

**CITY OF TUCUMCARI
CITY COMMISSION**

**Work Session Notes
May 9, 2013**

The Tukumcari City Commission met in a work session on Thursday, May 9, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers. Members present were Mayor Amiel Curnutt, Robert Lumpkin, Jimmy Sandoval, Ernest Dominguez and Ms. Dora Salinas-McTigue.

City staff members present were Doug Powers, City Manager, Dennis Dysart, Financial Director; Charlie Sandoval, Assistant City Manager, and Angelica Gray, City Clerk

EPCOG invoice

Mr. Powers stated the City and County held out on the audit last time but the County rejoined the Council of Governments. He stated he was the alternate representative for this area. We received a letter and resolution from EPCOG. The invoice is for \$1,841.00 for membership which he believes is a worthwhile organization. Sandy Chancey has worked hard to clean this up. He thinks it's worthwhile and thinks it's something the commission needs to get involved in. The meetings are once a month and may be in Tukumcari or in other areas.

Ms. Salinas-McTigue stated that when she was first assigned to the board and Sandy Chancey gave the presentation she said she was against it due to the audit failures for the past seven years. She has been told that has been corrected and she did talk to Ms. Chancey and she stated that to meet the requirements they were downsizing on personnel plus decreasing working hours and she was confident they would be in compliance.

Mr. Lumpkin stated a few years ago Lee Tillman was in charge and lots of their efforts leaned toward helping Clovis. The main project years ago, was the Ute Lake water pipeline and wind farm and they were successful in their efforts. Raymond Mondragon is also a supporter of Clovis who is the former city manager and has been on the city commission for Clovis and he is in favor of the pipeline. These are reasons why Tukumcari should be on this commission.

In the past, EDC from Tukumcari also attended meetings. They had a coalition, Clovis, Portales and 2 or 3 communities in that area and they could control any vote. There were some questions on their financing and accounting. Heads have rolled since then, and they have been corrected. If we are represented on that committee he thinks that we may have more say on these concerns than if we were not on the committee.

Mr. Dominguez asked if they could provide proof that the finances have been taken care of.

Mr. Powers stated that Clovis has one vote just as Tukumcari does.

Ms. Salinas-McTigue agreed with Mr. Lumpkin that a one year subscription will be okay.

Spirit 54

Mr. Powers stated that Spirit 54 is a group of citizens from New Mexico, Texas, Kansas, and Oklahoma. They are promoting changing Highway 54 to four lanes. Mr. Powers received an invoice for approximately \$2,200. Mr. Powers asked if we wanted to continue our involvement

with them. Mr. Sandoval will visit with Mr. Jack Taylor with Spirit. Mr. Lumpkin thinks past dues should be waived. Mr. Sandoval will discuss waiving the past dues with Mr. Taylor.

Lodger's Tax

Mr. Powers wants to advertise one more time in the Quay County Sun. Ms. Salinas-McTigue says no to Mr. Randals due to his involvement with the Chamber of Commerce as such there is a great conflict of interest.

Mr. Lumpkin does not have any stipulation to membership and the money the Chamber received last year was voted on by the commission. The Lodger's Tax has a limited amount of money to work with and we are in charge to approving the allocation to the Chamber not Mr. Randals.

Ms. Salinas-McTigue believes there is a great amount of pressure on the commission. Having Richard Randals on the Lodger's Tax Board they know he is the Chamber may not be a positive influence on the Lodger's Tax Board. Although, they are an advisory board and the commission makes the final decision, Ms. Salinas-McTigue does not want that pressure on the Board.

Mr. Lumpkin stated that he would vote the opposite based on it may bring both groups together.

Mayor Curnutt agreed with Mr. Lumpkin and further stated that maybe by doing that it would bring coherency amongst the two groups.

Mr. Powers reiterated that the Lodger's Tax Board is an advisory board.

Ms. Gray explained the positions to be filled are 2 lodging members, 2 tourism members and 1 member for the general public.

