

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

The regular meeting of the CITY OF FARMINGTON BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONERS was held Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., at the Farmington Civic Center, 200 West Arrington, Farmington, New Mexico in full conformity with the laws and ordinances of the Municipality.

GENERAL

Commission members present:	James Spence Jeff Parkes Gordon Glass Alex Uhl Tory N. Larsen Connie Dinning Joanne Duckwitz Kyle Westall Chris Hunter
Commission members absent:	Marty Johnson
City Council members:	Sean Sharer Janis Jakino Jeanine Bingham-Kelly Mayor Nate Duckett
City Council members absent:	Linda Rodgers
City personnel present:	
Electric Utility Director	Hank Adair
Electric Transmission and Distribution	Luke Lugenbeel
Electric Generation Manager	Britt Chesnut
Electric Engineering	John Armenta
Electric Compliance Manager	Linda Jacobson-Quinn
Electric Business Operations	Brandon Hill
Customer Care Manager	Nicki Parks
Public Works Department	David Sypher
Public Works Department	Jeff Smaka
OMI/CH2MHill	Ron Rosen
Administrative Services Accounting	Teresa Emrich
Administrative Services Accounting	Sheree Wilson
Administrative Services Accounting	Olena Erickason
City Manager	Rob Mayes
Assistant City Manager	Julie Blair
City Attorney	Jennifer Breakell
PUC Secretary	Amy McKinley

Chair Spence called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with a quorum present to conduct the business of the Commission.

Chair Spence asked if there were corrections to the March 13, 2019 Minutes and Commissioner Duckwitz noted the minutes stated the purchase of the unidirectional

## **BUSINESS**

### **Open Meetings Resolution**

City Attorney Jennifer Breakell presented the Open Meetings Resolution No. 2013-1466 as ratified, which states the open meetings for the Public Utility Commission would be held the second Wednesday of every month at 3:00 pm in the Executive Conference Room at City Hall. Ms. Breakell asked for recommendation to City Council for the acceptance of this Resolution.

Commissioner Hunter moved to recommend acceptance of this Resolution and Commissioner Westall seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

### **Water/Wastewater Report:**

Mr. Jeff Smaka offered a review of the activities for the Public Works Water/Wastewater divisions for March 2019. Regarding Phase I of the 2P Waterline Replacement Project, all the mainline work and service line install is complete; a small amount of asphalt works needs to be completed but a walkthrough with the State will take place later this month. Phase II of the 2P Waterline Replacement Project involves work on McCormick School Road and Murray Drive. The work on McCormick School Road is complete; the remaining paving work on McCormick School Road will take place after school is out for the year. The mainline installation on Murray Drive should be complete early May.

Mr. Smaka noted the 4P Pump Station project on Wildflower Parkway is underway with the contractor working on building the foundation.

Mr. Smaka briefly reviewed the status of various renewal and replacement projects taking place throughout the city.

### **Water/Wastewater Operations Report:**

Ms. Brevik offered a review of the water/wastewater operations activities for March, 2019. Animas River flows increased in March with multiple rain and snow events and spring off starting. Ms. Brevik noted Farmington Lake is level is down slightly because the Animas River pump was shut down due to the high turbidity in the river. Ms. Brevik offered information about how Jacobs monitors the amount of non-revenue water (water loss). The March Water/Wastewater Operations report detailed nine new meter installations and 27 water line breaks (9 main lines and 18 service lines). Wastewater treatment flow in March increased from last month and from the same month last year.

Commissioner Westall asked if the new meter installations were residential or commercial. Ms. Brevik indicated she did not have a breakdown for this but will provide this information at the next meeting.

### **Customer Service Utility Billing Template Review**

The city has contracted with a new billing vendor and Ms. Nicki Parks, Customer Care Manager, provided a copy of the selected template for the new utility bills and encouraged commissioners to contact her with suggestions or concerns about this new billing format.

### **Electric Utility Report:**

Mr. Brandon Hill offered the electric utility report for the month of February 2019. He reported the total GWH Sales for February was 83GWH; 24GWH for Residential; 33GWH for Commercial; 26GWH for Industrial.

natural gas at a discounted rate, provided the available discount is less than the minimum discount of 37 cents per MMBtu.

