

Las Cruces Utilities
Minutes of the Regular Meeting on
Thursday, February 14, 2019
Immediately following Work Session
Utilities Board Room 225

Board Members Present

William Little, Chairman
Ed Archuleta, Vice-Chairman
Steven Baumgarn, Commissioner
Jim Carmichael, Commissioner
Harry Johnson, Commissioner
Gill Sorg, Commissioner
Gabriel Vasquez, Commissioner (*entered at 4:01 p.m.*)

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Stuart C. Ed, City Manager
Jorge A. Garcia, Utilities Director

Others:

Becky Baum, RC Creations, LLC
Cassie McClure, Pubic Outreach Consultant
Suzanne Michaels, Public Outreach
Consultant
Greg Shervanick, Resident
Susan Schmutge, League of Women Voters

City Staff Present:

Waleed Abu-Issa, Operations Engineer Sr.
Filiberto Aguirre, Water Line Locator
Carl Clark, RES/TS Administrator
Rhonda Diaz, Water Conservation Program
Coordinator
Jeff Dillard, Business Systems Analyst
Marcy Driggers, Senior Assistant City
Attorney
Lucio Garcia, Gas Administrator
Luis Guerra, Water Quality Lab Manager
Robin Lawrence, Solid Waste Administrator
Jose Provencio, Business Services
Administrator
Mario Puentes, Gas Business Analyst
Domonique Rodriguez, Rate and Economic
Analysis Manager
Joshua Rosenblatt, Regulatory &
Environmental Analyst
Alma Ruiz, Senior Office Manager
Audrianna Sambrano, Senior Office Assistant
Estella Saucedo, Customer Service
Supervisor
Steven Valdez, Billing and Receiving
Supervisor
Adrienne Widmer, Water Administrator

Chair Little called the regular meeting to order at approximately 3:35 p.m.

1. Conflict of Interest:

Chair Little: The first order of business is to inquire of the Board and staff if anyone here has a Conflict of Interest with any item on the agenda?

There were none.

2. Acceptance of Agenda:

Chairman Little: Next item of business is Acceptance of the Agenda.

Johnson: So moved.

Sorg: Second.

Chair Little: Any additions or corrections to the agenda?

Commissioner Johnson - Aye; Commissioner Carmichael - Aye;
Commissioner Archuleta - Aye; Commissioner Sorg - Aye; Commissioner
Baumgarn - Aye; and Chair Little - Aye; Commissioner Vasquez - Absent.

The Agenda was Accepted Unanimously 6-0.

3. *Acceptance of Minutes:
***a. Regular Meeting on January 10, 2019**

The Minutes were Approved Unanimously 6-0.

4. Public Participation:

Chair Little: Next item of business is Public Participation. Are there members of the public present that would like to be heard? Okay, seeing none.

There was none.

5. Administrative Report

Chair Little: Next item of business is the Administrative Report.

Provencio: Good afternoon Chairman, Commissioners. I'll brief you on activity ongoing in Customer Service and Billing and Receivables area. First up for briefing is that staff has initiated the process to update our Development Impact Fees. This is a process that requires a five-year review of the charges. We secured the services of TischlerBise to initiate the study for the Utilities Development Impact Fees. As the process moves on, we'll be bringing forward the draft copy for your review.

Second item is in response to the concern that the Water Rate increase may have been a little bit skewed, or possibly skewed because of the recovery of the revenues over a phased-in period. Staff performed a Proof of Revenue Analysis. Which is another way of looking at how the rate design recovers the authorized revenue requirement. Also, to inform you that the Stantec rate design does positively recovers the authorized \$21.1 million increase that we've gone through and have implemented starting December 1st.

Next item I want to brief you on is special process that was implemented to assist for federal employees with the utility bills. Since the government shutdown there were small initial requests for help. With the quick work of the supervisors in Customer Service and Accounts Receivable, we put together a process to flag and handle these accounts. There were a total amount of 39 accounts that requested this help. Just puts them in a special condition where late fees are not applied, and shutoff notices are suspended. As we worked our way through and things got a little bit better, there was a

restart up of the federal government in terms of regular business. Eighty percent of the accounts were current as of February 6th. We're ready to handle anything, any situation that may arise, but special kudos to the supervisors in Billing and Receivables and Customer Service.

Next, I'll brief you on the progress in terms of administering the income assistance program that we have and is administered by Casa de Peregrinos. A brief look at what we've done. We're at 50% of what we expect to be at midyear. In terms of using the funds that are available to assist our utility customers with the utility bills. We're still on an aggressive path to make sure we assist all customers and that we exhaust the funds that had been set aside for this program.

At this point, I move into the review of the Second Quarter Budget Report and Performance Review. Looking at the overall Utility as an entire department, what we see here is at the midyear comparing actual revenues from 2018 to 2019 Fiscal Years, it does show the progress that we're progressing in terms of both revenues and expense management, but overall at this level of overview we are holding and maintaining our projections and our actual performance both in expenses and the revenue side. As I walk through the individual utilities you can see there are different factors, different drivers moving each one of the utilities.

With that I will get into discussion of Gas system. Overall the comparison in terms of budget performance shows it somewhat low in both revenue and the expense side. The main drivers here as we look at the Gas is the good news on the cost commodity side is, it's lower than it was in the previous Fiscal Year. That is good news for our customers. On the expense side, a lot of the expense is not hitting the projected level, would be driven by vacancies. There are some expenses that have come in in terms of utility repairs. However, if you bundle everything up we're at this point at midyear.

On the performance for Water in the budget, one thing that stands out is they're a little bit over the projections for both revenue and expenses. The main drivers are volumetric sales are up, so it's reflective of some of the additional projected revenue level. On the expense side, system utility repairs have contributed to that. I do believe that the respective operating utility will still continue to manage those expenses. It's just reflective of probably an awakening of some of the sales on the Water side. I think I have a question here from Mr. Johnson.

Johnson: The budget numbers in there, the budget based on the old rates. Next quarter will we see it with the changed budget and revenues and so on by the new rates?

Provencio: Chairman, Commissioner Johnson. That's correct. This was before the midyear adjustment.

