



Agenda

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

DATE 9-8-09 TIME 1:55pm
STUDIED BY Victoria Lopez
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**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009
5:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2009 MEETING

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. Update on Rio Grande Present Water Storage and Current and Future Efforts.
(Claudia Borchert)

CONSENT CALENDAR

7. Update on Current Water Supply Status. (Victor Archuleta)
8. Update on Solid Waste Division. (Bill De Grande)
9. Request for Approval to Award Bid No. '09/44/B – CIP #938 to RMCI, Inc. for the Methane Re-Use Project in the Amount of \$699,164.37 Inclusive of NMGRT. (Bryan Romero)
10. Request for Approval to Extend Term of Bid No. '08/43/B with Polydyne, Inc. for an Additional Year and Approval to Purchase Polyelectrolyte in the Amount of \$103,224.00. (Bryan Romero)
11. Request for Approval of Amendment No. 3 with HDR, Inc. for Additional Design Services for the Methane Re-Use Project and the Wastewater Treatment Plan Improvement Project for the Amount of \$176,496.36 Inclusive of NMGRT. (Bryan Romero)

DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ACTION ITEMS

12. Water Low Income Credit/Third Tier Rate Recommendations. (Brian Snyder and Jason Mumm)
13. Evaluation Report for the Pressure Reducing Valve Project. (Robert Jorgensen)
 - a. **PUBLIC HEARING**
 - b. Request for Approval of Project Completion per Evaluation Report Recommendations or as Directed.

MATTERS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY

ITEMS FROM STAFF

MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2009

ADJOURN

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NEED OF ACCOMODATIONS, CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AT 505-955-6520, FIVE (5) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING DATE.

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Wednesday, September 16, 2009**

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**MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF SANTA FE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 16, 2009**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Public Utilities Committee was called to order by Councilor Rebecca Wurzburger, Chair, at approximately 5:00 p.m., on September 2, 2009, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilor Rebecca Wurzburger, Chair
Councilor Christopher Calvert
Councilor Matthew E. Ortiz
Councilor Rosemary Romero
Councilor Ronald S. Trujillo

OTHERS PRESENT:

Galen Buller, Public Utilities Director
Maya Martinez, Public Utilities
Marcus Martinez, Assistant City Attorney
Melessia Helberg, Stenographer

There was a quorum of the membership present for conducting official business.

NOTE: All items in the Committee packet for all agenda items are incorporated herewith to these minutes by reference. The original Committee packet is on file in the Public Utilities Department.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Martinez said staff is requesting that Item 12 be removed from discussion to an information, and it will come back to the Committee for action at the next meeting.

Chair Wurzburger asked to hear Item 13 immediately after the information items on the agenda.

MOTION: Councilor Calvert moved, seconded by Councilor Trujillo, to approve the Agenda as amended.

VOTE: The motion was approved on a voice vote [Absent: Councilor Ortiz].

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Councilor Calvert moved, seconded by Councilor Romero, to approve the following consent agenda as presented.

VOTE: The motion was approved on a voice vote [Absent: Councilor Ortiz].

CONSENT CALENDAR

7. UPDATE ON CURRENT WATER SUPPLY STATUS. (VICTOR ARCHULETA)

8. UPDATE ON SOLID WASTE DIVISION. (BILL DeGRANDE)

A Memorandum dated September 16, 2009, to the Public Utilities Committee from William DeGrande, Solid Waste Management Division Director, is incorporated herewith to these minutes as Exhibit "1."

9. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO AWARD BID NO. 09/44/B – CIP #938 TO RMCI, INC., FOR THE METHANE RE-USE PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$699,164.37, INCLUSIVE OF NMGR. (BRYAN ROMERO)

10. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO EXTEND TERM OF BID NO. 08/43/B WITH POLYDYNE, INC., FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR AND APPROVAL TO PURCHASE POLYELECTROLYTE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$103,224.00. (BRYAN ROMERO)

11. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 3 WITH HDR, INC., FOR ADDITIONAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE METHANE RE-USE PROJECT AND THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLAN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$176,496.36, INCLUSIVE OF NMGR. (BRYAN ROMERO)

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE AUGUST 19, 2009, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING.

MOTION: Councilor Calvert moved, seconded by Councilor Trujillo, to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 19, 2009, as submitted.

