


MEMORANDUM

To: Bill Studer, Interim City Manager
From: Jorge A. Garcia, Ph.D., P.E., Utilities Director **Initials:** 
Date: May 14, 2019 **File #:** UD19-148
Subject: LCU Board Action Memo – May 2019

The Las Cruces Utilities (LCU) Board met for a Regular Meeting Thursday, May 9, 2019.

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

- No conflict of interest among Board Members or Staff.
- Acceptance of Agenda: Was approved 5-0. **Commissioners Sorg and Vasquez were absent.**
- Regular Meeting Minutes from April 11, 2019, were approved on consent 5-0.
- Public Participation: There was none.

The Board was briefed on the following items as part of the **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:**

Jose F. Provencio, deputy director Business Services, provided updates on:

- Customer Service:
 - MUNIS upgrade to version 2018.1 on April 15th crashed due to data issues. Rescheduled for weekend of November 9, 2019.
- Billing and Receivables:
 - Utility Assistance Programs Report as of April 2019.
- FY19 3rd Quarter Financial Reports with City Manager Budget Reports as backup.

I informed the Board there was no new developments regarding: TX v NM & CO.

Carl N. Clark, deputy director RES/TS, presented the following Projects:

- Talavera 8-inch Steel High-Pressure Gas Pipeline Extension, Project No. 18-19-061.
- Water Service and Road Rehabilitation Project, Vista de La Montaña, Vista de La Luna, Pines, and Sonora Springs, Project No. 17-18-070.
- Jacob Hands Wastewater Treatment Facility (JHWWTF) Primary Digester No. 1 Repair of Hot Water Leak, Project No. 18-19-026.

Resolutions: The following were discussed and approved 7-0:

- Resolution 18-19-109
- Resolution 18-19-LCU023

Old Business:

Rhonda Diaz, Water conservation program coordinator, updated the Board on the following:

- 8th Annual Children's Water Festival, which was held April 18th.
- Extended an invitation to the 4th Annual Spring Stroll in the Garden on May 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

New Business:

I, informed the Board regarding:

- The City has a new website and we're all still navigating through. If the Board goes and looks for something, which cannot be located, please contact Alma.
 - ***Commissioner Johnson mentioned:*** *All of your old bookmarks no longer work.*
- The Utilities is participating in the City's Neighborhood Leadership Academy on May 15th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The Board is invited to attend.

Board's General Discussion:

- ***Commissioner Johnson stated:*** "Mostly a curiosity item, but the other morning I came out and there were City trucks moving across the street from me and said, Utilities on there so I naturally said, 'Well what in the dickens are you doing?' They said, 'Well the people over here decided they no longer need gas service.' They're having to break through the street there to get down to shut off gas service. That really surprised me because I thought you shut it off right before the meter, but they were having to dig down and spent the whole day or most of the day to get to where they needed to be to turn off the gas service for that particular piece of property. Is the property owner is billed? How in the world are they going to heat the house next winter?"
 - ***I responded:*** *I believe it's regulatory requirement, if it's a permanent cap to remove the gas all the way to the main. Yes, and we can look what it was, and Lucio can bring us information next time as to why. That's rare if someone moves to electric heating or whatever they're going to do, but we don't do that on someone that is delinquent, just shut off the valve.*
- ***Vice-Chair Archuleta stated:*** "I just want to mention that a couple of weeks ago we had the Two Nations/One Water Conference and I want to thank Dr. Garcia and the staff, they were there at Las Cruces Utilities was one of many sponsors of this event. We had about 240 registrants. Dr. Garcia did present the water smart meter overview to the group. I think there was a lot of interest and I know Carl Clark was there and had a demonstration booth, showing how it all fits and how it all works together. I just wanted to thank the Utility again for being a sponsor and for Dr. Garcia being there. Like I said, it was I think very successful."
 - ***Chair Little added:*** "It was a really good conference with a lot of meat that wasn't presented in Greek."
- ***Chair Little inquired about:***
 - A Work Session in June?
 - ***I responded:*** Not at this time. If there's any new developments in the Water area, I'll have Jay send us a summary. But no, I don't anticipate a work session. We're working on the Solid Waste Rate Review numbers, but

- it's too premature. We haven't even taken anything to the Utilities Customer Advisory Group (UCAG) yet. It's in progress.
- Do we have an intact UCAG at this point?
 - ***I responded:*** Yes. We have a new appointee, a former El Paso Electric rate type of person. Yesterday was his first meeting, he was introduced to the rest of the Board.

Next meeting Date:

- **June 13, 2019.**

The Board Meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Links to presentation materials are included. If you have any questions or require additional information, you may contact me at x3636.

JAG/ajr

Attachments:

- Administrative Report:
 - FY19 3rd Quarter Financial Reports with City Manager Budget Reports as backup.
- Outreach Report May 2019.

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