

PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO

Monday, November 18, 2013

Action Minutes

REGULAR MEETING

**TIME & PLACE:** The Public Utility Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, in the County of Sierra, and State of New Mexico, met in Regular Session in full conformity with the Law and Ordinances of said Board, at the City Commission Chambers of said City, on Monday the 18th day of November, 2013 at 5:30 P.M.

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** The meeting was called to order by Mike Potia, Vice-Chairman and Angela A. Torres acted as Secretary.

**ATTENDANCE:** Upon calling the roll the following members were reported present:

Mike Potia, Vice-Chairman  
Alvin Siffring, Member  
James Hunt, Member  
George Szigeti, Member

Also Present:

Juan Fuentes, City Manager  
Gil Avelar, Electric Division Director  
Leonard Carrillo, Sanitation Director  
Ed Williams, Safety Coordinator/Electric Division  
Angela A. Torres, Deputy City Clerk

Absent Was/Were:

Bill Jacka, Chairman

QUORUM: There being a quorum present the Board proceeded with the business at hand.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mike Potia, Vice-Chairman called for approval of the Agenda.

“Alvin Siffring moved approval of the Agenda as submitted.”

Seconded by James Hunt  
Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mike Potia, Vice-Chairman, called for review and approval of minutes of the Regular meeting held Monday, October 21, 2013.

“George Szigeti moved approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting held Monday, October 21, 2013 as submitted.”

Seconded by Alvin Siffring  
Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Klaus Wittern approached the podium with comments in regards to the Electric Study. He also suggested that the Public Utility Advisory Board be involved in the process of approval for the “hot water” Ordinance.

Alvin Siffring thanked Mr. Witten for his comments.

A.DISCUSSION/  
ACTION- NET  
METERING: **Discussion/Action - Net Metering- Ed Williams, Safety Coordinator/Electric Division, and Gil Avelar, Electric Division Director.**

Ed Williams, Safety Coordinator/Electric Division, stated that City Attorney, Jay Rubin, reviewed the Net Metering documents, and had a few changes that he wanted incorporated. One of the changes was that the document said effect, and he believes it should say affect.

Discussion ensued.

“George Szigeti moved to forward the Net Metering project to the City Commission for approval.”

Seconded by James Hunt  
Motion carried unanimously

B.DICUSSION/  
ACTION-  
REQUEST FROM  
WAL-MART FOR  
INTERCONNECT  
ION/NET  
METERING  
AGREEMENT:

**Discussion/Action – Request from Wal-Mart for an Interconnection and Net Metering Agreement.**

Ed Williams, Safety Coordinator/Electric Division, noted that he has been in contact with Kevin Bassalleck, from Affordable Solar, in regards to the agreement. Mr. Bassalleck has reviewed the agreement, and has no problems with it; he is just waiting for the agreement to be approved by the City Commission, so that he can prepare the application for the supplies needed, to move forward with the project.

“Alvin Siffring moved to forward the request for an Interconnection and Net Metering Agreement to the City Commission for approval.”

Seconded by George Szigeti  
Motion carried unanimously.

C.DISCUSSION/  
UPDATE-  
ELECTRIC  
SYSYTEM  
STUDY:

**Discussion/Update- Electric System Study – Gil Avelar, Electric Division Director.**

Gil Avelar, Electric Division Director, reviewed the Electric System Study with the Board noting that in 2003 there was a distribution study done on our system. We had received a few suggestions on how we might improve the study, and the suggestions are listed on the documents provided.

Discussion ensued with no action taken.

D.DISCUSSION/  
UPDATE –  
SOLID WASTE  
COLLECTION  
CENTER YEAR  
TO DATE  
TRANSFER  
LOADS:

**Discussion/Update – Solid Waste Collection Center Year to Date Transfer Loads – Leonard Carrillo, Solid Waste Division.**

Leonard Carrillo, Sanitation Director reviewed the Solid Waste Collection Center update with the Board.

