



ESPAÑOLA CITY COUNCIL/RIO ARRIBA COUNTY COMMISSION
JOINT WORK SESSION
JANUARY 8, 2014, 6PM
RIO ARRIBA COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
1122 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD, ESPAÑOLA, NM 87532

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Alfredo Montoya welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked that everyone excuse his absence at the previous two (2) meetings and expressed his satisfaction that he would be able to work with everyone. He commented that the work sessions were unprecedented as the two Governing Bodies had occasion to meet when necessary but not in terms of planning. He stated that it was an honor to be a part of the discussion as the County philosophy had always been that they encompassed the City and tribes as well.

Chairman Montoya called the work session to order at 6:12pm.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE MOMENT OF MEDITATION/ INVOCATION

Rio Grande Sun Reporter Jeff Tucker led the pledge of allegiance.

Councilor Valdez led the Moment of Meditation.

C. ROLL CALL/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

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

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

Absent: Eric Radosevich
Elaine L. Herrera

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Montoya asked everyone not to be fooled by the short agenda. He stated that the discussion item was extremely important and would be discussed in depth.

Motion by Councilor Martinez to approve the agenda; seconded by Councilor Valdez.

Motion carried unanimously.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rio Grande Sun Reporter Jeff Tucker asked if taxes would be discussed. Chairman Montoya stated that it would not because it was not on the agenda.

F. COUNCILOR/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Councilor Valdez stated that there would be discussion of the North Central Solid Waste Authority (NCSWA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the next Public Works Committee meeting. He reported that he would meet with NCSWA Manager Romero and County Manager Campos to review the document as both attorneys had already done so.

Chairman Montoya stated that Rio Arriba County requested that a bill be submitted to the legislature that would allow the County to place solid waste fees on the property tax bill. He stated that Grant County had proposed the bill and obtained unanimous support. He added that the Counties would encourage their legislators to support it. Chairman Montoya explained that the bill may not be considered germane but they were hoping to gain some traction.

Councilor Seeds stated that he was concerned about the fees and how each family was charged. He stated that some people did not generate a lot of trash. He asked how the determination was made as to what individual families were charged. Councilor Valdez suggested that the matter be taken to the Public Works Committee. Councilor Seeds stated that he understood that it took money to run government, but they should not get caught up in taxation. He asked how NCSWA was helping people and encouraging them to not discard their trash where they should not.

Councilor Valdez stated that both entities should not subsidize taxes through the General Fund.

Chairman Montoya reminded everyone that the discussion should be kept to comments. He answered that Rio Arriba County looked at rates remaining the same or doing pay as you call.

Councilor Seeds stated that he had not seen the item listed under legislative priorities.

Councilor Martinez thanked the County employee that set up for the meeting. Chairman Montoya stated that the actual work was done by people who were not in attendance and assured Councilor Martinez that he would make sure they received some acknowledgement.

Mayor Pro-Tem Salazar stated that he had been on the City Council since 2004 and the City Council and County Commission had only met once during that time. He stated that now, based on Economic Development Director Madrid and Assistant County Manager Trujillo reaching out, it began a process. He expressed the belief that it would help the community. He thanked the County Commission, County Manager, Assistant County Manager, Economic Development Director and the Governing Body.

Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that decisions had been made internally to reach out and it had been exciting because they had proposed several ideas. He stated that the bodies were all facing common issues and they had gained momentum.

Chairman Montoya asked that everyone approach the meeting with an open mind and leave politics aside so that the foundation would be established no matter who was sitting at the table. Mayor Lucero echoed the comments of Chairman Montoya and thanked the County for hosting the meeting.

G. ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSIDERATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Legislative Priorities

Mayor Lucero stated that they had discussed the possibility of the County being a fiscal agent for the City for Capital Outlay projects during the last joint work session. She stated that she had been in discussion with North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD) to be the City of Española's fiscal agent and since then all indications had been that DFA would not allow the arrangement. She explained that NCNMEDD proposed a resolution and received a letter stating that the City of Española was not eligible. She stated that many people interpreted the executive order differently.