VOTE: The motion was approved on a voice vote [Absent: Councilor Ortiz].

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. UPDATE ON RIO GRANDE PRESENT WATER STORAGE AND CURRENT AND FUTURE EFFORTS. (CLAUDIA BORCHERT)

Claudia Borchert said she prepared a Memorandum, as requested, on the City's current water storage situation.

Councilor Calvert said the last paragraph of the Memorandum it says, "At the present time, staff encourages Councilors to convey our need for long term storage to our State Senators and Representatives." He asked if the State or the federal government is in control of this.

Ms. Borchert said the two reservoirs with which we are having the most difficulty, are Abiquiu and El Vado. She said El Vado is under the jurisdiction of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and Abiquiu under the authority of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo Water Utility Authority. These are state organizations where a little political pressure from our State Senators and Representatives would be helpful.

Councilor Calvert asked if the Albuquerque Water Utility Authority is a state function.

Ms. Borchert said it is a regional water authority, and the Bureau of Reclamation is not concerned.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARING

13. EVALUATION REPORT FOR THE PRESSURE REDUCING VALVE PROJECT. (ROBERT JORGENSEN. A. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PROJECT COMPLETION PER EVALUATION REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS OR AS DIRECTED

A copy of a statement entered for the record by Jean Patrick, President, Los Cerros Colorados Homeowners Association, dated September 8, 2009, is incorporated herewith to these minutes as Exhibit "2."

A copy of Arthur Firstenberg's statement entered for the record by Mr. Firstenberg, is incorporated herewith to these minutes as Exhibit "3."

Chair Wurzbarger said based on the previous testimony, which was quite substantial, she met with staff twice and they have come up with some options which will be presented.

Brian Snyder, Director, noted there is a Memorandum in the Committee packet, dated September 1, 2009, to the Public Utilities Committee from Robert Jorgensen, Engineer, Water Division, is on the City's

website and will be mailed to all the groups. He said the Memorandum addresses items which were raised at the last PUC meeting in the Public Hearing. He said during that meeting, he expressed two items which were of concern to him from the City staff standpoint. One was the telephone response time by Qwest. He said he spoke with Qwest and through its standard agreement process, its response time is four hours, while City response time is two hours. He said with this in mind, staff determined that Qwest's response time would be acceptable to staff if a telephone telemetry system is selected.

Mr. Snyder said the second item he raised was the cost associated with telephone telemetry. He said in a previous public hearing, in his presentation, he identified some underground telephone, some overhead telephone, some underground electric, and there was a chart and some review criteria which was established, noting that was in the previous packet. He said since then, staff has readdressed this issue, and looked at the costs to go entirely underground, meaning there would be no overhead electric. If there is overhead electric in the neighborhood or in the vicinity of the PRV site, they would run the electric down the pole, and go underground with buried electric and telephone.

Mr. Snyder asked the Committee to look at Table B-3 in the packet. He said this table is to go entirely underground with telephone and electric and summarizes the costs associated with that. He said the bottom line total cost to modify is \$180,250. He asked the Committee to look at Figure 5-5 in the packet which is a representation of what each site would look like. He said there would be a below grade PRV station which is existing or the above grade PRV station which is existing. The new items at each site would be a proposed RTU Control box which is 2.5 ft. x 3 ft. rectangular which will be mounted somewhere near the ground. Another item would be a proposed telephone modem which is about 14 in. X 18 in. X 6 in. He said there is some flexibility to mount it near the ground or with some landscaping in the area. He said an underground electric service pedestal, noting there are some requirements by PNM which the City will have to follow regarding this.

Mr. Snyder said the proposal in Table B-3 would eliminate any above ground antenna, masked antenna or above ground telephone service pole antenna which are outlined in Layouts 1A and 1B of the report.

Public Hearing

Chair Wurzbarger said each person will have two minutes to speak to the issue.

Speaking to the new proposal

Ann Browning, 1908 Cerros Colorados, said it is her property easement site that is one of the City's project site. There is already a 5 x 8 x 4 box at the site. She is a little concerned about another 3 x 5 box. She would like to be able to sit and read the new design modification, noting this is all new to them. She said the specific intent of the original parties who granted the Los Cerros Colorados covenants and easements is very clear, and there are limits to the easement use, and any basic change in the character of this easement should not be permitted.

