

CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2014

SPECIAL MEETING
ACTION MINUTES

TIME & PLACE: The Mayor and the City Commission of the City of Truth or Consequences in the County of Sierra, and State of New Mexico met in Special Session in full conformity with the law and ordinances of said Commission in the Commission Chambers of said City, on Tuesday, July 15, 2014, with the meeting starting at 1:30 P.M.

Mayor Sandra Whitehead announced that Commissioner Kathy Clark was unable to attend the meeting.

PRESIDING OFFICER: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sandra Whitehead who presided and Judy Harris, City Clerk acted as Secretary of the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Upon calling the roll the following Commissioners were reported present.

Hon. Sandra Whitehead, Mayor
Hon. Steve Green, Mayor Pro-Tem
Hon. Jeff Richter, Commissioner
Hon. Ruben Olivas, Commissioner

Also Present:

Juan Fuentes, City Manager
Jay Rubin, City Attorney
Judy Harris, City Clerk

Absent: Hon. Katy Clark, Commissioner

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

CEREMONY: Mayor Sandra Whitehead called for fifteen seconds of Silent Meditation.

Mayor Sandra Whitehead called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

FINAL FYE 2015 BUDGET: Mayor Sandra Whitehead explained Discussion/Review Final FYE Budget for the City of Truth or Consequences; she then turned the meeting over to the City Manager.

City Manager Juan Fuentes explained and gave the Commission a summary sheet for review which noted changes and stating that formal adoption would come before the Commission at Tuesday's meeting. He explained there were Department Heads in the

Audience, if the Commission had any questions of the Department budgets. He explained that in the General Funds, he noted that we had \$847 and some change as of June 30th. He noted it was a little bit higher than what we expected

City Manager Juan Fuentes showed a PowerPoint presentation while describing the expenditures and revenues, explain first the GRT (Gross Receipts Tax) had a decrease in last year, noting the property tax decrease. He then explained recurring revenue. In the General Fund he explained 1.6 from Utilities to the General Funds, noting the policy Commission as a Board of Finance. He explained the point of going into this fiscal year that we watch what happens with Wal-Mart, as when their project of solar comes on line, it will make a difference to the Utilities and revenue. Noting less revenue, we need to be mindful of. On the expense side, the sub-recipients increase was shown, Facility Management was also changed to reflect the increase of one employee from the Pool, who moved back to facilities. He noted that licenses and permits had a decrease. He noted the Hospital GRT payment reflected the actual from last year, based on actual activities. City Manager Fuentes moved to the new revenue amount, noting the Police Department increase for the Shelter and new Police Department Offices. He spoke briefly on the Cops Grant. He explained the increase to the Golf Course due to the pump house, and increase for the Airport Streets and Pool. He noted the Pool decreased, again due to moving the employee to Facilities.

City Manager Juan Fuentes stated that it is a challenge for all of us, if we want to approve the budget; we need to hold the line on expenses. He also pointed out help this year from the Small City's assistance fund of \$372,937. For the General Fund he noted the quarter at end, Fire Protection fund estimated; noting that Chief Tooley was in the audience if there should be questions he can answer. He stated that Chief Tooley has a plan.

Fire Chief Paul Tooley approached and noted he would be rolling over \$133 thousand this year, and with the Fire Assistance Fund moneys he would have about three in the bank. He noted a 4.4 increase of funds of about 9 or 10 thousand this year. He spoke about the receivables for September and voiding a Purchase Order and reissuing the same. He noted that we can't accumulate funds, so the State wants to know what we plan to do with the money, he also made the statement that the Fire Department was trying to be self-sufficient.

City Manager Juan Fuentes explained in a recap the Recreation Fund, Correction, Law Enforcement and money from the State. He called on the Police Chief to explain the Animal Shelter funding. He noted that fund 24; the Animal Shelter fund includes capital outlay money from the State.

