ESPAÑOLA CITY COUNCIL/RIO ARRIBA COUNTY COMMISSION

JOINT WORK SESSION
MAY 7, 2014, 5:30PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
405 N. PASEO DE OÑATE, ESPAÑOLA, NM 87532

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lucero called the meeting to order at 5:37pm.

B. ESPANOLA GOVERNING BODY EXECUTIVE SESSION (5:30PM-6:00PM)

Motion by Councilor Lewis to enter into Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Ortiz.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Pro-Tem:	Pedro Valdez	In Favor
Councilors:	Peggy Sue Martinez	In Favor
	Adrianna Ortiz	In Favor
	Dennis Tim Salazar	In Favor
	Michelle R. Martinez	In Favor
	Cory Lewis	In Favor

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Councilor Lewis to exit Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Ortiz.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Pro-Tem:	Pedro Valdez	In Favor
Councilors:	Peggy Sue Martinez	In Favor
	Adrianna Ortiz	In Favor
	Dennis Tim Salazar	In Favor
	Michelle R. Martinez	In Favor
	Cory Lewis	In Favor

Motion carried 6-0.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE MOMENT OF MEDITATION/ INVOCATION

Mayor Lucero led the pledge of allegiance and Mayor Pro-Tem Valdez led the invocation.

D. ROLL CALL/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The following City of Española Governing Body members were in attendance:

Mayor:	Alice A. Lucero
Mayor Pro-Tem:	Pedro Valdez
Councilors:	Peggy Sue Martinez
	Adrianna Ortiz
	Dennis Tim Salazar
	Michelle R. Martinez
	Cory Lewis
Absent:	John Hernandez
	Eric Radosevich

The following Rio Arriba County Commission members were in attendance:

Chairman:	Danny Garcia
Commissioners:	Alfredo Montoya
	Barney Trujillo

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Garcia stated that he looked forward to this meeting as well as those in the future.

Motion by Councilor Lewis to approve the agenda; seconded by Councilor Peggy Sue Martinez.

Motion carried 6-0.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Kelly Duran addressed the importance of an affordable housing plan. He stated that the largest priority should be affordable housing and the quality of education.

G. COUNCILOR/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Councilor Lewis thanked the County Commission, staff and management for being present.

Mayor Pro-Tem Valdez announced that there would be an opening at the North Central Solid Waste Authority (NCSWA) Transfer Station in Alcalde at 11am that Friday.

H. ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSIDERATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1) 2013 Legislative Update

Health & Human Services Director Lauren Reichelt attributed the success at the legislative session to Assistant County Manager David Trujillo. She explained that they had formed two (2) committees- one for capital outlay and one for policy issues.

Economic Development Director Chris Madrid thanked Assistant County Manager Trujillo for his efforts and announced that they had received $40,000 to reopen the Systenga kitchen.

County Manager Tomas Campos stated that counties agreed to give up 1/12th of the 1/8th tax in order to pay for the Indigent Fund. He stated that Senator Richard Martinez forced a filibuster on the issue and the county bill

passed. He reported that Governor Martinez had line item vetoed the bill in such a way that required they give the full 1/8th tax and removed the sunset clause.

Ms. Reichelt stated that the Governor had line item vetoed Rio Arriba County from a bill for drug overdose funding that was introduced by Representative Debbie Rodella. She explained that the Governor had basically removed the earmark for proposed areas. She stated that this may not be legal and the New Mexico Association of Counties and the New Mexico Municipal League were looking into it. Ms. Reichelt noted that the Governor had struck out some agencies entirely as she did with the classification of non-profit.

Commissioner Montoya stated that numerous legislators would challenge the vetoes with the Supreme Court. He stated that the counties would serve as an amicus brief.

County Manager Campos stated that Rio Arriba County was only left with $166,000 to run the Indigent Fund but kept the same responsibilities. He stated that the County Commission would have to figure out how to revamp the program. He added that they could impose a tax.

Planning & Zoning Director Russell Naranjo commented that this was an exciting time. He reported that, to date, city staff had put in a lot of time, effort and energy in order to properly install the artificial turf- the first in this region. He announced that the crew had begun unrolling the carpet the previous day. He stated that this was just the first phase of the goals of the complex.