Councilor Ortiz arrived at the meeting.

Jean Patrick, President, Los Cerros Colorados Homeowners Association, said "most of you" are in receipt of a letter dated September 8, 2009, addressing the concerns of the Association regarding the telemetry towers. She asked that the letter be entered into the record of the minutes of this meeting [Exhibit "2"]. She understood that "our CC&Rs would be acknowledged in that we don't allow any above ground utility towers and such. Ms. Patrick submitted a copy of the letter for the record to the Committee Stenographer.

Arthur Firstenburg read his statement into the record in opposition to radio frequency radiation and in support of the telephone telemetry option [Exhibit "3"]. Chair Wurzburger asked Mr. Firstenburg to make his statement specific to this proposal and this hearing. Mr. Firstenburg said, "I will," and continued reading his statement into the record, requesting that the Committee to adopt a telephone telemetry alternative for this project.

Chair Wurzburger asked Mr. Firstenburg if he is supporting the plan that was just presented by Mr. Snyder.

Mr. Firstenburg said it wasn't clear to the audience, and "I asked several people whether that was cool or not, so..."

Randall Bell, 314 Garcia Street, said he is here on behalf of clients Sally Bingham and Frances Donald, whose particular interest is in the City-wide effects of this since the installation at their residence has been deleted from the recommendations. He agreed with Mr. Firstenburg that it wasn't clear to him from the Water Division's presentation whether they were recommending this new thing or just presenting information.

Chair Wurzburger asked Mr. Bell to go ahead with his testimony.

Mr. Bell said his testimony is in looking at the "amended thing" on the financial aspect, is that in the new set of numbers for telephone telemetry the cost is approximately \$180,000. In the previous B-3 Schedule it was \$121,000, so that is a \$59,000 difference for the capital costs for the first 17 units. He noted that \$17,000 is the cost of the removal of the two radio telemetry lines which he said were put in illegally. He said, effectively, the cost difference is \$47,000. He said this is a small price to pay to eliminate the visual clutter throughout area and to totally eliminate the health concerns. He said there are questions about whether these costs are indicated appropriately and the real cost of the underground would not be the size indicated. He recommended the telephone telemetry option.

Ann McCambell said she is a physician and Chair of the Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Task Force in New Mexico, and is the Coordinator of the New Mexico Environment and Health Coalition. She is here

to support the telephone option on the health basis. She said the NM Environment and Health Coalition has been promoting the precautionary principle for about 5 years, and this would fit exactly into that approach. She said the safety and health studies have not been done of the wireless technology, noting the small amount which has been done, indicates a reason for concern. She said there is a cost effective alternative in the phone line option, and it would be a clear win to go with "better safe than sorry."

Jim Atwood, 750 Camino Pinones, said one of the sites is about 100 ft. from the entrance to his house, noting it is a phase 2 site, so the specifics of how that site may be treated hasn't been decided by the District. He isn't a civil engineer, so he has to make a general plea to this Committee and the Division to be as cautious as possible in avoiding unsightly and unnecessary structures in his neighborhood and in the City. He isn't aware that this program has been widely adopted in other cities, and wonders if it is worth the expense and the concerns about siting and health issues. He said the report indicates that in some area of the City the number of pressure valves has overbuilt, and some will be removed which he believes is good, but doesn't know how that will impact the immediate neighborhood. He said all he can do is urge the Committee and the Water Division to be as careful as possible not to downgrade the quality level.

John McFie, private consultant in environmental health. Mr. McFie disclosed that he is employed by the State Health Department, but he is not here on behalf of the Department. He is in favor of the telephone telemetry option. He said he is concerned as a taxpayer about any lawsuits regarding health issues compromised by the towers, and is concerned about real estate values being compromised by the towers. He said from an environmental health standpoint, he endorses the previous recommendation to follow the cautionary principle.

