a lot of discussion on the allocations and keeping 20% of the funding, and they only held about \$1,600-\$1,800. He then read the recommendation which he agrees with as the following:

Chamber of Commerce of T or C & Sierra County	\$12,000
Geronimo Springs Museum	\$10,000
MainStreet Truth or Consequences	\$11,600
Sierra County Arts Council	\$ 5,000
T or C Fiesta	\$ 4,000
Veteran's Memorial Park/Museum Trust Board	<u>\$ 2,825</u>
Total Allocations	\$45,425

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark asked the agencies who were funded to be sure to look at the 75%-25% ratio of the advertising.

Mr. Hans Townsend mentioned that the 75%-25% ratio of advertising is being expressed as spending 75% of the money outside of the community, and spending 25% of the money in the community, and that doesn't make sense. We need to make the affect outside of here and bring people to the community, and sometimes you'll spend the money here in order to do that. With Spaceport coming up, we need to put stuff out there that is more attractive to people because we don't get anything from Spaceport unless we ask for it, and we're going to lose out unless we do something about it.

Linda DeMarino agrees with Mr. Townsend that it would be nice to have more money to spend on T or C. They are planning on doing a general brochure to highlight the assets that are here. MainStreet is really enjoying digital marketing and they find that you are able to target people looking for travel.

LaRena Miller explained what the Geronimo Trails Scenic Byway Center uses for the distribution. Anyone who calls or stops by receives the information on the whole area for the potential possibility of future visits. They also have a person who does direct online marketing for them.

Kim Skinner mentioned that the \$70,000 was brought in when Monique Jacobson was the representative of the New Mexico Tourism Department. Monique required that they do new branding which is called New Mexico True. T or C, Sierra County, and Elephant Butte are New Mexico True communities, and in order to do that you have to be registered with them and follow their stringent guidelines. When they implemented the guidelines, the City of T or C was doing the 79% but unfortunately most of the people here could not follow the guidelines. 100% of everything that our Tourism Board does has to be pre-approved in Santa Fe by the Tourism Department before we can put it on our website, use it on Facebook or put it on an ad online or in a magazine.

Marilyn Pope wanted to add, the advertising she does with El Paso and Ft. Bliss always includes digital ads.

Hans Townsend stated that the most important brochure in this town is the Hot Springs brochure that gives people a map of where the Hot Springs are, and where they can go to soak. We had been without a copy of that brochure for a year, so he corresponded with Kim Skinner, made some needed updates, and sent off for the brochure, and within a week we had brochures distributed. Those are the things you don't see that costs us money.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark moved to approve the following:

Chamber of Commerce of T or C & Sierra County	\$12,000
Geronimo Springs Museum -	\$10,000
MainStreet Truth or Consequences	\$11,600
Sierra County Arts Council	\$ 5,000
T or C Fiesta	\$ 4,000
Veteran's Memorial Park/Museum Trust Board	\$ 2,825
Total Allocations	\$ 45,425

Commissioner Szigeti seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager reports:

City Manager Madrid reported the following:

- City Manager Madrid reported, although he does have an open door policy he will not be available this week due to budgets.
- He read a letter he received from Sharon VanGelder. The letter was complimenting Walter who operates the Street Sweeper and the beautiful job he did cleaning up the dirt and gravel that had been accumulating for some time on Arrowhead Road. The letter also thanked Walter's boss who is Benny Fuentes. We appreciate when the public recognizes when good things happen.

City Commission Reports:

Commissioner Szigeti reported the following:

- He went for a ride along with the TCPD and he expressed his appreciation with everything they do.
- He went to the meeting for Opioid Abuse and Prevention and it was very informative. There is a great group of people who are looking at these issues and we are getting recognition at the state level for our efforts in that area. There is so much going on in this area that seems to slip by the general attention of the public. He also suggested that the city commission maintain a presence in this group and volunteered to be the commission's representative.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark reported the following:

- She thanked the City Clerk and Clerk's Offices for putting together the luncheon. It was also a real delight to see some local organizations who took time to recognize the Police Department and what they do.

Mayor Whitehead reported the following:

- She congratulated the Class of 2019 who graduated on Friday and the Commission wishes them well. She also thanked the Water Department who had handled the water leak very well. She also wished everyone a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. Real Property (Various Properties) *Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.8)*
2. Litigation (HSLD) *Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7):*

Commissioner Baca moved to approve going into executive session at 10:45 a.m. to discuss Real Property (Various Properties) Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.8); and Litigation (HSLD) Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7). Commissioner Hechler seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Whitehead reconvened the meeting in open session at 11:38 a.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark certified that only matters pertaining to Real Property (Various Properties) Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.8); and Litigation (HSLD) Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7) was discussed in Executive Session and no action was taken.

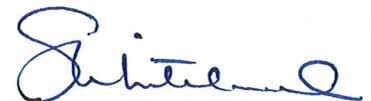
**L. ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION, if any.
ADJOURNMENT:**

In both cases negotiations will continue.

M. ADJOURNMENT:

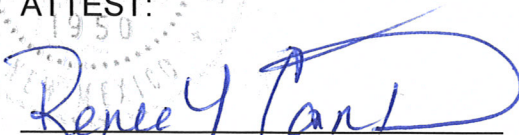
Commissioner Szigeti moved to adjourn at 11:39 a.m. Commissioner Hechler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Passed and Approved this 12 day of June, 2019.



Sandra Whitehead, Mayor

ATTEST:


Renee L. Cantin, CMC, City Clerk