- Johnson: Right.
- Provencio: The midyear adjustment will incorporate the change in the Water rate level and Water rate charges and expenses.
- Johnson: The numbers you will show us should be correct.
- Provencio: That's correct sir. Reviewing the performance for Wastewater. Wastewater utility is pretty much in line with the projections, both on revenue and on the expense side. This is at least one area of operations that is fairly consistent, and the numbers show up at this point at the midyear.
- Solid Waste performance. Good news is slightly ahead on revenues and slightly below on expenses which is probably the sweet spot. We'll see how we continue here for the rest of the year in terms of Solid Waste performance. It's in good shape here with respect to the budget and budget projections.
- Shared Services. The prime driver here is the vacancy level which everybody is working hard to get through. That's the objective here for the third quarter of the year coming here soon. As before, the detail that's provided to you in your packets, the other information that's provided to City Management and the Director reviews the budget performance with the City Manager in all other areas. That detail is in your packet. I'll stand by for any other questions you may have.
- Chair Little: Questions? Commissioner Carmichael.
- Carmichael: Joe, there was a gas rebate we talked about several months ago and looking at how that was going to be rebated. What's the status of that?
- Provencio: I would have to defer to either Director or Mario Puentes, the Gas Business Analyst, as to how that would be rolled in.
- Dr. Garcia: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Carmichael. Are you talking about the match?
- Carmichael: Yes.
- Dr. Garcia: That we do for connections. We can certainly bring you a report on that. The line extensions we make. If you recall the policy, anything less than, if an extension is less than, I think the match is \$1,400.00 or so and anything over that we charge. If it's less than that it's included in the utility. What you're asking is our report on the new connections and see how many of those 1,400 allocations have we had. The total dollar amount? We can certainly bring you that, but it's not in this report right now.
- Carmichael: Yes, that was one of the questions. There was also an overcharge on expected cost of gas versus...

- Dr. Garcia: Okay, you're talking about the second thing?
- Carmichael: Yes.
- Dr. Garcia: Mr. Puentes. Somebody get Mr. Puentes. Yes, I know what you mean, is he reported the Cost of Gas adjustment.
- Carmichael: Right.
- Dr. Garcia: That's on the overall supply side.
- Carmichael: Right. He was taking a look at how to roll that back into the bills. If I understood that right.
- Dr. Garcia: Later on during the discussion, we can bring Mr. Puentes to clarify that.
- Carmichael: That's fine. Thank you.
- Dr. Garcia: They will provide a report on the match because that's an interesting question and it's not immediately transparent in the report. We'll account how many of those new line extensions we have and how many have connected. Therefore, how many of those we've matched the initial cost of \$1,400.00.
- Carmichael: That's pretty important, I think.
- Dr. Garcia: Yes. Thanks for the question.
- Carmichael: Thank you.
- Provencio: We've got Mr. Puentes.
- Dr. Garcia: Why don't you continue? Who's next? Carl. I'll brief Mario as to what the question is so he can bring the information. I guess it's Marcy and myself. Let me go through this.

We had the positions with TX v. New Mexico. We cannot discuss the details until we have the closed session, the Executive Session. We tried to have the Executive Session today as you know. The briefs were delayed because of the closure of the government. Everything got pushed down, so the Attorney General (AG) attorneys felt that they wanted to have the briefs written so they could provide them to you and talk about that as to what their position would be. I've requested that at least their consulting attorney be here March 14th and hopefully, one of the attorneys cannot make it, but hopefully the other one comes from Denver, can make it to the March 14th meeting for a closed session.

If not, they've assured me that at the April meeting they will be available and that would be after the brief of April 2nd before the Special Master. Everything got pushed down, all the schedules with the Special Master got pushed down because of the closing of the government. That's where we are and we can discuss more details on the depositions at that time. Marcy do you want to add anything that we can discuss publicly?

Driggers: No sir. Other than the Texas attorneys have taken depositions of the Elephant Butte Irrigation District Board Members, but not of the management it. They've taken the depositions of Dr. Garcia, Adrienne Widmer, and Rhonda Diaz and there are no additional depositions scheduled. Although there possibly will be follow-up depositions of one or more of the City components. They haven't made any decisions of that. The next big thing is the hearing in November and as Dr. Garcia has indicated.

Dr. Garcia: April.

Driggers: Disposition of briefs got delayed so the attorneys for the State of New Mexico, who are contract attorneys didn't want to give you what the State's decision was, until such time as the briefs had been filed and had become public record. They're still in the process of filing those.

Dr. Garcia: With that Mr. Chairman can we move on, if there are no questions on this? Again more to come when we can have an Executive Session. Mr. Clark, projects please.

Clark: Chairman, Commissioners. I'm going to bring you the February 2019 Projects Update. The three projects I have are the Jacob Hands Wastewater Treatment Facility Water Quality Lab Building, the Water Service and Road Rehab Project at Vista del la Montana, Vista de la Luna, Pines, and Sonora Springs, and then the Microsoft (MS) Projects Update.

The first project, the Jacob Hands Wastewater Treatment Facility Water Quality Lab Building. As you are all aware the contractor, Jaynes Corporation with a project cost of approximately \$4.4 million, with a contract time of 360 calendar days. The start date was April 18, 2018, just seems like last month, but the estimated completion is April 13, 2019. The contractor is approximately 70% complete in regards to construction and 70% on payments as well. The summary of the project, basically the contractor is working on the exterior CMU wainscot and stucco which is 95% complete when I wrote this PowerPoint. Much closer to 100% now.

The exterior window frames and glazing complete. Interior texture and paint is 90% complete, tile wainscot in the corridors is underway. Finish site grading is underway and the ponding for the site as well as the curb and sidewalk that's already beginning. A couple of photos I installed in here, you can see the wainscot and windows there. Color's already on the building. It's actually very pleasing to the eye. I'm not an architect. I wouldn't be able to

come up with great colors like that. The interior texturing and painting, you see the lower right photo, they're putting that texture on and getting ready to paint up that room there. Any questions on that project?

Sorg: Very desert-like colors.

Clark: Yes. Desert-like colors by an architect. I'll have you know they spend a whole semester on colors. I just wanted you to know that.

The Water Service and Road Rehab Project. Smith and Aguirre Construction is the contractor on this project. The contract cost is \$1.8 million. Approximately 120 working days is the contract time with a start date of November 5, 2018. The estimated completion is May 14, 2019. They're approximately 37% complete in regards to construction and 7% in regards to the payment. We're working through those issues that they're having requesting payments from us. They had a massive exchange of employees leaving to the oil fields for some reason. There's something driving people to the oil fields now. They're having to deal with that issue. Hope that they're overcoming that. Greg Aguirre himself is working on this project. Summary of the project, they've installed approximately 1,890 lineal feet of 3/4-inch water pipeline out of a total of 14,260. Seventy-seven of the 483 water service lines have been replaced. The contractor will be in the Pines until we hope to the end of next week and then they'll be moving out to the Vistas project area.

Sorg: Question. Now are you talking about the resurfacing once they have all the water lines done?

