

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF RUIDOSO DOWNS  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 23, 2015  
4:30 P.M.

The Council of the City of Ruidoso Downs met in regular session on March 23, 2015. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and asked Dakota Crouch to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Williams asked Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer to take roll call. The following were present:

Councilor Miller  
Councilor Morales

Councilor Perry  
Councilor Ritter - absent

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer informed Mayor Williams there was a quorum.

Also present:

Alexandra Bobbit, City Attorney  
Mary Castaneda, Finance Director  
Dakota Crouch, Associate Director HMAW

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Williams stated the next item on the agenda was Approval of Agenda.

Mayor Williams entertained a motion for Approval of Agenda.

Councilor Morales moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilor Miller.

Roll call votes: Councilor Perry, Aye; Councilor Morales, Aye; Councilor Miller, Aye.  
Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Williams stated the next item on the agenda was Approval of the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Williams entertained a motion for Approval of the Consent Agenda.

Councilor Miller moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Perry.

Roll call votes: Councilor Perry, Aye; Councilor Morales, Aye, Councilor Miller, Aye.  
Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 9, 2015

Councilor Morales moved to approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 9, 2015.  
Seconded by Councilor Perry.

Roll call votes: Councilor Perry, Aye; Councilor Morales, Aye, Councilor Ritter, Aye.  
Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLES

Councilor Miller moved to approve Accounts Payables. Seconded by Councilor Perry.

Roll call votes: Councilor Perry, Aye; Councilor Morales, Aye, Councilor Miller, Aye.  
Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Councilor Miller moved to approve Monthly Reports. Seconded by Councilor Perry.

Roll call votes: Councilor Perry, Aye; Councilor Morales, Aye, Councilor Miller, Aye.  
Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Miller moved to approve Committee Reports. Seconded by Councilor Perry.

Roll call votes: Councilor Perry, Aye; Councilor Morales, Aye, Councilor Miller, Aye.  
Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Williams stated the next item on the agenda was – Mayor’s Comments

There were no Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Williams stated the next item on the agenda was – Councilor’s Comments.

Councilor Miller said we had a little two hour March Winds Cleanup and the Mayor sure did his share. We didn’t have any people come out so we used our time to make our prize Easter baskets that will be coming up on April 4<sup>th</sup> when we will have the Easter Egg Hunt at

Riverside Park. We have 2000 Easter eggs to hide. We will have another cleanup on April 25<sup>th</sup> and that's our big one.

Councilor Morales asked when that cleanup was?

Councilor Miller said it was Saturday at 10:00.

Mayor Williams stated the next item on the agenda was - Tim Keithly - Reporting on Advertisement of Ruidoso Downs Lodging Establishments.

Tim Keithly said I want to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to be here again. I would like to visit with you all about a project we're doing with the hotels and motels. He played a tape of a radio ad that is currently on the air. The hotels and motels like it because it is paid with Lodgers' Tax that is paying for the advertising. We match dollar for dollar and the maximum you can receive from Lodgers' Tax is \$5,000 so we capped it at \$4,800 or \$400 a month for the year. Our radio station which is owned by a race track doubles the spots. We pay for this coupon given out by the hotels and motels and it's for \$10 in free slot play at the casino. We're trying to entice the people that live out in the oil patch to stay in a Ruidoso Downs hotel or motel and they are given a \$10 voucher per person. It's a opportunity for us to compete with our friends at Inn of the Mountain Gods and we appreciate them as well. We then would like to support our project with the Lodgers' Tax funds with your approval. We hope that you like it but we will also take any criticism but we feel this is an opportunity to support the people that pay the tax.

Councilor Morales said I like the ad. One question I was going to ask is how beneficial has it been to the lodgers in Ruidoso Downs?

Tim said I put together a list and there are just two missing which were Bestway and Economy Inn. The owners weren't in town but I know they would like it too.

Mayor Williams asked if there would be any way to track this?

Tim said we're doing real well with that especially over spring break.

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer said when you submit your Lodgers' Tax Request for Release of Funds what we do is because it runs July to June so you'll have to send all of those invoices for advertisement not matter what the cost is. We awarded only \$4,000 and that is the cap on pay out. You could come back and submit a Special Request for the event and bring it in before the middle of April to make sure it is budgeted if the Council chooses to approve that for the next fiscal year.

Mayor Williams stated the next item on the agenda was - Discussion and Possible Action - Special Dispenser Permit Application - Ruidoso Downs Racing - NM State Police Brotherhood - April 25, 2015.

Mayor Williams said as you can see it's a Special Permit and it's at the museum.

Mayor Williams entertained a motion to approve – Special Dispenser Permit Application – Ruidoso Downs Racing – NM State Police Brotherhood – April 25, 2015.

