

The Town Council of the Town of Pecos City met in Special City Council Meeting at the Pecos High School Technology Center located at 1301 S. Eddy St. Pecos, Texas on September 21, 2015 at 4:00 P.M. with the following present:

Venetta Seals	Mayor
Gerald Tellez	Mayor Pro-Tem
Alfredo Saldana	Councilman
Chuck Knudsen	Councilman
Wally Moon	Councilman
Eric Honeyfield	City Manager
Mary Carmen Wood	City Secretary
Heather Ramirez	Finance Director
Conchita Hernandez	Community Development Director
Freddy Contreras	Fire Chief
Clay McKinney	Chief of Police
Debbie Thomas	Main Street Manager
Isabelle	Airport Manager
Gary Rumbaugh	Public Works Director
Jesus Silva	Assistant Public Works Director

Item A. Mayor Venetta Seals called the September 21, 2015 meeting to order at 4:06 pm. *Councilman Chuck Knudsen and City Attorney Trent Graham not present.*

1. **FIRST PUBLIC HEARING** – Discuss Proposed Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 – Heather Ramirez, Finance Director
Heather Ramirez, presented to council the Proposed the Tax Rate of \$0.35489. No Citizen Comments.
2. **BUDGET** – Discuss/Consider the Proposed 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget – Heather Ramirez, Finance Director
Heather Ramirez, presented to Council the draft budget and the budget request from the departments. She said this is a draft budget and on the side are some notes. Mr. Honeyfield and Heather Ramirez have been working on making changes such as the HOT fund. She went ahead and removed Main Street from the HOT fund and put her under Community Development Department for now. Heather Ramirez, stated she added to the budget salaries (\$5,000) to operate the Splash Park. Mr. Honeyfield, City Manager, added that the Splash Park would need two-three individuals to operate the park for three months. Mr. Honeyfield, stated that as it stands right now the HOT fund is in the red. He said City Staff needs direction from Council regarding the appropriations to Main Street, Museum, and Chamber of Commerce. Because right now the budget does not accommodate a present or future debt service or operation cost for both the Splash Park and Ball Park. We need to decide if we want to proceed with both projects (Ball Park and Slash Park) or not. If we decide to do both projects we need to tighten up the belt with Main Street, Museum, and Chamber of Commerce budgets. Councilman Saldana, stated his concerns with cutting the Ball Park. He said that once

again we are cutting a project when we can cut from other areas. He said that the Ball Parks will bring money into the community. He said people will be staying in our hotels which will increase our occupancy. Mr. Honeyfield, stated that a year ago talking with the hotel owners there was 100% occupancy exempt in the weekends. Even with the boom weekends are empty. Now there is 20% -25% vacancy in the hotels. He stated that he is glad to see new hotel owners take a risk with Pecos Economy however, in the short term it is going to split the same pie into a couple more slices. Part of our HOT Tax prosperity is because of \$200.00 dollar hotel rooms. As vacancy continue and with the two (2) new hotels we are going to see price drop. Councilman Saldana, said that we missed out on housing etc. when the boom was coming in. He said the state would not be spending \$90 million on fixing highway 289 if nothing is about to happen. He said that there is a New Plant that is being built in Coyanosa for the pipeline that is going into Mexico. Mr. Honeyfield, said that when he sits with department heads some of the questions he asks are: Out of your wish list what did you spend? What did you not spend? What is the beginning balance? What is the end balance? What is the revenue expense? With the HOT Tax entities there supposed to give you a quarterly activity report. If it's not being done it's no big deal however for budgeting purposed they should give you along with their budget proposal last year's activity. What was the beginning cash balance? What was end balance? Too see what was done with the money given to them last year. Councilman Moon, said instead of going through each line item we can give them a reduction on their budgets and let them decide what areas to cut. Councilman Tellez, asked what kind of Bonds can be used for the ball park. Mr. Honeyfield stated that by statue we can use HOT tax to fund the Ball Parks. Mr. Honeyfield, discuss the debt service that would be required to maintain the ball park. Council continued to discuss using HOT Tax funds to build the Ball Park. Council then went on to discuss reinstate the Railroad Depot lease to the Chamber of Commerce and increase their budget. Mr. Honeyfield and Council discussed the fire department and if the county is willing to contribute. Mr. Honeyfield, stated this is a major year with major projects. General Fund Projects such as sprinkler systems at parks, curb and gutter, and sidewalk. Mr. Honeyfield and Council discussed employment and salary increase based off of merit base only. Mr. Honeyfield stated that by next meeting he will have a list of items that Departments submitted with items that made the cut and items that did not. Council will have to make the determination as to what is important for the Town of Pecos. On Motion by Councilman Tellez and seconded by Councilman Saldana Council voted unanimously to post pone until Monday, September 28, 2015 meeting.

At 5:18 pm the Mayor Declared Entering into Executive Session: Government Code Section 551.072

1. Acquisition/Disposable of Real Property Legally Described as BLK 5 TRACT 24 AB1460 BLK 5 SEC 24 H&GNNE/4 "BERM" – Eric Honeyfield, City Manager

At 5:32 pm the Mayor declared coming back into Open Executive Session under Government Code Section 551.071

1. Acquisition/Disposable of Real Property Legally Described as BLK 5 TRACT 24 AB1460 BLK 5 SEC 24 H&GNNE/4 “BERM” – Eric Honeyfield, City Manager

On Motion by Councilman Villegas and seconded by Councilman Saldana to authorize the City Manager to negotiate the property legally described as BLK 5 TRACT 24 AB1460 BLK 5 SEC 24 H&GNNE/4 “BERM” (*Councilman Knudsen joined meeting at 5:25 pm*).

3. Adjournment at 5:33pm

Venetta Seals, Mayor

Attest:

Mary Carmen Wood, City Secretary