Mayor Lucero stated that there had been a meeting with Mr. Wayne Sowell of the State of New Mexico Department of Finance & Administration (DFA) and he stated that the City of Española would not be eligible. She stated that the way the executive order was written, a lot of interpretation was left to DFA. She stated that toward the end of the meeting, Mr. Sowell opened up and wanted to look at where the City was in their audits. Mayor Lucero stated that Mr. Sowell had seen how far the City had gone and that it had maintained compliance with DFA requirements. She explained that Mr. Sowell agreed that DFA would be willing to discuss the matter further after the City finalized the 2011 audit. She announced that the auditors would conduct their filed work at City Hall and then send the audit report to the State Auditor. She stated that DFA would be looking to make sure that issues from the 2010 audit had been resolved. Mayor Lucero explained that before the audit became public, the auditor could write a letter about the reduction of findings and their severity. She reported that DFA may then consider a fiscal agent so that the bonds could be sold in June for the City's capital outlay project. She clarified that certain legislators told her that there were other cities and counties that had been allowed to obtain fiscal agents; however, Mr. Sowell had informed her that those cities were up to date with their audits but had several serious findings.

Mayor Lucero announced that Senator Martinez had proposed re-appropriating the funding to the County but with the same scope of work. She stated that she would like to gauge the Commission's feeling as she would not like to harm the County in any way.

Chairman Montoya stated that he understood from County Manager Campos and the County Finance Department, that Rio Arriba County was capable of managing appropriations as a fiscal agent. He expressed the belief that such a proposition would be positive if the Mayor and Council made a commitment to approach the project with full vigor so that the County would not lose their integrity. He commented that it was a big responsibility and a lot of work to be a fiscal agent.

Commissioner Trujillo stated that he had no problem with it if their Finance Department had the capabilities as long as everyone continued to work together. He opined that the \$500,000 would go a long way to serve the community. Commissioner Garcia echoed the comments of Commissioner Trujillo and Chairman Montoya.

County Manager Campos stated that the capability was there; however, all of their capital outlay appropriations had been vetoed and they had only received money from the Agency on Aging. He stated that they would need to work out details, such as who would own the property.

Mayor Lucero stated that there were three (3) appropriations. Interim City Manager Duran explained that one of the appropriations had been for the Veteran's Wall to alleviate the drainage problems and construct an amphitheater. He added that there would also be an Americans with Disabilities Act compliant ramp. Interim City Manager Duran stated that the second appropriation had been for the Fire Station on La Joya Street. He explained that it needed a roof and the garage doors were not opening and closing properly. He stated that in emergency situations, accommodations had to be made. He continued that the third appropriation had been to

renovate the remainder of the City Hall building. Interim City Manager Duran stated that the E-911 area would be expanded and a records center would be created.

Assistant County Manager Trujillo asked when the funding was appropriated. Mayor Lucero stated that it had been during the previous year. He asked how long the Senator could re-appropriate it for. Interim City Manager Duran replied that it would be for three (3) years.

Chairman Montoya mentioned that if the projects were a team effort, all of the individuals involved could inform and educate the governor to the fact that it was not specifically a Rio Arriba project but a City project. He stated that if the money did not come to Northern New Mexico, it would be taken south of I-40. He commented that the Northern part of the state had not fared well where capital outlay appropriations were concerned.

Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that in all the conversations they had, the crafting of the legislative language had been discussed.

Interim City Manager Duran stated that the projects would affect all of Northern New Mexico. He added that local veterans were ready to support the full effort.

Chairman Montoya stated that Rio Arriba County had met with legislators regarding how to proceed with the legislative process and the Governor's office. He reported that the legislature was looking for shovel ready projects and reasonability. He explained that when Governor Susana Martinez took office, there was over \$1 billion of outstanding projects because entities were attempting to accumulate years of appropriations to fund a full project.

Chairman Montoya asked what the City priorities would be for the upcoming legislative session. Mayor Lucero stated that it did not make sense to ask for any appropriations this year; however, the City was willing to go in with the County to ask for the money so the legislature would look at projects as a regional effort.

Councilor Lewis asked Mayor Lucero if the City was not going to request anything. Mayor Lucero explained that it was not likely that the City would receive funding and the legislators were not going to want to appropriate funds that would not be released. Councilor Lewis stated that the City would not get anything if nothing was requested. Mayor Lucero replied that she had been told that legislators were not willing to fund a project if the City could not use the money.

Interim City Manager Duran reported that Mr. Sowell had expressed his concern about the subject and that the State of New Mexico would consider the ICIP but any new or additional requests would not be likely until the audits were completed.

