

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3RD St.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2019

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sandra Whitehead at 9:00 a.m., who presided and Renee Cantin, 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. Kathy Clark, Mayor Pro-Tem
Hon. Rolf Hechler, Commissioner
Hon. Paul Baca, Commissioner
Hon. George Szigeti, Commissioner

Also Present: Morris Madrid, City Manager
Renee Cantin, 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 Szigeti to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark requested that items 5, 6, & 7 be removed so they can be discussed after the consent calendar. Also, as Mayor Whitehead requested, she would like to item H.3 to be removed until the next meeting.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Clark moved to approve the agenda as amended.
Commissioner Hechler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

C. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Randy Ashbaugh addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) He congratulated Mayor Whitehead, Mayor Pro-Tem Clark, and City Manager Madrid.
- 2) He commented on the OHV Ordinance passing. He thinks that is a tremendous thing for the city. There are 125,000 ATV's registered in the State of New Mexico. You can't go down the interstate without passing all kinds of ATV's. He would like to see the City of T or C, the City of Elephant Butte, the Village of Williamsburg and the County all work together to become the ATV Capital of New Mexico. We have a lot of trails and roads, and he doesn't want to see ATV's tear up our property, but he thinks this will bring a lot of people to the County.
- 3) He would like for the City Commission to support the Visitor Center that was going to go up by Walmart. Virgin Galactic has gone into space 50 plus miles. There is going to be a Visitor Center built somewhere in the next 2-3 years, and ours is already designed so it could go to bid tomorrow morning. Yes, he will sell a piece of property, but it would be very advantageous to have it here to bring in tourists. We are looking at there being 1,000-2,000 people who come to see Virgin Galactic's first launch out of here. He doesn't think it will go into Hatch because they don't have the infrastructure, but there is big talk that the Upham exchange is going to be modified \$14 million or \$15 million, and it could go there, and we would be totally froze out, or it is going to go to Las Cruces. The road that comes from Upham, is very beautiful, and is a nice drive. He would like us all to get together and get the new Spaceport built here in this next Legislature, or maybe some other money that comes available. The facility can also house other tours like mining tours, ATV tours, Jeep tours, and we could work with Ted Turner and they all can go in there, have a pick up point, and take people through our nice downtown area.
- 4) He would still like to make the land exchange by the Golf Course. He has a commercial thing he would like to do up there. It would be very advantageous for the city, and economically wise it would be tremendous.
- 5) He would also like to see a 5% utility fee put on, to go to all infrastructure.

Ron Fenn addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) He is here to urge the Commission to opt-in for the Local Election Act to have the County Clerk run them. This is something that came out and was passed and went into effect in July of 2018 and unfortunately, our City Clerk has withheld this from discussion from this body, and from any public participation until now...the 11th hour...intending to have you folks opt-out which would leave elections in her hands. He would much rather see elections being operated by an Elected Official, as in our County Clerk. Not a hireling who can change at any minute. The elections belong to the people. They do not belong to a Clerk, and they do not belong to a hired organization. They belong to the people. They are our elections where we tell government what we want. To allow a Clerk to control elections is anathema to this democratic process. He can tell you, but he would need hours to tell you what went wrong with this last election, and convince you that we need a change. And

a big change would be to opt-in, not out of the Local Election Act. Today is the last day you can do that because there are no more meetings before the end of January. Why this was withheld since July? Who knows? He thinks somebody knows. Do not do this.

Ed Deems, Friends of the Pool addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) He thanked all of them and the crew at the City Pool. The efficiency and the people there to run the pool has greatly improved, and not just because his husband happens to be one of the lifeguards. He is there representing Friends of the Pool, and the item he wanted to speak about was the visibility of the pool to visitors and to residents. He has heard from many people that they don't know there is a pool here, and they don't know it is open. His orthopedic at the hospital, who can send a lot of folks down to the pool, had no idea there was one here. They are all concerned with the patronage and number of admissions to the pool.
- 2) The signage they have now is located at the entrance of the pool, at Daniels & Austin, and at Van Patten and Post. They are standard 18x18 signs and simply say Municipal Pool. They feel it would be a good idea to update or upgrade those signs, and they also would like to meet with the appropriate departments to discuss it. They have a few suggestions for locations of the signs on Main Street, Date and on Broadway.

