

**CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 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, August 16, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Bruce Swingle, City Manager
Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager
Angela A. Torres, City Clerk
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 July 19, 2021.

Chairman Szigeti made a motion to approve the minutes. Member Armijo seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Ron Fenn – Addressed the board with concerns regarding how the solar billing tax was calculated. He also had some concerns about AMI Metering.

Diana Yandell – Expressed her concern that there is no interaction time with the board. Chairman Szigeti advised Ms. Yandell how she can take the proper steps to interact on a one on one basis with the staff and/or board member. He also explained by submitting an “Agenda Request Action Form” she will be able to interact during a regular scheduled board meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Discussion/Action: Gray Water Systems. George Szigeti, Chairman.

Chairman Szigeti began by explaining there are two kinds of waste water systems, black and gray. Gray water can be captured and reused for several applications. He proposed a collection storage/distribution container with a filtration system for existing and new construction homes. Member Avelar had a concerns that if there were any sanitation issues by using gray water? Member Pacourek had some concerns about the proposed system being cost effective. He also pointed out the gray water for new construction should go through the Impact Fee Advisory Board. Chairman Szigeti agreed with Member Pacourek and further added that there could be a possible reduction on the impact fee. He also proposed an idea that retro fitting existing homes might lead to a possible reduction on their water and wastewater bill.

Board agreed to table Gray Water Systems until next meeting.

b. Discussion/Action: Seasonal Trash Pickup. Jeff Dornbusch, Vice-Chairman.

Chairman Szigeti presented a handout for discussion on behalf of Vice-Chairman Dornbusch who was absent. It was noted the Vice-Chairman Dornbusch had spoken to Andy Alvarez, Department Head of Sanitation & Recycling regarding trash service suspension regarding homeowner’s that are temporarily not occupying the property. There are seasonal residents that do not reside in their home for periods up to 6 months. Under the current ordinance, if the customer continues with electric and water service they must continue trash service pickup. This proposal will allow the customer to suspend trash pickup for up to a six month period. Some concerns the board presented were; written requests, homes that were for sale, homes that are sitting empty. City Manager Swingle had some concerns with; the verification process of home owner if out of state and local, the cost involved in the transportation of the poly cart to and from property, bookkeeping time to process requests, facility cost in the cleaning and storage of the poly cart, and possible revenue impact on current grant funding and just how many people will utilize this program, additional work on employee’s, and the over-all practicality of the program. The board agreed Mr. Swingle had many valid points that still needed to be addressed. The board agreed to do some more research starting with Sonya William, Utility Manager to see how many (-0-) balance account exist and their circumstance’s.

Board agreed to table Seasonal Trash Pickup until next meeting.

c. Discussion/Action: Utility Forgiveness Program. Jeff Dornbusch, Vice-Chairman.

Chairman Szigeti presented the discussion on behalf of Vice-Chairman Dornbusch who was absent. He began opening discussions by explaining this program was discussed approximately two years ago. This program would be designed to come up with guidelines to help limit the charge back to the customer when there is a water leak on the customer's side of the meter. Angela A. Torres, City Clerk advised the board to put their recommendation into a Resolution before going they present to it to the City Commission. Bruce Swingle, City Manager reminded the board the Anti-Donation clause may need to be addressed.

Board agreed to table Utility Forgiveness Program until next meeting.

5. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD:

No reports from the board.

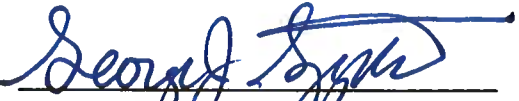
6. REPORTS FROM STAFF:

City Manager Swingle asked Chairman Szigeti for a copy of his last month's department head report request. Chairman Szigeti confirmed he will provide a new copy and then gave a brief description of the request. It was a trimmed down version of prior years' Monthly reports now converted to Quarterly reporting. City Manager Swingle went on to discuss the multiplier on AMI meters may need to be audited or evaluated. The board suggested asking Bo Easley, Electric Department Head for his advice but was open to the fact it could be software issue.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

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

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 18th DAY OF OCTOBER 2021.


George Szigeti, Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board

Application for suspension of trash service program

- 1). Open to home owners.
- 2) for a time period of no less than three(3) months.
And no longer than six (6) months.
- 3) applicant must agree that no one shall reside at the
Resident during the application time period (ATP).
- 4). Any waste generated during the ATP must be removed and properly disposed of by the
person (s)/ contractor (s) generating the waste.
- 5) any violation of the agreement will result in removal from the program and applicant will
pay for normal trash service during the ATP at the current rate plus fees.
- 6) applicant will pay a fee for for the removal and return of the roll out. \$15?