



FINANCE BOARD MEETING (Continuance from 5.13.13)  
MAY 21, 2013, 6PM  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
405 N. PASEO DE OÑATE ESPAÑOLA, NM

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Lucero called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

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

Mayor Lucero led the Pledge of Allegiance/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: Robert Seeds  
Peggy Sue Martinez  
Cory Lewis

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilor Martinez suggested that the Municipal Court be moved up on the agenda as they had waited several evenings to be heard. Judge Salazar stated that he would likely stay through the entire meeting; therefore, the agenda did not have to be altered.

*Motion to approve the agenda by Councilor Martinez; seconded by Councilor Seeds.*

*Motion carried 4-0.*

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no members of the public wishing to comment.

**F. COUNCILOR COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Pro-Tem Salazar stated that he had a stroke in 2005 and was required to undergo several surgeries. As a result, some Councilors spearheaded an effort to remove him from the Council. He stated that although legal counsel was not present, he would like for staff to research the regulations regarding the allowed amount of meetings that a Councilor may miss. He reported that the Española School Board was allowed to miss three (3) meetings before they were

removed from office. Mayor Pro-Tem Salazar stated that he understood that all Councilors had issues going on in their lives; however, they must also be responsive to their constituency.

Councilor Lewis asked why City Attorney Coppler was not in attendance. Mayor Lucero stated that the City Attorney did not typically attend Finance Board meetings due to the cost. Councilor Lewis stated that this was an instance where the Mayor Pro-Tem needed a statement.

Councilor Martinez expressed some thoughts concerning thanking Ohkay Owingeh. She stated that she thought that they could be presented with some type of thanks. Mayor Lucero stated that they had been presented with a certificate from the council and she had followed up with a note. She said being that they had a contract with LANL, they were required to provide support and this was how they had chosen to do it.

Councilor Martinez announced that she was asking for any entities that volunteered to contact her so that she could recognize them at a Council meeting. Deputy City Clerk Squires agreed to email all departments as well as the docents, soup kitchen and Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Lucero stated that when they began the budget review process for 2014 there was a \$320,858 deficit due to department requests and after three meetings the City was at a \$419,219 deficit. She stated that instead of making ground and reducing the deficit the Council had increased the margin.

She stated that this Council wanted to be involved in the preparation of the 2014 budget from the beginning and, with all due respect, in good faith and in an effort to work together, she agreed to allow the Council's involvement from the beginning. She reported that this had not been an effective process due to the unprofessional behavior of some Councilors. Mayor Lucero announced that there had been a complete disregard for the City's needs in critical areas such as Finance. She stated that some Councilors were attempting to micromanage the City Manager and Department Heads through the budget process. She added that some Councilors had targeted certain individuals and departments in retaliation because they had not allowed them to interfere with the way they managed their departments.

Mayor Lucero stated that employees had come to her indicating that they were being insulted, intimidated and bullied and she found this type of behavior to be inappropriate and unacceptable.

She stated that, after hearing from several City residents – constituents – expressing their disappointment with some Councilors, with all due respect to the City, and because she had respect for all employees, she could not in good conscience sit and be a party to that type of political manipulation of the budget. She stated that it was her duty as Mayor to stand up for Citizens and defend the rights of employees. She stated that she would turn over the meeting to the Mayor Pro-Tem.

Mayor Pro-Tem Salazar stated that, due to the Mayor abruptly leaving the meeting, they could not do city business. Councilor Martinez stated that she did not know what to say.

Wastewater Chief Operator Perry Vigil asked how the budget would be finalized. Mayor Pro-Tem Salazar stated that the Council had depended on the Mayor to take the lead and the Mayor had let them down. He stated that they needed to be able to get some advice and be able to regroup. He verified that there was a City Council Meeting on Tuesday.

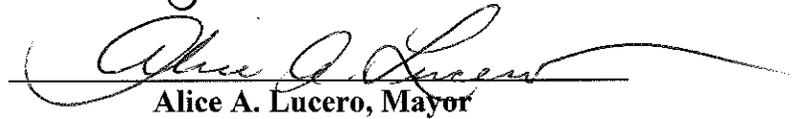
Judge Salazar stated that the meeting could continue at a discussion level and recommendations could be forwarded to full Council.

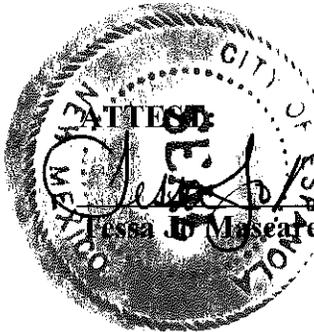
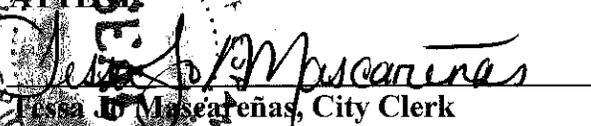
Mayor Pro-Tem Salazar stated that he did not know if the Mayor had resigned or if she had just left. He stated that he would need legal advice. He added that he did not think it was a good idea to continue the meeting even on an informational level, without a quorum.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at 6:18pm.*

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF June, 2013.

  
Alice A. Lucero, Mayor

  
ATTEST:  
  
Teresa J. Moseca Peñas, City Clerk