Jack Noelle addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) He thanked everyone and feels he's in between Mr. Ashbaugh and Mr. Fenn. We are a republic and thank god we are not a true democracy. We as a country are a Federal Republic and we in this Chamber are a Representative Democracy. Consequently, those of you who sit in those chairs represent all of the people in this community, rather than a different structure where each one would have a district, and they would be responsible for representing those districts.
- 2) He would like to address the Off Road Vehicle Ordinance. It was a close race, but representative democracy is not a football game where you go on to the state. We are trying to serve all of the people here with a vote of 50/50. It is a gift for the council people to understand that half of the people in their community are in favor and half are against it. He asked Commissioner Baca to consider putting a group together, to put together an ordinance for both sides. There are a lot of issues in this, and he feels that they need to be addressed. There are 3 things he would like to talk about. The first one is the way the opposition handled the petition against the ordinance that had already been passed by the Commission and had been discussed for a long, long time. He felt that they were very rigid and they weren't willing to compromise, discuss, or address any of the issues. It was "my way or the highway."

Ty Reid addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) He expressed his interest in taking a Management Position at the Golf Course. He has talked to Bart at the Golf Course about the need to put someone in that position as a city employee. He is a former member of the Professional Golfers Association of America. Since that membership over 20 years ago, he went back to school to

get his Master's Degree in Business Administration. He has been in all different sectors of the golf business. From private to public, to Resort and Municipalities. One of the things he thinks is a corner stone he has built over the years is taking struggling Golf Courses, and turning them into successful Golf Courses. Not only the bottom line, but as assets to the community through marketing, advertising and promotion which he thinks is something that could very well be a big key to making this Golf Course be what it once was again. He has his resume which shows over 30 year of experience in the golf industry, as well as other aspects of business. He is somebody who will deliver on expectations, and he does things with a lot of passion, energy, and enthusiasm. If you are looking for someone to do that with professionalism and integrity, he would be very, very excited to have this opportunity and hopefully this is something that can be talked about very soon so we can hit the ground running when the weather gets a little bit warmer and the grass gets a little bit greener. (Mr. Reid placed his resume in the comment box).

Ron Pacourek addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) He appreciates the opportunity to speak.
- 2) He is here to talk about the vacancies in all of the boards. He found the advertisement for those positions in a legal notice in our local paper. And for the people listening, it is about a 1 ½ x 4 in. piece a paper that says "The City of Truth or Consequences is soliciting names of anyone wishing to serve as a representative on the Airport Advisory Board, Impact Fee Board, Public Utility Advisory Board, Golf Course Board and Planning & Zoning Commission". He went to the website and also saw that there are two vacancies on the Library Board and as well as the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board, and that was not on this ad. This ad seems a little puny to advertise people to volunteer to be on these boards. The Planning & Zoning Board has been vacant since November of 2013. Why is that? That is a legitimate question. The last entry on the website was on January 15th of this year. He has heard them say it's the citizen's fault for not volunteering, but the city needs to do a better job of publishing the vacancies. He suggested Cobblestone and announced they need a contractor on the PUAB.

Bill Fink, 6th Street addressed the Commission related to:

- 1) He welcomed City Manager Madrid to the community.
- 2) He is concerned about transparency. We lack transparency in our government. We never know what is going on or why it is going on. We usually don't know about it until after it has gone on. For example, we are considering a piece of land on West Riverside. After speaking with Ms. Whitehead who referred him to the Clerk's Office, he contacted Traci Burnette who indicated she would get him the information and he still has not received it. We don't know what's going on. We don't even know why.
- 3) Mr. Taylor stepped aside at the Golf Course and two people have been promoted that used to work for him, but we know nothing else. He had somebody tell him that we have a nitrogen problem out there, and the ground has too much nitrogen.
- 4) We are also thinking about spending money on upgrading our electric and water meters, why? Everyone says that it will save two employees, but it's not going to