Chief of Police Priscilla Mullins approached, she noted that we are currently paying Doctor Dockins \$10,000 every month, and made the comment that is why we are looking at our own shelter. She also explained money from the State, which supplement her department. She also explained the drawdown of money for the new officer, and noted that the reason it took so long,

City Manager Juan Fuentes spoke of seed money which we would put towards the Animal Shelter. He moved on to explained revenue funds and major changes. In Enterprise finds that was the decrease, again due to Wal-Mart. He noted that next we would receive an update from Jesus on water and wastewater.

Jesus Salayandia approached he spoke about the pumps for Clancy had been \$28,000, there were two pumps, one went for repair and we found that the repair would be as much as a new pump.

City Manager Juan Fuentes noted that in item #43 on the paperwork, the Airport decrease was due to fuel. He spoke about the closing of the Landfill and the cover. He also noted Golf Course and Airport again. Regarding Capital Projects from the paperwork he spoke about Water, Electrical Construction funds used for electrical work for Williamsburg, noting we were still awaiting close out by the State, as we are still owed about \$40,000, which he had accounted for all grants and put them in there. He spoke about Poly-Carts, doors and we would look at what would be our top priorities.

Andy Alvarez, Sanitation, approached and spoke about the Poly-Cart conversion from the metal dumpsters; he also mentioned the need for a new truck. He explained there were about two more phases on Poly-Carts, and the extra truck was needed for when the other truck is in need of repairs.

City Manager Juan Fuentes covered all the Capital projects. He noted they money set aside per the City Code, noted one million for utilities. He spoke regarding the USDA loan and the loan component. He explained that as we go through funding we can look at these funds and be cautious about using. For Other Funds, he noted not a lot of changes; he noted the Pledge State and some investments. He explained that he would bring the funding back to the Commission, as they had passed that we could contribute money to the State funds and be able to collect some interest on those, he noted we were not getting any returns from the bank.

Commissioner Jeff Richter asked about the equipment at the Landfill, and looking at Solid Waste, he also asked about the transfer of trash, did we look into different ways to haul the materials and where it is being hauled, to make sure we are receiving the best pricing.

City Manager Juan Fuentes spoke of “public auction” which we could possibly use. He noted we would certainly research the best way to sell the equipment, he noted we were pursuing all options.

Commissioner Jeff Richter also asked about the Library.

Pat O’Hanlon, Librarian approached and noted the books that went through the Library.

Commissioner Jeff Richter also spoke about making an Ordinance to prevent us from spending it. (Speaking of the amounts in savings)

Mayor Sandra Whitehead asked about running a report which could show us the amounts of decreases.

City Manager Juan Fuentes answered that he had one that he had put together; he put it up on the screen and explained the loss in utilities. He explained the trends, noting the loss of those needing water or utilities. Noting the trend was going down.

Mayor Sandra Whitehead asked about personnel, are we replacing these people, and if not are those doing the work overwhelmed, what are we doing for the future to make sure that things are being done.

City Manager Juan Fuentes noted the loss in services, when there is a vacancy we look on a case by case basis, he made not of the Police Department, and other Departments, noting he made some one positions two positions, and there are some Departments who don’t have a lot of people. When we talk about cutting, we need to look at those to see what the need is.

City Manager Juan Fuentes explained that this is a budget, one of the things DFA looks for is these funds, new including budget, schedule of debt, insurance include on Tuesday as well.

Mayor Sandra Whitehead opened the floor for Public Comment.

Mayor Sandra Whitehead noted that no one wished to comment.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further comments, Mayor Sandra Whitehead called for a motion to adjourn.

“Mayor Pro-Tem Steve Green moved for adjournment.”

Seconded by Commissioner Ruben Olivas.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

CERTIFICATION: PASSED AND APPROVED this 12th day of August, 2014, on a motion made by Commissioner Steve Green and seconded by Commissioner Kathy Clark, and carried.

Sandra Whitehead, Mayor

ATTEST:

Judy M. Harris, City Clerk