

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2014 @ 5:30 P.M.
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 214 S. LOVE STREET**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gandy at 5:30 p.m.

Present and answering roll call: Commissioner Benge, Mayor Gandy, Commissioner Butcher and Commissioner Campos.

Also Present: City Manager James Williams, City Clerk Carol Ann Hogue, Administrative Assistant Imelda Gutierrez, City Attorney Patrick McMahon, Accounts Payable Clerk Tracy Rodriguez, and Detective David Rodriguez

Not Present: Commissioner Trujillo and Assistant City Manager Jared Cobb

Invocation: Commissioner Campos gave the invocation

Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Campos led the pledge

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Gandy called for a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Benge so moved. Commissioner Campos seconded and a roll call was taken: Commissioner Campos– Yes, Commissioner Butcher – Yes, Commissioner Benge – Yes, and Mayor Gandy – Yes.

Approval of the Regular Minutes of May 27, 2014: Mayor Gandy called for a motion to approve the regular minutes of May 27, 2014. Commissioner Benge so moved to amend the minutes and add to the portion of the 9th Street Reconstruction that DOT required subgrade improvements that will cost the City an additional \$60,000. Commissioner Butcher seconded and a roll call was taken: Commissioner Butcher – Yes, Mayor Gandy – Yes, Commissioner Benge – Yes, and Commissioner Campos – Yes.

COMMISSIONER AND STAFF REPORTS:

- Commissioner Butcher asked “Where does the City stand with the Finance Director position? City Manager Williams stated that they had 4 phone interviews but narrowed it down to 2 candidates. The City will be scheduling interviews in the next 2 weeks for 2 or 3 candidates to come in and have an interview. Mr. Williams introduced Accounts Payable Clerk Tracy Rodriguez to the Commissioners who is also acting as Chief Procurement Officer at this time.
- Mayor Gandy mentioned that there is a pothole on Main Street & Avenue A.
- Commissioner Benge mentioned that the focus groups she attended for the comprehensive plan were very well attended and had good conversations. The City wide meeting on Monday had good comments and she is looking forward to seeing some of those results.
- City Manager Williams mentioned that the 9th Street Construction has begun. The vision meeting on Monday there were 50 people who attended. The feedback was good. The next comprehensive plan meeting will be held in July. The front of the

Lea Theater was vandalized and temporary repairs have been made. The Smokin' on the Plaza is this weekend June 13 – 14, 2014. The restrooms at Avenue D Park are going up. The shade structures have not been shipped out. The weed abatement has been sent for publishing. The NMML Conference will be held August 26 – 29, 2014 in Albuquerque, NM. At the department head meeting Thursday, June 5, 2014, the head supervisors were asked to do an experiment over the weekend. Each employee had to pick up 3 pieces of trash and bring back on Monday. The visual representation of trash was 1.6 cubic yards that was picked up by almost 100 people. The experiment is to encourage the community to take ownership in their town.

- Commissioner Campos asked if the City was ready for audit. City Manager Williams stated that the first audit will be in September and the final visit will be in late October.

NON-ACTION ITEMS:

Lea Theater Project Update and Discussion: City Manager Williams addressed the Commissioners stating that Mayor Gandy has requested an update on the status of the acquisition of the Lea Theater and progress of the Lea Community Foundation for the Arts. City Manager Williams mentioned that the property transaction was complete, the asbestos, lead paint, and structural inspection are now complete. The City closed on the purchase transaction on the Lea Theater about two weeks ago. It is now the City's property. The City has submitted a proposed project participation agreement draft for the Commissioners to review. Connie Sevier, President of the Lea Community Foundation for the Arts addressed the Commissioners stating that the Board of Directors will be extending to 12 board members. As of now, it has only 4 members, they have a domain for the website, and they have 3 major companies who are willing to donate \$150,000. This amount will cover the digital upgrade and do some repairs to the roof. No action was taken.

Discussion of Employee Retirement Benefits: City Manager Williams addressed the Commissioners to inform them on the status of the PERA refund for police dispatchers and civilian fire employees. The City has been informed by PERA as of June 2, 2014 that prior to issuing refunds, PERA is requiring a decision from the City to opt into a PERA municipal plan or retain the existing Union Central plan for non-public safety members. The municipal plan 1: Employer Contribution Percentage 7% – Employee Contribution Percentage 8.5% - Pension Maximum as a Percentage of the Final Average Salary 90%. Mr. Williams recommends adopting a resolution to opt into the municipal plan because the current employees will have an option to stay with Union Central or PERA. The municipal plan will only affect the new employees.

ACTION ITEMS:

Consider Approval of Resolution 2014 – 16: Condemnation of Property at 123 W. Ave C: Mayor Gandy called for a motion to approve resolution 2014 – 16: Condemnation of Property at 123 W. Ave C. City Manager Williams addressed the Commissioners stating that Code Enforcement have completed notification of the property owners of this location in regards to the dilapidated condition and are

recommending that the City proceed with condemnation of the property. A resolution must be adopted in order to proceed. Commissioner Bengé so moved. Commissioner Campos seconded and a roll call was taken: Commissioner Bengé – Yes, Mayor Gandy – Yes, Commissioner Butcher – Yes, and Commissioner Campos – Yes. Motion was approved.

Consider Approval of Senior Citizen Board Appointments: Mayor Gandy called for a motion to approve the Senior Citizens Board Appointments. City Manager Williams addressed the Commissioners stating that the Senior Citizens Board have requested two board appointments, Donna Dean for reinstatement for a term to expire January 2016 and to appoint Virginia Spears to complete Leota Brow’s term which expires January 2015. Commissioner Butcher so moved. Commissioner Campos seconded and a roll call was taken: Commissioner Campos – Yes, Commissioner Butcher – Yes, Commissioner Bengé – Yes, and Mayor Gandy – Yes. Motion was approved.

Consider Approval of Accounts Payable: Mayor Gandy called for a motion to approve the accounts payable. Commissioner Bengé so moved. Commissioner Campos seconded and a roll call was taken: Commissioner Bengé – Yes, Mayor Gandy – Yes, Commissioner Butcher – Yes, and Commissioner Campos – Yes. Motion was approved.

OTHER COMMENT: City Manager Williams stated that he spoke to the company who painted the Library and they are going to repaint it.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
SCOTTY GANDY, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
CAROL ANN HOGUE, CITY CLERK