Planning & Zoning Director Naranjo stated that the two (2) fields could also be used for little league fields. He stated that the City of Española was in a prime area for hosting tournaments. He commented that there was a berm in the outfield like at Isotopes field and curbed his remarks by stating that this was just the first phase. Planning & Zoning Director Naranjo stated that progress would begin on the walking path within the next month and it would be a distance of .78 of a mile. He suggested that while kids were playing little league or softball, parents could use the trails as a form of recreation.

Planning & Zoning Director Naranjo continued that there was a fenced area where NCSWA kept their trucks that could eventually be used as a multi-use field. He reported that the lights had gone up without a challenge. He stated that there would need to be a press box and restroom facilities which were considered a separate phase. He commented that the City of Española was going to need some help in the future. He stated that the City of Española appreciated the money that was able to be allocated from the legislature but more will be needed to make this a regional effort.

Mayor Lucero asked Planning & Zoning Director Naranjo what the plan was for the $50,000 allocated as capital outlay. He replied that this would fund the completion of the exterior fencing to the ball fields and the initial stages of the press box and restrooms. Mayor Lucero stated that she would like to respectfully request that Rio Arriba County match the $50,000 to finish the press box and restrooms.

Councilor Peggy Sue Martinez asked the feasibility of collaborating with the Española Public Schools. Mayor Lucero asked Planning & Zoning Director Naranjo what the distance was to the Española Public School fields. He replied that the structure was designed so that it would sit between the two (2) fields giving the press box the ability to announce from two (2) angles. He stated that it was cheaper to have one (1) structure rather than two (2) separate facilities.

Commissioner Montoya stated that he could not help but appreciate what the City had done. He stated that the City had carried the burden of providing recreation with the exception of the swimming pool in Tierra Amarilla. He stated that the County was financially constrained, but he was glad the meeting was happening so that management could keep this in mind as the County needed to do more. Commissioner Montoya stated that this

was important for drug use prevention and commended the current City Administration as well as the administrations over the last few decades.

Mayor Lucero stated that the City would be planning a ribbon cutting ceremony. Planning & Zoning Director Naranjo stated that it could be completed in five (5) weeks.

Commissioner Trujillo stated that he would be willing to commit $10,000-$12,000 from his special project fund. He suggested that the other Commissioners could give money to help towards the $50,000.

Councilor Salazar thanked Commissioner Trujillo.

2) Joint Powers Agreement

County Attorney Ted Trujillo stated that he had returned changes to the JPA with the question as to whether the County would be charging an administrative fee. Mayor Pro-Tem Valdez asked if it was the 4% that was referenced in the Rio Grande Sun. County Manager Campos stated that the issue would need to be negotiated. Mayor Lucero expressed her belief that everyone would be in agreement that it was standard that an administrative fee be paid to the fiscal agent. She stated that she hoped that the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) would approve the JPA before June so that the bonds would be sold.

Commissioner Montoya asked where the changes were in the document. County Attorney Trujillo stated that the difference was in paragraph 4.

Commissioner Montoya suggested that the County Commission convene as a separate body and approve the JPA. County Manager Campos noted that the meeting posting stated that no action would be taken and therefore, this could not be done under the Open Meetings Act.

Mayor Lucero stated that the City posting did not state that action would not be taken; therefore, the City Council could approve the percentage.

County Attorney Trujillo stated that a 5% administrative fee had been proposed for each project.

Motion by Mayor Pro-Tem Valdez to approve the administrative fee of 5% in the Rio Arriba County JPA; seconded by Councilor Michelle R. Martinez.

Councilor Lewis asked if Rio Arriba County would consider less than 5%. Chairman Garcia stated that he did not think that their coffers would break for 1%.

Commissioner Montoya called attention to page 2 and stated that as the City was doing a lot of work, he would not have a problem with less than 5%. Chairman Garcia said he did not have a problem with 4%.

Motion amended by Mayor Pro-Tem Valdez to approve the administrative fee of 4% in the Rio Arriba County JPA; seconded by Councilor Michelle R. Martinez.

Motion carried 8-0.

Commissioner Montoya asked if the City Hall expansion included room for the E-911 center. Mayor Lucero replied that it did and it would include a conference room for the E-911 center and allow them adequate storage.

Commissioner Montoya stated that some individuals were misinformed about the history of the County and City. He stated that he, Mayor Pro-Tem Valdez and Mayor Lucero went back quite a ways. He explained that his first term as Commissioner was in 1992-1993 and his first action was to approve a CDBG grant for $350,000 to construct the E-911 center. He stated that collaboration was not something new and Rio Arriba County was in sad shape in 1993 and had no facilities. Commissioner Montoya continued that since then, a lot of things had gone on that more recently elected officials may not be aware of. He cited North Central Solid Waste Authority (NCSWA), North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD) and the Espanola Valley Community Development Corporation.