County Manager Campos stated that there were two (2) approaches to the solid waste issue. He stated that they could write legislation where the County would issue a mill levy county-wide. He explained that there would be a lot of details that needed to be worked out such as the differentiation of parcels, split parcels, etc. County Manager Campos recalled that when North Central Solid Waste Authority (NCSWA) was formed, it was not placed as a tax as the Governing Bodies would lose their control. He offered that if the legislation on Solid Waste Act changed to where the Governing Bodies could choose the board, there would be different feelings. He continued that under the Solid Waste Act, NCSWA would have the opportunity to tax and condemn properties, but would also keep the Pueblos out of the authority. He commented that they were working with Ms. Tessa Ryan on the language for the bill.

Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that it appeared as though there would be four (4) priorities- water and wastewater; E-911; economic development specific to the Downtown Revitalization Project; and the Detention Center.

Economic Development Director Madrid stated that with regard to the food hub, \$250,000 had been directed towards the Hunter Ford building and the project was getting support from Mr. Roger Montoya and Mora County. He announced that LANL would provide a grant writer for \$200,000 which would go toward the operational component of the food hub. He distributed a preliminary budget and handed out an article on food hubs. He explained that the article provided an example of when a food hub came into play, there were ways to add value. Economic Development Director Madrid stated that the Director of the Food Hub would work with farmers regarding the market.

He commented that individuals involved were communicating with Mr. Larry de Yapp at the Detention Center. He reported that the head count at the Detention Center was 120 the previous day and information regarding demand could be turned over to the farmers. He stated that he was meeting with folks from Mora County and LANL Communities on the lobbying efforts and would like the City to be integral in developing the strategy. Mayor Lucero stated that the City would like to get involved.

Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that alternative sentencing had been discussed as the City was transporting inmates to other Counties. He stated that they would like to expand the Detention Center and develop a holding center which would cut the City's costs. He stated that if the two entities partnered, infrastructure could be put into place. He added that they had left the language vague in the ICIP. Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that the Detention Center was at capacity at the time and they had transported 40 prisoners abroad.

Chairman Montoya commented that they had experienced a large need to house female inmates. He reported that there were only ten (10) available spaces. County Manager Campos stated that there were twenty (20) female inmates housed inside the County and twenty housed outside of the County.

Chairman Montoya mentioned that for a long time, the County was too protective due to memories of several large losses as far as water, property, etc. He stated that they wanted to protect what was left and their agricultural ordinance had not targeted the congested areas as they had a desire to continue the quality of life for the rural villages. Chairman Montoya stated that Rio Arriba County had come to realize that they had done what they could to protect and they needed to make every effort so that young people had opportunities in the area. He reported that they had discussed the need to grow businesses and partner with entities to generate activity. He stated that the last census had shown a reduction in the Rio Arriba County population by 2,000 and it had prompted the Commissioner to take action.

Chairman Montoya encouraged the City to continue working with Rio Arriba County along those lines. He stated that solid waste could be discussed all evening. He stated that the City may not fully appreciate how difficult solid waste was for the County because City billing was tied to other utilities. He explained that it was difficult in the County because rural villages had been used to burning their trash in barrels. He added that there were a lot of people in the outlying areas with limited resources. Chairman Montoya stated that when NCSWA was first created, the Commissioners did not have the courage to put the necessary fees in place and agreed to subsidize. He announced that they had created a situation where it was impossible for NCSWA to operate. He added that they were looking at how they could control illegal dumping. Chairman Montoya stated that many of the paying residents in the village he came from, were interested in limiting door to door pick-up because it was messy. He stated that they were also discussing other options through their board member at NCSWA. He continued that hauling one's own trash might reduce the cost but there were competing issues.

Chairman Montoya stated that they had struggled with delinquencies and had a 67% payment average. He reported that this was the reason behind placing billing in a system where everyone was held accountable.

Councilor Martinez asked Economic Development Director Madrid what the Councilmembers could do to forward the effort regarding the regional jail facility. She asked if it would be helpful to draft either a unified or individual letters. Assistant County Manager Trujillo replied that the Detention Administrator had a preliminary plan in place. He asked that the City fully commit so that Rio Arriba could craft language in a bill to that effect. He explained that the County would be able to move a potential client into a prevention or intervention program.

Councilor Martinez suggested that the Española Hospital join the effort as they were inundated in the Emergency Room. She asked if it would be possible to create some support from their board. Assistant County Manager Trujillo replied that Rio Arriba County had that partnership with Hospital Administrator Brenda Romero. He mentioned that the County had realized that if someone was not captured through prevention or treatment, they were captured through the jail or the hospital which were high cost. He added that they had reached out to judges for additional sentencing because cost savings could range from \$120 to \$6 or \$12 per day.