save two employees because they are moving to another department. So we are still going to have the same salary structure. \$4 million dollars at 3% interest. He is assuming that we are going to have to borrow this money. That is \$120,000 in interest payments. We are currently paying our 2 meter readers less than \$15 an hour. So that works out to less than \$60,000 a year. We're going to pay more interest to save their salary so we can pay their salary in another department. There's no savings there. The old meters that people have to read, to be approved they have to have an accuracy of plus or minus 2%. The new meters that are read automatically, the accuracy is plus or minus 2% so there is no gain or efficiency there so why are we doing this? Why can't we have a public meeting and have it explained to us.

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Whitehead:

- Mayor Whitehead responded to Mr. Fenn regarding the election process. For years and years, the election process was always handled as it is today. This process just came into effect in 2018. She understands that the Clerk's Office handled this last mail out ballot election on the ATV's and she feels that the Clerk's Office did an outstanding job. The City Clerk had her Deputy Clerk doing most of the job and she oversaw what was happening. The election went very smooth, the process went very well, and there was a watcher who watched the process the entire day that was also in opposition of this ATV Ordinance. She didn't have any issues or any problems that came out of that. She knows that the election itself was passed (not by a big margin) but the voters did what they felt they needed to do, and what they wanted to do. Mayor Whitehead thanked everyone who went out, voted, and took the time to process their ballots, and return them. She also thanked the board that was there to process the election, Ms. Tittle who was there as the watcher, and she thanked our Clerk's Office. She feels that they did an outstanding job.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark:

- Mayor Pro-Tem Clark asked for clarification about the OHV Ordinance. They originally discussed giving it a shot for six months and a year also was suggested. Are we looking at a 6-12 month review at this time or how do we proceed.

City Attorney Rubin responded the ordinance didn't go into effect until the canvass is accepted today.

Commissioner Hechler:

- Commissioner Hechler said in response to Mr. Noelle that he agrees with him whole heartedly, but he thinks it's a little pre-mature to start talking about regulation changes now when we don't know what the issues or problems are going to be. He does however agree that we need to approach that sometime in the near future, and he will rely on our Chief of Police and our citizens to identify issues or problems

we may encounter in the future. Any concerns should be brought the City Manager or a Commissioner and we can address it at that time.

- He thanked Mr. Deems from the Friends of the Pool and said he thinks he is spot on because we have a covered pool here that is utilized in the winter time. It is a wonderful facility we should do a better job at advertising it. We could advertise it on the interstate if we put a billboard on private land, and perhaps those funds could be made available because we would make our money back in additional patronage of that pool.
- He feels Mr. Pacourek is spot on and agrees we should do a better job on getting the word out about the vacancies. He asked the City Manager to look into it.
- He encouraged Mr. Fink to give him a call so he can give him some information on the Golf Course, and fill him in on where we currently are today.

City Clerk Cantin:

- She requested to respond, and notified the City Manager and Commission Hechler that they are currently working on advertisements. If they recall, the Clerk's Office brought up a new process to assist with a more detailed publication of vacancies and they are already working on getting that updated for distribution.

D. PRESENTATIONS:

1. Presentation of a Commendation to Officer Jaffee Blomquist. Randall Aragon, Police Chief:

On January 2, 2019 Officer Blomquist, Officer Marin, and Officer Ontiveros arrived at 712 Ivy Street in reference of a warrant. The individual who had the warrant exited the residence and was holding a knife in his hand pointed toward the officers. He approached Officer Blomquist in an aggressive matter, prompting him to draw his service pistol. Officer Blomquist stepped back and ordered the individual to drop the knife. The individual dropped the knife, fled on foot, and was eventually apprehended without incident.

Chief Aragon presented a certificate of commendation to Officer Jaffee Blomquist for his admirable restraint and calmness during a situation that could have resulted in a deadly force.