Clark: Chairman, Commissioners. Once all the water lines are completed and the patches are replaced to City standards, we're going to be teaming up with Public Works when they'll bring in the micro surfacing company. That's going to happen in the fall, late summer/early fall and then they'll come in and we'll micro surface those streets that are completed. That would make a nice homogenous surface in that area.

Sorg: Good. So long as you don't do all...

Chair Little: We have budget to do that.

Sorg: They'll be doing both subdivisions then at the same time?

Clark: Chairman, Commissioner Sorg. We will be doing all those subdivisions, and working with Public Works on that to put that in their pipeline, in their cue and so the contractor, depending on if there's a closer subdivision he'll move to that and then he'll make his way through these subdivisions, up to the next one and finally complete the entire process. So they usually have quite a bit of dollars tied to that Public Works does, so we'll just be a small piece in that.

- Sorg: Yes. You replace 77 of the service lines of the 480 services lines. Haven't a lot of them been replaced before this project?
- Clark: Chairman, Commissioners. There have been some that have been replaced. We've actually taken some out because they've already been replaced by staff. We're just ensuring that the patches are meeting standards. If it is then we move past that and go onto the next.
- Sorg: Okay. Thank you.
- Clark: You're welcome.
- Archuleta: Chairman.
- Chair Little: Go ahead.
- Archuleta: Carl. I didn't know you were using "pipe bursting."
- Driggers: I was going to have him explain that. Exciting.
- Archuleta: Is that working well for you?
- Clark: Chairman, Commissioner Archuleta. Basically the "pipe bursting" technology is, they insert a cable through the old service line and they pull a bullet back through. They did purchase special equipment for this project and it's almost like a hydraulic wench that they set up with a motor on it or an engine on it and turn it on and pull the bullet through along with the new service line so that they don't have to tear up the street and it lets them work faster through the process.
- Archuleta: Working well, right?
- Clark: It's working well.
- Archuleta: Good.
- Sorg: I didn't know that.
- Clark: Works well in areas where we haven't gone in there and done some work. If it's just old service line, it'll cut right through that old service line and pull in a new service line and then they make their tie-ins quickly.
- Sorg: I saw you have one street cut there on the top picture.
- Clark: Chairman, Commissioner. That's over in the Pines where they've removed all the asphalt and we found in that location there was probably three patches in a different configuration so we had to square it up and we're going to patch it

back very nice and smooth, so that way when the micro surface comes in it's going to look nice and smooth and continuous.

Sorg: Yes.

Clark: Any other questions in regard to that?

Chair Little: Thank you.

Clark: The final project that I have here for you all is a new project. I don't believe some of you know about this, but this is a citywide effort project. This is basically MS Projects scheduling software that we use to compile a nice schedule for the public to look at. It has all our CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) projects, has all the City CIP projects, so if there's a project you want to know about that you see going on, could be at the Parks and you want more information, you can go to the City website or the public website and Waleed will step up here in a minute. He's my Senior Project Manager and show you all how to use this software. These are a few of the Utilities projects that we have on there and once Waleed opens it up you're going to see the entire City's portfolio of CIP projects, and there's quite a bit. This is a huge effort that Public Works and the rest of the City, we all came together and we worked on, we all learned how to use MS Projects and the software that displays this on the public website is called Power BI, so we're utilizing that. This whole initiative was, brought fourth by the City Manager wanted something for the residents to be able to look at in regards to our projects as well as Council and the Board. Waleed will get us in here and show us how to utilize this.

**Councilor Gabriel Vasquez arrived 4:01 p.m.*

Abu-Issa: Good afternoon Chairman, Commissioners. My name is Waleed Abu-Issa. I'm with the Utilities Technical Support section. I'm just going to give you some insight on this new published City Capital Improvement Projects that were recently published on the City website. Once we go, we've got to go step-by-step how to access that. Once we go to the City website, the public website, we just go to a tab right here called "Capital Improvement Projects," and it's next to the PEAK. We just click on that. Once we open that we will see a projects map pops out and we can extend that, make it bigger. What you see is a map with dots. Each dot represents a project. Now if you hover over the dot you will see basic information about that project; start and finish dates, District that it is in and the project budget amount, of course the name of the project there.

On the top of the map you will see a Department tab drop down which is right here, now it shows four departments, Economic Development, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Utilities. Also you will see Council District drop down that will show the six Districts in the City, plus NA. The NA represents projects that are outside the City limits. We have a legend below

the map right here, shows the Districts with the color-coded for yellow District 1, and so forth. NA is green colored dots, that are for projects outside the City limits. You will see projects count here. You see total budget for all projects. This is for all Capital Improvement Projects with the City of Las Cruces. On the right-hand side here you will see a tab click for the list of the projects. If you click on that, we'll see all the list of projects for the City, with the name of the project, the Council District, the department who are managing this project, the budget, and the start of the project where it start with the planning and scoping, that's where we start the planning for it.

Now I'm going to go to the Utilities. I'll go to the drop-down list of the Utilities projects. This says our projects within each department. We have 18 projects there with a total budget of \$38 million. If I click to the right, side tab will give you the status of these projects. Once again when you click on the status a report will give you all the projects within the City of Las Cruces. I'm going to drop down to the Utilities, that will give you the list of the projects that with the Utilities Department. I'm going to go over one project that I'm managing and Carl just gave you some updates on is the Water Quality Lab. If you click on that one, it will show you the location of the project which is in District 4, that's the Jacob Hands Wastewater Treatment Facility; and it shows you that the start date of this project was April 2018 and estimated finish date is April 2019, with a percent completion of project 70% right here. Also, it'll give you a project description, a brief description in this window. There are project comments that we comment if the project is delayed for some reason, we just explain why right here. If you go back and click on the same project, will take you back to the list of the Utilities projects. I'm going to take you to Sandhill Sewer Interceptor, Phase 1. This project is still under design. This is in District 1 and 5. Shows right here, the location right here, with design percent completion is 62%.

Some projects they're still under the planning stage which is we have the Water Main Rehab right here, no, this is still under design. We have this project, let me take you to. Entrance we have right here. This project for the Jacob Hands Wastewater Treatment Facility is already planned and is called for but still we did not take it for the design, so it shows zero percent design and zero percent construction. This is estimated start of construction is December 2019 and completion estimated finish date is March 2020 on that.

If we go back on the main website right here, down below the map you will see Microsoft Power BI page and you will see a step-by-step guidance how to use the website right here, and also there is a tab. A direct hyperlink takes you to the Capital Improvement Projects list. With that I'll stand for any questions that you may have.

Chair Little: Okay. Commissioner Sorg.

