

**City of Tukumcari
City Commission Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2013**

The Tukumcari City Commission met in a regular meeting on Thursday, August 8, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers, Members present constituting a quorum Ernest Dominguez, Robert Lumpkin, Jimmy Sandoval, Amiel Curnutt and Dora Salinas-McTigue.

City Staff members present were; Doug Powers, City Manager; Patricia Smith, Deputy City Clerk; Jason Braziel, Chief of Police; Dennis Dysart, Financial Director.

Wesley Stewart from Temple Baptist Church led the invocation and City Commissioner Ernest Dominguez led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of Changes for Deletions to the Agenda

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

Lumpkin	Sandoval	Dominguez	Curnutt	Salinas-McTigue
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Items from Commissioners

Mr. Lumpkin stated that we had the Rattler Reunion the first weekend in August. He thinks it is the best reunion in the southwest. He thanked the committee. We had 424 graduates who attended the banquet.

In addition he stated that Mark Lake received the leadership award. He commended Mr. Lake.

Mr. Lumpkin added that Altrusa supports our community and donated to the home visiting program.

The Mayor and he visited with a few residents at Georgetown.

Ms. Salinas-McTigue stated that she has received a few phone calls and visits that our city is going south. She attempted to put down in writing, the issues. 1) Wastewater treatment facility. They don't have equipment. They need to hire two new people to get certified. A suggestion she made was the water department should take over the lift stations. She thinks moving two people from the water department to the wastewater until we hire new employees would be a good idea.

We received a report from Janet Garcia, lab supervisor that says the cheese factory is still sending in the dairy waste and it is creating chaos at our wastewater. We are asking our city manager to visit with Mr. Krause at cheese factory and perhaps they can come up with a program to pretreat before they send our waste into our sewers.

She stated that the cemetery does not look any better than it did two weeks ago. Last year in June the Mayor put together a list of items to be done by the City and stated that we need to address issues with personnel the cemetery. She suggests that the City Manager meet with the cemetery department supervisor and address the issues.

The ultimate goal is to have a remedy and address the complaints as soon as possible. We have to have answers and solutions. The time we are allowing for answers and solutions by the September 12th commission meeting.

She further stated that Mr. Vanderpool touched on getting a Veteran's facility in Tucumcari. She is on the Senior New Mexico Advisory Board and they are starting pilot programs in Northern NM to provide support for Veteran's.

Lastly, when she took her walk through the cemetery she found several veteran's headstones or grave markers are not being taken care of. She was told that the families are to keep up with these gravestones.

Mr. Sandoval stated that through the years, he has gotten into trouble. From now on, if the radio station or newspaper and want to address what people have said the truth needs to be told.

Mr. Dominguez thanked his friend and neighbors for coming tonight. He wants to address the wastewater and cemetery problems. We do have a \$1,000,000 wastewater plant and has been paid for by taxpayers. He told Mr. Powers that we need solutions. We currently have a interim supervisor at the wastewater. He has been given a deadline on whether or not he wants to accept the permanent position at the wastewater plant.

As for the cemetery, he can reassure the community that he will be working with Mr. Powers and the commissioners to solve the issues.

Mayor Curnutt thanked everyone for coming in. He stated that he went to the reception for the new president at Mesalands. He feels that he will do a great job.

In addition, the Rattler Reunion was a great success.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Lumpkin made the motion to approve the July 25, 2013 Minutes as written and Ms. Salinas-McTigue seconded the motion. Roll Call:

Dominguez	Lumpkin	Curnutt	Sandoval	Salinas-McTigue
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Items from Citizens

Gretchen Gurtler, Director at Dinosaur Museum – She stated that the original name of the museum was Mesalands Community College Museum and Natural Science Laboratory and we have once again adopted that name. We are the only community college who has been funded for research. We are working on CURI College Undergraduate Research Initiative and there were 16 colleges throughout the country that were accepted and Mesalands out beat Harvard.

She would like to utilize more resources that we have in Tucumcari. In particular, the outdoor classroom. She is currently doing water research with the Water Corp. of Engineers to look at our water. We received a stem grant \$3.7 million over the next five years to fund research.

We would like an agreement with the City on the outdoor classroom. They would like a commitment that they can use the same land.

This will have to be the College and City council would have to make a commitment. She personally invited the commission to visit the museum.

Ms. Salinas-McTigue asked if the outdoor classroom is being coordinated for NM Ag Science. Ms. Gurtler stated the only time they work with NM Ag Science is for Earth Day.

Mr. Lumpkin stated she he does not see a problem with an agreement. She needs to work with the City Manager to get an agreement that will meet the approval of the commission.

Mr. Sandoval stated that he has worked with the College for several years. As a board of trustee at Mesalands, education is very important to him.

Vicki Frost, representative for Georgetown – She appreciates the commissioners visiting with her regarding their issues. However, some of the problems they have are that the streets, curbing and sidewalks do not exist on 9th and 10th streets and she believes it is a safety hazard for the residents that walk. In addition, the vacant lots are not being maintained. The fences and alleys are also not being maintained. She would like to have a speed limit sign put up. She understands that there should be a dumpster for every two houses and that is not the case.