Councilor Martinez thanked Assistant County Manager Trujillo for all of his efforts. She expressed the belief that the County Commission and City Council were on the right track and could benefit from these priorities.

Mayor Lucero proposed that the Council adopt a resolution at the following week's City Council meeting resolving to partner with Rio Arriba County for an expansion of the detention facility. She asked Assistant County Manager Trujillo to work with City Clerk Tessa Jo Mascareñas so that it could be placed on the agenda for the following week.

Interim City Manager Duran noted that both entities had a detention facility on their ICIPs.

Councilor Valdez asked what the figure was for the detention center. Assistant County Manager Trujillo responded that he thought it was 50-100 beds.

Councilor Seeds stated that he had assumed that they had discussed all of this and decided they were all on board.

Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that the two (2) entities had been meeting and as they got closer to finalizing the packets, the resolution would provide some weight.

Chairman Montoya stated that Rio Arriba County would have to work so it was cheaper for the City of Espanola to send an inmate to San Miguel or Santa Fe County.

County Manager Campos explained that what brought the movement on was that \$4.5 million dollars of the county's budget was going toward the jail. He stated that when the Bernalillo County emptied their jail, rates rose across the state. He continued that the prevention efforts would allow for approximately twenty (20) more beds. County Manager Campos added that the largest issue with the detention center was with water.

County Manager Campos stated that the County was trying to clear themselves of the last census which stated that the population declined and showed that incomes rose. He explained that it had stopped the County from applying for the CDBG grant and Economic Development Director Madrid was attempting to get a survey to challenge the census. He added that one of the plans they had for CDBG was to build a new 911 Center so he wanted to continue to communicate so the entities did not step on each other's toes.

County Manager Campos stated that he would like to discuss combining the Senior Center; however, the officials may not wish to discuss the issue as it was an election year.

Mayor Pro-Tem Salazar stated that he understood that the City of Espanola had a couple of grants from 2010 due to expire in June of 2014. He asked Interim City Manager Duran the status of the grants. Chairman Montoya stated that the discussion may be better suited for another time.

Chairman Montoya stated that there had been some issues with the census in 2000. He explained that Rio Arriba County had challenged it and they had prevailed so they applied for nine (9) CDBG grants and received approximately seven (7). He stated that the grants enabled the County to fund some infrastructure.

Chairman Montoya stated that the two (2) entities had some fundamental responsibilities- law enforcement, detention and certain services. He stated that he understood that there was an unhealthy element growing with the young population. He continued that throughout the County, there was a lot of youth struggling. Chairman Montoya reported that the Commission did a bi-annual inspection of the jail and saw young people and neighbors and this had made the experience extremely painful. He opined that the two bodies needed to do something for the health of the community as far as substance abuse and domestic violence. He stated the days of people entertaining themselves at the river and playing games was over.

Chairman Montoya stated that Rio Arriba County had always depended on the City of Espanola for recreation and the library. He stated the City was providing those services and Rio Arriba County was trying to play a bigger role in that. He asked what they would do to help the people infected with the social ills. Chairman Montoya stated that the County was overwhelmed by the \$4 million loss for the detention center and \$2 million for law enforcement. He suggested that extra energy be placed on that subject in the future. He explained that when it came to recreation, the County was forced to work with what was left in the budget after all of the responsibilities were fulfilled.

Councilor Martinez stated that she believed this was the most important issue. She stated that she felt sadness when she encountered a drug user and knew their family. She continued that the subculture had begun to divide the community where it had affected the quality of life for everybody whether they had someone in their families afflicted or not. Councilor Martinez stated that in the last few years, she had seen that it had affected the image of the community. She stated that there needed to be investments made in recreation, education and prevention.

Councilor Hernandez stated that he came from the standpoint of being new to the City Council and a taxpayer. He stated that he wanted to see some of the things that the City and County could do to progress. He explained that if employment was not generated to improve the quality of life, the issue could not be attacked. He stated that he would like to see both entities attract business. Councilor Hernandez cited the current opportunity with Ealasad as an example and stated that he would like for there to be a marketing effort to attract higher paying jobs that would attract local young people who were educated. Chairman Montoya agreed with Councilor Hernandez.

Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that many people left around the age that they went away to college. He reported that he had reached out to LANL and NNMC as well as the oil and gas industry. He stated that a gentleman had made the comment that he could help students with field worker positions. Assistant County Manager Trujillo stated that although those positions paid around \$80,000 per year, he did not wish to limit the youth to that field. He stated that entities that the County had reached out to were supportive and wanted to celebrate successes in the area. Assistant County Manager Trujillo opined that if people felt good, they did

positive things. He stated that he was aware of people who were doing such things and referred to them as local heroes.

Economic Development Director Madrid cited the City of Espanola Planning & Zoning Director's recruitment of Murphy's Oil. He reported that during the previous month, Espanola had the lowest gas prices in the US. He explained that he had researched the issue and discovered that communities like Espanola were a lot higher.

Economic Development Director Madrid stated that there needed to be infrastructure in place. He cited the last mile broadband as an example of the necessities. He added that Planning & Zoning Director Naranjo had identified a number of businesses that would relocate immediately; however, there was no commercial space that would accommodate their needs.

Planning & Zoning Director Naranjo stated that one of the situations the City had encountered was that in order to attract economic development, the region had to be appealing. He explained that this stemmed from code enforcement, infrastructure, and the availability of real estate. He stated that the region was notorious for people purchasing mobile homes because there was not rental space. Planning & Zoning Director Naranjo reported that the department had invited company executives to town and they examined the possibility of moving their families. He stated that there needed to be improvements in the schools, hospital, etc.

Planning & Zoning Director Naranjo stated that there were a handful of property owners that owned the majority of commercial property in town. He stated that he would like to sit down with them to develop the properties to bring entities into the city.

Chairman Montoya stated that it had been a pleasure to see both entities commit to collaboration. He added that he was sure there would be other subjects going forward.

Councilor Valdez commented on the 3/8th tax. He asked if the entities would work with the State Legislature to return hold harmless. Chairman Montoya stated that the county constituents could only take so much and the New Mexico Association of Counties was working to alleviate the issue. He stated that it was painful to ask constituents for another 3/8ths.

Councilor Valdez reported that he had voted for a New Mexico Municipal League resolution in favor of returning the funding. He stated that if it were not reinstated, those running for office, if they got elected, would have to pass the 3/8th tax within a two (2) year period, possibly 1/8th at a time.

County Manager Campos communicated that the State Legislature had given the cities and counties the opportunity to make themselves whole or lose the funding. Chairman Montoya stated that local government was at the bottom of the pecking order and it was easy for them to take the money away.

Assistant County Manager Trujillo welcomed any feedback to develop the list of the goals and issues and asked the date of the next joint work session. Chairman Montoya suggested not meeting for the sake of meeting. He stated that he would like for there to be new discussions.

Councilor Seeds stated that he was excited about working with Rio Arriba County. He stated that he had identified several projects and would hope that resolution could be drafted in the next week as Mayor Lucero stipulated.

Chairman Montoya suggested planning Espanola Day at the legislature together for the next 60-day session.

Councilor Valdez suggested another meeting in February. City Clerk Mascareñas stated that the legislature would end on or about February 20th and the Governor would have approximately twenty (20) days to sign bills into law.

Councilor Seeds stated that the officials should meet with the Governor to ensure that she signed the bills.

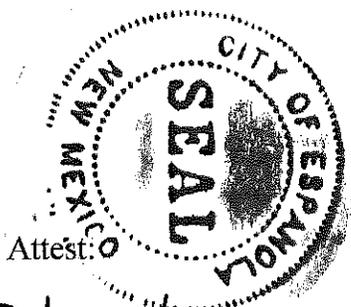
H. ADJOURNMENT

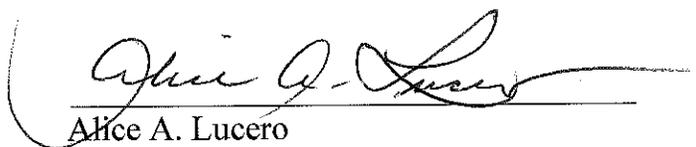
Motion to adjourn by Councilor Valdez; seconded by Councilor Hernandez.

Motion carried unanimously.

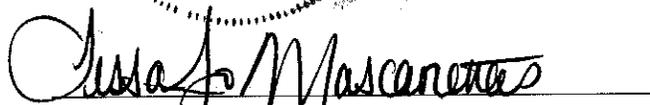
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15pm.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 28th day of JANUARY, 2014.





Alice A. Lucero
Mayor



Tessa Jo Mascareñas
City Clerk