



IGNACIO TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 30, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Abel F. Atencio Community Room, 570 Goddard Avenue
and via Remote Public Meeting

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Mayor Craig called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM by leading in the pledge of allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Clark Craig, Trustee Tom Atencio, Mayor Pro Tem Edward Box III, Trustee Alison deKay, Trustee Jeremy Schulz

Absent: Trustee Joseph Atencio, Trustee Sandra Maez

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Action: Trustee deKay moved to approve the agenda as written; Trustee Schulz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Temporary changes to the Utility Billing Policy

Ms. Dunton reviewed the proposed temporary changes to the utility billing policy. This involves not charging late fees although continuing to send late notices; if someone makes a partial payment, staff would apply the funds to all other utilities, including gas tax, prior to applying the remaining portion to the gas utility; not disconnecting utilities January through April (the coldest months of the year); not charging reconnect fees; and waiving the 10% Capital Factor that the Town adds to the Southern Ute Rate. After some questions and discussion from the Board, direction was given to staff to change the “Disconnect Notice” to “Late Payment Notice.” Mayor Craig stated that he and Mr. Garcia met with Shane Seibel, Chairman Baker and Vice-Chair Cloud to discuss the possibility of the Southern Ute Utility Division (SUUD) removing the 20% that they add to the purchase price. The Town adds 10% to the SUUD rate; the Town has control over the 10% but not anything else. There has been no response from the Tribe yet.

Direction was also given to staff to check into reserves in the gas fund, possibly using ARPA funds to offset some of the costs, possibly using monies from other enterprise funds and/or the general fund to offset some of the cost, and to make this an on-going agenda item.

Mayor Craig opened the floor for public comment. Various members of the community expressed concern for themselves and others who cannot afford the increase; some gave suggestions; other expressed political views; several expressed appreciation for the Board planning ahead and looking at this issue.

Mayor Craig expressed appreciation to each person who attended this evening and called for a motion.

Action: Trustee deKay moved to approve the temporary changes to the Utility Billing Policy as outlined above; Trustee Schulz seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a roll call vote; the motion passed unanimously.

Action: Trustee Atencio made a motion to give \$50.00 to each account, residential and commercial, to help address this issue. Mayor Pro Tem Box III seconded the motion. Trustee deKay stated that she did not have sufficient information to support that motion. Mayor Craig stated that staff was directed to research and check into the various options for assisting our customers and bring that back to the Board for discussion and possible action at the regular meeting in two weeks. Because there was a motion and second, Mayor Craig called for a roll call vote. The motion did not pass; the final vote was two ayes and three nays.

B. ELHI Acquisition Discussion

Mayor Craig stated that this item was on the ISD Board agenda so he attended the meeting to answer any questions that may have come up. The Town offered \$800,000 cash; the school attorney stated that the school is able to carry the note and the Town would appropriate the funds annually for this expense. It would be added to the budget as a line item. Mr. Garcia stated that this would be written as a lease purchase agreement; the school attorney did not get it to Mr. Garcia in time for the meeting tonight so it will be on the agenda for the February 13 meeting.

No action was taken on this item.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, the special meeting was adjourned 6:51 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Monday, February 13, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the Abel F. Atencio Community Room and via Remote Public Meeting.



Clark Craig, Mayor

02/13/2023

Date



Attest: Tuggy Dunton, Town Clerk