Ms. Gray explained that if appointed, Richard Randals would be a member of tourism due to his involvement with the Chamber of Commerce and Megan Hatterman would represent the general public. We would still need one member for the tourism position.

Mr. Dysart stated that beginner's cash position for executive lodger's tax is \$108,277, which is what we started with in executive. The promotional had \$50,593.00 for a total of \$158,870. They started with \$50,000 this year for neon lights and would have come out with zero dollars at the end of the year. \$35,000 developed reduced the convention center transfer is \$169,000 going to the convention center, which was \$190,000. By dropping that we have given them more cash and they would end up with \$35,000 at the end of the year. \$238,000 is 50% of the yearly collection \$477,000.

Mr. Powers stated that last year we budgeted for a full time position at the convention center. He realized Ms. Elebario has been running the convention center on a part time position. He does not believe it is working. He feels that the convention center needs a tourism coordinator.

Mr. Sandoval and Mr. Dominguez both feel that we need someone who will promote our tourism.

Mr. Dysart stated we are starting the new year with \$35,000 and with numbers he has, they will be reduced to \$21,000 and end up with \$13,000 at the end of next year, which includes \$15,000 and \$44,000 with the contracts. Mr. Dysart stated that the end of next year he expects that Lodger's Tax will have \$13,000 remaining.

Mr. Powers stated the other issue is gross receipts tax which we generate \$125,000 a year and we are spending much more than that. We give the Mainstreet \$30,000; EDC \$58,000; airport \$30,000. He thinks we will have to take out \$30,000 from the general fund to continue financing the economic development. We do have monies set back. The preliminary draft for the infrastructure improvements near the racino will cost approximately \$500,000.00. It was discussed to put a 100,000 gallon tank, which would cost approximately \$100,000 and if that goes through we may need \$600,000 to get the infrastructure to that location. His opinion is that the requirements to Mainstreet is \$25,000 not \$30,000 that they are currently receiving; for EDC they should receive \$50,000, which will match what the County is giving them. Once again, we cannot carry everybody every time.

Mr. Dysart stated that we probably need to have a budget meeting. The \$198,000 deficit, the current budget is \$143,000 deficit, which includes the \$400,000 contingency. If those are reversed we are in a favorable position. He does not think the City will be in a bad position for next year to come up with a balanced budget. Mr. Powers has done different things with different positions.

The operation status is \$1.5 mil favorable at the end of March.

Mr. Powers stated that he wants to give all employees a .50 cent raise. He is trying to keep up with cost of living.

Ms. Gray stated that the special meeting will be scheduled for May 14, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

Assistant City Manager

Ms. Salinas-McTigue addressed the appointment of an assistant city manager position. The majority of the commissioners were not notified of this. She stated that as a part of the executive board she feels she is entitled to be informed.

She called the legal department of the New Mexico Municipal League and she informed them of the situation. She was advised by the attorney that commissioner decisions are required for this appointment to take place and it should have been addressed at an open public meeting.

She moved that this position be put on the May 23rd commissioner meeting.

Mr. Dominguez agreed that it needs to be put on the agenda.

Mr. Powers stated that as the City Manager he is the personnel director and he made this decision.

Ms. Salinas-McTigue stated that she was informed that as the city manager Mr. Powers can hire and fire. As a commissioner, they are the board and they have the last say and we have to vote on funds pertaining to this executive board.

Mr. Powers stated he will contact the personnel attorney.

Ms. Salinas-McTigue stated that the commissioners were not informed of this action and it should be addressed as commissioners.

Library Donation

Mr. Sandoval asked how much money was donated to the library for the summer program. Mr. Dysart stated that it should be a part of their budget. He has not seen any request.

Mr. Lumpkin stated that in regards to the assistant city manager this similar subject has been addressed in the past. The attorney made the comment that we fire and hire the city manager and the city manager hires and manages all other personnel.

If we could as a commission ask EDC if that's the right procedure to pursue new grants for demo, for safety, for downtown and maybe we can tie those together and get things done quickly.

The work session ended at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Angelica M. Gray, City Clerk