

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3RD St.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021

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. Amanda Forrister, Mayor Pro-Tem
Hon. Paul Baca, Commissioner
Hon. Randall Aragon, Commissioner
Hon. Frances Luna, Commissioner

Also Present: Traci Alvarez, Acting 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 called for Commissioner Luna to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Luna moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ron Fenn virtually addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- (1) He feels that the Commissioners are not representing the public.
- (2) He commented on the city's accounts payable, and the city's spending habits which included the purchase of city vehicles, and his thoughts about Marto Electric installing two poles at the city golf course. He feels that the job could have been done by city personnel.

Ariel Dougherty virtually addressed the Commission with various comments. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

D. RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commissioner Luna responded to the following comments:

- **Ron Fenn's comments regarding the purchase of city vehicles:** The vehicle mentioned was budgeted, and approved by the Commission.
- **Ariel Dougherty's comments regarding mis-representation of men and women on our city boards:** We invite all public members to apply to serve on our boards, and we do not select based on race, creed, color, or sex. If you want more women on these boards, get more women to apply.
- **Ron Fenn's comments regarding the Commission not representing him:** We hear you, and we represent you. You are represented probably more than the rest of the public. The thing that should be remembered is that it's a silent majority that they are elected to represent.

Commissioner Aragon responded to the following comments:

- **Ariel Dougherty's comments regarding the trip charge:** The Public Utility Advisory Board will be working on possibly lowering the trip charge in the future.

Mayor Whitehead thanked everyone for their public comment. She knows that some may feel that they are not being heard, but as Commissioner Luna stated, you are represented by all of us and we do listen and appreciate your comments.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. **City Commission Special Minutes, March 23, 2021**
2. **City Commission Regular Minutes, March 24, 2021**
3. **City Commission Special Minutes, April 1, 2021**
4. **Acknowledge Regular Lodgers Tax Advisory Board Minutes, January 26, 2021**
5. **Acknowledge Regular Planning & Zoning Minutes, February 1, 2021**
6. **Acknowledge Regular Airport Advisory Board Minutes, March 2, 2021**
7. **Accounts Payable, March 2021**

Commissioner Luna moved to approve the consent calendar as submitted. Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

F. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING:

1. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 37 20/21 approving the acceptance of the 2019/2020 Audit:

Chris Garner, Patillo, Brown, & Hill, LLP gave a presentation on 2020 Audit Results. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

Commissioner Aragon moved to approve Resolution No. 37 20/21 approving the acceptance of the 2019/2020 Audit. Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion/Update: Airport Services Update:

Chad Rosacker, Contracted Airport Manager gave an Airport Overview and Manager Introduction presentation. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

2. Discussion/Action: Re-Appointment of Christopher O'Rourke to the Truth or Consequences Housing Authority Board:

City Clerk Torres explained that the Truth or Consequences Housing Authority Board is requesting the re-appointment of Christopher O'Rourke to serve as the Resident Commissioner on their board. They advertised for the position back in October of last year, but they did not receive any responses for consideration. Mr. O'Rourke has agreed to serve another term as the Resident Commissioner, the recommendation has been made by the Housing Authority Board, and now it is before today for final approval.

Commissioner Luna made a motion to re-appoint Christopher O'Rourke to serve another term on the Truth or Consequences Housing Authority Board. Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion/Action: Appointment of Michael Hogg to the Planning & Zoning Commission:

City Clerk Torres explained that we have two vacant positions on our Planning & Zoning Commission. The two vacant positions have been advertised and Mr. Hogg is the only applicant who has submitted their application to serve on the board. On April 5, 2021

the Planning & Zoning Commission made a recommendation for Mr. Hogg to serve as a member on the board, and now it is before you for final approval.