Steven Pavlett, 1062 Sierra del Norte, said he is in the subdivision, as well as in the escarpment overlay district, specifically in the foothills section, as is much of Sierra del Norte. He believes some of it is in the ridgetop section. He is against the radio towers. He said, "Putting them in, flies in the face of the purpose and intent of the Escarpment Overlay District Ordinance, Section 14-5.6(A)(1)(c) and (e), which provides, "Part of the purpose and intent in 14-5.6(A)(1)(c) is to conserve the value of buildings and land." He said Subparagraph (e) provides, "Preserve the natural environment and the distinctive and historic ridgetop and foothills area environment as a visual asset for the benefit of the community, and to maintain and encourage the sense of the City as a small community." He quoted from another section, "The ordinance will regulate the permissible locations for placement of all utilities, etc." He said Section (L)(1) provides, "All new and replacement water, gas, electric, telephone, television and all other utilities... in the Escarpment District shall be placed underground."

Mr. Pavlett referred to the letter from the Los Cerros Colorados HOA [Exhibit "2"] which provides, "Telephone telemetry is recommended to be utilized only in locations where radio telemetry is infeasible, such as very hilly, isolated sites or where restrictive covenants exists." He questions whether you can have good transmission without some repeater towers. He said the restrictive covenants of Sierra del

Norte provides that, "All utility pipes in use within the subdivision, not limited to and including radio systems, shall be buried and maintained..."

Chair Wurzbarger noted Mr. Pavlett has exceeded the two minutes and asked him to please summarize. Mr. Pavlett said, "I'm against it. Don't do it."

Chair Wurzbarger asked him if he is saying don't do anything, or if he is against all of it, and asked him to clarify his statement.

Mr. Pavlett said, "I'm against radio telemetry in any form for the reasons mentioned tonight, for the reasons in the Cerros Colorados letter, the reasons I mentioned, and specifically for Sierra del Norte for the reasons I mentioned here. It flies in the face of what the City can surpass in the Escarpment Overlay District Ordinance. "

Marjorie Young said she doesn't want to see the towers. She said not enough is known about them.

Nina Ramirez, [inaudible] Mobile Home Park. Ms. Ramirez said there are members of her Association in attendance. They are against the radio towers being brought up, and they would rather have the line through Qwest. She said there are health issues. She said where the towers are proposed to be located will make it difficult for the residents to maneuver in and out of the mobile homes. She said, more importantly, the opposition is because of health issues. She said there are people with young children and there is an individual in the area with cancer. She would like to say more, but unfortunately her attorney was confused about the time in which the session was supposed to have been held. .

Guy Gronquist, 730 Camino Pinones, said his neighbor, James Atwood spoke earlier. Mr. Gronquist is concerned about the defacement of the neighborhood with the installation of these boxes. In the first instance, the site on Camino Pines is only a "stones throw" away from the new Botanical Garden, Museum Hill. He said tourism in Santa Fe is down, and we need to do what we can to encourage the return of tourists and take care of the real estate values which also down and impact all of us. If the boxes are necessary, and he questions that seriously, we shouldn't add insult to injury by installing potentially dangerous radio telemetry and go for the telephone option if the boxes are necessary.

The Public Hearing was Closed

Ann Browning, 1908 Cerros Colorados, was recognized to ask one question by the Chair after the public hearing was closed. Ms. Browning said, "Do we have a right to examine this new plan in its entirety and ask questions and consider it. I did hear the word 'poles and wires,' and I would also question the size of the boxes."

Chair Wurzbarger reiterated that the Public Hearing is closed, and called for questions and comments from the Committee.

Councilor Calvert asked Mr. Snyder to state the purpose of this system.

Mr. Snyder said, "The purpose of this pressure reducing valve system is to monitor the pressures.. We have, city-wide, a huge elevation change. We have over 1,000 feet of elevation change between one end of the City, the west side and to primarily on the east side. Because of that, we have our City broken up into 10 pressure zones. Any time a water main crosses a pressure zone, we have a pressure reducing valve. The purpose of that pressure reducing valve is, as you go through a pressure reducing valve, it reduces the pressure so it doesn't have too much pressure in the water line as well as the service line to peoples homes. The intent of this system is to monitor that pressure. What it would do, whether its via radio, whether via telephone line, it will send the signals out to a general collection system that will know where each of these PRV sites area, monitor the upstream and downstream pressures and have a range that is in your typical operation range. When the pressure gets out of that typical operation range, the City staff will be alarmed and the City staff can respond to that specific site."

