

**CITY OF ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
JOINT CITY/COUNTY COMMISSION EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES
OTERO COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM 253 1000 NEW YORK AVE.
THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2006
11:15 A.M.**

CITY COMMISSION:

**MAYOR DON CARROLL
MAYOR PRO-TEM RON GRIGGS
COMMISSIONER INEZ MONCADA
COMMISSIONER ED COLE
COMMISSIONER MARION LEDFORD
COMMISSIONER CHRIS LUJAN
COMMISSIONER STEVE BROCKETT**

COUNTY COMMISSION:

**CHAIRPERSON DOUG MOORE
VICE CHAIRMAN CLARISSA McGINN
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL NIVISON**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order, and Commissioner Marion Ledford, Commissioner Steve Brockett and Commissioner Chris Lujan were absent. The Invocation was given by Commissioner Ed Cole, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Chairperson Doug Moore.

COUNTY BUSINESS

1. Consider approval of an agreement between Otero County and the Natural Resource Conservation Service to access funds for emergency flood control improvements below Marble Canyon.

Vice Chairman Clarissa McGinn made a motion to approve the agreement between Otero County and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Seconded by Commissioner Nivison. A vote was taken, and all voted "aye." The motion carried by a vote of 4-0-3.

- 2a. Consider approval of an agreement between Otero County and the City of Alamogordo to set forth the scope of work for each party to provide the local match required in the NRCS agreement.

Commissioner Nivison made a motion to consider approval of an agreement between Otero County and the City of Alamogordo. Seconded by Vice Chairman Clarissa McGinn. A vote was taken, and all voted "aye." The motion carried by a vote of 4-0-3.

CITY BUSINESS

- 2b. Consider approval of an agreement between Otero County and the City of Alamogordo to set forth the scope of work for each party to provide the local match required in the NRCS agreement.

Mayor Don Carroll explained that basically this is a cost share between the NRCS, Otero County and the City of Alamogordo. The agreement that is being considered would be a sharing of the 25% match that is required with the NRCS grant; the County would come up with 12.5% and the

City would come up with 12.5%. There may not be enough money to do the entire project as the City would otherwise do, but it would be a 25% match of the total moneys that are available for the grant and not necessarily a match on the County's part for expenditures over and above the amount of the grant.

Commissioner Ed Cole asked what the amount of money is that might be available. Chairperson Doug Moore explained that it is roughly \$93,000, and the design of the grant is such that after a natural disaster they can go back and re-establish the infrastructure that was in place and mitigate the damage that was caused. These dollars can be concentrated on that effort. He stated that the County understands that the City has additional works that they would like to do in that area in an effort to protect some banks, which is an enhancement to the total that the City has planned for the area. The federal funding is available to re-establish the ditch to its pre-flood condition. Mayor Carroll said that the total amount with the match is \$123,105, which is available for that part of the project.

Commissioner Cole asked what the timeline is for receiving the money and the expenditure of it, and Mayor Carroll asked Dan Abercrombie from NRCS to discuss the project. Mr. Abercrombie said that they realize that there is still a problem with the channel. He talked to the state conservationist, and Dennis Alexander said that he would check and see if the money was there. As of now, the money is headed in the right direction, and yesterday Mr. Abercrombie was told that they have \$92,500. He provided those attending the meeting with a copy of what is being envisioned in terms of restoring the channel. Basically, they want to restore the channel to being 20 feet wide and 5 feet deep. It would carry 150 square feet of water. They roughly figured what the drainage flow would be on a storm coming off of the arroyo, and they came up with a channel that they will put in. It would carry about 2,800 CFS, which is a 25-year storm. To carry a hundred-year storm, it would have to carry about 3,900 CFS. The City also does have further enhancements to the plan. Following the channel below Abbott, the box culvert at Scenic is 8' x 10', and the channel that will be built will have a capacity of 150 square feet. Its capacity will be much more than that of the box culvert.

Chairperson Doug Moore said that is a pre-existing condition in that the channel itself has always been much larger than the bridge. He underscored that the moneys are to restore the channel to its original dimensions. Mr. Abercrombie pointed out that he realized that, but he just wanted to clarify what they were doing. They are proposing and recommending that the channel be dug out and made 2:1 on both sides with a bottom that is 20-feet wide. They have estimated that the length of the repair needed is 2300 square feet. Depending on what the cost estimate is and what is proposed, they may or may not be able to complete all of it. Mr. Abercrombie spoke with his contracting people yesterday, and they made the County as the primary party to the agreement. The County and City will then have to work out the rest, but that will be more expedient than working out the details between all three parties.

Chairperson Moore asked when the funds will become available and how much time they will have to complete the work. Mr. Abercrombie explained that they would have 10 days to complete the work. The money is available the minute the agreement is signed. It will be rushed back to Albuquerque, and it is not official until it is signed by the state conservationist in Albuquerque. However, they have made the assurance that they could start counting their contribution the minute the papers are signed.

Chairperson Moore pointed out that it is a combination of efforts from the County, the City, the federal entity, the Department Agriculture and a whole lot of local people all working in a very rapid fashion. He is proud of the effort and hopes that it will be used as a footprint in the future

to be able to work as sister governments.

City Manager Pat McCourt underscored that the money is budgeted as part of the million dollars of local funds. There is a contract in place to work on the ditch, and they do feel that they can meet the 10-day requirement.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ron Griggs made a motion to approve the agreement between the City of Alamogordo and Otero County. Seconded by Commissioner Moncada. A vote was taken, and all voted "aye." The motion carried. 4-0-3.

Mayor Carroll thanked the County Commission and Dan at NRCS for their efforts in finding this alternative source of assistance to the City and County in helping to mitigate some of the damage that has been done.

Commissioner Nivison wanted to point out that the public needs to understand that it is very difficult for the City and the County to go on private property unless it is a life-threatening situation. The way that it is set up is that the conservation districts have local elected officials that are responsible for their community. They are the only agency that has the ability to go on private property. He thanked Commissioner Moore for his efforts.

Mr. Abercrombie showed the rough proposal of how they plan to keep the water off of the north bank, which is eroding. It is not a permanent fix, but it will help to restore the channel to where it is.

Mayor Carroll said that there has been some discussion at the City level regarding the fact that it may be more cost-effective and in the taxpayer's interest to reach an agreement with some of the property owners that have large boulders in their backyards to utilize those boulders instead of hauling some in from a distance. That is still in the formative stage. Mr. Abercrombie said that he had been told that most of the individuals want to keep the large boulders and get rid of the gravel. That may be different. He also said that Wayne Bennett has given them the opportunity to go to the marble quarry and get boulders if they need to.

Chairperson Moore and Mayor Carroll adjourned the meeting at 11:35.

/s/Doug Moore

/s/Donald E. Carroll

Chairperson Doug Moore

Mayor Donald E. Carroll

ATTEST:

ATTEST:

Robin Silva, County Clerk
(SEAL)

Reneé L. Cantin, City Clerk
(SEAL)

(Prepared by Ubiquis Reporting)

Approved at Regular City Commission Meeting on September 12, 2006.