Mayor Whitehead also presented Officer Blomquist with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the City of Truth or Consequences, City Commission, City Manager Madrid and City Clerk Cantin.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 1. City Commission Special Meeting Minutes, December 19, 2018**
- 2. Airport Advisory Board Minutes, October 2, 2018**
- 3. Accept the Canvass for January 15, 2019 Special Municipal Election**
- 4. Appointment of Kay Thompson to the Golf Course Advisory Board**

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark mentioned there were some corrections by Commissioner Szigeti. Mayor Whitehead let her know they were typos and have been corrected. A copy was provided to the Commissioners at the meeting.

Commissioner Szigeti moved to approve the consent calendar Items No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 as noted. Commissioner Hechler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

F.5. Discussion/Action: Award - IFB: 18-19-006 WWTP and Lift Station Improvements, Phase 2B (removed from consent calendar for further discussion):

Central Purchasing Officer Wood presented the item of Award - IFB: 18-19-006 WWTP and Lift Station Improvements, Phase 2B. A bid opening was held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. We received two bids for this project. One was received from RMCI Incorporated, and the other was received from Smith Co. Construction Incorporated. Smith Engineering evaluated the bids and they are making a recommendation to award the base bid to RMCI. The total cost is \$3,910,882.52 including GRT. This award is pending approval from USDA.

Mr. David Schwent wanted to clarify that this is just for the base bid and is not the total allotted amount. He explained once this notice of award USDA has to give their stamp of approval after the Government Shutdown.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark said with this one as Item No. 7, she asked if City Manager Madrid feels he's had enough time to look at our debt structure.

City Manager Madrid ensured Mayor Pro-Tem Clark that he has met with the Engineer and contractor to make sure the city is on the right track related to these projects.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark asked if we have to have Phase 1 totally completed before we approve Phase 2.

City Manager Madrid responded that he had a meeting to resolve any issues they had with Phase 1 and close out of that project. They had some issues on the punch list and were not satisfied with them not being done on a timely basis, but those issues have been addressed and hopefully that will be closed out soon.

Commissioner Hechler moved to approve Award - IFB: 18-19-006 WWTP and Lift Station Improvements, Phase 2B to RMCI, Inc. Base Bid only, pending USDA approval which has a total cost of \$3,910,882.50 including NMGRT. Mayor Pro-Tem Clark seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

F.6. Discussion/Action: Award RFP: 18-19-004 Engineering Services for Water System Improvements (removed from consent calendar for further discussion):

Central Purchasing Officer Wood presented Award RFP: 18-19-004 Engineering Services for Water System Improvements. They received proposals until Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. We received 3 proposals for Engineering Services. One proposal was from Jel and Associates, one from WH Pacific and one from Wilson & Company. A selection committee evaluated the proposals and they made a recommendation to award the contract to Wilson & Company. They are requesting for the City Manager to be able to negotiate a Professionals Contract with Wilson & Company pending USDA approval.

City Manager Madrid stated that he has reviewed the process from beginning to end in the selection of engineering services. He would have expected a few more proposals, but the pool was adequate, and the process was good. He concurs with a recommendation. He didn't participate in it, but it was sound and it was a standard practice.

Commissioner Hechler moved to approve Award RFP: 18-19-004 Engineering Services for Water System Improvements negotiations and professional services contract to Wilson & Company, pending USDA approval. Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

F.7. Discussion/Action: Approve the resumes of the individuals potentially performing Resident Project Representative (RPR) Services provided by Smith Engineering during the construction of WWTP improvements for Phase 2B, pending USDA RD concurrence (removed from consent calendar for further discussion):

Grant/Projects Coordinator Burnette notified the Commission that one of the requirements for our USDA Funding is that we have to approve the resumes of the individuals potentially performing these duties. Once again USDA requires concurrence on this and it will also be pending their approval.

Commissioner Hechler asked the City Manager if he has had a chance to review this and if he has any comments.

City Manager Madrid responded he has, and each of them are definitely qualified, and he agrees with the recommendation to approve.

Mayor Whitehead asked Ms. Burnette if each one of these representatives will on site when they are needed.

Grants Projects Coordinator Burnette responded that it is a pool that they choose from, and she thinks that some of it comes down to who is available at the time they are doing construction.

