

**City of Tucumcari
City Commission Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2014**

The Tucumcari City Commission met in a regular meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers, Members present constituting a quorum were, Mayor Amiel Curnutt, Ernest Dominguez, Robert Lumpkin and Dora Salinas-McTigue.

City Staff members present were: Doug Powers, City Manager; Charlie Sandoval, Water Dept. Superintendent/Assistant City Manager; Jason Braziel, Chief of Police; Angelica Gray, City Clerk; Ralph Lopez, Project Manager; Steven Stephenson, Airport Supervisor; Mercedes Rudisill, Human Resources Specialist.

Pastor Fred Caton with Divine Connection Church led the invocation and Commissioner Ernest Dominguez led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of Changes for Deletions to the Agenda

Commissioner Lumpkin made the motion to approve the agenda as written and Commissioner Salinas-McTigue seconded the motion. Roll Call:

Curnutt	Dominguez	Lumpkin	Salinas-McTigue
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Lumpkin thanked everyone for coming tonight. He stated he received a report from the Cemetery Advisory Board. The report thanked the employees at the Cemetery including Abel Sena, Luciano Montano, Leonard Griego and Scott Simpson. He thanked them for their hard work.

He also stated that Elks Lodge donated \$2,700 to the athletic department along with 170 dictionaries to 3rd grade students at Tucumcari Elementary School.

In addition, he stated the Eastern New Mexico Bluegrass and Old Tyme Music Association had their annual fundraiser at the convention center and they had a large participation. The money is used to put on the Bluegrass Festival.

Commissioner Salinas-McTigue stated she is glad to see a room full of citizens. She thanked them for coming.

Commissioner Dominguez thanked the board for being active at the cemetery and also thanked employees for their hard work.

He also stated the museum was closed for a couple of weeks for renovation and painting. The board members and the City employees did a great job.

Mayor Curnutt thanked everyone for coming tonight. He stated he was invited by Everyone's Federal Credit Union to present their annual proclamation. He was impressed by the philosophy and the employees at EFCU and how many people attended the annual banquet.

Everyone's Federal Credit Union has been in business for 60 years. He thanked them for the invitation.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Lumpkin made the motion to approve the minutes for February 13, 2014 Commission Work Session and Commissioner Salinas-McTigue seconded the motion. Roll Call:

Dominguez	Lumpkin	Curnutt	Salinas-McTigue
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Commissioner Lumpkin made the motion to approve the February 13, 2014 Commission Meeting Minutes and Commissioner Salinas-McTigue seconded the motion. Roll Call:

Lumpkin	Dominguez	Curnutt	Salinas-McTigue
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Resolutions and Proclamations

Proclamation declaring March 20, 2014 as Everyone's Federal Credit Union Day Celebrating 60 years of service – Proclamation was accepted by Andi Baum.

Proclamation declaring April 1, 2014, as Mayors Day of Recognition of National Service – proclamation was accepted by Mary Ann Dominguez.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Powers thanked the representatives in Santa Fe. They recommended the Ute Lake yield study, the landfill trash compactor, and the vehicles for the senior center, which is over \$600,000. He appreciates how they have represented Tucumcari.

He stated he and the Mayor attended the state assessment for Mainstreet projects. Rich Williams from Santa Fe was here. They discussed the projects going on downtown and they are pleased with the improvements at the railroad depot.

He and several members of the staff met with Virginia Adderman who is our personnel attorney. We went through our personnel resolution. He hopes to have a draft to the commission.

Also for the commissioner's information, we received a letter from AT&T wanting to utilize the tower on Eleventh St. We sent this information to Randy Knudson and his opinion is that the City should sign this agreement. He hopes to get clarification by the next commission meeting to present to the commission.

Regarding the wastewater grant from last year, \$100,00 has been submitted to construction programs and they have reviewed it and they deemed the part of the projects, which he feels is the priority, the Rock Island lift station, both the design and electric and the sewer line and replacements along Rte. 66 are both eligible projects. With the review and permission, he will proceed with that.

He stated he attended the meeting with Eastern New Mexico Water Utility with Commissioner Lumpkin in Clovis.

On February 19th, there was a cemetery board meeting. He appreciates their effort and time.

He wanted to inform the commission that the screen and auger were operating this morning at Wastewater Department.

Alex Arias and his staff leveled, watered and compacted at Kodiak Produce.

He thanked everyone who helped at the Museum.

He stated that they interviewed individuals for the position at the Convention Center and the position was offered to Ruth Nelson.

Bids and Contracts

Requesting Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between City of Tucumcari and New Mexico Department of Motor Vehicle – Mercedes Rudisill stated this is a contract with Department of Motor Vehicle and it will allow the City to comply with its personnel policies and insurance policies. She spoke with Randy Knudson and he gave his telephonic approval on this Memorandum of Understanding. She stated she is the approving authority for this Memorandum of Understanding.

