


**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Bill Studer, Interim City Manager

**From:** Jorge A. Garcia, Ph.D., P.E., Utilities Director      **Initials:** 

**Date:** June 20, 2019      **File #:** UD19-158

**Subject:** LCU Board Action Memo – June 2019

The Las Cruces Utilities (LCU) Board met for a Regular Meeting Thursday, June 13, 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 Archuleta and Vasquez were absent.**
- Regular Meeting Minutes from May 9, 2019, were approved on consent 5-0.
- Public Participation:
  - Mr. Dennis Lyon from Utility Service Partners, Inc. shared a presentation on Service Line Warranty Program.
    - Comments from Commissioners Johnson, Sorg, and Carmichael were shared.
    - Comments from Ms. Driggers were shared.

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:
  - Budget Payment Plan renewal underway.
- Billing and Receivables:
  - Utility Assistance Programs Report as of May 2019.

***Marcy Driggers, Sr. Assistant City Attorney and I updated the Board on the following litigation matters:***

- Texas v New Mexico & Colorado.
- Griggs Walnut Superfund Project.

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

- Jacob Hands Wastewater Treatment Facility (JHWWTF) Water Quality Lab Building Construction, Project No. 17-18-017.
- Airport Booster Station Improvement, Project No. 18-19-044.
- Water Service and Road Rehabilitation Project, Vista de La Montaña, Vista de La Luna, Pines, and Sonora Springs, Project No. 17-18-070.

***Lucio M. Garcia, deputy director Natural Gas, presented on the following:***

- Gas Line Abandonment.
- American Public Gas Association (APGA) System Operation Achievement Recognition (SOAR) Award.

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

- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Stroll in the Demonstration Garden.

***Cassie McClure, public outreach consultant, updated the Board on:***

- Utilities Neighborhood Leadership Academy night.
  - *Interim Assistant City Manager, Barbara DeLeon provided some comments.*

**Resolutions: The following were approved 5-0 via Consent Agenda:**

- Resolution 18-19-LCU024
- Resolution 18-19-LCU025

**Resolutions: The following were approved 5-0 after discussed:**

- Resolution 18-19-076
- Resolution 18-19-132
- Resolution 18-19-137

**Old Business:**

***Mario Puentes, Gas systems analyst, updated the Board on the following:***

- Historic low gas prices, which will result in a \$0.00 commodity rate on customer bills. This may not happen again, however, please note – it's not a billing error.
- New Mexico Municipal Energy Acquisition Authority (NMMEAA) Bonds were priced on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, generating a discount of \$0.297, slightly above what was expected. However, it's an exercise that had to be done because the current bonds mature on August 1, 2019. This will not have to be done again until approximately May 2025.

***Carl N. Clark, deputy director RES/TS, reminded the Board about:***

- A public meeting on the Assessment of Corrective Measures for the Old Foothills Landfill, June 20, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at Desert Hills Elementary.

**New Business:**

***I, informed the Board about:***

- The City's Public Information Office Announcement regarding hiring the Assistant Utilities Director, who is the current County Manager of Socorro County. She [Deililah Walsh] brings a lot of financial and operational background and will start July 22, 2019.

***Commissioner Sorg informed the Board about:***

- He attended a public hearing by the International Boundary and Water Commission. It was their presentation of considering identifying, designing, and construction of aquatic habitat restoration projects along the Rio Grande Canalization Project.
- Welcomed Barbara DeLeon to the Board table today. She is the Interim Assistant City Manager.

**Board's General Discussion:**

- ***Chair Little stated:*** "Referring back to the gentleman's presentation on the insurance. Next month during the Board's General Discussion I'm going to ask us to indicate whether we have any interest in considering this and if so how. Not as a decision but as a general direction that we think we might want to go forward. Think about his presentation over the next month and we'll come to some kind of a notion during General Discussion and then take it from there.

**Next meeting Date:**

- **July 11, 2019.**

The Board Meeting adjourned at 4:50 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:

- Public Participation Presentation: Service Line Warranty Program from Utility Service Partners, Inc.
- Administrative Report.
- Outreach Report June 2019.