Councilor Miller moved to approve – Special Dispenser Permit Application – Ruidoso Downs Racing – NM State Police Brotherhood – April 25, 2015. Seconded by Councilor Perry.

Roll call votes: Councilor Perry, Aye; Councilor Morales, Aye; Councilor Miller, Aye.  
Motion carried.

Mayor Williams stated the next item on the agenda was – Discussion and Possible Action – Keep Ruidoso Downs Beautiful Service Agreements to Provide Youth Employment – Aisela Magana and Mayra Lucero.

Councilor Miller said we get a grant every year to keep our City beautiful from New Mexico Clean & Beautiful. We hire some Youth Employment to help us with our cleanups and they get \$100 for their group. These two groups will help us with the Great American Cleanup too. They will clean the park and the ball field.

Mayor Williams entertained a motion to approve – Keep Ruidoso Downs Beautiful Service Agreements to Provide Youth Employment – Aisela Magana and Mayra Lucero.

Councilor Morales moved to approve – Keep Ruidoso Downs Beautiful Service Agreements to Provide Youth Employment – Aisela Magana and Mayra Lucero. Seconded by Councilor Perry.

Roll call votes: Councilor Perry, Aye; Councilor Morales, Aye; Councilor Miller, Aye.  
Motion carried.

Councilor Ritter arrived for the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

Mayor Williams stated the next item on the agenda was – Discussion and Possible Action – FY 2015-2016 Funding Request to Lincoln County Commissioners – Lincoln County Transit.

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer said we were very fortunate to get on the 2015-2016 Budget Request knowing that the City of Ruidoso Downs as the fiscal agent for transit has not requested any funds from the commissioners in at least three years if not four. I did have contact with Nita Taylor, County Manager and did receive what is before you. I have all the numbers filled in but I'm also doing an additional sheet on if we get the funding and what it will be used for. My question is that I will need the Council's direction of what dollar amount we're going to be asking for in the next fiscal cycle. I also want to inform the

Council that we have the support of the Creative Committee for Aging that meets every Friday at ENMU at 9:00. They are a very knowledgeable and supportive group. They take great interest in the quality of life of all citizens of Lincoln County. They will also be there when we present to the County Commissioners for the request for funding for 2015-2016. I need an amount from the Council.

Councilor Morales asked what amount did they give us before?

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer said when Tom Stewart was County Manager the contract agreement said whatever municipality gave the most that's what they would give. Whoever gave the least they would give. The most we ever got from the County Commissioners was \$28,000.00.

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer said the strategy that we are trying to come up with to request those funds is that if we ask for \$25,000 for the quality of life for the residents of the County. I'm not separating municipalities. We are all residents of the County and we all pay property taxes. There is another grant and I think it's 5317 is for purchase of new vans. Those transit vans are really old and have over 100,000 miles on them. So if we ask for \$25,000 we can set that aside and apply for the 5317 because DOT will match that amount 80/20 so that will be our 20%. The van purchase would be more of their cost than our cost would be if we use that strategy and we need a great strategy when we go before those commissioners. Some of those commissioners support the transit system. I don't think it will be a battle like it has been in the past. We'll take whatever is given to us.

Councilor Miller asked what the route would be then?

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer said there was a great discussion for the possibilities of scheduling one day a week in Carrizozo and one day a week in Capitan because there is no incentive for transit to do a schedule every day. We just can't do that. What's going to happen is we are in the black right now and if we do that it will put us in the red. If we come up with some kind of schedule where we pick you up at the Senior Citizens at this time all day long and just have one van dedicated to Carrizozo and Capitan on that one day we certainly can. It's not feasible to run every day around the County. Inclement weather is another issue and they don't run on those days because of the safety of the employees. Corona, there is just no way to do that hundred miles and take care of them. We are also having an issue because on the City website we still have the position for the on-call part-time driver and there is no one applying and there is interest. The interest stops when you start talking to them about the process once they're hired.

Councilor Perry asked if we would also have one to Hondo every week or are they going to expect it every day?

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer said we would put them on a schedule. The schedule would be given to the County Commissioners and that way they are informed when and if we do them depending on the funding.

Councilor Morales said when we were doing County-wide before I assume you were not going to Corona. I realize they are a part of Lincoln County but is there any way to find out if there is even a need? I can't see that we would go out there to pick up one person on a scheduled day.

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer said the round trip from Ruidoso Downs to Corona and back is one hundred sixty four miles. It's just not feasible.

Councilor Morales said my concern is that we're trying to get funding from the County and Corona is part of the County.

Carol Virden, City Clerk said I'm sure they will see that it's not cost effective. When it was running County-wide there was only one person from Carrizozo. Everything will be scheduled and I know there is a lot of interest in Capitan and they would like to ride to their destinations. Most of those destinations are to their work place. That's going to take a great amount of scheduling and to get them there on time and then get back here on time or we are going to run into overtime.