Sorg: Is this live now?

Abu-Issa: This is live. Yes sir.

Sorg: There is no drop-down menu for departments.

Abu-Issa: There is one right here. Let me show you. Let me make this bigger a little bit. If you go to on the top of the map right here, departments...

Sorg: No, no, no, no. How do I get to that page?

Abu-Issa: Okay. That's on the City of Las Cruces public website.

Sorg: Yes. That's where I am.

Abu-Issa: Yes. If you go, it's right here. Are you on this website?

Sorg: Yes.

Abu-Issa: Okay, if you go below it right here, there is a hyperlink right here, Capital Improvement Projects.

Sorg: Okay.

Abu-Issa: You click on that next to PEAK.

Carmichael: To the left of PEAK.

Abu-Issa: You click on that you will see the maps.

Ed: Right where it belongs.

Chair Little: Okay. Thank you. Other questions? Commissioner Johnson.

Johnson: For people like me who don't find software intuitively obvious, can you give us a short menu.

Abu-Issa: Of course.

Johnson: A beginner's guide to make use of this.

Abu-Issa: Chairman, Commissioners. Yes, I will develop this SOP.

Johnson: Okay. Thank you.

Ed: Can you click on the project list for me please?

Abu-Issa: Yes. Make this bigger.

Ed: I just want to share something with the Board.

Abu-Issa: This is the project list for all departments.

Ed: I want to reiterate, the thing that's really amazing about this is it's not that this is a standalone project list done by some techy in another department that's updated and it's duplicating effort and we have each of our Project Managers at each of the departments doing their own thing, running their own Excel spreadsheet, setting their own standards. This list that you see, I want to thank Dr. Garcia and I want to thank David Maestas, and all of the team for setting standards that started with the use of Microsoft Project. This data that you see is driven by the Microsoft Project schedule at each of the Project Manager's desk. They're the ones entering in the data. They're ones entering in the status. Every one of those Project Managers has a Microsoft Project schedule and all of the tasks, whether it's design, planning, design, construction, they're all standard across the entire City, so Public Works, their design and construction and their standards for what those task milestones are and what the timeline standards are for each of those milestones from cradle to cross and they're now standardized across the entire City. We're not duplicating, this is not a stand-alone system.

This is actually managed by those Project Managers entering the data in their Microsoft Project software. In my experience and I know Mr. Archuleta was a colleague of mine not so long ago, but this tool is something that my organization never achieved. I'm really, I mean I'm just dazzled. I can't use another word. I'm dazzled by the efforts of the team and the City of Las Cruces to provide this to the community, to provide this to the decision makers and the policy makers like yourselves, to provide it to the internal staff for information.

You know just as an anecdote, I've managed a lot of Capital Projects in my time at multiple different departments and when I would get a call from Board Members or Council Members, I would have to find out, call up my Excel spreadsheet and figure out what the project was, who the architect was, who the architectural firm was. I would have to go through this whole gyration on all my projects to answer that e-mail to provide status to the Council, representative, or the Board Member or the member of the public. To have this on line available to anybody, whether it's in the community or decision makers or internal to crossing lines of departments. If I'm sitting in Financial Services and I'm processing an invoice, you know to get clarity on projects, all of it, it's very, very powerful and it's really a high level of information organization and display into a functional and readable and usable package.

Anyway, it's a huge step. I haven't seen anything like it at the municipal level, so I'm just, I don't mean to keep going on and on here, but this is a huge step. This is really, really, this is best practice municipal government right here. Again I want to thank Dr. Garcia. I want to thank David Maestas, and I want to thank the team and all the Project Managers, everybody's worked so hard on this and you should be very very proud. Thank you.

- Sorg: Mr. Chair.
- Chair Little: Go ahead.
- Sorg: I'll add my thanks to it too. I've been wanting this for 10 years. Thank you all very much for getting this done.
- Driggers: I'd like to comment. Thirty years ago this information used to be on white grease boards. They would change it when they do another phase. This is before the spreadsheets.
- Chair Little: Anything else? Okay. Thank you.
- Clark: Thank you.
- Dr. Garcia: Mr. Chairman. I believe we're ready for Resolutions.

6. Resolutions for Discussion:

6a. Resolution 18-19-090:

- Chair Little: All right. We have two Resolutions to consider. The first one is Resolution 18-19-090: A Resolution to Approve the Purchase of a Dispatch Console and Radio Upgrades for the Las Cruces Utilities Dispatch Subsection in the Amount of \$173,714.24, with Dailey Wells Communications, Inc., of San Antonio, Texas, Through the State of New Mexico Pricing Agreement No. 80-000-18-00027.
- Sorg: Move to approve.
- Chair Little: Thank you. A second.
- Archuleta: Second.
- Chair Little: Discussion.
- Provencio: Thank you Chairman, Commissioners. Resolution 18-19-090 is approving the purchase of the console and radio upgrades for our dispatch communications system. Our current system is really 1990s vintage. It's been around for a while. Other than the upgrade, the main real design that we're really trying to achieve and we do get with this system is 100% compatibility with the system that Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority has in its buildings and its operations. I brought a list of current features set of our system. Other than it's being in service for a very long time, it's indicative of its technology at the time. Monitors channel one at a time. There are no headsets. Emergency alerts are only heard on channels that are live. We just reached the useful life of the system that we have.

The next page I provided what we do obtain and globally what we achieve with this system is better management, more efficient management of

emergency events for gas, for anything related to utility, as well as other emergencies in the City. The list is really the high points of what we obtain. It's an up-to-date system that gets us to the point we're more efficient in managing the radio traffic with our field crews. I provided a couple of photos here that compare the then and now or what we're going to.

On the left hand side we have our individual handsets and the dispatch console. We have and still have separate units that communicate by various means. The one on the lower side is the base station. On the right hand side you see what's in play at the Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Center. The top right hand photo has a picture of the monitor and if you see each one, there's like an oversized icon, that's an individual channel. That's now done by the software of the console system, so that's how our dispatchers will be able to monitor, link, or group a disaggregate various channels with the click of a mouse. Of course the lower photo is the headset which makes communications a lot clearer and minimizes all the background noise associated with our current system. With that I'll stand by with any questions you may have.

Chair Little: Any questions? No questions. Ready for a vote.

Commissioner Vasquez - Aye; Commissioner Baumgarn - Aye; Commissioner Sorg - Aye; Commissioner Archuleta - Aye; Commissioner Carmichael - Aye; Commissioner Johnson - Aye; and Chair Little - Aye.

The motion was Unanimously Approved 7-0.

