

**Minutes of
Public Works Committee Meeting
June 21, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Public Works Committee for Wednesday June 21, 2006 was called to order by Councilor Alfred Herrera, Chairman at 6:00 p.m. Present were:

COUNCILORS: Alfred Herrera, Chairman
Cecilia Lujan, Member
Alice Lucero, Member
Dennis Tim Salazar

STAFF: Leroy Archuleta, Field Superintendent
Sylvia D. Tafoya, Administrative Aide
Anthony (Hawk) Trujillo, Streets Department Supervisor
Diego Ortiz, Street Equipment Operator

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Lujan made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Lucero seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Lucero made a motion to approve the minutes of May 22, 2006. Councilor Lujan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

STREETS

Update on D.O.T. request for easement from Schools for installation of pond for drainage at Industrial Park Road

There was a brief discussion. The City is currently trying to set up a joint work session with the schools.

Explanation of traffic signal upgrades being done throughout the city by D.O.T.

Diego Ortiz was present to explain the traffic signal upgrades. He stated that the State is changing over to video detection. Emergency equipment can now be detected. There are presently two new cabinets at Trujillo Loop. The flashing light can now be eliminated. Testing is currently being done at State Road 76. The lighting is being updated. It will be upgraded from incandescent to LED. Traffic counts being conducted by the D.O.T. are being stopped at 3:00 p.m. Friday afternoons. This will give a false reading.

Councilor Lucero suggested that the City do our own traffic counts. The City, through the City Manager needs to express their concern to D.O.T. on the inaccurate traffic counts being conducted.

Councilor Herrera stated that he would speak to the City Manager so he can pursue this issue with the State.

Mr. Ortiz went on to explain that the traffic lights are now being monitored from Santa Fe. Any emergency during the weekend will be taken care of on Monday. The black boxes detect emergency vehicles when answering calls (at this point fire trucks only).

Mr. Ortiz also explained the maintenance agreements between the City and D.O.T. The City is responsible for changing out burnt out light bulbs. The City is not equipped for anything major.

Councilor Herrera suggested requesting a report on speeders. He also suggested that the City acquire monitors to warn speeders and that more patrolling be done by the police department. This should go before the Public Safety Committee.

Councilor Salazar, Public Safety Committee Chairman stated that he would bring this before that committee.

Handicapped parking – new signage law

Councilor Herrera presented a copy of the letter from Governor Richardson's office and explained the new law that changes the handicapped parking signage. Twenty to thirty signs need to be replaced city wide.

Councilor Lucero suggested informing businesses to do the same.

Councilor Herrera stated that he would contact the Governor's office to check if businesses have been advised of the change.

The committee directed staff to change out signs to adhere to the new law. It was suggested that the Rio Grande Sun be contacted to take a picture when the first sign is installed so that media coverage will inform citizens of the new law.

GENERAL SERVICES

Update on canopies for Skate Park

Leroy Archuleta updated the committee on the canopies at the skate park. One canopy has been completed. The City will install the second one as soon as possible. Fiestas are coming up and personnel are currently busy preparing for that event.

Councilor Lucero suggested doing a youth project to paint over the graffiti at the skate park. Another suggestion is that a group of skaters could be brought together for participation on a youth project to improve the appearance of the skate park.

Mr. Archuleta stated that there are also repairs being done to bleachers for installation at the skate park.

Improvements checklist and cost estimate for City buildings and Parks

Mr. Archuleta presented a written report to the Committee and asked that they prioritize the items. The Committee reviewed the report.

Councilor Lucero asked about the bathrooms at Valdez Park.

Mr. Archuleta explained that the bathrooms are vandalized during games. The baseball leagues have keys but leave the bathrooms open after the games. He suggested that the fields be turned over to the baseball leagues during baseball season then turned back over to the City after the baseball season is over.

Councilor Lujan suggested setting up rules & regulations to be complied with at the beginning of the season.

Councilor Herrera asked that an update of the report be provided at the next meeting.

Councilor Lucero suggested taking out the high dollar items.

Councilor Herrera asked that the list be separated into an in-house list and a high priority list. The high cost items can then be prioritized at a later date. The list needs to be reviewed quarterly through the budget process.

Councilor Lucero suggested LED lighting for buildings. It is expensive initially but very cost effective in the long run.

Councilor Herrera stated that he had an FYI item for the Committee. He stated that cost containment measures were requested from department heads. Mr. Archuleta suggested that the City have an auction and the monies could be used for maintenance.

Councilor Lucero stated that a Resolution needs to be referred to before auction. The Resolution lists serial numbers and the description of surplus items to be auctioned.

Councilor Herrera went on to present another FYI item for the Committee. He explained that the City Public Works Department was approached by Ohkay Owingeh on possibly entering into a contract with them to provide road maintenance for the Pueblo. It was agreed that it was worth looking into. A meeting will be set up between the City and the Pueblo to discuss this.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Lucero made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Councilor Lujan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:



Alfred Herrera, Public Works Committee Chairman

ATTEST:



Sylvia D. Tafoya, Administrative Aide