

**CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021**

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, July 19, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Bruce Swingle, City Manager
Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager
Bo Easley, Electric Department Director
Sonya Williams, Utility Office Manager
Priscilla Fuentes, Electric Department Administration Assistant
Dawn C. Barclay, Deputy City Clerk

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Member Pacourek made a motion to approve the agenda. Member Armijo seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. Regular meeting of June 21, 2021.

Chairman Szigeti asked that Kilowatts be spelled out in the minutes.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Member Avelar seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Ariel Dougherty – Addressed the board with concerns regarding final changes to Ordinance 664.

Ron Fenn – Addressed the board with concerns regarding final changes to Ordinance 664.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Discussion/Action: Recommendation of Final Changes to Ordinance 664:

Chairman Szigeti began opening discussions with the “System size less than 10kw:” handout. The board then moved on to discussing the proposed changes to Ordinance 664 by reviewing each red lined item individually. Deputy Clerk Barclay kept notes on each of the red lined items as they were discussed and agreed upon by the board. She will retype Ordinance 664 with the new agreed changes for Chairman Szigeti to review prior to presenting to the City Commission. Changes that are being kept are noted in **BLUE**. The ones noted in **RED** will be removed from the ordinance.

(1) Overview

- a. The City of Truth or Consequences (City) Renewable Energy Customer Program is available to any City **electric** customer, residential or commercial, that installs a qualified renewable energy system ~~sized for the most recent twelve month average usage~~ and has it interconnected to the City’s power grid. Application is to be made to the Electrical Department Manager. Blank application copies can be obtained from the electrical department or on the City website. All supporting technical, design and support documentation for the ~~appeal and~~ interconnection application must be submitted in writing via hard copy or electronic format. Review and approval of system design and size will be per the T or C Electrical Department and ~~building permit and inspection department~~ **permitted through the Planning & Zoning Department** and must conform to:
 - i. The standards and procedures described in rule 17.9.568 NMAC and the ~~manual~~ (<http://www.nmpre.state.nm.us/utilities/docs/NMInterconnectionManual2008.pdf>) **New Mexico Interconnection Manual 2008**, to the interconnection of generating facilities with a rated capacity up to and including 10 MW.
 - ii. The standards and procedures described in 17.9.569 NMAC and the ~~manual~~ (<http://www.nmpre.state.nm.us/utilities/docs/NMInterconnectionManual2008.pdf>) **New Mexico Interconnection Manual 2008**, apply to the interconnection of generating facilities with a rated capacity greater than 10 MW.
 - iii. Provisions of Sec. 14-33, **tampering** with meters, of the City of Truth or Consequences, existing municipal code.
- b. The City reserves the right to deny interconnection for non-compliant ~~over-sized~~ systems ~~and in no case may the renewable energy generation system be sized such that its inverters rated capacity exceeds 90% of the most recent 12 month average of customers’ usage~~. Denial of a customer’s interconnection application may be appealed in writing once and must be done within 30 days from the notice of denial. The appeal is to be sent to: City of T or C City Commission.
 - a. If electricity generated by the customer exceeds the electricity supplied by the City during a billing period, the City will credit the customer on the next billing cycle for the excess kWh generated **at the rate of \$0.05 per kWh with a maximum credit of**

\$20.00 per month.

~~Alternate: ...at the rate of \$0.05 per kWh for the first 200kWh of net generation, and \$0.02 per kWh for net generation in excess of 200kWh.~~

- b. Each year, at the ~~October~~ January billing, any credit in excess of \$20.00 on the customer's account after current charges are paid shall be refunded to the customer. If the credit amount is less than \$20.00, the credit will be carried over to the next billing cycle. ~~The customer has the option to donate this credit back to the Utility Office to be used to help pay the utility bills of disadvantaged customers.~~
- c. In the event a customer disconnects from the City's system with a credit for excess production, the City will pay the customer for all ~~unused kWh~~ credits. ~~at the Sierra Electric Cooperative at the time of the disconnect Sierra Electric Cooperative Rate to be determined at the time of disconnect~~ (This amount will be first deducted from the customers final utility bill and then from any additional fees or fines that the customer owes to the City. Any remaining balance will be reimbursed to the customer by check.)

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch made a motion to send forward Ordinance 664 with changes to the City Commission. Member Avelar seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken.

George Szigeti voted Aye

Jeff Dornbusch voted Aye

Ron Pacourek voted Nay

Gil Avelar voted Aye

Don Armijo voted Aye

Motion carried with a 4-1 vote.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion/Action: Re-organization of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch made a motion to keep George Szigeti as Chairman. Member Avelar seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken.

George Szigeti Abstained

Jeff Dornbusch voted Aye

Ron Pacourek voted Aye

Gil Avelar voted Aye

Don Armijo voted Aye

Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch made a motion to remain as Vice-Chairman. Member Avelar seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken.

George Szigeti voted Aye

Jeff Dornbusch Abstained

Ron Pacourek voted Aye

Gil Avelar voted Aye

Don Armijo voted Aye

Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

6. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD:

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch reported he is working on a presentation for trash and water forgiveness programs and would like to have something to present at next month's meeting.

Chairman Szigeti suggested a new project for the board to consider at our next monthly meeting. He made reference to our current drought situation and he would like to explore installations of gray water systems. Some recommendation are as follows:

- (1) A recommendation that all current utility users who are able to install a gray water system can receive some sort of credit towards their sewer bill.
- (2) A recommendation that the City require all gray water systems on all new construction.

7. REPORTS FROM STAFF:

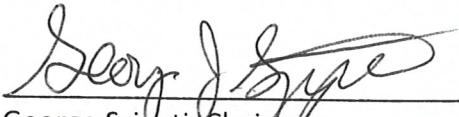
Dawn C. Barclay, Deputy City Clerk gave an update on the utility department reports that were requested by the board at March's meeting. She advised the board a reminder will be given at next Monday's department head meeting that all requested reports be made available and/or presented at next month's meeting.

Bruce Swingle, City Manager gave an update on the current situation on Cook Street regarding a fire hydrant that had a slow leak for about eight months. After digging around the hydrant it began to leak even more. They eventually had to shut off the water to the Williamsburg area today to do a complete fix. He further noted the water leak should be fixed, and water flow should be restored back to operation as we speak. The board further discussed this ongoing problem with the water pressure surge from the pumps that may be causing the ongoing leaks.

8. 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.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 16th DAY OF AUGUST 2021.


George Szigeti, Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board