

**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL/BUDGET HEARING MEETING MINUTES
CONFERENCE ROOM FIRE STATION #5
TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2003 AT 3:00 P.M.**

**MAYOR DON CARROLL
MAYOR PRO-TEM RON GRIGGS
COMMISSIONER INEZ MONCADA
COMMISSIONER DON COOPER
COMMISSIONER ED COLE**

**COMMISSIONER JOHN ROBERTSON
COMMISSIONER MARION LEDFORD
CITY MANAGER PAT McCOURT
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK BETSY KIDWELL
FINANCE DIRECTOR LEEANN NICHOLS**

The Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. Absent was Commissioner Cole.

Again, a sign in sheet was passed around for all those in attendance to sign. Mr. McCourt asked if we could adjust the schedule to accommodate some schedules. Mayor Carroll agreed to the adjustments requested.

The hearing began with the review of the Municipal Court budget including the General Fund, Fund 19, and Fund 27. Municipal Court Judge Steve Lee explained the work program versus sending someone to jail. They have significantly lowered the jail bill for the City. He expressed a problem they have faced concerning Code Administration. He explained that many of the cases should never have gotten to court because the individuals were already deceased, no longer lived there, or were the wrong people. He noted that they think they may have worked something out on this. He did say they wanted to work with Code Administration to work out a system that worked for both parties.

Mr. McCourt asked that we review the library budget next as they had a member of the Library Board in attendance. The library budget was reviewed without any recommended changes. Commissioner Robertson commended the library for doing such a good job reducing their budget.

Mr. McCourt asked that we review Fund 81, Water and Sewer Operating Fund. Mr. McCourt explained that we are recommending we start building an operating reserve in this particular fund. It is on the bottom of Page 198. This year we have put in \$169,000, but would like to grow that over the next five years. Mayor Carroll asked that this be further clarified on Page 198 so that future references would understand the purpose of that reserve. A brief discussion was held regarding the wastewater treatment bid and bid winner. This was followed by a brief discussion regarding improvements and the quality of the reclaimed water system. An error was noted on Page 205. It should indicate that 20% of the salaries are paid from Procurement on the notes on the bottom under Central Receiving Assistant. Mayor Carroll said there are a couple other areas where the percentages appear to be off.

Mr. McCourt proceeded to the Non-Departmental Fund of the General Fund. He noted that there had been several items moved from here to Fund 20. He said it

was questioned whether we could do that and research shows we cannot. He said these few items (Economic Development line item for \$6,000, payment to OCEDC for \$20,000, and the City newsletter for \$15,000) will be moved back into the General Fund, but we will look at activities provided by Public Safety and Parks and Recreation that can be charged to Fund 20 for a similar amount to the three we have to transfer back to the General Fund.

There were no changes to Planning and Zoning and General Fund Projects budgets.

Ms. Nichols passed out the description of the allocation calculations for all the internal services. She also passed out the summary sheet on all the insurance policies the City has. A gross receipts tax distribution breakdown was passed out as well. Mayor Carroll noted there was not a number on the insurance breakdown for workers compensation. Another handout was given regarding a few estimates on the cost of increases to the City's share of health insurance, which was not included in the budget.

Commissioner Cole arrived at approximately 4:05 p.m.

A discussion was held regarding the possibility of outsourcing fleet maintenance and measures being used to give directors more control in their budgets.

Mayor Carroll noted that on Page 69 the wages should be 80% instead of 90% under Procurement.

There were no changes recommended on Personnel, Safety, Non-Departmental (Insurance), Facility Maintenance, Engineering, or GIS/Land Management.

MIS (Computer Center) noted one change on their budget narrative in the performance measures section. This was corrected and a replacement handout was distributed.

It was noted that the City would like to initiate an ongoing computer equipment replacement program, which will be incorporated into next year's budget.

The meeting was recessed at 5:07 p.m. and reconvened at 5:30 p.m.

The Commission reviewed the Enterprise Funds. A brief discussion was held regarding the operation of the Convenience Center. It was noted that we intend to take over hauling our refuse from the Convenience Center to the Landfill. We believe we will save a significant amount over paying Southwest Disposal, the current contractor for this service. A discussion was also held regarding funding to the airport from the Federal Government likely being cut.

A discussion was held regarding the closing of Bonito Lake due to forest restrictions. Mr. McCourt explained that we planned on a partial funding because if they are closed we will not need to hire everyone. If they are open, they will generate more revenue to fund operations. He noted that if they are open for Memorial Day there will be additional income above what we have projected. He said if this happens, they will come back to the Commission and recommend a budget revision to increase the expenditures to continue operations. A brief discussion was held regarding the clearing of timber around Bonito Lake. A question arose regarding permits going down, but revenues going up. Mr. McCourt said he would ask the manager of the lake.

Mr. McCourt moved on to Page 119. He noted this is a major funding source for our Streets Department and the flood control project. He reviewed a three-year plan Mr. Miramontes developed for street improvements. A copy of the plan was held out and Mr. Miramontes reviewed the handout.

Mr. McCourt noted one item that is part of this budget, Fund 44 Transportation, which is funding for the Zia Transportation grant for the Z-Trans bus. He said they requested about \$80,000 for next year, which is an increase over the current year. He stated that Staff has informed them we could not support that level and we put in \$54,000. They have requested to address the Commission and will be here Thursday evening.

The Commission recessed at 6:44 p.m.

Mayor Donald E. Carroll

ATTEST:

Chief Deputy Clerk Betsy C. Kidwell

(SEAL)

(Prepared by Chief Deputy Clerk Betsy C. Kidwell)

Approved at the City Commission Regular Meeting of May 13, 2003.



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