6b. Resolution 18-19-LCU019:

Chair Little: The next Resolution is Resolution 18-19-LCU019: A Resolution Recommending to the Las Cruces City Council that Modifications be Made to the Municipal Code Chapter 28, Utilities, Article III. Sewers, Sections 28-121 and Section 28-122 for Mandatory Premises Hook up to Sewer.

Sorg: Move to approve.

Chair Little: Thank you.

Archuleta: Second.

Chair Little: Okay. Discussion.

Widmer: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. Policy Review Committees, they're actually part of the City's Strategic Plan and there's actually 10 committees including Communications, Economic Development, Finance, Health, Housing, Infrastructure, CIP/Utilities, Public Safety, Quality of Life and Education, Transportation, and Sustainability. This particular resolution came through the Infrastructure/CIP Utilities Committee asking questions about sewers. Now these Policy Review Committees, they actually provide opportunities for

the general public to get engaged with City government. They're actually made up of the Mayor or Council Members, one of the Assistant City Managers, they'll have City staff members, and community members that are actually some kind of experts. When they came and they started asking these questions about the sewers and we came back and told them how it worked because it's tied in to the septic tank prioritization project that we had completed back in 2008. Actually most of you probably don't even remember that because it was quite a while ago. Based on that, there was almost 2,000 septic tanks shown to be within the City limits.

We went through and got grants or assessments to complete projects. At this point there has been four projects completed with a total of 937 services that are available, and at this point only 172 have actually been hooked up and that's one of the reasons why the Infrastructure/CIP Policy Committee was a little bit concerned about that and thought "You know if we're going to help you all get these grants, or there's going to be assessments, then people actually need to be tying in."

In addition to that, the septic tank prioritization plan also discussed the importance of obviously protecting the groundwater. We do need to get rid of the septic tanks. The Policy Review Committee has requested that we come and ask you to recommend to City Council to modify the Municipal Code Chapter 28 Utilities on Sewers, to ask for a mandatory hookup once projects are accepted. If you approve, we'll take a Resolution to City Council for an Ordinance Modification for it to be considered. I'll stand for any questions.

- Chair Little: First of all, Commission Carmichael.
- Carmichael: Certainly, raises a lot of questions. As an example, is this retroactive to areas where we have extended sewage and they have not connected?
- Widmer: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. That will be one of the options that Council will choose from. If it's retroactive then that means all those other ones need to hook in. Another option is going to be going forward from here to tie in.
- Carmichael: What is it that this Commission is recommending to the Council?
- Widmer: That they modify the existing Ordinance that says "We go in and we put in a sewer, you need to hook in."
- Dr. Garcia: If I may add Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Carmichael. Today we can have a grant, and if you have a septic system some of the neighbors asked their legislator for a grant. We get the grant, we build the sewer system, you don't have to connect.
- Carmichael: Right.

Dr. Garcia: What this is changing is we want some form, or the Committee recommended that we should change the Ordinance and within a reasonable time frame have people connect, otherwise we're not accomplishing one of the goals which is groundwater protection. Today it is not mandatory to connect if you have a sewer in front of your house and your septic system works. If you have a valid permit from Environment Department you can be there forever. That's what the Committee recommended changing because otherwise you don't have, again you don't meet the main objective which is, especially in the valley areas, groundwater protection. That's the main action.

Now we had some internal discussion with staff, well is it retroactive or not, I'm assuming the City Council will have some discussion of do we capture this, the remaining of the ones that are in place or is this going to move forward on future projects. That's a discussion that they'll have to have, but the main change is making mandatory if the sewer is there. Most cities do that, we don't. There is some language, Marcy can correct me, but I think Part A says, "You have to connect," and Part B says "However if you have a septic system you don't have to connect." As we see people sometimes don't connect and the septic system will remain there.

Carmichael: They will have the discussion about whether to support the mandatory connection if they decide it's retroactive or even going forward, whether the City supports that in some financial way and cover the legalities of what's involved in that, so forth and so on. We're not concerned about that?

Dr. Garcia: I think the main concern on your end is, it's a drastic change in the Ordinance, recommending that it become mandatory because today it's not. If the sewer can be there for years, we have some systems we've extended in the Stern Drive area many, many years ago, I was at a public meeting where all 18 customers I think promised that they were going to connect. We were at a house, they all promised. We paid for the oversize of the line because a developer, there were subdivisions, a developer was building the system but we paid for the oversize and probably less than half have connected because it's not mandatory. That's the main gist of this particular action. Council can always add details and restrictions and they may ask Legals opinion as to how far back they can go in the Ordinance itself, because this is law, so they'll have to change the law. We didn't want to burden you with all those details, it's just a change from not mandatory to mandatory.

Chair Little: Commissioner Vasquez.

Vasquez: Thank you Mr. Chair. What is the financial cost to customers hooking up to the sewer? Is that what's preventing some folks from hooking on now?

Widmer: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. I believe the current Residential Sewer Impact Fee, less the ratebate portion is \$1,360,00. That could very well be part of the issue. Then I can have Joe Provencio kind of help me here, but

Joe puts together some unrealized impact fee and annual billing revenue due to sewer non-connects from August 2018 and right now that is at almost \$352,000.00.

Vasquez: Just a comment and I know we just discussed Dr. Garcia and the City Council perhaps looking at the details of retroactive enforcement on this. I think that's a big financial burden to impose on homeowners who haven't connected, but I do think moving forward from my perspective it would be wise for us to make that a requirement or at least for this body to at the very least say that for moving forward that it would be a requirement. I would leave that discussion about retroactive hookups to the City Council because that will come at a big cost to homeowners.

One more other question. Are those costs discussed when talking with residents before the sewer hookup? Those are agreed to. Is that in any way, is that a verbal, handshake, or is that something that they sign?

Dr. Garcia: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Vasquez. The experience I had with one particular street, down by Stern Drive, was only the public meeting when we were going to oversize the line so the Board approved the oversize and again they have not connected because once they find out that they have an option, and a lot of them support the project because what if their septic tank goes. At the end of the day if it doesn't fail, then they don't connect.

The other thing I want to add, and Joe can you tell me, my memory's not as good anymore, we had the Board approve the phasing of Impact Fees over a period of time. What is the term of the phasing for developed property? Do you recall? They can pay it over time, in other words.

Provencio: You're talking about the amortization of paying the develop.

Dr. Garcia: They don't have to pay up front. I remember the terms.

Provencio: There is an option, but the cost of Development Impact Fee hookup can be amortized over 5-years. It's a payment plan for customers if they so choose.

