

CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD

AGENDA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021

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 Tuesday, January 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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Regular meeting of Monday, November 16, 2020.

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 Minute rule applies)

4. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion/Action: Residential Solar Generation Limits. Chairman Szigeti
- b. Discussion/Action: Type of Utility Reports to be furnished to the PUAB
- c. Discussion/Action: Set time for next month's meeting due to Federal Holiday

6. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

7. COMMENTS FROM STAFF

8. ADJOURNMENT

The public will be allowed to attend the meeting via teleconference using the information listed below:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/222663693>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(646\) 749-3122](tel:+16467493122) Access Code: 222-663-693

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/222663693>

**CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVORSORY BOARD
MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020**

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, November 16, 2020 at 5:30pm.

INTRODUCTION:

ROLL CALL:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Morris Madrid, City Manager
Traci Alvarez, Grant/Project/Zoning Official
Angela Torres, City Clerk-Treasurer
Dawn C. Barclay, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chairman Dornbusch called for approval of the agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Dornbusch called for approval of the minutes of Regular meeting of Monday, October 19, 2020.

Member Armijo moved to approve the regular minutes of Monday, October 19, 2020. Member Szigeti seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments from the public.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no responses to comments from the public.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/Action: Selection of Chairman and Vice-Chairman:

City Clerk Torres asked the board if they would like to vote on a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Member Pacourek made a motion to nominate himself as Chairman.

Motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Chairman Dornbusch made a motion to nominate George Szigeti as Chairman. Member Szigeti seconded the motion. Roll call was taken.

**Jeff Dornbusch voted aye
Ron Pacourek voted nay
Gil Avelar voted aye
Don Armijo voted aye
George Szigeti voted aye**

Motion carried with a 4-1 vote.

Member Szigeti made a motion to nominate Jeff Dornbusch as Vice-Chairman. Chairman Dornbusch seconded the motion. Roll call was taken.

**Jeff Dornbusch voted aye
Ron Pacourek voted nay
Gil Avelar voted aye
Don Armijo voted aye
George Szigeti voted aye**

Motion carried with a 4-1 vote.

Discussion/Action: Residential Solar Generation Limits:

The Board discussed several options without coming to a formal decision. It was agreed that more research must be done. Member Szigeti recommended doing away with the 90% limits for the home owners, and revisiting the 664 Ordinance. They should also look into the terms on the end of the year buy-back and reconciliation.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch suggested they table this item and visit it at the next meeting.

Chairman Szigeti asked City Manager Mr. Madrid if he could visit with Electric Division Director Easley to gather information to present at the next PUAB meeting. The information gathered will help formulate a motion to present to the City Commission.

City Manager Madrid suggested that he and Chairman Szigeti (*who can act as the Boards representative*) schedule a meeting with Electric Division Director Easley and City Attorney Rubin so they can identify the issues that need to be addressed, and then a draft can possibly be presented at the next PUAB meeting.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch and Chairman Szigeti commended City Manager Madrid's suggestion.

No further discussion ensued.

Review/Update: Update Regarding AMI Meters:

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch asked City Manager Madrid for an update on the AMI Meters.

City Manager Madrid responded that he estimates about 1,500 AMI Meters will have been installed by the end of the week. That puts the installation to about a third, or half way through completion. Three (3) written objections have been received due to limited access to the property, and the meters are on schedule with no major issues.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch inquired if any research has been done on the increased revenue that the meters will be bringing in.

City Manager Madrid responded an evaluation will be conducted once all meters have been installed, and with a full month of service completed. This will help to establish a usage trend to make a comparison. He then reported that the city should be awarded for a grant from the Water Trust Board for a replacement program for the Water Smart Meters.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch inquired if meters can be linked to personal cell phones.

City Manager Madrid confirmed that they can. Instructions can be obtained from the utilities and/or billing department.

No further discussion ensued.

Discussion/Action: Set Date & Time for Next Meeting:

Chairman Szigeti made a motion to schedule the next meeting on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 5:30 pm. Chairman Dornbusch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

Member Pacourek made reference to the June 2016, July 2019, and August 2020 rate sheets. He pointed out the Energy Cost Adjustment has not been re-calculated since 2016. He made comparisons to influx in gas and fuel rates. He thought it would be wise to re-evaluate twice a year.

Member Pacourek also had a comment that was delivered as a question.

City Clerk Torres reminded Member Pacourek that all questions must be asked outside of the board meeting with the suggestion to contact City Manager Madrid or the Utility Office.

Member Pacourek redirected his question and stated it looks like it hasn't been done.

COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

City Manager Madrid reported that the overall utilities have been in good shape during this pandemic. He will provide an update on the back stations and the operation of the effluent system at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Member Dornbusch moved to adjourn meeting. Meeting was adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 19th DAY of JANUARY 2021.

George Szigeti, Chairman
Public Utility Advisory Board

ORDINANCE NO. 664

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, PROVIDING THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, BE AMENDED BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING SECTION 14-48 PERTAINING TO CUSTOMER GENERATED RENEWABLE ENERGY:

Sec. 14-48. Customer generated renewable energy

(a) Renewable Energy Generation Customer Program

(1) Overview

- a. The City of Truth or Consequences (City) Renewable Energy Customer Program is available to any City 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.
- b. The City reserves the right to deny interconnection for over-sized systems and in no case may the renewable energy generation system be sized such that its inverters rated capacity exceeds ~~90%~~ **10 KW for residential systems, or 100%** of the most recent 12 month average of customers' usage **for non-residential systems**. 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. 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, building permit and inspection department and must conform to:
 - i. The standards and procedures described in rule 17.9.568 NMAC and the manual (<http://www.nmprc.state.nm.us/utilities/docs/NMInterconnectionManual2008.pdf>) 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.nmprc.state.nm.us/utilities/docs/NMInterconnectionManual2008.pdf>) 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.

(2) Metering

- a. Systems will be billed monthly from a bi-directional or net main meter at the specific facility or residence. **AMI meters are mandatory for all customers with electric co-generation systems**. The monthly bill will reflect a net reading which will show customer usage in excess of customer generation as positive kWh, or customer generation in excess of customer usage as negative kWh. The customer will be billed per existing City of Truth or Consequences municipal code Sec. 14-43 for installation of the net meter by the City and those costs will be billed to the customer on the first billing cycle post net meter installation.

(3) Rates

- a. Customers will be billed for service in accordance with the rate structure and monthly service charges that the customer would be assigned if the customer had not interconnected a qualifying facility.

- b. Customer kilowatt hour generation will be used to displace a customer's own kilowatt hour consumption.
- c. If electricity supplied by the City exceeds the electricity generated by the customer during a billing period, the customer will be billed for the net energy supplied by the City under the applicable rate.
- d. 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.
- e. ~~In the event a customer disconnects from the City's system with unused kWh in the bank, the City will pay the customer for all unused kWh credits at the 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.)~~ Each year, at the October billing, any excess credits on the customer's account after current charges are paid shall be refunded to the customer at 40% of the current electric rate per existing City of Truth or Consequences municipal code. 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.
- f. In the event a customer disconnects from the City's system with a credit for excess kWh production, the City will pay the customer for all unused kWh credits at the rate being charged to the City by 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.)

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. CITY COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES:

Section 1. All Ordinances or Resolutions, or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent only of such inconsistency. This Repealer shall not be construed to revive any Ordinance or Resolution, or part thereof, heretofore repealed.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect on the _____ day of "2015.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2015.

CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO

BY: _____
SANDRA WHITEHEAD - Mayor

ATTEST: _____
RENEE CANTIN- City Clerk