Mr. Snyder continued, "The system is a pro-active system to eliminate water main breaks that are caused by a pressure reducing valve failing, but not all water main breaks are caused by pressure reducing valve failing. However, there have been several incidences in the past few years where a pressure reducing valve fails and then a water main breaks. Another pressure reducing valves open in response to the pressure reducing valve failing as a ripple effect. What this system will allow us to do is to be able to respond to a specific site with the large number of total PRV sites that we have, 50 or so over a two-phase program we've identified, it's difficult for our staff to respond to the actual site. So this program allows us to respond to the site and minimize the number of failures in our water system caused by PRV."

Councilor Calvert asked the costs when a water main does break.

Mr. Snyder said it varies, and depends on the size of the main, how quickly we can respond and other factors. Most recently there was a water main break on Zia Road near Yucca, and paving alone for the road was \$90,000, and that doesn't include the excavation, materials, time and labor. He believes the total cost was \$160,000 for just that one.

Councilor Calvert asked Mr. Snyder to use his hands to give an approximation of the size of the apparatus which would be required for the new option.

Mr. Snyder did so, saying the new RTU box is proposed to be mounted near the ground so it isn't visual, and it has to be as near the PRV site as possible.

Councilor Calvert asked if it can be mounted on the ground and Mr. Snyder said yes.

Mr. Snyder said the telephone modem is a rectangular box which could be mounted immediately adjacent to the RTU, noting there is flexibility as to where it's mounted. He said there is an electric service

pedestal. He said, "The 56 inches is a PNM requirement that it needs to be above the ground. The box itself is 10 inches by 10 inches. It's a box that is similar to what you have on the side of your house."

Councilor Calvert asked if we were to adopt the new layout – telephone telemetry with underground electric service – he would hope it would comply with any of the areas with covenant restrictions and that staff would verify that.

Mr. Snyder said he would work with each of the associations to verify that.

Councilor Calvert said the cost difference is about \$47,000, and Mr. Snyder said it is in that range.

Councilor Calvert said if we were able to eliminate some of the stations or locations in Phase 2, of the project, we probably would break even from original budget.

Mr. Snyder said Phase 2 hasn't started, so they haven't looked at any of the sites for the particulars, but "you're correct."

MOTION: Councilor Calvert moved, seconded by Councilor Romero, to approve the telephone telemetry option with underground electric service for covenant restricted areas as well as all areas in Phase 1, and then staff can come back after they have worked with the public in Phase 2 for approval, with direction to staff to work with any associations on siting issues in their areas.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Romero thanked Mr. Snyder for staff's work to come up with a good option. She asked Mr. Snyder to comment on the testimony with regard to the need for repeater towers in Cerros Colorados.

Mr. Snyder said Cerros Colorados is in Phase 2 so it has not been fully vetted and evaluated. He said if the City chooses the telephone option in that area, a repeater tower wouldn't be needed, because we will be tied into the telephone line. Mr. Snyder said another thing included in the packet is a modification to the review criteria table which addresses a concern with regard to the very hilly, isolated, restrictive covenants areas to include all areas where are existing underground utilities. He said Cerros Colorados is an area where there are existing underground utilities.

Councilor Romero asked how long it will take to retire some of the locations, noting several said "retire," and she is unsure what this means.

Mr. Snyder said staff has identified those sites as being able to be retired, and will try to work them into our CIP. He said there are budgets for line replacements and main extensions, PRV work which we would work on those sites to retire. The goal definitely is to work to retire toward the end of the year, although he doesn't think it is feasible to get all of the identified retired this year, but they want to take a step forward in getting a portion retired this year.

Councilor Ortiz asked where the City will find the money to fund the proposed changes, and asked if it is budgeted in this fiscal year.

Mr. Snyder said they would look at CIP and look at shuffling projects, noting there are projects with identified funding for main replacements and PRV work. He said it would be necessary to reprioritize some of those projects.

Councilor Ortiz asked if it is true, as Councilor Calvert stated, that the total additional costs as reconfigured will amount only to about an additional \$40,000.

Mr. Snyder said the difference between the amount in the original proposal to modify Phase 1, and the all-telephone network, as well as the elimination of 8 sites, is approximately in the ballpark of \$40,000.

Councilor Trujillo asked if the \$40,000 including landscaping.

Mr. Snyder said no landscaping is factored into the cost. He said we talked about painting the silver boxes and that is in the budget, but the physical landscaping is not in the budget.