Mr. Powers stated that he did get the streets department to work on 10th Street. He also contacted Mr. Bowen who is the property owner of the vacant lots, and asked him to clean his property. Mr. Powers noticed this has not been done and he will contact him again. Mr. Powers will contact the chief of police in regards to the speed limit signs.

Ms. Frost believes that Georgetown has been ignored. We don't see city employees drive to Georgetown to check on things. Mr. Powers will visit with Veronica Sandy regarding the concerns.

Mr. Lumpkin stated that he would like to find out who owns the entryway. He wants the residents to know that we are working on it.

She asks that the commissioner look into putting up a barrier on the property that belongs to Dr. Evetts, for safety purposes.

Michael Mulligan – He asked if in fact there should be a dumpster for every two houses. If that's the case, that is not what is happening with his properties. Mr. Powers thinks the standard is 2 dumpster per block.

Mr. Powers stated that Georgetown is the exception because their blocks are not the standard side.

Mr. Mulligan stated that the minutes are not being posted on the website and he is unable to stay updated with Tucumcari business if the minutes are not posted.

Dr. George Evetts – He stated that we have to work with the commissioners. He stated that in regards to paving it used to be that we would pay for the paving. It would be divided by the owners and the city would cover the middle.

Regarding Georgetown, we have had problems with people parking on 11th Street and they make the run to Georgetown and they ask for a donation or they want to sell something. He feels it is a safety hazard.

There are 3 employees at the cemetery. We have people working very hard.

He stated that the Memorial Park and Dunn's Park were built by WPA. They need maintenance.

He stated that Five Mile Park was the largest pool in New Mexico.

The population is half of what it was in the '50's and 60's. We have a chance to get the racino. We need to work together to get this accomplished.

The water is a problem. Our water is more important than gas or oil. We have a commissioner who is beat down every time he goes to the water meetings. He hopes that the commissioners understand the importance of water.

Mayor Curnutt stated that we have three wells being refurbished.

A resident from the audience asked if we could get a volunteer group established to work on the problems.

Betty Cooper Coslett – She wanted the commissioners to know that the rattler spirit is “alive and well”. There were 550 graduates attended the reunion. There was a great turnout for the Thursday mixer. Friday night BBQ was catered by Elks. The LLFC helped serve drinks and desert. The parade on Saturday morning was great. The police department did a fine job. The 2016 Class hosted a pancake banquet at the cafeteria. The Rattler Luncheon was catered by Del's Restaurant, 132 rattlers were served. The Saturday night banquet was catered by Pow Wow.

She thanked the City staff. An special thank you to Jessica Elebario and Eddie Griggs who did an outstanding job at the Convention Center.

City Manager Report

Mr. Powers stated that the Street's Department employees have stepped up and did an outstanding job around the City.

YCC is our “boys of summer”. The boys have worked on different projects with the City. They are the best bunch of boys yet.

We continued our work on Daub's addition. We had a meeting today. We hit a wood waterlines and it seems that there is water coming out.

We met regarding our water meter project. At our next meeting we will more than likely, have a contract along with our new water tank.

We have a leak on our Center Street tank. We are looking at grants for a preliminary engineering on the project.

The milling on Whitmore was completed yesterday.

Interviews have been conducted for the treatment plan and someone has been hired. He spoke to Michael Rivera on Tuesday and we received one application for the supervisor position, his salary request was \$70,000. He asked Mr. Rivera to reconsider accepting this position. The treatment plan is running on 1/3 of its capacity.

Mr. Powers stated that when the engineering came in, he stated the employee capacity should have four employees and presently with the new employee we will have five employees.

As for the cheese factory, it continues to be an issue. He visited with Mr. Krause regarding a cluster lift station or a retain age unit. We could take the large flow and regulate the discharge from the plant. He believes Mr. Krause is in full agreement with that.

The Cemetery has been an ongoing issue. He has received compliments on the cemetery. He thinks that with the big rain we fell behind. We did get flagstone yesterday. He will get with Mr. Griego and Mr. Simpson next week and try to address these issues.

He wants to thank everyone for coming and it is nice when people express their concerns. It is difficult for him to know what's going around town if it is not brought to his attention.

Bids and Contracts

CDWI Application – This grant provides funding for the DWI overtime project. It is a 100% grant. He asks for the approval of this application.

Mr. Lumpkin thanked Chief of Police Jason Braziel for the hardwork that went into getting this together. Mr. Lumpkin made the motion to approve the CDWI Application and Ms. Salinas-McTigue seconded the motion. Roll Call:

Curnutt	Dominguez	Lumpkin	Sandoval	Salinas-McTigue
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Items from Commissioners

Mr. Sandoval thanked everyone for coming.

Mr. Dominguez also thanked everyone for coming tonight and for the input. We work better when we're under pressure and asked the citizens to continue with input.

Mr. Lumpkin thanked Betty Cooper Coslett regarding the reunion. He also thanked the YCC boys for their help.

Ms. Salinas-McTigue complimented the boys of summer. She is proud to have lunch with these young boys. They have great plans for their future.

Mayor Curnutt thanked everyone for coming. He reiterated what Mr. Dominguez stated; we do work better under pressure and thanked the citizens for addressing the issues in a kind way.

Adjournment

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

Sandoval	Curnutt	Dominguez	Lumpkin	Salinas-McTigue
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Amiel Curnutt, Mayor

ATTEST:

Angelica M. Gray, City Clerk