

**CITY OF TUCUMCARI  
CITY COMMISSION  
Work Session Notes**

**September 11, 2014**

The Tucumcari City Commission met in a work session on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers. Members present were John Mihm, Mayor Robert Lumpkin, Amy Gutierrez and Rick Haymaker and Ruth Ann Litchfield. Mayor Lumpkin appeared by Skype.

City staff members present were Charlie Sandoval, Assistant City Manager; Dennis Dysart, Finance Director; and Angelica Gray, City Clerk.

**Discussion on Ordinance 1117, Synthetic Drug Ordinance**

Mayor Lumpkin stated that Ms. Gray has prepared the synthetic drug ordinance from Portales. Ms. Gray explained that if the commission wishes to use the Portales ordinance versus the ordinance from Clovis, it could go before the commission as a first reading tonight at which time it would be published on September 17, 2014 and because it cannot be approved until 10 days after the publication, the ordinance could not be approved until the meeting of October 9, 2014.

**Ute Lake Pipeline/GRT to be converted**

Mayor Lumpkin stated the gross receipts tax that he has discussed changing in regards to Ute Lake, will not increase taxes for Tucumcari citizens. The referendum currently taking place with the County and the definition change he has proposed regarding the Ute Lake Water, are two separate referendums.

He stated the referendum for the County is not a city referendum.

**Discussion regarding old utilities**

Mayor Lumpkin received several phone calls from citizens who received bills dated back 21 years ago. He stated that utility invoices from that long ago are debatable on whether it was paid or not. He stated the City employees are doing their jobs by collecting bills.

He suggested the City take no further action on these bills until the matter can be discussed amongst the commission. Mr. Powers stated he thinks each bill needs to be dealt with individually. Mayor Lumpkin stated he is not opposed to writing these bills off.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated she was given the letter a citizen received. She does not believe the letter was thought out. She finds the lingo in the letter to be offensive to a point. She stated she was waiting for a phone call from the city attorney.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated the citizen was concerned with the statutes of limitation.

Mr. Dysart stated that in July 2010 when he came to work for the City, there was \$450,000.00 in back due bills and losing \$30,000.00 yearly. He stated he began following the ordinance and since has collected \$66,000.00 in three years from those old bills.

He explained the particular situation at hand is the husband had a bill and they moved. When they moved it was put in the wife's name and they left a forwarding address. Bills were mailed but never paid. This is money that if it was not collected, the rates would have to increase.

He stated the ordinance states that the service will not be connected unless the bill is paid. He stated there is also an anti-donation clause because we cannot give water.

He stated the deposit has been increased to \$200.00. He stated we are making efforts and working with the citizens.

Mayor Lumpkin stated that when a citizen contacts the commission they must do their due diligence.

Mayor Lumpkin asked that they back off the enforcement such as disconnection, liens, until the commission talks about it.

Mr. Dysart asked that we not discontinue turning off the water when they do not pay and if we lose that ability, we will be back to where we were.

Mayor Lumpkin clarified that he meant bills greater than 10 or 15 years old. He does not want to interfere in the normal process.

Commissioner Haymaker stated he wants to review the letter.

Commissioner Litchfield stated the letter needs to be more professional.

Commissioner Gutierrez stated that she is not against collections.

### **Discussion of invitation for USDA**

Mayor Lumpkin stated that USDA is putting on a workshop on September 16<sup>th</sup>. He stated they will be providing 100% grants in the amount of \$7,500.00 to improve homes, to qualified homeowners. He stated this is an amazing opportunity.

He stated if they do not qualify, there is a loan option at 1% interest.

### **Executive Session**

The commission convened to executive session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act 10-15-1(H)(2) limited personnel matters regarding the hiring of a new city manager.

The commission reconvened from executive session noting that nothing was discussed other than limited personnel matters regarding the hiring of a new city manager.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Angelica M. Gray, City Clerk