

The Town Council of the Town of Pecos City met in Regular City Council Meeting in the City Council Chambers on September 17, 2015, at 5:30 P.M. with the following present:

Venetta Seals	Mayor
Gerald Tellez	Mayor Pro-Tem
Wally Moon	Councilman
Chuck Knudsen	Councilman
Rudy Villegas	Councilman
Eric Honeyfield	City Manager
Mary Carmen Wood	City Secretary
Trent Graham	City Attorney
Heather Ramirez	City Finance Director
Clay McKinney	Police Chief
Gary Rumbaugh	Public Works Director
Jesus Silva	Assistant Public Works Director
Isabelle de Brouwer	Airport Manager
Conchita Hernandez	Community Development Director
Jack Brookshire	Fire Marshal
Debbie Thomas	Main Street Manager

Item A. Mayor Venetta Seals called the September 17, 2015 meeting to order at 5:31 pm.  
*Councilman Saldana was absent.*

Item B. Invocation by Councilman Knudsen

Item C. Pledge of Allegiance by Councilman Moon

Item D. Public Comments.  
No Public Comments

Item E. Consent Agenda

On motion by Councilman Knudsen and seconded by Councilman Moon and with Councilman Villegas abstaining from Accounts Payable Report NAPA: page 13 (\$1504.86), Council voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda Items; Minutes for Budget Workshop on September 3, 2015, Minutes for Regular City Council Meeting for September 10, 2015, Monthly Municipal Court Report for August 2015, and Accounts Payable Report.

Item F. Non Consent Items

1. **PRESENTAION** – COSA, Alfred Herrera, Herrera and Boyle PPLC, Natural Gas – Alfred Herrera, presented to council a PowerPoint presentation regarding COSA. He stated he has been practicing in this field for about 32 years now. His Partner, Mr. Jim Boyle, opened up there practice and have been practicing for about 10 years. There law firm primarily represent municipalities and municipality owned Electric and Water Utilities. The Railroad Commission of Texas regulate the oil and gas industry as well as gas utility rate making. In regards to the Railroad Commission there bread and butter is

the oil and gas industry with 98% of their budget being oil and gas production regulations. The remaining 2% is spent on gas utility rate making. Cities retain original jurisdiction within the city and Railroad Commission has jurisdiction outside cities. However Railroad Commission has appellate jurisdiction over city decision which makes it difficult for City's when dealing with gas utility that provide services at the local level. For example, the battle in Denton regarding fracking that was state control versus local control. The same is happening with regulation with Railroad Commission and Gas Utility. Railroad Commission is wanting to have more and more control. Mr. Herrera, said we are seeing this across the state, the frustration citizens have with the services and the gas utility rates increasing ever year. We have gone from a system where we have regulation of rates to a system of just having an audit. What this means is they come in and conduct an audit and are looking to ensure monies was spent where you indicated. For example, if you said you were going to buy a phonebook they look to see if indeed you spent the money on a phonebook. A regulation system would have said that was not a good idea to spend monies on a phonebook when you could look up a number on the internet. We have PGA Clauses which stands for Purchase Gas Adjustment. PGA Clause allows utility to recover the changes of the price of gas monthly, the problem is it's never reviewed. GRIP, Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program, allows them to change their rates annually in order for companies to afford capital improvements. The Town of Pecos is dealing with COSA, Cost of Service Adjustment, Supreme Court said that there is a formula that does not change the rate. They also have Revenue Decoupling which means higher customer charge. There are some options Cities have; 1.) Exercise Original Jurisdiction 2.) Adopt two ordinances: Rate Filing Package and Periodic Infrastructure Reports. 3.) Be involved in the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session: involvement crucial, railroad commission sunset review, coalition of cities.

2. **TAX RATE** – Heather Ramirez, Finance Director, presented to Council the tax rate proposed for the fiscal year 2015-2016. In the last council meeting we discussed the two rates. She said on September 21<sup>st</sup> we will have our first public hearing at 4:00pm and the seconded public hearing on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. On Motion by Councilman Knudsen and seconded by Councilman Tellez, the Council voted unanimously to approve the effective tax rate of .35489.