Dr. Garcia: Mr. Chairman. What we had done with the Board on efforts on our side was if the financial issue was critical, we came to the Board and had the term approved so the people can pay over time, if that would help. Obviously, based on the statistics, that has not helped due to the very low percentage of connections.

Vasquez: Right. I think from the perspective of revenue and protecting our groundwater source, I think it's a proven thing for us to do moving forward. Thank you, Chairman.

Sorg: Mr. Chairman.

- Chair Little: Commissioner Sorg.
- Sorg: Yes. For these projects the hookup charge is \$1,360.00. What is it for a brand-new house?
- Widmer: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. That Impact Fee is the same whether it's an old house or it's a new house. It's a matter of signing up for the service and asking for the payment plan.
- Sorg: Okay. Yes, I know. Yes, well I'm in favor of this. However, having the most experience in everybody except Dr. Garcia here in the room of this whole system, first thing I did when I got on the City Council is did the Lantana Project. I've heard from everybody. District 5, my District in the City has probably the most septic tanks of any other district. Here's the situation. There are some places where people, this \$1,360.00, not a problem. They have the means to do it. There are a lot of situations where they don't. I'm thinking of Mesa Development for one, and also Hacienda Acres which is in District 6 of course. I think we must have, and I'd like to call it the "Meei Montoya easy payment plan" for those people that have this, where they can't pay it up front. As far as, especially the people that have already gotten the sewer lines that haven't hooked up yet. Absolutely that has to be done. Okay, I've had my say.
- Vasquez: Mr. Chairman. One more comment if I may.
- Chair Little: Go ahead.
- Vasquez: I don't know if you want to take this into consideration, but I know, or if it's already codified into law, but when a property, when somebody buys a home and has to incur this expense for this Impact Fee, I know a lot of people, well a lot of people rent, well they build homes or buy homes and they're in the business of renting the property. Also, not sticking the renters with the cost of an Impact Fee I think is important. I don't know if we would even stipulate that property owners would be the ones that would have to be charged with that since they're the ones who have invested into the property. Because typically renters tend to be, they're paying for a system they're not going to own.
- Provencio: If I may, Chairman, Commissioner Vasquez. That's how we administer Development Impact Fee currently. It's really a property owner's responsibility for those charges. The liability stays with the property, not the renter or tenant or who's ever there. It's really the property owner.
- Vasquez: That doesn't get rolled over into the utility bill of the person who's listed as living in that home?
- Dr. Garcia: If I may Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Vasquez. I think Commissioner Vasquez wants to know, remember some, the customer portion could be

amortized over a period of time, the user. The question is whether some property owner may ask their tenant that and demand that we include that charge or leave that charge in, that is the monthly charge in the bill, because we do have monthly charge of development and that may happen if certain property owners. I don't know. Maybe Stella can elaborate. Do we have any property? If you can come up Stella. Do we have property owners that roll their amortized portion of impact fee that is on the bill? I think that's the question.

Vasquez: Yes, Dr. Garcia.

Saucedo: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. We do not charge the tenant for the Impact Fee. There are accounts that have the owner being charged for the Impact Fee and the tenant for the utility.

Vasquez: They get two separate accounts.

Saucedo: Two separate bills. Yes.

Vasquez: Okay. Thank you. That's very helpful. Thank you Chairman.

Chair Little: Other comments?

Carmichael: There's also a cost of decommissioning the septic tank, is there not? That's not included in the fees that you're talking about here.

Dr. Garcia: Mr. Chairman. That's correct. I don't have the number before me right now, but it is, the State has to inspect, they have to clean it and fill it with sand. Yes, there's an approval process from the State to decommission the tank.

Chair Little: Okay. Commissioner Johnson.

Johnson: What do we have to say that the septic tanks truly are contributing to groundwater? Do we have data that backs that up? We don't have a situation where all of Las Cruces is sitting over a bedrock that's impervious. Do we know that it's going in there?

Dr. Garcia: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Johnson. We have this 2008 study. The 2008 study categorizes the high and then the top high and medium and low priority. There are areas that it's not a problem. Some areas closer to the river or closer to a water well have been identified have been more of a problem. That's one thing. The other issue is for some time, and I can't remember the years, but some properties were approved with half-acre lots with septic systems and I believe some of them on Lantana was part of that. Where's Carl? Carl will remember. That some of the lots were small and small lots don't have room for a new leach field and that's what caused the problem and they have overflows and things like that. It's not the whole City. The study's very clear, there are certain areas where it is not going to be, it's

more of a on lot problem or someone will try to subdivide the lot and they can no longer have a septic system rather than groundwater contamination, but the study that City did, (*inaudible*), identified some areas of top priority and those are close to our water wells in the northeast part of town.

Chair Little: Okay. Go ahead.

Johnson: I feel that just passing on to the City Council that put it in place and let them worry about all the details may be the chicken's way out. I think we ought, I'm suggesting amends here. I think we ought to tell them we feel that all new construction or all new acquisition of property that comes into the City that this be mandatory and let them worry about the details of, which is very valid in terms of existing vendors or property owners who can't afford it and having some discussion in the paperwork that you sent with it that there's some federal monies available or how low-income people work with that. I feel we ought to say this is the line, anything new has to be in compliance or anything that we bring into the City has to be in compliance when we bring it in.

Dr. Garcia: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Johnson. We do not approve new, when you say new construction, we do not approve any subdivisions without sewer. New construction would not apply to this. We don't, and Carl can correct me, but in my ten years, I haven't seen a subdivision unless there's one outside City limits that we may have approved, but inside City limits we have sewer, so when you say new construction, meaning a new house, it will have sewer. The issue is when there are State monies, because we don't have any rates and in the new sewer rates there is no septic system expansion. This is not a utility driven issue.

Usually it's a customer issue, a neighborhood, a subdivision, that wants sewer and there are four or five people in the subdivision that decide they don't want to connect after the legislative representative has given them the money and we build a system. The only question would be whether future new sewer construction in front of old septic systems require connection or we're going to go back to the other remaining percentage of the ones we've done over the last 10 years. That's the question. There will be no new, like a brand new house without sewer. It will be a new project now that it's in front of houses that have septic moving prospectively, right. There was no sewer, now there's sewer, now there's a new lot. That's the question. The language of new construction I don't think would apply here.

Johnson: Okay. Maybe we're not passing on something that City Council approved.

Dr. Garcia: I think maybe Mr. Chairman and Commissioner Johnson, what you're getting at is any future septic system projects after the law is passed, then they would have to connect and not the ones that are, and I think that's what Commissioner Vasquez was getting at. Moving forward so we can do the necessary public outreach saying there's a new City law and moving forward

if there is a grant, usually it's a State of New Mexico grant that extends the sewer system, then the connection time is "X" and you have to connect after a certain period of time. Moving forward after the project and not go back to the ones that Adrienne mentioned that are not connected today and we run the sewer line five years ago. I think that may be a potential amendment.

