

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF RUIDOSO DOWNS
JULY 30, 2007

The Council of the City of Ruidoso Downs met in special session on July 30, 2007. Mayor Miller called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked Ken Nosker to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Miller asked John Waters, City Manager to take roll call. The following were present:

Councilor Hood
Councilor Holman

Councilor Miller
Councilor Garrett

John Waters, City Manager informed Mayor Miller there was a quorum.

Also present:

John Waters, City Manager
Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor Miller stated next item on the Agenda was Consider Approving City of Ruidoso Downs as Fiscal Agent For Public Transit Grants 2008-2009.

Maury St. John stated that she appreciated the Council for holding a Special Meeting tonight. Ms. St. John had spoken to Council at their last meeting held on July 23, 2007 about the Public Transportation Project and are moving along, but do desperately need a Fiscal Agent to help in order for qualification for this grant.

Ms. St. John informed that she was expecting another member of the steering committee, but was unable to attend and those not in attendance are John Hemphill, who is the Director of the One Stop Center at ENMU and Paul Ragland who owns Ruidoso Shuttle, who is very active. Ms. St. John did introduced two of the five members of the steering committee who are in attendance. Mr. Pat White with the Disability Program Navigator for the Department of Vocation and Rehabilitation at the One Stop Center and Ms. Mickie Compton, has just retired as Director with Public Transportation Program from Carlsbad.

John P. Waters, City Manager informed Council that Ms. Compton was a great neighbor in the basement of City Hall, when he started out. City Manager, John P. Waters stated that Ms. Compton essentially brought that program from a little tinny tiny office in the basement with no windows in City Hall to a very large fancy federally funded facility with its own building, garages and everything they got right now. Ms. Compton did quite a job to bring Carlsbad up from a system from literally the floor up. City Manager, John P. Waters stated that most of the folks in the State respect Ms. Compton and recognize her right away throughout the Public

Transportation circle. Ms. Compton is familiar with getting grants and not only the standard grants but with special things like the Federal monies.

Ms. Compton informed Council that the procedure for this grant has a timeline that has certain requirements. Ms. Compton did inform Council that she was here to answer any questions the Councilors might have that Ms. St. John either didn't cover or you need additional information.

Ms. Compton informed Council that she put together a basic service, it will be a cooperative effort through Ruidoso Downs and NMOT Department of Public Transportation Programs Division and they assist with funding for transportation service. The funding provides an 80% reimbursement for all administrative expenses and for all capital expenses and a 50% reimbursement for all operations expenses. Ms. Compton suggests a curb-to-curb service, which is known as a demand response. This way you can track your rider ship base to see exactly what the needs are, the destinations are, and travel and what the needs of the community are. It provides ADA service. This public transportation would not only provide an economic boost to the merchants here in Ruidoso Downs and the area but it would also improve the quality of life of the citizens tremendously, which has a circular effect on the entire atmosphere in the county. This program will also improve employment mobility.

Ms. Compton informed Council that the input she would need to process this application is Council's suggestions would be for service hours, things of this nature. Ms. Compton did inform Council that she did put down Monday through Fridays from 6am to 7pm, Fridays and Saturday 8am to 5pm, and these are all flexible. This Council would determine the fare that is a determining factor. Ms. Compton suggested that Council probably needs a discount base fare to make it affordable for a lot of the individuals who will use the Monday through Friday base, but then we would have to make an exception and charge a premium fare for those who will use a same day service, which will help with the scheduling service.

The budget in the application will be provided to the Council before sending it in.

Councilor Miller stated that the main concern of hers was that it was affordable.

Councilor Hood asked, "If we get the grant, what kind of vans are you going to be offering?" Ms. Compton stated, that with Council permission, would be requesting 3 15-passenger lifts equip vehicles.

Councilor Miller asked, "Would there be a monthly fee for unlimited rides?" Ms. Compton informed that it would be a feasible fare for fixed routes.

Ms. Compton informed Council that it is her understanding that the City of Ruidoso Downs would be the fiscal agent but they would have every intention for all the other entities to buy into this project. That would be a necessary thing.

Ms. Maury St. John stated to Council that she already has verbal approval or consent from Capitan and Corona, which definitely will pay their share. Ms. St. John informed that she has to go to the County and Ruidoso to get them to sign a letter of support, which says you, will pay your fair share.

Ms. Compton informed Council that the City of Ruidoso Downs has really taken a big step in this, a positive step, but in her past experience with all the transportation grants and all the different entities involved from the Federal agencies all the way down to the Human Resources Department, once there is someone who steps forward, who says "this needs to be done for our citizens" then the other entities are more likely to come in and it really starts an engine for social change.

Ms. St. John informed Council that the City of Ruidoso Downs is not obligated to any matching funds. Also that if we cannot get everyone on board, the program may have to be put on the back burner. If funded, funds will not be available until October 2008. Ms. St. John will notify Council when she attends Ruidoso Council Meeting.

Ken Nosker, resident from San Patricio area stated that he, the Mayor attended several meetings in regards to Public Transportation and stated that his would be advantageous for our citizens in the Valley and that includes Bonito Valley, the Ruidoso Valley and the area from Capitan to Ruidoso. Mr. Nosker thanked Maury St. John for taking on the project. Mr. Nosker also stated that he supports this program and offers his assistance in any way.

Mayor Miller entertained a motion to approve City of Ruidoso Downs as Fiscal Agent for Public Transit Grants FY 2008-2009.

Councilor Miller moved to approve City of Ruidoso Downs as Fiscal Agent for Public Transit Grants FY 2008-2009. Seconded by Councilor Garrett. Roll Call Votes: Councilor Hood, aye; Councilor Miller, aye; Councilor Holman, aye; Councilor Garrett, aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Miller entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilor Hood moved to adjourn at 6:10 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

Bob A. Miller, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer