



**ESPAÑOLA CITY COUNCIL/RIO ARRIBA COUNTY COMMISSION**  
JOINT WORK SESSION  
DECEMBER 12, 2013, 6PM  
CITY OF ESPAÑOLA COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
405 N. PASEO DE OÑATE, ESPAÑOLA, NM 87532

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Lucero called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE MOMENT OF MEDITATION/ INVOCATION**

Mayor Lucero led the pledge of allegiance and Councilor Valdez led the moment of meditation.

**C. ROLL CALL/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

The following Governing Body Members were in attendance:

Mayor: Alice A. Lucero  
Mayor Pro-Tem: Dennis Tim Salazar  
Councilors: Elaine L. Herrera  
Cory Lewis  
John Hernandez  
Peggy Sue Martinez  
Pedro Valdez  
Robert Seeds

Absent: Eric Radosevich

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Garcia asked to amend the agenda to include Economic Development. Mayor Lucero explained that it had been their intent to discuss Economic Development under the update section.

*Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Salazar to approve the agenda; seconded by Councilor Seeds.*

*Motion carried 7-0.*

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no members of the public wishing to comment.

**F. COUNCILOR/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Councilor Martinez commented that it was important that the joint work sessions continue. Councilor Lewis thanked the Commissioners for attending. Councilor Seeds emphasized his satisfaction that the two (2) Governing Bodies had come together. He stated that they needed to focus on community as it was important to stimulate the economy.

Commissioner Barney Trujillo thanked the Council for welcoming the Commission into the Chambers.

## **G. ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSIDERATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. Updates from Previous Joint Work Session**

Economic Development Director Chris Madrid reported that Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) had moved to central supply for 50% of its purchasing. He explained that this would result in a lot of local contractors losing their contracts. He stated that national companies did not incur the same costs as locals so they had the ability to offer lower prices, such as clearances, etc. He stated that he would like to prepare a draft resolution on this subject for both bodies to adopt.

Councilor Hernandez stated that he had worked at LANL and that program had already been in place when he left. He explained that the intent was to take the bigger contracts and added that he believed that LANL was now required to use the reverse auction for small contracts. He stated that they may be amicable to working with the two (2) Governing bodies. He added that they needed to meet quotas for small business, minority owned, etc and they did not wish for the community to push back and make it a political issue.

Councilor Seeds noted that local vendors had to adhere to certain requirements that were not required of others. Economic Development Director Madrid stated that there was a standing requirement that upwards of 20% of federal contracts had to go to minorities. Economic Development Director Madrid stated that it was his understanding that the set asides were for small business and would like to ask if some of the local suppliers could supply on a national level.

Economic Development Director Madrid stated that the City and County were sensitive to Gross Receipts Tax (GRT). He explained that Tri-State wanted to raise electricity bills by 20%; however, did not wish for it fall under the Public Regulation Commission (PRC). Economic Development Director Madrid added that they were attempting to be exempted from the requirement that if three (3) co-ops opposed them, the issue must be heard before the PRC. He stated that the Supreme Court had ruled that in the interim, while the case was being adjudicated, Tri-State could not increase their rates. He stated that he would like the bodies to draft a resolution asking that Tri-State fall under the PRC.

County Manager Tomas Campos stated that the co-op would not buy solar energy from this area. He stated that when Governor Richardson stated that 15% of energy would be purchased off the grid, Tri-State went throughout Colorado and sold it in New Mexico. He explained that this was why Northern New Mexico did not have a wind farm.

Commissioner Garcia asked if everyone would be affected statewide. Economic Development Director Madrid replied in the affirmative. He stated that the City and County would take the position that the PRC should govern the case.

***Motion by Councilor Seeds to draft a resolution requesting that the Tri-State rate increase be heard before the PRC; seconded by Councilor Valdez.***

Commissioner Trujillo suggested that each governing body adopt their own resolution.

Councilor Seeds stated that he did not understand why Tri-State would wish to avoid their case being heard before the PRC.

*Motion carried 7-0.*

Economic Development Director Madrid stated that he would like the City and County to develop a plan. He stated that it would be his goal for his department to administer the plan. Mayor Lucero stated that she and Assistant County Manager Trujillo had discussed this issue and would like it if, after the election, the governing bodies held strategic planning sessions on their own to define priorities and then together to support each other. He stated that he could procure up to \$50,000 in support to hire someone for this purpose.

Councilor Martinez stated that if the election did not happen, the City should still deal with that money. Councilor Seeds asked what the money could be used for. Economic Development Director stated that it would be used to hire professionals to help them through the planning process. He explained that he had spoken with LANL about providing resources for a grant writer for the Hunter building process.

