

PUBLIC UTILITIES MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 1, 2006
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
405 PASEO DE OÑATE, ESPANOLA

Chair: Alice Lucero
Councilors: Alfred Herrera
Dennis Tim Salazar
Cecilia Lujan
City Manager: Chris Rainwater
City Clerk: Veronica Martinez
Staff: Marvin Martinez
David Bustos
Louis Lujan
Guests: Gary Lincoln
Roy Archuleta
Richard Cook
Art Martinez
Douglas Albin (Molzen-Corbin)

Approval of Agenda:

Councilor Lujan made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Salazar seconded the motion. Councilor Herrera requested that item D.4. be moved before item D.1.; the amendment was accepted; the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilor Salazar made a motion to approve the minutes of June 6, 2006. Councilor Herrera seconded the motion; it passed with a 3/0 vote.

Business with Visitors:

Art Martinez, a City resident, stated that he had attended a meeting on June 26, 2006, at the Sombrillo Elementary School, which was a public meeting held by the NMDOT regarding the proposed construction project of US 84/285. He stated that after the meeting, Mr. James Gallegos, an engineer with the DOT, had spoke with him and brought up the issue of the infrastructure plans that the City of Española had been considering for some time. Mr. Martinez stated that Mr. Gallegos had indicated that the City really needed to get moving on this project, and hopefully it could be completed prior to the highway project, or in the best scenario, in conjunction with the project. Mr. Martinez stated that it would be in the best interest of the City to do this project in conjunction both for cost savings (i.e. not having to pay for asphalt, etc.) and because Mr. Gallegos had mentioned that the state may impose a moratorium that would not allow the City to do construction under the new highway in the future. Mr. Martinez stated that he would like the City to look into the possibility of working with the DOT to get this work done, citing that he and others had been annexed into the City since 1990.

Committee Chair Lucero acknowledged Douglas Albin, of Molzen-Corbin. Mr. Albin stated that he had been contacted by Mr. Martinez and was asked to explain the possibilities and the history of this project. He stated that he had also attended the DOT meeting in June, and stated that he agreed that this would be a great opportunity to get this project done in conjunction with the highway project.

Mr. Albin went on to explain the history of this project. He stated that when this project first came to light, there were several entities involved, namely, the City of Española for its south-side residents and future growth, Santa Clara Pueblo for the movie theater, their golf course and developing the “4-corners”, and the Española School District to improve its water situation at Sombrillo Elementary. Since, then, he described how easement issues, among others, had reduced the involved parties back down to the City of Española. He described the proposed water and wastewater routes that could solve many issues that the City had been and was currently dealing with, including fire protection and future growth.

At the conclusion of Mr. Albin’s explanation of the possibilities of this project, the committee asked Mr. Rainwater to look into the possibility of this project getting underway along with the DOT’s highway project.

Mr. Arsenio DeAguero, who was on the Agenda under Business with Visitors, was not present.

Mr. Gary Lincoln, of the Santa Clara Development Corporation, addressed the committee. He stated that his request was to clarify why they were being charged for a new hook-up fee for their casino expansion project, when they previously had services. Marvin Martinez explained to the committee that while the building did have one connection previously, it was disconnected due to the business closing, and now that they are reopening another business at the same location, they must pay for a new hookup. Committee Chair Lucero stated that this item seemed to be an administrative matter and asked Mr. Rainwater to handle it.

Mr. Richard Cook, a citizen, addressed the committee. He stated that he had been double billed and the city owed him money back. He stated that he could produce his bank records and his bills to show that he had paid twice for the same service. Committee Chair Lucero stated that also should be handled by Mr. Rainwater.

Mr. Roy Archuleta, a citizen, addressed the committee. He stated that he believed he should not have to pay a hookup fee for sewer because there was sewer available to the property when he bought it. He discovered it by accident when he was looking for the septic he believed to be on the property. Staff concurred that they had discovered it by accident, though they had no record of any hookup at the property at any time. Regardless, Mr. Archuleta would have to pay for a new hookup. Mr. Rainwater was directed to handle this matter as well.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Louis Lujan gave an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion project. He stated that everything is on schedule and he continues to have daily meetings with the contractor and the supervisor from Molzen-Corbin.

WATER SERVICES

Marvin Martinez spoke about Change Order #5 for Wells 1 & 2 from Molzen Corbin. He stated that it was an electrical issue that was somehow overlooked. It would cost approximately \$13,000. He recommended that it be approved.

Councilor Lujan made a motion for a do-pass recommendation for Change Order #5, seconded by Councilor Herrera. The motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

Marvin Martinez spoke about the San Juan-Chama Water Lease Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation. He recommended approval of the lease agreement, stating that it is a renewal of a lease of water rights for the preservation of the Silvery Minnow, and that we had been leasing the water since 1999.

Councilor Lujan made a motion for a do-pass recommendation for the approval of the San Juan-Chama Water Lease Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, seconded by Councilor Herrera; the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

Marvin Martinez spoke about the additional water sampling and packer testing at well sites for the PER. Douglas Albin also gave information about what value this testing would have on the impact of the PER for the arsenic abatement project. Both stated that this was an important aspect of the project and recommended approval.

Councilor Lujan made a motion for a do-pass recommendation for additional water sampling and packer testing at well sites for the PER, seconded by Councilor Herrera; the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Lujan made the motion for adjournment. Councilor Salazar seconded the motion; it passed with a 3/0 vote.

PASSED APPROVED AND ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 12, 2006.

Electronic copy – signatures on file.