3) Housing Ordinance

Ms. Reichelt discussed the proposed homeless shelter at the hotel on the outskirts of town. She stated that Santa Fe non-profits built multi-income apartment buildings with a green design.

She announced that a plan had been completed and it would have to be adopted through ordinance or JPA. She stated that Española had a lower median income and lower affordable housing rate. She reported that unemployment rates were on par with national average and only fifty-two (52) loans were approved for home repairs in the last three (3) years county-wide. Ms. Reichelt stated that subsidized housing had very low vacancy rates and almost every piece of affordable rental housing was currently filled. She commented that rents in the county had increased by one (1) quarter and the small pool of renters was paying a lot more than they could afford. She stated that disabled and individuals with substance abuse problems had eighty two (82) beds county-wide.

Ms. Reichelt stated that there was money out there but they could not go after it until there was a plan in place. Mayor Lucero suggested having a work session on solely this issue and asked what the City needed to do in order to adopt the necessary ordinances.

Mayor Pro-Tem Valdez asked if they would have to create a commission to run housing or if it would be done by both governments. Daniel Werwath of Werwath and Associates said it would be owned and operated by the Housing trust. He recommended a joint commission between the City and County.

Ms. Reichelt stated that CFA Del Norte was willing to donate a piece of land to the City or County for trade for this purpose.

Motion by Councilor Peggy Sue Martinez to direct the City Clerk and Planning & Zoning Director work with Rio Arriba County on an ordinance; seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Valdez.

Motion carried 6-0.

4) Animal Control Regional efforts

Chairman Garcia observed that this was a controversial subject. Assistant County Manager Trujillo explained that the contract they had proposed was for $197,000 yet their data showed a decrease in the amount of animals being dropped off. He stated that, statutorily, the County was not required to pay for citizen drop offs. He continued that the proposed amount was $81.29 per animal and there had been 1,400 animals dropped off by citizens during the previous year. Assistant County Manager Trujillo reported that Rio Arriba County Animal Control had surrendered fewer than 300 animals. He stated that he had researched Joint Powers Agreements (JPAs) from other areas and was envisioning some type of situation that split the animals in the northern and southern parts of the county. He explained that he wanted to find out how both Governing Bodies would feel about that and would like to reach out to the Tribal entities.

Mayor Pro-Tem Valdez expressed concern about the Animal Shelter. He asked if anyone had looked at their budgets. Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that he had not seen their budget but was familiar with the contracts that other entities had with them. Mayor Pro-Tem Valdez suggested obtaining a copy and meeting to discuss the issue. Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that this had become a concern during the audit the previous year as the shelter did not provide data about the amount of citizen drop offs from Rio Arriba County.

Chamber of Commerce Director Kelly Duran stated that according to the Animal Shelter budget, about 80% came from private donations out of Santa Fe County. He added that 90% of the pets adopted went out of state.

Mayor Lucero stated that the City provided the facility, utilities and an employee. She asked Assistant County Manager Trujillo to keep the Governing Body informed on the issue.

County Manager Campos proposed four (4) items for the next joint session agenda-

1) JPA for E-911
   - He questioned how they would keep the E-911 funding if GRTs did not rise.
2) Consideration of a smaller finance package for the transfer station equipment.
3) GRT
   - He stated that Hold Harmless was hurting the County and City in such a way that economic development would not matter. He noted that if money were placed in the general fund, the state could take it away; however, if there were an agreement, it could not be taken.
4) Revamping the Detention Center
   - He stated that he would like to study other alternatives.

Commissioner Montoya commented that more funding needed to be devoted to prevention as more than 2/3 of the budget was devoted to services after the fact. He stated that, with regard to taxes, two (2) commissioners were on fixed incomes and this had helped them to realize the rise in costs. He stated that they were trying to live within their means and back off a little bit because they increased detention center costs previously. Commissioner Montoya stated that there was a high percentage of people in the county that were retired or on social security and he would like to convince the County Manager to back off at least for a while.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor Lewis to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Peggy Sue Martinez.

Motion carried 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF JUNE, 2014.

Alice A. Lucero, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tessa Jo Mascareñas, City Clerk