Commissioner Hechler moved to approve the resumes of the individuals potentially performing Resident Project Representative (RPR) Services provided by Smith Engineering during the construction of WWTP improvements for Phase 2B, pending USDA RD concurrence. Commissioner Szigeti seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

F. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING:

**1. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 23 2018/2019 Budget Adjustment.
Melissa Torres, Finance Director:**

Finance Director presented the following budget adjustments for approval:

General Fund– Revenue Fund 101 101-1099-30314 DFA #11000-0001-41250	\$15,000	Increase Revenue –Gross Receipts- Mun. Gen. Due to Attorney Fees Exp.
General Fund– Expense Fund 101 101-1000-43597 DFA #11000-1001-55020	\$15,000	Increase Expense - Attorney Fees
Muni Street– Expense Fund 216 216-4503-48598 DFA #21600-2002-55030	\$20,000	Increase Expense – From Ending Cash Balance – For MainStreet Block Grant
WWTP – Expense Fund 506 506-4005-48598 DFA #50300-2002-55030	\$20,000	Increase Expense – From Ending Cash Balance – For WWTP Consultant

Commissioner Hechler added in regards to Attorney fees, he is ok with it for now because we have been without a City Manager and he understands that. He would suggest that we do not allow staff to contact the attorneys on their own without City Manager approval.

City Manager Madrid notified them the directive to get his approval prior to using the attorney's was given last week.

City Attorney Rubin wanted to add that this last year, he hasn't had very many additional items in the past year and he did meet with the City Manager on a plan of action for the items we currently have.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark does contact the attorney's from time to time and would like the Commission to continue to have that ability.

Mayor Whitehead moved to approve Resolution No. 23 2018/2019 Budget Adjustment. Mayor Pro-Tem Clark seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 24 2018/2019 creating a Sierra County Complete Count Committee (SCCCC) for Census 2020. Paul Dulin, US Census Bureau and Renee Cantin, City Clerk-Treasurer:

City Clerk Cantin reported that she met with Mr. Dulin and the Census Bureau is requesting that each community consider creating a Complete Count Committee for the upcoming 2020 Census. The City of Truth or Consequences will be instrumental in helping get the word out for citizens to comply with the Census Count which would be a tremendous asset for our community and our County. Communities rely on those statistics to plan for a lot of the resident needs including the roads, schools, and emergency services. Businesses also use that data to determine where to open places to shop. In discussion with County Manager Bruce Swingle, they feel it would greatly benefit our entire County if we join efforts with the County, Village of Williamsburg, the City of Elephant Butte, any school districts, churches, business community, non-profits, health care, and other unincorporated areas. They feel it is a lot better for them to have one all-encompassing committee, rather than have quite a few in the County maybe working against each other.

Mr. Dulin presented a PowerPoint regarding details of creating a Sierra County Complete Count Committee (SCCCC) for Census 2020.

City Manager Madrid reported that State Representative Rebecca Dow recommended this type of approach of collaboration with other entities in the southern part of the state.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark asked if he is certain the U.S Government will keep their information confidential.

Mr. Dulin replied that they are sworn by law to maintain confidentiality when they go in for the job. No matter what happens it cannot be used for police reasons, border patrol or immigration reasons. The information is to determine where people live and what impact they have on the resource. Personal identifier information is not used, only statistic information.

City Attorney Rubin asked Mr. Dulin what the City's obligation was.

Mr. Dulin responded that the intention of the Resolution is to simply create an effort in part of the Commission of Truth or Consequences to work with the County to try and get an accurate census count. Nothing contractual is involved.