Commissioner Salinas-McTigue asked if, for example, if there are infractions on the driving record what is the remedy she will seek toward the employee. Ms. Rudisill stated city policy states that employees must hold a valid New Mexico driver's license. If the license is revoked it would put the employee outside regulations and therefore they would not be an employee. Ms. Rudisill was unsure if it affected their insurance.

Commissioner Lumpkin stated this is standard and it is not a cost to the City.

Commissioner Lumpkin the motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and Commissioner Dominguez seconded the motion. Roll Call:

Dominguez	Lumpkin	Curnutt	Salinas-McTigue
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Requesting Approval of Airport Emergency Generator – Mr. Lopez stated the total for this project is \$150,000, with \$7,500.00 from the State, \$7,500.00 from City, and \$135,000.00 from FAA.

Mr. Stephenson, supervisor at Tucumcari Airport stated the generator has been there for years. When he loses power at the airport the FAA loses complete power.

Commissioner Salinas-McTigue asked if the power goes out at the airport, does the generator automatically turn on.

Mayor Curnutt asked if this generator is natural gas or propane. Mr. Stephenson stated that it has not gone out for bid but it will be decided at that time.

Commissioner Lumpkin stated that we will be receiving \$150,000 with payback of \$7,500.00.

Commissioner Lumpkin made the motion to approve the grant agreement for the Airport Emergency Generator and Commissioner Salinas-McTigue seconded the motion. Roll Call:

Curnutt	Dominguez	Lumpkin	Salinas-McTigue
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Requesting Approve of Airport Terminal Parking Lot Design – Mr. Lopez stated this is to begin the first phase of the parking lot. Total grant is \$60,000 with the State contributing \$3,000.00, the City contributing \$3,000 and FAA contributing \$54,000.00

Mr. Powers added that everyone is aware of the improvements made at the Airport. He thinks the City needs to accent the improvements with this parking lot.

Commissioner Salinas-McTigue asked if this design will add more parking spaces. Mr. Stephenson stated he hopes it does.

Commissioner Dominguez made the motion to approve the Airport Terminal Parking Lot Design and Commissioner Lumpkin seconded the motion. Roll Call:

Curnutt	Dominguez	Lumpkin	Salinas-McTigue
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Requesting Approval to Purchase Fire Engine Truck form HGAC Buy – Mr. Rigdon stated they are in need of replacing two units; the first one being 1987 rescue truck which holds the rescue equipment and a 1989 Pumper. These two units will be combined into the new unit.

Mr. Powers stated the City has received \$185,000 from the fire protective fund. Mr. Rigdon stated there is a little over \$400,000 is in the fund. He stated the request is sent to the fire marshal and they approve how the money is spent. He stated the money is in place and it has been approved. He further stated that the unit will not be ready for another year. Once approved, a purchase order will be submitted to the manufacturer and they will get paid next year.

Commissioner Lumpkin clarified that the money is available and the money has to be spent on this. Mr. Rigdon stated the money is not spent every year and what is not spent is carried over.

Mr. Rigdon stated the 1989 truck will be put in reserve. As for the 1987 truck, it will be given to another department who can use it.

Mr. Powers asked if 15 years is the normal life expectancy of a fire truck. Mr. Rigdon stated that Insurance Services Organization, which regulates the insurance rates, has rated our department at a 5 and the lower the rate the better our insurance is and they recommend our oldest engine be replaced every 15 years.

Commissioner Lumpkin asked if purchasing this fire truck will put a burden on any need we might have at the fire department. Mr. Rigdon answered that not at this time.

Commissioner Lumpkin made the motion to approve the purchase of a fire engine truck from HGAC Buy and Commissioner Salinas-McTigue seconded the motion. Roll Call:

Dominguez	Lumpkin	Curnutt	Salinas-McTigue
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Old Business

Acknowledgment of Community Development Advisory Board Meeting minutes dated October 1, 2013, November 21, 2013, and December 4, 2013 – Mayor Curnutt noted that he has acknowledged the minutes for these dates.

New Business

Mayor Curnutt thanked both Amy Gutierrez and Jonathan Brito for volunteering.

Appointment of City Commissioner District Two – Commissioner Lumpkin stated this is a very difficult decision and he has received phone calls supporting both candidates.

He stated that Ms. Gutierrez ran for election in 2012 and received the second highest votes in District 2, which indicates to him that there is documented support from District Two.

Commissioner Lumpkin also stated that Mr. Brito works with young children at the school.

With the documented support from District Two Commissioner Lumpkin made the motion to appoint Amy Gutierrez as Commissioner District Two and Commissioner Salinas-McTigue seconded the motion. Roll Call:

Lumpkin	Dominguez	Curnutt	Salinas-McTigue
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Ms. Gutierrez stated she is honored for the opportunity. She will do the best she can and she thanked the community for having faith in her.