Economic Development Director Madrid stated that Rio Arriba County's strategy for hiring him was so he could go to small businesses and help them grow. He announced that they would hold a standing meeting where people met to see what they could offer to each other and they would request local leadership to attend sporadically.

Economic Development Director Madrid stated that he had met with Mr. Todd Lopez at NMFA to discuss acquiring funding. He added that he was looking at a collateral support loan to match some bank loans and Siete del Norte was hard at work to garner outside funding. He stated that it appeared as though complexity of the building required a little more work. Economic Development Director Madrid stated that Mr. Lopez had recommended starting the food hub in the bays of the building. He stated that food hubs could be self-sustaining, whereas, a commercial kitchen would require subsidies.

2. North Central Solid Waste Authority (NCSWA)

County Manager Campos stated that the County had listed some concerns and had worked with North Central Solid Waste Authority (NCSWA) Manager Gino Romero. He stated that they were still working on the draft of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). Councilor Valdez added that County Attorney Ted Trujillo had reviewed the draft and sent it to City Attorney Coppler. He stated that it would be discussed at the Public Works Committee meeting on January 7, 2014.

Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that he would like to continue to meet with the Interim City Manager as the NCSWA JPA draft was one of the larger concerns. Councilor Seeds verified that a draft would be sent to all Councilors. Councilor Valdez replied in the affirmative. Councilor Seeds commented that he would like to see what the County proposed.

County Manager Campos expressed the belief that the City should deal with Windstream as they had failed to cooperate with NCSWA. Interim City Manager Duran stated that he had met with Windstream and they had informed him that there was a personality issue. Interim City Manager Duran stated that he had explained to Windstream that the personality issue was not relevant and they would have to adhere to the requirement. He continued that the City was working with Windstream and another business in town.

Councilor Lewis asked Interim City Manager if the Planning & Zoning Department was working with the two (2) businesses that he had mentioned.

3. Legislative Capital Outlay Requests

Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that there had been conversations about the County becoming a fiscal agent for City capital outlay appropriations; however, the Department of Finance & Administration (DFA) would not allow it. He reported that local legislators were concerned about the \$500,000 in appropriations and could reappropriate the funds to Rio Arriba County for the same purpose. Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that if DFA did not allow the City to gain a fiscal agent, the City could not go after new appropriations in the upcoming legislative session. He stated that they had attempted to meet with DFA as time was of the essence.

Mayor Lucero stated that she would be meeting with the legislators that oversaw DFA. She stated that Senator Martinez would be willing to re-appropriate the capital outlay funds for City projects to Rio Arriba County; however, it would appear on paper that Rio Arriba County was getting \$500,000 that they were not.

Mayor Lucero stated that there were other COGs in the state that were allowed to act as fiscal agents and she was wondering why the City of Espanola had not.

Councilor Seeds asked if the County had any suggestions. He stated that the County could seek the funds with the City's support.

County Manager Campos stated that the Governor was a problem for both agencies. He stated that both bodies had the goal of building a new 911 center. He explained that they would like to locate it by the County so they would have better signals. He added that they had some wastewater projects in mind that could feed into the Española Wastewater Treatment Plant. Councilor Seeds stated that because it was an election year and the Governor received a large percentage of the democratic vote, she should support Rio Arriba County.

Councilor Lewis acknowledged Española School Board Member Lucas Fresquez.

Assistant County Manager Trujillo reported that, in talking to legislators, they could acquire funding on behalf of Rio Arriba County and designate it inside the City. He stated that the language would have to be crafted specifically.

County Manager Campos stated that there was no point in redundancy. He stated that if the two (2) entities came together, funding could be increased. He stated that the case was the same with the Detention Center and the Senior Center programs. He continued that the constituents were the same and, although it was a difficult thing to examine, he suggested the combination of efforts. Councilor Martinez stated that she loved the subject being on the table.

Mayor Lucero stated that this may need to be done because revenues had gone up in the past two (2) years; however, had gone down in the last quarter. She stated that if the County wanted to increase the capacity of the detention center, the City Council would support that effort.

County Manager Campos acknowledged that it was a difficult situation. He stated that he and Assistant County Manager Trujillo had discussed the possibility of alternative sentencing. Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that if intervention was offered to potential inmates, it could decrease costs and help individuals. He added that if they increased the capacity of their detention center, it could reduce costs for the City of Espanola. He stated that he would like to provide support services for individuals in the criminal justice system so that they would have other positive opportunities.

Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that there was a push to use ankle bracelets to monitor drug and alcohol use. He stated that \$80-\$90 per day was paid to house an inmate whereas the ankle bracelets would cost

\$10-\$12 per day. He stated that this was affordable for families and the County had seen cost reduction. Mayor Lucero stated that she was glad that the judges were supporting it.

Councilor Martinez stated that this was the most real conversation that she had since she was elected to the Council. She stated that Mr. Orlando Rodriguez could provide such services and that the GPS was live time. She added that the support services were the most critical.

Councilor Seeds expressed pleasure that Rio Arriba County was making those efforts. He stated that he hoped that a contractor could be used that was located in the City or the County. He stated that Mr. Rodriguez was located in Santa Fe County. Councilor Martinez offered that Mr. Rodriguez would be willing to relocate if he had a contract.

Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that they had issued an RFP and a company out of Taos had been the successful entity and had located a satellite office in the area. He said another aspect of this project was that drug and alcohol use could be monitored. He added that some of the older technology allowed the individual to drink and then not be reported until they returned home. He explained that the new technology reported the alcohol use in real time.

Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that the County was working with the youth to avoid incarceration. He announced that they had achieved success working with the students. Councilor Hernandez asked if this program would apply to adults as well. Assistant County Manager Trujillo replied in the affirmative and added that they would approach the issue in phases. He stated that during phase 1, individual treatment plans would be developed. Once completed, the second phase scaled the regulations back and then it would end with case management. He added that the support would help to prevent relapse.

Councilor Martinez stated that this would allow young people to continue their education. She stated that the computer would monitor their specific location. In addition, this would allow people to continue working and supporting their families.

Councilor Hernandez stated that he was sold on the program. County Manager Campos stated that the costs to the City would be minimal because the adjudication would mostly take place in Magistrate Court. He stated that they would focus on low-risk inmates.

Councilor Martinez asked if she could ask Mr. Orlando Rodriguez to attend a meeting to educate them on the particulars. Mayor Lucero stated that she would love that, but cautioned that the Governing Body would have to allow the other contractors to present if they requested to do so. Councilor Martinez stated that Eric Quintana from PMI had presented in the past. She stated that it would be simply education. Mayor Lucero stated that she would be amenable to that. Councilor Hernandez stated that he would not have a problem with it as long as they avoided any potential conflicts of interest.

Councilor Seeds stated that they could draft a Request for Proposals (RFP), ask finance to appropriate monies and then solicit presentations. Mayor Lucero stated that Municipal Court Judge Stephen Salazar would need to be involved in the process. Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that he could invite staff from the DWI program so that they could present to the Council as to what the numbers looked like. Councilor Seeds asserted that habitual offenders needed to be targeted and the City was not typically involved in those cases.

Councilor Martinez stated that Ms. Vanessa Gonzales had done a presentation at the City Council meeting regarding a conference for sixth graders. She stated that along with the City helping with the conference, she would like the County to help with the Anti-Drug Summit.

Assistant County Manager Trujillo replied that they had designated staff to attend the Anti-Drug Summit meetings and he committed to attending the event. Mayor Lucero stated that there would be a meeting the evening of February 26<sup>th</sup> and that the summit would last the full day of February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Valdez stated that the two bodies would have to examine the hold harmless funding. He stated that he wished to avoid both entities imposing a tax. Councilor Martinez stated that the City should let the County do that. County Manager Campos stated that both entities were going to have to look at imposing a 3/8<sup>th</sup> tax whether they liked it or not.

Councilor Martinez stated that County Manager Campos need to examine the situation from the taxpayer's standpoint. She stated that this was the first year in many that water rates were not increasing, trash was going up and that people still needed money to live on. County Manager Campos stated that Commissioner Garcia had the same point of view.

Councilor Valdez stated that many poor countries did not have the option of imposing taxes. He stated that if taxes were not increased, services would diminish. He stated that they should just review the possibility. He explained that he was retired and on social security; however, he would rather pay the money and get the services.

Commissioner Garcia stated that in Rio Arriba County, there were a lot of people who were fighting to keep their lands as property taxes continued to rise. He stated that he did not come from a wealthy family and that people who were not local benefitted from the rise in property taxes that was forcing people to sell their land. He stated that, like Councilor Valdez, he was willing to pay more tax; however, his concern was for the people who could not. He added that services were needed, but would like everyone to work together to accommodate the citizens.

Councilor Seeds expressed the belief that they were there to plan to do more with less. He stated that there was no sense in both entities overlapping programs. He added that growth was good sometimes, but could get out of hand and cited employment and overhead within the City. He asked everyone to understand that they needed to explain to the people of the community what they were taxed for.