Commissioner Luna made a motion to appoint Michael Hogg to serve a member on the Planning & Zoning Commission. Commissioner Aragon seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion/Action: Appointment of Committee Members to coordinate the 2021 Fiesta Event:

Commissioner Luna explained that this is not a formal board, but we want to get the blessing of the Commission as to who will be spearheading this year's Fiesta Event. One thing mentioned in public comment indicated that city staff did not have any hours in our previous Fiestas, and that is absolutely beyond comprehension. The city has been involved in the Fiesta events for decades. Their involvement includes everything from hanging the banners, welcoming people, blocking off the streets, the Police Officers participating in the parade, and monitoring the road blocks, staff bringing the trash cans, and picking them up, and staff making sure the bathrooms downtown were clean. This is a city event. That's why she asked the Commission to authorize the city to make this happen.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister made a motion to appoint Rolf Hechler, Buddy Montoya, Eric Downs, OJ Hechler, Angela A. Torres, and Frances Luna as the planning committee member for the 2021 Fiesta Event. Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion/Update: Fiesta Events Update:

OJ Hechler, Director of Community Services gave an update of the Fiesta 2021 events and reviewed the schedule. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

6. Discussion/Update: Electric Vehicle Charging Stations:

Bo Easley, Electric Division Director gave a presentation regarding the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. (Complete copy of event schedule attached hereto and made a part hereof).

The Commission noted, since there is already an RFP for the Electric Vehicle Charging Station, city staff can move forward with the process. However, they would like to be made aware of these types of things in the future. They also suggested the city staff go with a level 3 charging station.

H. REPORTS:

Acting City Manager Alvarez reported the following:

- She reported that she will be out of the office Thursday, April 22nd and Friday, April 23rd.

City Attorney Rubin had no reports.

City Commission Reports:

Commissioner Baca had no reports.

Commissioner Luna reported the following:

- The Miss Fiesta contest will be Friday, April 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Center. The event will be sponsored by the T or C Rotary Club, and there are 4 young ladies who are competing and working hard on this event. The cover fee is \$5.00 at the door so please bring your mask and come and enjoy the event.
- The Sierra County Economic Development Organization (SCEDO) meeting will be Monday at 5:00 p.m. in the Civic Center. It will be an organizational meeting that will talk about goals, bi-laws, committees, and voting members.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister reported the following:

- Representative Dow and Terrazas, and Senator Diamond have sent a letter to the Director of the State Parks, and the Secretary of Energy Minerals and Natural Resources, to urge them to open up camping at the lake. Right now it is not currently permitted. She urges the city to get on board, and possibly also submit a letter of support.
- The Arena Valley Vet Clinic will be here on the 16th in Los Palomas for anyone who is interested. They will be here every Thursday starting in May.

Commissioner Luna stated that the State released information that as of today, they will be taking reservations for primitive site camping at the lake that will begin mid-May. However, they will continue to control the number of people who are on the beach.

Commissioner Aragon reported the following:

- He's been working with the Vets on the coalition. The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) has a transportation service that will take our Veterans to Las Cruces and Albuquerque for appointments.

Mayor Whitehead had no reports.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. Threatened & Pending Litigation (Current & Pending Litigation) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7):

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve going into executive session at 10:39 a.m. to discuss Threatened & Pending Litigation (Current & Pending Litigation) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7). FL seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Whitehead reconvened the meeting in open session at 11:01 a.m.

Commissioner Luna certified that only matters pertaining to Threatened & Pending Litigation (Current & Pending Litigation) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7) was discussed in Executive Session and no action was taken.

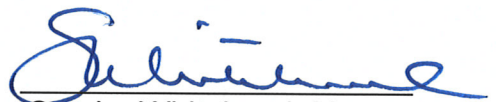
J. ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION, if any. ADJOURNMENT:

No action was taken.

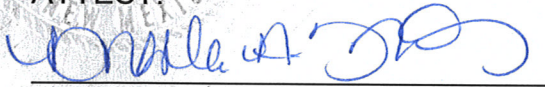
K. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Whitehead moved to adjourn at 11:01 a.m. Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Passed and Approved this 28th day of April, 2021.


Sandra Whitehead, Mayor

ATTEST:


Angela A. Torres, CMC, City Clerk