

**CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES  
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD  
MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022**

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

Regular meeting of the Public Utility Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico to be held in the City Commission Chambers, 405 W. Third, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 3:30 pm.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Szigeti.

**ROLL CALL:**

George Szigeti, Chairman  
Jeff Dornbusch, Vice-Chairman  
Ron Pacourek, Member  
Gil Avelar, Member  
Don Armijo, Member

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Bruce Swingle, City Manager  
Bo Easley, Electric Department Head  
Sonya Renfro, Utility Department Manager  
Dawn C. Barclay, Deputy City Clerk

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch made a motion to approve the agenda. Member Pacourek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**a. Regular meeting of February 22, 2022.**

Member Armijo made a motion to approve the February 22, 2022 minutes. Member Avelar seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

There were no comments from the public.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **a. Discussion/ Action: Utility Department report's regarding Service Fees that are not related to Rates or Customer Charges. Sonya Williams, Utility Department Manager**

Sonya Renfro, Utility Department Manager began discussions by reading the suggested rate increases from the Electric and Sanitation Departments. She also added her department's request to raise the service fee on the Williamsburg utility bill from \$1.00 to \$3.50 to start and then implement a possible 5% increase every year thereafter. Ms. Renfro and Bo Easley, Electric Department Head were present to answer any questions from the board.

Other topics discussed were;

- Implementing a standard backhoe fee of \$62.50 per hour as a standard charge for all departments.
- Reconnect fees increase.
- Electric Department: Equipment charges would apply to setting a pole, running new wire, and line extensions.
- Inconsistencies between departments, regarding what is considered city responsibilities vs customer's responsibilities to and from the meters.

After some discussion, the board would like to see the following from each department;

- One backhoe price averaged out between each city department.
- Any Ordinance and/or Resolution pertaining to said fees including connections fees.
- Water Departments proposed equipment rate increase report.
- Copy of Williamsburg Ordinance pertaining to the \$1.00 fee.
- Possible raising the proposed labor fee charge of \$35.00 to a higher amount. It was brought to the board's attention there is a 2-hour minimum charge on the labor fees.

**Chairman Szigeti made a motion to table this topic until the above information requested is available to be presented at one time. Member Pacourek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **5. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD:**

**There were no reports from the board.**

#### **6. REPORTS FROM STAFF:**

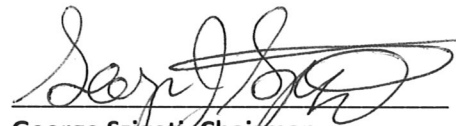
Bruce Swingle, City Manager wanted to address a few items, the first being Ordinance 664. It is still on hold before it goes to the City Commission for approval. There were some issues after a mock entry was posted to the billing software as a test run. A net metering for solar customers was the sample that was posted, but the results showed it was not a success. There will be a utility auditor visiting the utility department who specializes in the software program "Tyler" to help sort out some of these program issues. Mr. Swingle went on to update the board about the north transformer, it will be arriving a little sooner than expected, with hopes of having it installed before the summer season begins. Next, he spoke about the Downtown Water Project. The City has put out a "Request for Proposal" and is just waiting on the completion of the bidding process with the anticipation of starting the project in May 2022. Mr. Swingle last noted that the quarterly reports will be presented at the next scheduled Public Utility Advisory Board meeting in April.

Sonya Renfro reminded the board the City Sewer rates average will be going up next month.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Public Utility Advisory Board, Chairman Szigeti made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Pacourek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

**PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2022.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Szigeti', written over a horizontal line.

**George Szigeti, Chairman**  
Public Utility Advisory Board