3. **BUDGET PRESENTATIONS** –

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/CVB – Lupe Davis, presented to council the requested Budget for Fiscal year 2015-2016. She also stated that the budget presented does not include the Wayfinding Signs Project. The amount that was approved, half will be in the next budget which is a remaining \$254,000 of the total. Councilman Moon shares his concerns with the economy and what that may do to the City's Revenue. Budgets from 2012 to now have doubled or even tripled. Heather Ramirez, reminded council that when she plugged in numbers in HOT fund we will be at a negative (-\$124,342) if all budgets are approved as is. This is with the assumption we will receive 1.3 million in Revenue. The Mayor, also pointed out that Main Street has always come out of HOT funds instead of General Fund. Heather Ramirez, stated she is aware of this and that she is

working to correct it. She stated if she is to take out Main Street (salaries, office supplies, etc.) this will free up about (\$97,352) in the HOT fund.

West of the Pecos Museum – Doroinda Millan, presented to council there requested Budget for Fiscal year 2105-2016.

Councilman Knudsen, asked when the 4.5 million for the splash park transfers to the HOT fund. Councilman Tellez, stated that the funds are coming out in increments. Heather Ramirez, stated that the amount transferred to the HOT fund is the amount that was approved, which was not to exceed the 4.5 million dollars. Heather Ramirez, stated that department heads have already meet and have cut their budgets. Conchita Hernandez, Community Development Director, mentioned that department funds come out of the General Fund. Councilman Knudsen, stated that if we need to cut the Chambers budget we need to cut the lease. Lupe Davis, said the Chamber will work with whatever the Council decides to approve. Councilman Knudsen, stated we are asking this three entities to cut their budgets by 10%. All councilman agree to remove the lease from the Chamber. Councilman Knudsen, stated that the Chamber has already cut 17% of their budget from last year. Councilman Moon, stated everyone will have to cut their budgets. Councilman Tellez, asked what the amount of Bed tax we collected. Heather Ramirez, stated it was an average of \$160,000 per month so this coming up year she is estimated \$115,000 per month. She figured this number out by looking a trends and averages. Councilman Tellez, stated that we can always come back and amend budgets if need be there not set and stone.

Main Street – Debbie Thomas, Main Street Director, presented to council there requested Budget for Fiscal year 2015-2016. Debbie, stated she went up on travel, training, and on events. Councilman Moon, asked about travel and training, it doubled compared to last year. Debbie, mentioned that right now her budget shows she has a remaining balance of 50.00 dollars. She will be sending her new board members to training. Councilman Knudsen, stated that it looks like Main Street budget comes out of HOT fund. Heather Ramirez, mentioned that she is trying to take out Main Street budget out of HOT fund and make sure it's coming out of General Fund. Heather Ramirez, reminds council that even if she is to move the Main Street numbers to General Fund the HOT fund account will be short. Debbie, mentioned that on her request form she listed: repairs to caboose, contributions to sidewalks, curbs& ramps, streetscape projects, additional work in the park and Pavilion area. Heather Ramirez, said basically Main Street is requesting \$166,913 from HOT funds.

Mayor Seals, asked how far in the project are we in regarding the Splash Park. Conchita Hernandez, mentioned she has already submitted the survey information so there in the design phase. We will have to see what the contract Mr. Honeyfield sign states. On Motion by Councilman Knudsen and seconded by Councilman Moon, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Chamber Commerce/CVB, West of the Pecos Museum, Main Street Budget, as presented noting removing from Chambers Budget the lease agreement of \$15,000.

4. **HALLOWEEN EVENT** – Mayor Seals, stated that the official date for Trick or Treat has been set for this year to be on October 31 on a Saturday. On Motion by Councilman Knudsen and seconded by Councilman Villegas, the Council voted unanimously to approve the date of October 31 for the Halloween Trick or Treat Event.
5. **VETERAN’S PARK** – Mayor Seals, stated we have Mrs. Rosa here today and asked if she has heard of any other citizens interested in serving on the board. Councilman Villegas, stated he would like to serve on the committee. Councilman Tellez, also stated he would like to serve on the committee. Mayor Seals, stated that would make 6 members on the board; Alberto Alvarez, Tom Rivera, Jesus Silvas, Rudy Villegas, Gernaro Tellez, Rosa Salinas. Rosa, stated she wanted Council to know the memorial is ready to be installed. On Motion by Councilman Knudsen and seconded by Councilman Villegas, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Veteran’s Park Committee with the members previously mentioned.
6. **BUDGET** – Bill Oglesby, presented to council the amended budget. On Motion by Councilman Moon and seconded by Councilman Villegas, the Council voted unanimously to approve the amended/revised Pecos 4B Economic Development Corporation 2015-2106 Budget.