Mayor Curnutt thanked Mr. Brito for volunteering.

Requesting Approval of City Manager's Contract Extension – Mr. Powers stated that the commission is aware his contract will expire April 23, 2014. He felt that instead of asking for an additional year, he thought 90 days was an appropriate extension to the contract to allow him to work with the new commission and get some direction on where they will go.

Commissioner Lumpkin added that they have discussed hiring a new city manager along with different scenarios. Mr. Powers has discussed the possibility of retiring, which takes time. With the extension, this would give him time to set up his retirement. If they hire a city manager, the new city manager will need help with the transition.

Commissioner Lumpkin stated that Mr. Powers has been a very good employee for the last 20 years and has received awards. He has brought in over \$60,000,000.00 to the community with grants over the years. In the last couple of years he has brought \$2.2 million for Water Trust Board.

Commissioner Lumpkin made the motion to extend City Manager Doug Powers contract until July 23, 2014 and Commissioner Dominguez seconded the motion. Roll Call:

Dominguez	Lumpkin	Curnutt	Salinas-McTigue
Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Items from Citizens

Gary Montano – He apologized for the interruptions at the last meeting. He continued by reading language from Mr. Powers contract with the City.

He stated that during a work session on October 10, 2013, a rule for public comments at city commission meetings was presented. He read from a letter dated November 13th from Attorney Knudson where he suggests a protocol be put in place for people wanting to speak on any subject. He asked if the City has adopted a protocol for public speaking. Mayor Curnutt stated it has been discussed however it has not been voted on.

Betty Coslett – She stated she appreciates the work the Mayor, Commissioner Dominguez, and Commissioner Lumpkin have done. She thanked Mr. Powers for his hard work. She stated there are people that do believe he has done a great job and it is appreciated.

Jeanne O'Dean – She stated she wants to continue her request to have an in-depth investigation and audit of the Community Development Block Grants. Based on the minutes the Mayor acknowledged, there is serious discrepancy to that and possible misappropriation of funds.

In addition, as a scientist working with EPA and having partners that were consultants as well as having partners with Texas A&M Emergency Preparedness and Response, as well as her affiliation with Pro News 7, she has been doing investigation and deferring her findings with experts in the field. She needs to request, as a citizen, what emergency preparedness response the City has with Carlsbad regarding the radiation leak. She knows it has been downsized by the AP and Department of Energy. The findings show that it is creating something that we need be alerted to. On the federal government biz site, there have been 1200 suits request with no ventilation and for articulates and Kirtland Air Force is commissioned to cover the site. CDC has requested emergency ventilators. They have been cited a plutonium plane. There is still combustion and chemical reaction going on.

Items from Commissioners

Commissioner Dominguez thanked everyone for coming. He congratulated Ms. Gutierrez and suggested to Mr. Brito that he try to get experience by being appointed to our advisory boards.

Commissioner Salinas-McTigue stated it has been a pleasure to work with Mayor Curnutt. She thanked Ms. Gutierrez.

Commissioner Lumpkin also thanked Mayor Curnutt. He appreciates him representing Tucumcari in Santa Fe and the different boards. He appreciates it and thanked him.

Commissioner Lumpkin stated he thanked Ms. Gutierrez and Mr. Brito for stepping up.

Mayor Curnutt thanked everyone for coming tonight. He stated as a commission they are to all work together. Individual aspirations are not allowed. There are statutes and legislative laws that state that is not allowed.

He further stated that as a commission, they can hire the city manager and hold him accountable. However, State legislature also gives him the exclusive rights to not be interfered with day to day operations, which is unlawful.

In the last few months, we have lost sight of that. He apologized for his share and for what he has done.

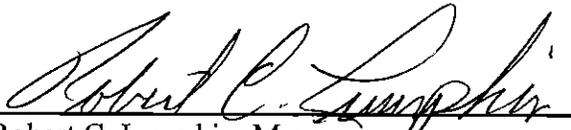
He stated the commission must work as a united board and take into consideration what the city needs. He thanked the staff at the City of Tucumcari and stated it has been a pleasure.

Adjournment

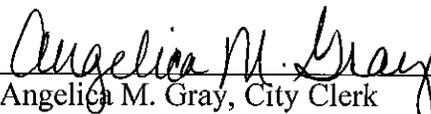
Mayor Curnutt asked for a motion to Adjourn. Commissioner Salinas-McTigue made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Lumpkin seconded the motion. Roll Call:

Curnutt	Dominguez	Lumpkin	Salinas-McTigue
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.


Robert C. Lumpkin, Mayor

ATTEST:


Angelica M. Gray, City Clerk

