

The Town Council of the Town of Pecos City met in Special City Council Meeting in the City Council Chambers on September 28, 2015 5:30 P.M. with the following present:

Venetta Seals	Mayor
Gerald Tellez	Mayor Pro-Tem
Alfredo Saldana	Councilman
Chuck Knudsen	Councilman
Wally Moon	Councilman
Ruby Villegas	Councilman
Eric Honeyfield	City Manager
Mary Carmen Wood	City Secretary
Heather Ramirez	Finance Director
Conchita Hernandez	Community Development Director
Jack Brookshire	Fire Marshal
Isabelle	Airport Manager
Jesus Gomez	IT
Gary Rumbaugh	Public Works Director
Debbie Thomas	Main Street Manager

Item A. Mayor Venetta Seals called the September 28, 2015 meeting to order at 5:31 pm. *City Attorney, Trent Graham not present.*

- 1. DISCUSS** – Status Report Water Meter Installation – Eric Honeyfield, City Manager
Eric Honeyfield, presented to Council the new Water Meters that were installed. He stated that we are about to complete the installation of all new meters. He said the new meters have a battery life of 20 years compared to the old which had a life of 10 years. He also stated that we could read a meter from City Hall. We no longer need a meter read to go out and read the meters. There might be complaints regarding the water bills being so high. Reason being is because the new meters will register every little drop. The meters will indicate if there is a leak. City Manager, mentioned that City Hall can pull up a report up to the last 15 minutes of water use. We do not encourage citizens to tamper with the water meters. We ask that the citizen call City Hall and generate a work order.
- 2. DISCUSS/CONSIDER** – City County Agreement Regarding Prison Sewer Screen – Eric Honeyfield.
Eric Honeyfield, stated that there was a letter sent to Judge Bang proposing the County pay for design and installation costs up to \$250,000 for a screen at the Stafford lift station. This Screen is required by the Settlement Agreement signed by the City and County back in January 2010. On Motion by Councilman Knudsen and seconded by Councilman Saldana, the Council voted unanimously to approve the City and County Agreement regarding the Prison Sewer Screen.

3. **DISCUSS** – Ambulance Fleet City/County Run Percentage – Eric Honeyfield, City Manager
Eric Honeyfield, stated that in our last meeting Council wanted to know what the activity of the ambulance is. We respond to four (4) counties that we don't receive payment for. Reasoning being is because we have a mutual agreement. The Counties are: Winkler, Jeff Davis, Pecos County, and Culberson. The two (2) counties we do charge for the services is Ward and Loving County. Ward County pays \$6,000 thousand and Loving County pays \$5,000 thousand a year. The counties do not have their own ambulance services.

4. **SECONE PUBLIC HEARING** – Discuss Proposed Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 – Heather Ramirez, Finance Director
Heather Ramirez, stated this our Second Public Hearing for the Effective Tax Rate of 0.35480. No Citizen Comments.

5. **BUDGET** - Discuss/Consider Final Budget for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Budget – Heather Ramirez, Finance Director
Eric Honeyfield, stated that in this particular budget we are about to review the Cities Revenue for the year (including: utilize, garbage, water and sewer) is \$20 million dollars. The Cities debt is \$28.6 million dollars and some is a 15 year debt. City Manager, mentioned to keep in mind 85% of the budget is set and the remaining 15% is decided by you all the City Council. Heather Ramirez, Finance Director, presented to council the budget for the fiscal year 2015-2106. Heather Ramirez, presented on the Expenditures for the City of Pecos. This included salaries, Police Department, Splash Park, and Roll Offs/Dumpsters. City Manager, stated that the raises will be based on Merit Base. Also, the Police Department will receive a 6% raise due to us underpaying our police officers. Police Officer will have body cameras and cameras in vehicles. Council and Heather, continued to discuss budgets from all departments. Mr. Honeyfield, mentioned that the Splash Park should be completed by the beginning of the summer next year. On the budget we have also included sprinkler systems at City Parks, stated Mr. Honeyfield. Primarily to help improve the parks right now parks are hand watered. Heather, mentioned the remodeling of the community center so that the finance department can move in there and code enforcement can move over to main city hall offices. Heather, presented to council the sanitation department budget. She also presented on the water and sewer fund. Heather stated she had to pull money from reserves in order to balance our water and sewer budget. Heather Ramirez, presented the Ambulance fund account. She stated the same numbers used last year were used for this coming up year. Heather Ramirez, presented to Council the HOT Tax Funds and compared budget requests from 2015 and as far back as 2012. Mr. Honeyfield, informed Council on the laws regarding HOT Tax funds and that they are constantly changing. Councilman Saldana, voiced his concerns and thoughts regarding the Concert and Ball Parks projects.

BREAK AT 8:49 PM

RETURN FROM BREAK AT 9:08 PM

Eric Honeyfield, stated that in order to fund the Quad-Ball Park Complex would be to cut Main Street, Chamber, and Museum budgets. Mayor Seals, asked questions regarding the billboards the Chamber has as advertising. Lupe Davis, stated that they have already renewed the contracts for nine billboards. Councilman Moon, stated that everyone will have to do budget cuts from department heads and HOT Tax funds. Councilman Moon, suggested that the HOT Tax budget be set at the amounts of 2012. Council discussed the lease agreement that the Chamber of Commerce is currently paying for. If we are to move to the 2012 budgets the Chamber did not have that lease agreement. Mayor, said that if we are to move the budget back to 2012 will that help fund the ball parks. Mr. Honeyfield, reminded Council once again that HOT Tax laws are constantly changing. In the near future we might not be able to use HOT tax fund to build a ball park. Councilman Saldana, stated he does not want to go backwards as Council had already discuss building the Ball Park fields and said he can get sponsors and already has an oil company that will sponsor. On Motion by Councilman Moon and Seconded by Councilman Saldana, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Fiscal Budget 2015-2016 as presented and take the HOT Tax entities back to the 2012 budgets as outlined by the Finance Department.

6. **ORDINANCE** – Discuss/Consider Ordinance No. 15-09-01, an Ordinance Levying Taxes for the Use and Support of the Municipal Government of the Town of Pecos City; providing for the Interest and Sinking Fund for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Apportioning Each Levy for its Specific Purpose, 1st Reading – Heather Ramirez, Finance Director

Heather Ramirez, presented to Council the Effective Tax Rate of .35480. On Motion by Councilman Tellez and seconded by Councilman Saldana, the Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance No. 15-09-01 as presented.

7. **ORDINANCE** – Discuss/Consider Ordinance No. 15-09-02, an Ordinance Making Appropriations for the Support of the Town of Pecos City for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2015 and Ending September 30, 2016; Appropriating Money to a Sinking Fund to Pay Interest and Principal, Due on the City’s Bonded Indebtness; Adopting the Annual Budget of the Town on Pecos City for the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year, 1st Reading – Heather Ramirez, Finance Director

Heather Ramirez, presented to Council the budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. On Motion by Councilman Villegas and seconded by Councilman Moon, the Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance No. 15-09-02 as presented.

8. Adjournment: 9:39pm

Venetta Seals, Mayor

Attest:

Mary Carmen Wood, City Secretary