Widmer: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner. The way that you have the markup, that's actually in your packet right now, pretty much expects anything that is going forward and let me verify that with Marcy that once a change is made in an Ordinance the way that this one is particularly written, it would be from the date that the Ordinance is actually approved and put into the system.

Driggers: Prospective going forward.

Sorg: Not retroactive.

Johnson: I don't have the exact language here. It was confusing to me when it talked about projects in there of what's in there, whether it was a housing project, or a sewage line project.

Widmer: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Johnson. That would mean installing sewer. In street where...

Johnson: I think where it then we need that clarified so that what we're saying to the City Council is if we're going to go out and try to get money or so from the State legislature to put it in once that project is completed to put it in, that they should have a year to hook up and take a more positive stance on than the wording that's in there now.

Chair Little: My understanding is, is that the wording is exactly that.

Johnson: It's ambiguous because it just simply says projects. What is projects mean?

Widmer: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner. I think projects could actually even mean if the City is doing a project and we install a sewer. Somebody needs, you need to hook up. If it is a rehabilitation project that now includes sewer, that sewer was not there present, you need to hook up.

Archuleta: Chairman.

Chair Little: Go ahead. Commissioner Archuleta.

Archuleta: I just wanted to mention. I agree with the policy. I think even though there may not be as much groundwater pollution in some areas compared to other areas, you know in an urban City you're better off to have everybody on the sewer system. It's a good policy change, I think. One thing I was going to mention, I don't know about the enforcement bar would be, but in some cities they give notice maybe six months, a year, or some period of time to

give them notice to hook up and then if they don't hook up they start charging them for the wastewater because there's basically, you've got a lot of investment out there in the street and people aren't using it, so they start charging a wastewater fee and that usually gets their attention, because if they're not getting a service but they're getting charged for the service anyway. Some cities do that. I don't know if that's anything that the Council wants to consider, but it is something that could be done, because I'm not sure what the enforcement would be to get somebody to hook up.

Johnson: What the enforcement would be to take out the old septic tanks.

Archuleta: Would it be a lien on the property or something? I don't know.

Vasquez: Mr. Chairman.

Chair Little: Commissioner Vasquez.

Vasquez: Thank you. I mean just from the perspective of policy or at least in this capital outlay, the style of capital outlay funding that we go out to acquire and lobby legislators, also legislators want to fund these projects because it's brick and mortar, infrastructure that helps improve quality of life for their residents. If only 43% of people are hooking up, I think that's a bad investment because we're not fully utilizing those State dollars that we're often inclined to get for infrastructure projects. In addition to the City Council recommendation, I think it'd be great to follow up with our State Legislators and maybe that's something that the Council can do so that they are aware and also that these projects have this issue, because I think we'd want the support from the State Legislature in addition to the City Council so that we're not having 43% hook up rates for a multimillion dollar sewer project. I don't think that's the best use of my taxpayer dollars. I think from that perspective it's good policy for us to recommend that. Thank you, Chairman.

Chair Little: Commissioner Sorg.

Sorg: I just was curious. Are any of these projects on our CIP? Does anybody know?

Dr. Garcia: Mr. Chairman. We do list the septic system retrofits in our list of CIP but like I said in the past they've been funded mainly by State law. There are some subdivisions, and Carl remind me the Alamedas Subdivision, there's limited situations where we will go in and put sewer because Public Works is reconstructing the whole street. Even then, even if we put our own funds out on Doña Ana Road, those streets are going to be done by Public Works, full reconstruction. We have to put sewer. The road's going to get done. I have no mechanism to recover that investment which is what Commissioner Archuleta was saying.

Sorg: Yes. City funds it all, fine, but if we're asking for the State, I don't think it should be on the CIP listing. If it's on the CIP list the State Legislators says "Yes, I'll fund that."

Dr. Garcia: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Sorg. You do have quite a few projects on the CIP and sometimes they are a match with grants or general fund, so the funding source would show you. We do list projects when we know that we have, if you recall when you accept a grant, you're amending the budget, you're also as a role as a City Councilor, you're also amending the CIP. You do put...

Sorg: I know.

Dr. Garcia: ...The project that is funded in the CIP.

Sorg: I'll move to remove it.

Dr. Garcia: You do it when you get the money.

Sorg: Yes.

Dr. Garcia: What I'm saying is it's still in the CIP.

Sorg: Yes. Okay. We'll just tell them not to...

Chair Little: All right. I perceive that we're chasing our tails. We have three choices; we can accept the Resolution as it stands, vote to pass; we can vote to reject the Resolution; and as usual if we reject it we can provide some guidance as to how it needs to be changed so it is approvable; or we can, some member of the Board can ask that it be tabled and we will all read it more carefully over the next month and bring it up in March.

Archuleta: We already have a motion on the floor to pass it, right?

Chair Little: We have a motion on the floor to pass it. There can be a motion to table it in response to that. There being none, I'm going to ask for a vote, and we'll see what happens. There being no motion to table I'm going to ask for a vote.

Commissioner Johnson - Nay; Commissioner Carmichael - Aye;
Commissioner Archuleta - Aye; Commissioner Sorg - Aye; Commissioner Baumgarn - Aye; Commissioner Vasquez - Aye; and Chair Little - Aye.

The motion was Approved 6-1.

7. Old Business:

Chair Little: The next item is Old Business.

Dr. Garcia: Mr. Clark, you had a little briefing to update.

Clark: Chairman, Commissioners. I came to you last month letting you know about a public meeting we were planning to have in regards to the assessment of corrective measures for the Foothills Landfill. After I announced that we were going to have a public meeting. The Environment Department came back and wanted us to add more information into the assessment of corrective measures. That delayed us. We've met with the consultants. All that information has been installed into the report. We are moving forward now and preparing for the public meeting. We don't have a set date yet. I hope to come to you next month and give you the exact date once it's set in stone and the Environment Department is fully aware that we're committed and we're moving forward. We are working with PIO to establish that new date and I will come back next month and provide you with that new date for the public meeting.

Chair Little: Okay. Thank you. We should take the current proposed date off our calendars.

Clark: That is correct. Take the current proposed date off the calendars. It'll happen somewhere in March, after the 14th meeting.

Chair Little: Thank you. Other Old Business.