Councilor Perry said whenever you pick someone up from Capitan and say you bring them over here will you tell them we're going to leave Ruidoso to go back to Capitan around 5:00 or 6:00. Is that how you're going to do it? How many more drivers do you think we're going to have to hire for this?

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer said at least two more drivers. We can dedicate those two and they will be on-call because we can't allow them to work more than twenty hours a week and that's another situation with PERA. It's going to take time and we can't do that scheduling until we get the funding. I really would like Council to think about setting aside the funds for at least one new van or you can set it aside for maintenance only, no salaries.

Mary Castaneda, Finance Director said on the part that Carol mentioned on the County, everybody that pays property tax within the County is considered part of the County. Even though the municipality with the highest population is Ruidoso they are still County. At this point the County isn't supporting any of us. The drive to Capitan and Carrizozo is going to be worked on but everybody that pays property taxes is entitled to the service.

Councilor Miller said when we got into this they were included in the agreement and then they dropped out even though we were servicing out of Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs. I never really heard an explanation as to why and we were still servicing the County. I don't understand how they could have dropped out.

Councilor Morales said maybe we should ask for \$50,000.00 and get \$25,000 .00. Do you have any idea Carol of what they might and might not give us?

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer said the City of Ruidoso Downs was very fortunate to get on the list. They send these letters to those organizations that they do fund for the fiscal year. We haven't been on that list for quite some time. A few years ago we had been getting funded for transit. I just need a dollar amount.

Councilor Perry asked if the drivers are going to be full-time or part-time?

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer said more than likely if the funding is given of \$28,000.00 it's not going to cover full-time. They would have to be on-call part-time.

Councilor Perry said if we hire two on-call part-time drivers we may break even on it. We're not trying to make money on it.

Councilor Morales asked if they were comfortable with requesting \$28,000.00?

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer said whatever number you come up with.

Councilor Miller said the thing that amazes me is that we're the smallest community and we're putting up the most money. That's not fair.

Mayor Williams said that's because we are the fiscal agent.

Councilor Miller said those expenses should be flipped as far as I'm concerned and that needs to be looked at.

Mayor Williams entertained a motion for approval – FY 2015-2016 Funding Request to Lincoln County Commissioners – Lincoln County Transit.

Councilor Morales moved to approve – FY 2015-2016 Funding Request of \$28,000.00 to Lincoln County Commissioners – Lincoln County Transit. Seconded by Councilor Miller.

Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer asked if Council wanted to dedicate that or set it aside?

Councilor Morales asked the other Councilors what they wanted to do.

Councilor Perry said they should use it for operations and maintenance and then use the other grant to get another van.

Councilor Morales amended her previous motion to set the funds aside for operations and maintenance. Seconded by Councilor Miller.

Roll call votes: Councilor Perry, Aye; Councilor Morales, Aye; Councilor Miller, Aye; Councilor Ritter, Aye. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

**(Items are for discussion only - no action will be taken)**

Mayor Williams stated the next item on the agenda was - Updated Financial Status Reports - Hubbard Museum of the American West and Lincoln County Transit.

Mary Castaneda, Finance Director said Lincoln County Transit had a beginning cash balance of \$39,490.90. Revenues of \$5,855.71. Expenditures of \$5,881.86. Leaving and ending cash balance of \$39,464.75. The museum had a beginning cash balance of \$13,237.54. Revenues of \$30,598.55. Expenditures of \$37,370.85. Leaving an ending cash balance of \$6,465.24. These figures are our balance.

Mayor Williams stated the next item on the agenda was - Informational Only - Removing Stage 4 Water Rationing and Implementing Stage 2 Water Rationing.

Mayor Williams said this is a recommendation from the Public Works Director. The Stage 4 Water Rationing will be reduced to Stage 2 Water Rationing due to the increased flow of Griffith Spring. This will allow citizens to begin their spring greenery activity. The memo will be on the website and at City Hall. It will give citizens two days a week to water. The odd numbers will be Wednesday and Friday. The even numbers will be Tuesday and Saturday. Watering will not be done between 10:00 and 6:00.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mayor Williams stated the next item on the agenda was - Public Input.

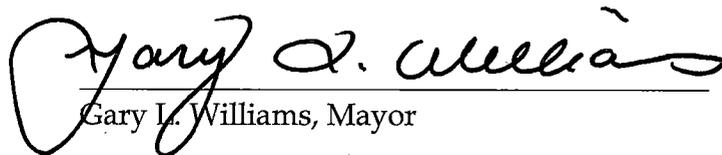
There was no Public Input.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to attend to Councilor Morales moved to adjourn at 5:17 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Perry.



Carol Virden, City Clerk/Treasurer

  
Gary I. Williams, Mayor