Commissioner Hechler moved to approve Resolution No. 24 2018/2019 creating a Sierra County Complete Count Committee (SCCCC) for Census 2020. Mayor Pro-Tem Clark seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 25 2018/2019 confirming the continuation of Municipal Elections to be conducted on Municipal Officer Election Day in March of even numbered years. Renee Cantin, Clerk-Treasurer:

City Clerk Cantin presented Resolution No. 25 2018/2019 confirming the continuation of Municipal Elections to be conducted on Municipal Officer Election Day in March of even numbered years. Last year she served as the Co-Chair of the New Mexico Clerks and Finance Officers Association and Election Committee. Being a past president they tend to lean on her quite a bit for certain things. Along with the other officers for the CFOA, she attended quite a few of the hearings at the State Capital related to the Local Election Act Bill and she was also requested to be an expert witness for those portions of the hearings. The bill where the Clerk's in all of the Municipalities were going to be required to have the County Clerk's run our elections did not end up passing because the Governor vetoed that bill. Last year they worked with Senator Daniel Ivy Soto on some changes that Municipalities could actually live with for that Local Election Act Bill and that one passed. One of the changes in that bill included the option for local governing bodies to be able to opt-in to the Local Election Act if they preferred the County Clerk to administer their elections and those would be held with other nonpartisan elections including school boards, soil and water conservation districts and a few other special districts and those will also be changed to November of the odd number years and it would be combined with the other nonpartisan group elections and the ballot would have all of those items on it. The committee decided it would be a good idea for communities who plan to have their Municipal Clerk's run their elections to officially approve something. So they came up with the resolution you have before you. It is not a requirement of the Secretary of State's Office. The only requirement to opt-in is to pass an ordinance. If you recall, at the end of 2017 the Commission approved the resolution opposing the original Local Election Act where we would have the County Clerks run our elections. She has been in communication with most of the Commission over the item and it was her understanding that they wanted to continue with running our own elections. As you know, the Special Election was our first election with the Local Election Act changes. Part of those changes included the repeal of the Municipal Election Code and they combined it with the State Election Code so now we are under their rules and their laws. The new law requires us to have a mail in ballot election for any Special Elections, and unfortunately the costs for that were unknown and we had additional costs that we were not anticipated. Following are a list of pros and cons for running our own elections:

Pros:

- We won't have an elected partisan official running the election. Meaning, our Municipal Election is nonpartisan, so we do not use anybody's party, and we don't have to have an even precinct board.
- Municipal Clerks have a better idea of what a City Commissioner does whereas the County Clerk would not.
- The ballots with other nonpartisan questions would be on that same ballot.
- Instead of elections being held on March of even years (like we're used to) they would be changed to November of odd years. It would still be a nonpartisan ballot, but there will be other items on the ballot.

Cons:

- There would be numerous items and entities on one ballot.
- Early voting, the County Clerk can allow a Municipality to do early voting. Most people are used to that and that would help with us giving more information on what a City Commissioner does.
- The cost is questionable. They make it very enticing because the cost in the beginning is much lower. If for some reason we were to have a question on the ballot and the ballot went to a second page, it would be on the Municipality to pay that additional fee and there are other additional fees that would be added on as well if we were to opt-in.

City Clerk Cantin's recommendation is to proceed with what the Commission approved in the beginning, which was letting the Municipal Clerk run our own elections and not opt-in at this point. If we wish to do so in the future we can always opt-out.

Commissioner Szigeti moved to approve Resolution No. 25 2018/2019 confirming the continuation of Municipal Elections to be conducted on Municipal Officer Election Day in March of even numbered years. Commissioner Hechler seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Discussion/Action: DFA 2nd Quarter Budget Report. Melissa Torres, Finance Director:**

Finance Director Torres presented the 2nd Quarter Budget Report.

City Manager Madrid stated that this will most likely be his biggest area of focus for the next month or two because we have good revenues, and we have reasonable expenditures. We don't seem to be budgeting from the right place or spending from the right areas. The first thing we need to do is make sure our appropriations are in the right place. You are going to see some budgets that are over expended, not because they are not reasonable, but because they were under budgeted in the beginning and there will be some that were over budgeted that were under spent. We are going to get this year's budget in line as much as possible. In addition to that, we want to increase our

reserves and find out what our capacity is for additional funding. We have a lot of work to do, so when he sits down with these department heads in these budget hearings, it will be a management tool because he is going to expect them to explain it to him as if he were a 10 year old.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark is thankful they found a City Manager with a Finance background to help Finance Director Torres. She also thanked Finance Director Torres for hanging on while they did. She then asked if the Lodgers Tax was delayed with the Gross Receipts Tax.

