

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

The special meeting of the CITY OF FARMINGTON BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONERS was held Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 3:00 p.m., in the Executive Conference Room at City Hall, 800 Municipal Dr., Farmington, New Mexico, in full conformity with the laws and ordinances of the Municipality.

GENERAL

1. Commission members present: James Spence
Jeff Parkes
Marty Johnson
Gordon Glass
Bill Standley
Tory Larsen
Chris Hunter
Keith Johns
- Commission members absent: Rubin Armenta
Bill Hall
Carol Cloer

- City personnel present: Rodney Romero
Electric Utility Director Sue Nipper
Electric Business Operations Luke Lugenbeel
Electric Transmission & Distribution Nicki Parks
Customer Service Jeff Smaka
Public Works Department Monica Peterson
OMM/CH2MHill Andy Mason
Administrative Services Sheree Wilson
Administrative Services Accounting Amy McKinley
PUC Secretary

Guest:
David Fosdeck

2. Chair Spence called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM with a quorum present to conduct the business of the Commission.
- Chair Spence asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes of the December 9, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Hunter made a motion to approve the Minutes and Commissioner Johns seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS

1. Review of Proposed Rules and Regulations for Electric Service:
- Mr. Romero stated FEUS reached out to the San Juan County Homebuilders Association (SJCHBA) to receive feedback from its members regarding the proposed updates to the rules and regulations. Suggestions from SJCHBA representatives were reviewed by FEUS and changes were made to the rules in question. Commissioner Hunter asked if the SJCHBA received the changed language; Ms. Nipper stated the revised rules were forwarded to the SJCHBA.
- Commissioners Larsen, Johnson and Armenta were in attendance at FEUS's meeting with SJCHBA. Commissioners Larsen and Johnson praised FEUS staff for maintaining a professional attitude during the sometimes challenging meeting.
- Commissioner Hunter observed that his review of the redline rules and regulations provided a valuable history of the creation and revision of each rule and regulation.

Commissioner Hunter proceeded to make a motion to recommend to City Council the approval of the proposed Rules and Regulations covering Electric Service; Commissioner Standley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

City Manager Mayes requested the commissioners who attended the SJCHBA meeting to be in attendance at the City Council meeting when council approval of the proposed rules and regulations will be on the agenda or send a memo or e-mail to the Mayor and Council affirming that input was sought by SCHBA members regarding the proposed revisions to the rules and regulations. Chair Spence confirmed that Commissioners Marty Johnson, Tory Larsen and Rubin Armenta attended the meeting and stated an e-mail would go out to the City Council. Chair Spence asked who the leader of the SJCHBA was at the meeting; Commissioner Johnson stated Don Becker of Medallion Heating was the lead spokesperson for the SJCHBA.

2. Electric Utility Report:

Ms. Nipper offered a review of the Electric Utility Report for the month of November 2015 as well as year to date data.

3. Water Wastewater Report:

Mr. Smaka reported on the activities of the water wastewater division for the month of December, 2015. Mr. Smaka reported staff received approval by the state to put the approximately \$14 million wastewater treatment plant project out for bid; the bid opening is March 3, 2016. Mr. Smaka updated the commission on the status of the Wildflower Parkway pump station project stating the proposed property has gone into bankruptcy; this project is on hold while staff reviews other project locations.

Mr. Smaka commented staff will be reviewing the water and sewer connect/re-connect fees. He said the electric utility's fees and penalties are updated via council approval of the Rules and Regulations Covering Electric Service but water and sewer fees and penalties are set by city ordinance.

4. Water/Wastewater Operations Report:

Ms. Peterson reviewed the December water/wastewater operations report. Ms. Peterson reminded the commission that an application for a new NPDES permit was submitted to the EPA in the spring of 2015; this application is for a permit to replace the NPDES permit that expired October, 2015. Ms. Peterson stated since the December 9, 2015 PUC meeting, EPA personnel have communicated with OMI staff about TDS levels and other issues pertaining to permitting.

5. Director's Report:

Mr. Romero reviewed the activities of the utility for the month of December. He said that even though it is winter, tree maintenance continues because ice and snow cause branches to lean or break and fall into lines. He said site work at the Aztec substation has taken place and groundbreaking for the installation of the structures will occur soon. Mr. Romero noted that site work is taking place at the Cottonwood Substation location. This new substation will replace the existing Sullivan substation which has outlived its usefulness.

Mr. Romero reported an outage occurred at the Bluffview Power Plant; parts were ordered to repair the issue that caused the outage. The Animas Plant, which is now a peaking unit, was placed into service to cover this outage at the Bluffview plant.

Mr. Romero said staff has been working with the consulting firm Leidos Engineering to discuss the feasibility of creating a solar plant. Mr. Romero asked Nicki Parks to comment on the status of the survey. Ms. Parks stated the survey has been placed on the City web page, the FEUS web page, city and FEUS Facebook pages and hard copy versions of this survey will also be available at the MOC Customer Service Lobby.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Approved this 10th day of February, 2016.


James Spence, MD, Chair