**Collection Center Scale:**

The Solid Waste Collection Center has been open since March of 2013, and for the first few months we were operating without a scale. On October 22<sup>nd</sup> our scale was installed, and it has changed the operation process completely. Since the scale has been installed we have managed to stay under 22 tons per load.

We have had an increase of customers that come into the facility on a daily basis, and they seem to like the way the scale works. The customers that are using the scale, along with recycling their items, are a bit inconvenienced, because they have to unload their trash, and then get back onto the scale with their recyclable items. Lately we have had customers that will unload their recyclables first, and then go onto the scale for dispose of their trash. That process seems to be working better for them.

**Tire Cutter:**

We have received our tire cutter, and have been cutting tires at the Solid Waste Collection Center. We are no longer accepting tires at the Landfill. All tires must be hauled to the Collection Center.

We are starting a new process for the businesses that transport tires to us. We will now be hauling our tire cutter to the business location, cut the tires on site, and then haul them to the Collection Center, where they will be taken for disposal.

**Trash Truck:**

We received our trash truck about two weeks ago and this Thursday it should be up and running.

Jimmy Gatlin, Shannon Crowder, Andy Alvarez from the Sanitation Department will receive training on the new trash truck, and Mike Huston, from the Service Center will receive the training as well.

**Green Waste:**

We have been receiving a significant amount of green waste this season because people have been cleaning out the river. We have received tons of salt cedar which cannot be fed through the wood chipper unless it is completely dry. If the salt cedar is green, it will clog up the chipper, and because of that we are trying to convert the salt cedar into yard waste, instead of trying to feed it through the wood chipper.

**Poly-carts:**

Hopefully the poly-carts will be in by the end of this month or the beginning of December. We are currently looking into the trash routes for the poly-carts, which will start at Rodeo Arena, Riverside, and the area by Pine Knot, and then at a later time the poly-carts will be distributed throughout other portions of town.

There are several areas that our poly-cart trash truck will not fit into. Some residents have gates around their yard openings which means, they will have to pull the poly-cart out of the yard because we cannot go into the residents yard. The residents that live on the other side of the river will have poly-carts, but there is an area that has a large hill, and the residents will have to put the cart at the bottom of the hill.

All of the new poly-carts will have the City logo on them, and will be numbered. The only poly-carts that will not have the City logo on them, are the ones located in the Camino Del Cielo and Corona area.

COMMENTS  
FROM STAFF –  
ACQUISITION  
OF EQUIPMENT:

**Acquisition of Equipment- Gil Avelar, Electric Division Director**

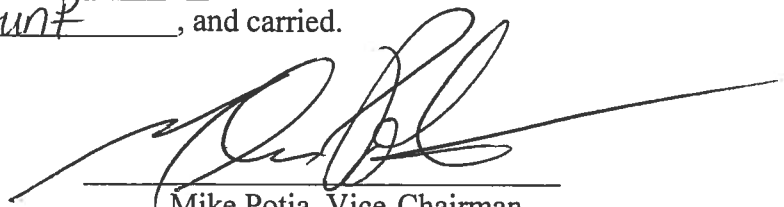
Gil Avelar, Electric Division Director, stated that the Electric Division is looking into purchasing a new meter reading truck. The current truck we have is old, has several miles on it, and is not in very good shape. They are also looking into a new Digger Derek Truck; which will more than likely be identical to the 1994 Digger Derek Truck we currently have.

Juan Fuentes, City Manager stated that the goal is to start looking into a couple of aspects in regards to the Electric Division. We want to invest more into our system to provide a better service to our customers, and also invest into our staff, in regards to training, because our personnel is what keeps our system going.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Public Utility Advisory Board Mike Potia, Vice-Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

APPROVAL:

PASSED AND APPROVED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014, on motion duly made by Alvin Siffring, seconded by James Hunt, and carried.



Mike Potia, Vice-Chairman  
Public Utility Advisory Board