Chair Spence asked the Commission for a motion to recommend to City Council to renew a 2019 NMMEA Gas Prepay Agreement. Commissioner Hunter moved to advance this to council and Commissioner Uhl Seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Director's Report:**

Mr. Hank Adair offered information on the activities of the utility.

Regarding Substations, Mr. Adair mentioned the control cable replacement at the Cottonwood Substation noting there were some shielding issues and it has been reinstalled. This matter was dealt with under the warranty. He also said that some of the rock at Cottonwood will be replaced with fractured rock which is easier to travel on with vehicles and on foot. With regard to the Twin Peaks Substation, Mr. Adair said the bid request has gone out for steel.

As part of phase II of the Aztec Substation project which involves tie in, FEUS will do some transmission work and the city of Aztec will do some distribution work. This transmission and distribution work will require the power to be shut off to the city of Aztec from 10:00 pm on April 26 to 6:00 am on April 27.

Mr. Adair briefed the commission on the status of FEUS generation facilities.

Mr. Adair reminded the commission that FEUS crews will be participating in the Light Up Navajo mutual aid project to provide labor and equipment to provide power to many residents of the Navajo Nation who have never before had electric service at their homes.

Commissioner Larsen asked how many families will receive electric service from the Light Up Navajo project. Mr. Adair said this portion of the mutual aid project should provide service to 100 families. He commented that of the people who have never had power in the United States, 75% live on the Navajo Nation.

Chair Spence asked about the Navajo tribal project and what exactly the utility is donating. Mr. Adair said funds have not been donated; FEUS is providing manpower and equipment. NTUA is providing fuel for vehicles and the materials needed to provide power to the residents.

Commissioner Glass commented on the charging stations and asked what the schedule is regarding installation. Mr. Adair indicated he has visited with Charge Point and will be visiting with other vendors as well. He said he is hopeful to have this issue resolved by end of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Westall asked about how long Navajo Hydro Plant has been down and where are we in terms of original deadline. Mr. Adair said the original outage, which was initiated by the USBR was planned for six months and the actual outage timeframe was on target. He also noted that due to the time of the year in which this outage took place, FEUS saw very little loss of power generation.

Commissioner Glass asked about the low water flow on the San Juan River and if consideration has ever been given to a cyclical pump up, closed system. Mr. Adair said this would be a closed loop system but due to various environmental concerns this has not been considered heavily.

Mr. Adair recommended the cancellation of the June 12, 2019 regular Public Utility

Chair Spence asked for a motion to receive individual commissioner support to sign the letter. Commissioner Hunter made a motion that commissioners state their desire to sign the letter.

General discussion ensued among the commissioners regarding the purpose of submitting this letter.

While Commissioner Glass acknowledged the general support for the community that is the spirit behind this letter, he is not in favor of the letter at this time as he feels the commission should wait until the carbon capture technology is determined to a viable technology for recovering the 43 MW of power that will be lost with the closure of the San Juan Generating Station.

Commissioner Duckwitz expressed that her thoughts are very much in line with those of Commissioner Glass and stated that she would sign such as a letter as an individual but as a group, a commission, a small part of the city, she does not feel comfortable with any possible conflict with what the city states and what the commission states.

Commissioner Westall commented that he was in favor of signing the letter as a commissioner should that be the decision. He said that as a commission, we are a part of the city and the city has expressed its intention to move forward with the carbon capture technology.

Chair Spence stated he considers the letter a statement of support for what the city council is doing with regard to looking at options for extending the life of the San Juan Generating Station.

Chair Spence asked for a motion to sign the letter of support for extending the life of the San Juan Generating Station.

Commissioner Duckwitz expressed concern about how the letter was addressed and suggested it be changed from a "To Whom it May Concern" to perhaps the city council.

Mr. Mayes clarified that the letter should be addressed to Mayor Duckett and the Farmington City Council.

Commissioner Hunter modified his original motion to note the change to the address of the letter from "To Whom it May Concern" to "Mayor Duckett and the Farmington City Council". Commissioner Uhl seconded the motion.

Those supporting the letter as modified in the motion: Commissioner Westall, Commissioner Duckwitz, Commissioner Dinning, Commissioner Hunter, Commissioner Larsen, Vice-Chair Parkes, Chair Spence, Commissioner Uhl.

Those against supporting the letter as modified in the motion: Commissioner Glass noting he feels the submittal is premature.

The motion passed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 am.