Councilor Trujillo understands everything in Cerros Colorados is underground.

Mr. Snyder said Cerros Colorados currently has an above grade PRV station, and a coyote fence has been built around the above grade PRV.

Councilor Trujillo said he is hearing from these people that all utilities are underground. Mr. Snyder said he can't speak about all the utilities.

Councilor Trujillo asked about satellite television and asked if it is allowed because of health reasons, and Mr. Snyder said he can't speak to this question.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Councilor Calvert would like to amend the motion that this would comply with all City ordinances and the Water Division would remove all existing pieces of equipment that don't conform to this plan as soon as possible. **THE AMENDMENT WAS FRIENDLY TO THE SECOND, AND THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS BY THE OTHER COUNCILORS.**

Chair Wurzbarger said much of the discussion has focused on money. She asked Mr. Snyder to clarify how long the water service could be down when this kind of system isn't in place.

Mr. Snyder said people have been out of water for hours to 36-48 hours when there is a main break.

Chair Wurzbarger said constituents have called her saying their water is off for two days.

VOTE: The motion, as amended, was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

Chair Wurzburger thanked staff for their additional work on this issue.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

12. WATER LOW INCOME CREDIT/THIRD TIER RATE RECOMMENDATIONS. (BRIAN SNYDER AND JASON MUMM)

Brian Snyder noted the Memorandum in the packet from Mike Dutton to Brian Snyder, dated September 6, 2009, regarding the low income credit program, noting Mr. Dutton works with Jason Mumm. He said the high third tier is missing. He said Ms. Dutton and Mr. Mumm are working to make a recommendation regarding the high third tier. He said currently there are approximately 162 residents using the low income credit, noting people qualify for that at an income at 120% of the federal poverty level. He said the census data indicates there are more than 3,900 residents who could qualify for the low income credit. He said currently the 163 participants received discounts of \$26,000. He said 100% participation would cost more than \$633,000. He said there are a huge number of people who currently qualify the low income credit which do not participate. He said this is of concern to Mr. Mumm, because if there was participation by 100% of those at 200% of the federal guidelines there would be \$1.2 million in lost revenue.

Mr. Snyder said the difficulty in determining how to balance this is how many people will participate, reiterating currently there is a super low level of eligible participation.

Councilor Calvert asked how well the City advertises this, saying he can't imagine people wouldn't participate.

Mr. Snyder said he understands in the past the City hasn't put much focus on advertising, and this is one of the recommendations which will be in the next Memorandum from Mr. Mumm as an option.

Councilor Calvert said it has to be put to the public in a form that people understand, and how to go about qualifying and determining how they qualify.

Chair Wurzburger said this is a reactive system for those who can't pay their water bills – that is the trigger rather than publication that this is available. She looks forward to hearing staff recommendations with regard to how to make this a viable program.

Mr. Snyder said he would defer to Peter Ortega to describe if it is different from what he understands.

Chair Wurzburger would like that clarification when he come back with the report from Mr. Mumm.

Councilor Romero said she facilitated a low income energy group who was looking at ways to get help to people that need it. She said the report to the Legislature was from a collaborative group including

those from weatherization. She said one of the issues is when these triggers happen. She has a sense that people are getting help in other ways, and she isn't concerned about the numbers. Her sense is that the trigger is when people can't pay their bill and come in and find out what is available. She is comfortable with that message, because their findings were that people got help from other areas. She said that report might be helpful for this Committee and she will provide a copy to them.

MATTERS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY

There were no matters from the City Attorney.

ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no items from staff.

MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE

There were no items from the Committee.

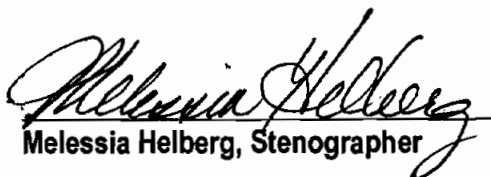
NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2009

Councilor Ortiz said he will be unable to attend this meeting.

ADJOURN

There was no further business to come before the Committee, the Committee having completed its agenda. Councilor moved, seconded by Councilor , to adjourn, the motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Rebecca Wurzbarger, Chair



Melessia Helberg, Stenographer