

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3RD St.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sandra Whitehead at 9:00 a.m., who presided and Angela A. Torres, 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. Paul Baca, Commissioner
Hon. Randall Aragon, Commissioner
Hon. Brendan Tolley, Commissioner
Hon. Amanda Forrister, Commissioner

Also Present: Morris Madrid, City Manager
Angela A. Torres, 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 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Baca moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Tolley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. RE-ORGANIZATION: SELECTION OF A MAYOR AND MAYOR PRO-TEM:

Commissioner Baca made a motion to nominate Sandra Whitehead to remain Mayor of the City of Truth or Consequences. Commissioner Baca stated that his reasoning behind his nomination is due to the fact that Ms. Whitehead has been

working with Mr. Madrid in dealing with different things related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. **Commissioner Tolley seconded the motion.**

Commissioner Forrister made a new motion to nominate Commissioner Tolley to serve as Mayor of the City of Truth or Consequences. Motion died due to lack of a second.

Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer on the nomination of Sandra Whitehead continuing to serve as Mayor of the City of Truth or Consequence.

**Hon. Paul Baca voted aye
Hon. Brendan Tolley voted aye
Hon. Sandra Whitehead voted aye
Hon. Amanda Forrister voted nay
Hon. Randall Aragon voted aye**

Motion carried with a 4-1 vote.

Mayor Whitehead made a motion to nominate Brendan Tolley to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem for the City of Truth or Consequences. Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

C. PRESENTATION:

- 1. Presentation of a Proclamation to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Truth or Consequences:**

Mayor Whitehead read the Proclamation for the First Baptist Church 100th Anniversary.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 1. Acknowledgement of March 3, 2020 Municipal Officer Election Canvass**
- 2. City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes, February 26, 2020**
- 3. City Commission Emergency Meeting Minutes, March 24, 2020**
- 4. Accounts Payable, February 2020**
- 5. Accounts Payable, March 2020**

Commissioner Baca moved to approve the Consent Calendar as noted. Mayor Pro-Tem Tolley seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk- Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

E. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING:

1. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 30 2019/2020 Juvenile Adjudication Fund (JAF) Grant Teen Court:

City manager Madrid explained that this is an ongoing program and the Resolution is a requirement by the funding entity to show that the Governing Body endorses the program and we will act as the fiscal agent for the program.

Commissioner Aragon moved to approve Resolution No. 30 2019/2020 for the Juvenile Adjudication Fund (JAF) Teen Court Grant. Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 31 2019/2020 approving the acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Audit:

City Manager Madrid explained that our annual audit has been completed, accepted into the record, and approved by the State Auditor. It is a requirement that the local government approves and accept the audit as presented.

Chris Garner, Pattillo, Brown & Hill, presented a summary of the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Audit and the four findings that were resolved.

City Manager Madrid explained the reasoning behind the findings and how they were resolved.

Commissioner Forrister moved to approve Resolution No. 31 2019/2020 approving the acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Audit. Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

F. REPORTS:

City Manager Madrid reported the following:

- He congratulated the Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem, and stated that he looks forward to working with them.
- He updated the Commissioners on the budget preparation for the upcoming fiscal year.
- He has been sending out weekly updates to the Commissioners since we have not been able to meet, and that is something that will continue.
- He explained that today's agenda is very short due to the limited interaction with the public, and our handling of only essential items. He would like the Commission to consider consolidating the two meetings into one monthly meeting.

City Attorney Rubin reported the following:

- He congratulated Newly Elected Officials Aragon, Tolley and Forrister and he looks forward to working with them. He stated that he also enjoys working with Mayor Whitehead and Commissioner Baca. He feels that we will have a good Commission going forward.

City Commission Reports:

Commissioner Aragon reported the following:

- He is honored to be in this position, and he believes that he will assist the Commission in making good things happen for the City.
- The vote for the Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem was a challenging decision. He and his fellow Newly Elected Officials met before they became Commissioners, and they talked about how their constituents voiced to them that they want a change in legislative leadership. Right now we are in the middle of a Pandemic, and changing the leadership during this period is not a meritorious idea, and therefore, that influenced his decision.
- He recommended that they go to one Commission Meeting during the day and one in the evening.
- He asked that City Manager Madrid brief the Commission with quarterly budget reviews.

Mayor Pro-Tem Tolley reported the following:

- He reinforced what Commissioner Aragon said about the request to change at least one of our monthly meetings to the evening because we need to make ourselves more accessible to our general public.
- He has been receiving emails and comments about our local small business owners dealing with financial catastrophe going on right now. He understands that we are in the middle of a Pandemic, and our Governor has more access to resources than we do. However, he thinks that we need to consider sometime in the near future joining with the Sierra County Commission, or doing something similar to request some sort of time table of re-phasing our small business openings before our community goes belly up.

Commissioner Forrister reported the following:

- She concurred with Commissioner Aragon's comments regarding her vote to nominate Brendan Tolley as Mayor. Her vote was based off of what she has been hearing from her constituents. She is trying to do the best for our community.
- She also concurred with Mayor Pro-Tem Tolley's comments regarding doing something similar as the County, and asking the Governor to follow the New Mexico Business Coalition Recommendation. She would like for that to be added to an agenda as an action item. She received a petition to open some of our small businesses from citizens, business owners, and churches of Truth or Consequences because they are feeling the devastating effects of the shutdown.

Commissioner Baca reported the following:

- He congratulated the three Newly Elected Officials, and stated that he looks forward to working with them.

Mayor Whitehead reported the following:

- She thanked the residents for staying at home. Sierra County has zero (0) confirmed cases at this time, so what we are doing out there in our community seems to be working. She then thanked our city employees, law enforcement, hospital, and small businesses for following this order by the Governor. She also receives emails and calls, and she knows that we are in a crisis at getting back into the realm of businesses before we completely go into a ghost town, and she doesn't want that to happen. Although, the order has been set to the 30th of April, she hopes that the community and businesses can adhere to that. She would also like to make sure that we go into a soft opening and take our time in doing things properly. We live in a community with the majority of seniors, and we have to protect our community. When the task force was first formed, they asked City Manager Madrid to put together a plan of how we are going to go back into operation possibly on the 1st of May.

M. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Baca moved to adjourn at 10:02 a.m. Mayor Whitehead seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Passed and Approved this 13th day of May, 2020.



Angela A. Torres, CMC, City Clerk

Sandra Whitehead, Mayor