Dr. Garcia: Yes Mr. Chairman. Can I ask Mr. Puentes to answer Commissioner Carmichael's question regarding the Gas rebate?

Puentes: Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. This is the \$1 million that we received.

Carmichael: Yes.

Puentes: We put that into an account and we were getting ready to begin to pass it on to consumers when we recognized that Kinder Morgan filed an appeal on that decision by the Commission. In discussions with Dr. Garcia we decided to just leave it in that account for now. Once we get some clarity as to how that will turn out, then we will hopefully get to keep it and then give it to our customers.

Carmichael: Who filed the appeal?

Puentes: Kinder Morgan is the parent company of El Paso Natural Gas Company.

Carmichael: Thank you.

Dr. Garcia: That's all we have for Old Business from staff.

8. New Business:

Chair Little: New Business.

Dr. Garcia: Yes, we have a few items. Mr. Chairman, next month at our March meeting we will need a work session, it's budget time. There are several items. One of the items we want to bring to you and I will list them probably in the order that they will be, is we had discussions about the rates and the long-term financial picture. Commissioner Archuleta brought that up, so we'll bring our Financial Advisor to give us an outlook, where we are, where we're going, how the rates are going to figure into the future finances of the Utility. I have asked Mr. Harrigan from RBC (Royal Bank of Canada) to be available.

The next item is also discussion from the Board, you all requested that you want to be informed and be involved in the AMI, the Advanced Meter reading web portal presentation. We'll have Johnson Controls show all the options that we analyzed. Once you see what we've looked at as staff, you can ask to bring the actual vendors for a demo, but first we're going to give you the presentation of the ranking and the need evaluation of the web portal that Johnson Controls does are part of the project. That presentation will be given to you March 14th. That will be the second item.

The third item would be, we should be ready and I don't have the presentation ready yet, but looking at the Part 2 of the Investment Grade Audit on the Wastewater side. Johnson Controls found some areas of potential savings in the Wastewater plant, energy savings as well, so we will present that to you and see what direction we're going.

The fourth item would be the Fiscal year 2020 proposed budget work session, no action. You take action on the April.

Chair Little: Okay.

Dr. Garcia: We will be putting it in your calendar and in addition if I can get the AG to commit, then we would start 1:00 p.m. with the Executive Session.

Chair Little: Sounds like the items you've already mentioned are going to take more than an hour.

Dr. Garcia: Probably an hour and a half, the work session. I don't intend to have very extensive presentations on the, the web portal is not a very long presentation and the IGA we're going to get down to the nuts and bolts.

Chair Little: Then 1:30 p.m. would be an appropriate start time?

Dr. Garcia: I was thinking more like 1:00 p.m., if there's an Executive Session.

Chair Little: True.

Dr. Garcia: The Executive Session should be half an hour, maybe an hour, we'll see. We'll keep you informed on the schedule once I get confirmation from the AG's office.

- Chair Little: Okay. We should all hold that whole afternoon.
- Dr. Garcia: Please hold it. We'll block your afternoon in the calendar.
- Chair Little: Okay. Anything else?
- Dr. Garcia: There's some other new business. Carl.
- Clark: Chairman, Commissioners. Our Water Conservation Coordinator, Rhonda Diaz, has reached out to the Las Cruces Public Schools, private schools, and some home schools to help name the roadrunner that's out at the West Mesa Industrial Park. You have the flyer in there. Basically, the children are asked to come up with a name, two names I guess per class are allowed. This is going to be a huge number of names that are going to be put out there. We'll narrow it down to five and then you all will get to get the five and pick the one. Once you all select the one, we'll announce that back to the schools, and the winning group gets a pizza party. I think we'll have a lot of participation this way. It's going to take a lot of work. We'll have all those in at March 1st I believe is when we're going to have it. You'll have it at the 14th meeting.
- Dr. Garcia: Then the ribbon.
- Clark: Yes, the ribbon cutting. Moving forward, the Co-Gen project. We do have plans to have the ribbon cutting and I don't know why that date has escaped me, March 1st. The 1st is when all the children are putting in their stuff as well. From 11:00 to 12:00 p.m. is when that ribbon cutting is going to take place. We will get to go and see the engines and they're purring away. You'll be shocked that some of the cars driving by are louder than our engines that are running up there. We hope that you all will show up and attend for that ribbon cutting.
- Dr. Garcia: One more new business, Lucio please.
- Garcia: Good afternoon, Chairman, Commissioners. March 21st the City of Las Cruces Gas section will be celebrating our third Gas Utilities Workers Day, and I'd like to extend the invitation to you. It'll be at the Convention Center from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. The purpose of this event to recognize the Gas Utilities Workers and work that they do and the contribution that they have for our community. Also, this would be also the fourth year that this event is recognized nationally, it's inception from the APGA, the American Public Gas Association. The significance of the date is it ties to an incident that happened in 1937 which was a New London Incident and that pretty much set the stage for the regulations, safety, and all the protocols we currently follow in our industry. Again, I'd like to invite you. It's March 21st at the Convention Center from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Thank you.
- Dr. Garcia: That's all we have.

Chair Little: You'll put that on our calendar.

Dr. Garcia: Yes.

Chair Little: Thank you.

Dr. Garcia: That's all we have for New Business from staff Mr. Chair.

9. Board's General Discussion:

Chair Little: Board's General Discussion.

Sorg: I have something.

Chair Little: Commissioner Sorg.

Sorg: I have a question for Gas, natural Gas.

Dr. Garcia: Operations or business?

Sorg: The gas itself. I've been ordered to find out why sometimes, not always, sometimes the flame is yellow or orange and not all blue. It varies from time to time.

Garcia: Depends on the oxygen that you have.

Sorg: Say again.

Garcia: Depends on the oxygen that you have, but I can find specifically that the lighter the color the light is, the higher the temperature.

Sorg: Lighter color meaning what?

Garcia: Well if you look at the spectrum, I can get you a spectrum of it. Say it goes from clear to blue, starts turning orange to yellow.

Sorg: Yes.

Garcia: The lighter it is the hotter the temperature is on the flame.

Sorg: It's just passage with oxygen.

Garcia: Yes, the combustion.

Sorg: Okay.

Chair Little: Anything else?

10. Next Meeting Date:
a. March 14, 2018

11. Adjournment:

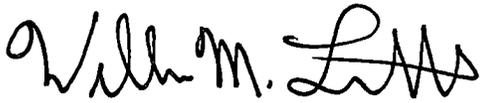
Chair Little: I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Carmichael: Move approval.

Chair Little: Thank you. A second.

Johnson: Second.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:53 p.m.



William M. Little
Las Cruces Utilities Board Chair



Date