

**CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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, January 22, 2024 at 3:30 pm.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Dornbusch.

ROLL CALL:

Jeff Dornbusch, Vice-Chairman
Gil Avelar, Member
Don Armijo, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Angie Gonzales, City Manager
Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager
Lisa Gabaldon, Deputy Clerk

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Regular meeting of November 20, 2023.

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

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

There were no comments at this time.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion/Action: Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch made a motion to table the item until they have a full board.
Member Avelar seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

b. Discussion/Update – Current and Future Capital Projects, Assistant City Manager Alvarez

Assistant City Manager Alvarez went over the status report that was part of the agenda packet. She stated that it is the current capital project list; it includes airport, parks, streets, water/wastewater, and animal shelter. In the next section she stated that the next section are all projects that are fully funded and currently in progress right now; some are in the planning process, some of them are in construction, and some of them are almost completed construction. The next section are applications that they have submitted or they are working on submitting to various funding sources for various departments. The last section is the fiscal agent projects; they are projects that she oversees that are funded out to MainStreet and the senior center. Currently they have \$35,648,000 in projects going on within the city; that's fully funded and in progress, that they are working on. They have another \$52,000,000 in projects that they are applying for funding for. She went on to advise the board that the downtown water project, the MSD water project, they are just working on some of the AMI water meter connections. They have Cook Street that has to be taken care of. They have the drinking water project that they're currently working on 2nd Street and Marshall. They have a USDA project that is 90% design that is going out to bid. PER2, they are in the process of applying for the remaining funding with USDA. Clean water, they are working on VAC station improvements; basically, they are looking for band-aids for the VAC station. They recently decided that they need to take a serious look at completely rehabbing the whole VAC station idea. In order to apply for funding, they have to have a preliminary engineering report or design analysis report; they have reached out to start getting quotes for one of the reports and that will give them some estimated costs. The first step is looking at what they can do. Once they have that information, they can start applying for funding.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch recommended that the City follow a more traditional pit and sump pumps and mercury switches. Traditional lift stations seem to work just fine. He made a suggestion to choose pumps wisely. Vice-Chairman Dornbusch asked about the water line replacement; if they were lines that are continually breaking and having to be repaired over and over again?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez answered that on some of them, yes. For the MSD/USDA project, no because they applied for and got the funding back in 2017-2018; it takes that long from being awarded to go through the process. The only thing that applies to the critical line replacements, which is approximately \$20 million is what they have estimated in all of these lines that are continuously breaking. They have been awarded \$1.6 million for the design of all of those. They have applied to the Water Trust Board for \$16 million of that; it has been recommended to the legislature for this session that the City will be awarded the \$16 million. For the remaining \$4 million, they have just turned in a notice of intent to Colonias Funding. They have the design money; they are just finalizing the grant agreement; they have to get it finalized before they procure for design.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch asked about the Cook Street tank and pump station; he asked if there was something in line to address the major issue for the tank and the pumps?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez stated that the pumps are already being addressed as it's part of the MSD. They had to replace one of the pumps; they had to replace it before the funding was allocated, so USDA is going to work it into the grant since it was an emergency pump replacement. When they went out to bid for the tank, the first cost that came in was 27% over due to the cost of things now, so the tank was taken out of the bid. They have the tank taken out of the MSD project, there is one or two streets taken out of the drinking water Colonius project. They are trying to combine shovel ready projects to make one project and get a good estimate and then go back for funding from other sources. They don't have the money right now but they are putting it together in an application, as a priority.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch recommended that the City try to keep the tanks full. He is concerned that if there were to be a big fire, we wouldn't have the water supply to extinguish it due to all of the water leaks and such that are going on throughout the city.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez stated that the Wispy One project they have one there is one of the things that it's going to be addressing, especially in the area off of Third Street where the old Sentinel office is and then up above Pine Knot and towards the elementary school. It will adjust the fire pressure. They are working very closely with the streets manager and the water department so that they can start following the water lines. They will apply for streets funding for roadways that the water projects have already been done on.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch mentioned that years ago, possibly in Alamogordo, they have the street department following the water lines the were being fixed so that they could cover it up on the spot.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez stated that the problem is there is only one place that is going to deliver the hot-mix to us, Bartoo. They've always worked very well with the city but the problem is Bartoo is stretched to the limits working on roundabouts and working on the Williamsburg exchange. Those are big state projects. She went on to say that Pine Street, from 5th to 8th, they replaced the water line and then with the LGRF streets funding, they're doing the repaving. If you go down there, they got it down to dirt, they've got the forms for the sidewalks and it's just been hit and miss on getting the concrete in and getting the paving done due to them having to work with Bartoo's schedule. Same with filling water holes; the streets manager has a small staff so he has reached out the solid waste, water/wastewater, and the parks department and the police department and they are all willing to send over as many staff members as they can to jump in and help.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch asked if they have looked into using flowable fill. It's like cinders so that after it's poured you can dig it.

Member Armijo stated that they had tried it when he worked for the City; he went on to give an explanation as to what they needed to do. He then stated that the problem with getting it is that they would have to get the flowable fill from Bartoo. Member Armijo volunteered to go and talk to the streets department and share some of his knowledge and experience.

City Manager Gonzales and Assistant City Manager stated that they have no issue with Member Armijo speaking to Buster.

Member Armijo suggested they send a truck to Albuquerque and pick up 2 truckloads of coal mix as it is expensive. He said this mix was his preference. He stated that they have a summer mix and a winter mix.

City Manager Gonzales suggested that the board members attend the City Commission on Wednesday, January 24, 2024. She advised them that there is an item on the agenda that might be of some interest to them; it has to do with the sale of the electric department and it will be later on in the meeting.

Assistant City Manager continued with the second item in her packet which is the ICIP plan, that was submitted for 2025-2029. They do this every year; it goes in front of the Commission with projects, overall rankings of projects, and it's usually done around May-June, it has to be sent in to the state. The capital outlay is going to focus mainly on the water lines, water infrastructure and the water leaks. The other item is looking at the Clancy lift station; they are requesting \$1.5 million to do some improvements. They are hoping that with the governor putting so much money into the Veterans home, if they talk to her about how important that sewer line is that services the Veterans home, maybe we can get some money and redo the whole line.

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch asked if there were one or two pumps at Cook station.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez answered that there are two pumps.

5. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD:

There were no reports from the board at this time.

6. REPORTS FROM STAFF:

There were no reports from staff at this time.

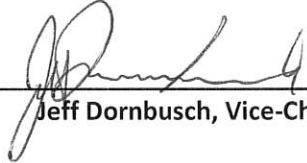
7. ADJOURNMENT:

Member Armijo made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Member Avelar seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 20th DAY OF MAY 2024.



Jeff Dornbusch, Vice-Chairman