Interim City Manager Duran stated that taxes would be an investment; however, revenue was not coming in and everyone needed to find a positive manner to explain to the public where their taxes would be used. He stated that something had to be done before both entities fell. He stated that doing more with less would harm public safety and other services.

Mayor Lucero asked County Manager Campos if it was his intent to ask the legislature for funding for wastewater lines. She stated that the City could partner on the project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant as it was at less than 50% capacity.

County Manager Campos stated that the County had placed water lines in Chimayo but failed to place wastewater lines. He stated that the system in Tierra Amarilla needed work as well. He explained that his point was that they did not do anything as far as infrastructure when the money was there. Mayor Lucero suggested that the project be done as a regional effort.

Assistant County Manager Trujillo reported that he had followed up on the possibility of a master plan. He stated that he was unsure as to whether there had to be a master plan; however, it would be helpful to develop common goals. He suggested the distribution of dual press releases to inform the public that the joint sessions were taking place. He stated that he believed that people had become demoralized about the community and hoped to create an avenue to celebrate successes.

Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that communication was improving between the two (2) governing bodies; however, disseminating information to the public need to be worked on. He asked if there were any other goals that should be tracked that had not already been discussed. Councilor Martinez stated that they needed to discuss the immediacy of the issues and was in agreement with all of the priorities that had been discussed.

Councilor Valdez stated that a master plan had been developed in the past. He explained that it dealt with the water and wastewater systems as well as streets. He stated that he would provide Councilors with a copy.

Councilor Hernandez asked if a distribution list could be generated so that everyone could provide input.

Councilor Seeds expressed hope that the two entities could combine a recreational complex. He stated that this would create opportunities for children. Councilor Martinez agreed.

Mayor Lucero stated that Councilor Radosevich had requested that assistance with funding for the softball fields be requested from the County. She stated that the softball fields could be a start for a regional recreation facility. Councilor Martinez asked if money could be requested from the legislature. Mayor Lucero replied in the affirmative; however, Rio Arriba would have to request that funding. Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that recreation had been listed on their ICIP and the language had remained vague.

Councilor Martinez asked what the County and City plan was to advocate at the legislature and if they would be hiring someone. Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that he and Economic Development Director Madrid would do that and would be happy to have staff from the City assist. Mayor Lucero stated that the City had been unable to hire a lobbyist in recent years due to the lack of funds; however, she and staff had completed those duties.

Councilor Martinez asked if a meeting could be scheduled for the following month. Mayor Lucero stated that the legislature would be in session the following month and the election season would have begun. She suggested waiting until after the election.

Councilor Hernandez stated that they could still communicate through the distribution list. Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that he would continue to meet with Interim City Manager Duran and provide updates to the Council.

Economic Development Director Madrid stated that he held a monthly meeting to collaborate on economic development and that was a venue that could keep the momentum of the governing body partnership.

Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that they had discussed partnering with the Espanola School District as well.

Mayor Lucero announced that Planning & Zoning Commissioner Earl Wright had hoped to attend the meeting. She stated that he worked for Santa Fe County and specialized in GIS and there would be flyovers conducted for mapping. She stated that they would like to partner with Rio Arriba County and the City of Espanola. She added that Santa Fe County and the Army Corp. of Engineers would provide the majority of the monies.

Mayor Lucero asked if the next meeting date should be scheduled. Councilor Lewis asked if the Commission was comfortable with the postponement of the meetings. Commissioner Trujillo stated that he was amenable to the preference of the group. He suggested meeting after the New Year. Mayor Lucero asked if January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm would work. The County Commission agreed.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

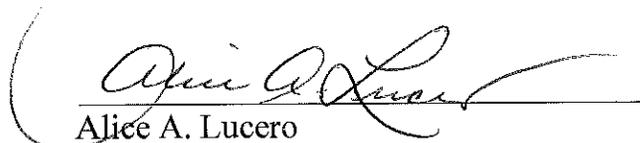
*Motion by Councilor Valdez to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Martinez.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm.*

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY, 2014.

Attest

The seal of the City of Española, New Mexico, is circular with a double border. The outer border contains the text "CITY OF ESPAÑOLA" at the top and "NEW MEXICO" at the bottom. The inner border contains the word "SEAL" in the center. The seal is partially obscured by the signature of Tessa Jo Mascareñas.  
*Tessa Jo Mascareñas*  
Tessa Jo Mascareñas  
City Clerk

  
Alice A. Lucero  
Mayor