Finance Director Torres responded that they received it on time.

Commissioner Hechler moved to approve the DFA 2nd Quarter Budget Report. Mayor Pro-Tem Clark seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Appointments to Various External Boards & Committees to replace Steve Green. Renee Cantin, City Clerk-Treasurer:

Sierra County Recreation & Tourism Advisory Board:

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark notified the Commission that she serves as the City representative and Former Mayor Green served on that board as a representative of the Arts Council. So there is no need for appointing a replacement for him at this time.

Joint Powers Commission (Sierra Vista Hospital):

Clerk-Treasurer Cantin stated that the city currently has 3 elected officials who currently serve, including Former Mayor Green who was the Vice-Chair. A selection for Vice-Chair is selected by the Joint Powers Commission rather than the City Commission. Mayor Whitehead, Mayor Pro-Tem Clark serve on that board and Commissioner Hechler is the alternate. So with that we would need one member to serve in that vacancy for Former Mayor Green.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark asked if the alternate would automatically step into that position.

Clerk-Treasurer Cantin responded absolutely. However, you may want to appoint another alternate just in case.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark moved to approve Commissioner Hechler to be a member of the Joint Powers Commission for Sierra Vista Hospital and appoint Commissioner Baca to serve as the Alternate. Commissioner Szigeti seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

South Central Council of Governments (SCCOG) & Regional Planning Organization (RPO):

Former Mayor Green also served on these two boards and Mayor Whitehead serves as the alternate. Generally, it is the Chief Elected Official that serves on that board.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark moved to approve Mayor Whitehead to serve as the member and Commissioner Szigeti to serve as the Alternate. Commissioner Hechler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion/Action: Provide direction to staff for proposed amendments to the City Commission Rules of Procedure. Sandra Whitehead, Mayor:

Mayor Whitehead requested to remove item.

4. Discussion/Action: Assistance to federal employees and contractors affected by the government shutdown. George Szigeti, Commissioner:

Commissioner Szigeti began with having been a Federal Employee himself and feels it's important that the city be fair and impartial to these people who are dealing with this problem they are facing.

City Manager Madrid responded we currently have the ability to carry this out and we have received the direction to do so.

Finance Director Torres noted that this is something that they can handle administratively and this is something that they are putting into a plan. The Utility Office has the empathy for our customers so this is something that we want to do for them. They want to make sure they have that case to case with their customers because sometimes there are those customers who can pay an additional \$200 plus their payment and there are some who need a little head start of maybe \$50 plus their payment and we can make those kind of arrangements with them to make sure that they are successful and also get their bill paid within a timely matter.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark commended Commissioner Szigeti for bringing this forward.

The Commission directed City Manager Madrid to handle this administratively.

H. REPORTS:

City Manager:

- City Manager Madrid noted the Commission already received some of the things going on in his office at this point. He then called on Chief Aragon to present a couple of items.

CITY COMMISSION JANUARY 23, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chief Aragon:

- Chief Aragon presented the new Beggars/Pan Handlers initiative they have been working on. He also presented the process for the Police Department handling the OHV Ordinance.

City Attorney:

- City Attorney Rubin notified them the negotiations with Gravity Pad are going pretty well and he anticipates it may be ready for the next meeting.

City Commission:

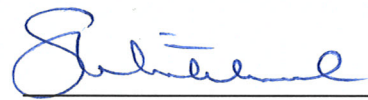
Commissioner Hechler:


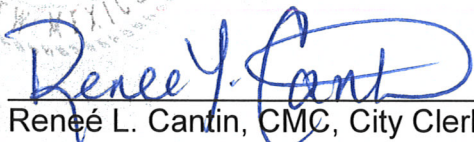
- He reported the new company out at Spaceport. This is one of six contracts they are currently working on. He has worked it out for Jason Lasich from Virgin Galactic to attend and do a presentation at the next Commission meeting.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Szigeti moved to adjourn at 11:31 a.m. Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Passed and Approved this 27th day of February, 2019.


Sandra Whitehead, Mayor



Renee L. Cantin, CMC, City Clerk