BREAK @ 7:55 pm

RETURN FROM BREAK @ 8:04 PM

7. **FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Freddy Contreras, presented to Council there service records. He said that the record keeping is not a prefect system but we have at least implemented one. It is a working progress.
8. **UPDATE** – Mayor Seals, stated that there will be a Military Convoy that will be passing through Pecos on October 9, 2015. Lupe Davis, stated that it is a 1920 US Army Trans - Continental Motor Convey this will be there 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They’re going to have lunch at the Park area. There will be 50-60 Military vehicles that will be going through the community. They will be in town for a couple of hours. The Convoy will do a parade route that will probably start off of I-10 then Cedar St., 3<sup>rd</sup> street, down Eddy and back up to the interstate. We will need about 150 chairs.
9. **SPECIAL MEETING** – Heather Ramirez, stated that she will have a Special City Council Meeting on September 21, 2015 at the Technology Center. On Motion by councilman Villegas and seconded by Councilman Tellez, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Special City Council Meeting on September 21, 2015 at 4:00pm.
10. **MILITARY**- repeated item on the agenda.

11. **MAIN STREET BOARD MEMBERS** – Debbie Thomas, Main Street Manager, presented to council the three (3) new members. She stated that there were 5 applications submitted. She stated all were good applicants. Councilman Moon asked how many board members in total are there. She said there are nine (9) total board members. On Motion by Councilman Villegas and seconded by Councilman Knudsen, the Council voted unanimously to approve of 3 new 3 year term Advisory Board Members for Pecos Main Street which are Ginny Barmore, Gail Cahill, and Robin Hernandez.
12. **UPDATE** – Conchita Hernandez, presented to Council the letter/form that is on the website regarding the Park Bench Donation. We have two (2) sponsors, Velma with Pecos Tire and Mayor Seals so far. Chevron has donated \$50,000 for Kid City Project.
13. **UPDATE** – Jesus Gomez, presented to council on how to view items for auctions on GovDeals.com from our City. Once you create an account you are able to bid on the items list.
14. **PRESENTATION** – Heather Ramirez, Director of Finance, she presented to council the salaries detailed list of all employees.
15. **STOP SIGN** – Mayor Seals, mentioned that Dorenda with the Museum brought to her attention the area of high traffic and were maybe we could put a stop sign by the Museum. If we put a stop sign on Oak and First or Cedar and first. Mayor Seals, said this is a discussion item and would like for Chief McKinney to look into it to see what the best solution might be.
16. **CITY VEHICLES** – Councilman Moon, expressed his concerns and comments regarding the maintenance logs and record keeping in vehicles. He wants from each department a list of every piece of equipment we have. Gary Rumbaugh, Public Works Director, stated that about 2 years ago they attended a presentation given by Verizon regarding a GPS system that monitored and logged services for vehicles. We received four (4) demos and have been installed in some of our vehicles with the exception of a trash truck. Reasoning being is because it needs a special adaptor. Jesus Gomez, IT, said that the software will send notification to whomever is designated. Chief McKinney, mentioned that if a vehicle has not been taken for service the gas card will shut down and will not work. Councilman Villegas, said that the software is great and agrees with Councilman Moon in which someone will need to do the post and pre trip checkups. Councilman Moon, stated someone will need to report back to us either it be monthly, quarterly, or annually. Freddy Contreras, stated that he does not feel anyone is opposing a maintenance program we are just starting with something new and implementing a new system. Councilman Moon, said that there needs to be a starting point and he would like a list of equipment with VIN numbers from each department. Councilman Moon, said he would like to see a list in the December meeting.

Item G. Discuss Items for Next City Council Agenda  
1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing of Tax Rate and The budget on the September 21.

K. Adjourned at 9:05 PM

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Venetta Seals, Mayor

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Mary Carmen Wood, City Secretary