

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE ELECTRIC UTILITY RATES AND CHARGES

Mayor Scott Peterson opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Peterson asked if there was anyone that would like to speak for or against the adjustment to the electric utility rates and charges. Mayor Scott Peterson recognized Andrew Ross. Mr. Ross addressed the City Council and the Citizens about the rate study and the need to raise electrical rates to keep up with inflation and infrastructure needs. Mayor Scott Peterson closed the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Las Animas, County of Bent, State of Colorado, met in regular session in the City Council chambers on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 7:17 p.m. The City Council meeting was in person and hosted by facebook live. There being present at roll call were the following members:

Mayor:	Scott Peterson
Council members:	Troy Abdulla Kimberlie King Cassandra Siefkas Robert Sonny Smith Lynette Wolfe
Absent:	David Armstrong
Youth Advisor:	Phoebe Frausto

Mayor Scott Peterson declared a quorum present.

Others Present:

Jason Meyer:	GMS Engineering
Greg Champney:	Las Animas Code Enforcement Officer
Ronald Clodfelter:	Superintendent of Light & Power
Wyatt Dowell:	Public Works Foreman
Virginia Freed:	Interested Citizen
Richard Gallegos:	Deputy City Clerk
Amanda Leck:	Bent County Development Foundation Director
Rose Prichard:	Interested Citizen
Tim Shefchic:	Cobblestone Hotel
Ross Stotz:	Interested Citizen
Michael Talmage:	Las Animas Light & Power Appointee
Charmaine Tripp:	City Clerk & Treasurer
Tony Umi:	Interested Citizen
Ken Wagner:	Public Works Director

Other Citizens joining on facebook live.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Scott Peterson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas moved, Councilwoman Kimberlie King seconded to approve the Consent Agenda including the Regular Minutes of the April 12, 2022 meeting and the April 20, 2022 Special Call Minutes and the April 2022 vouchers and to add Tim Shefchik from Cobblestone Hotels and Tony Umi for Citizen participation and to add the Archway discussion to unfinished business. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

a. Jason Meyer-GMS Engineering

Mayor Scott Peterson recognized Jason Meyer from GMS Engineering. Mr. Meyer gave an update on the sewer improvement project and the wetlands project. Mr. Meyer stated that the wetlands project is complete and that the sewer improvement project will be finished in the fall upon the return of the contractors. Mr. Meyer also presented a change order for approval and the pay request from GMS Engineering for a total of \$239,026.90 to Swerdfeger Construction for completion of the wetlands project. City Attorney Brandon Dittman informed the City Council that a Resolution will need to be prepared and considered at another meeting. Upon recommendation from the Public Works Board, Councilwoman Kimberlie King moved, Councilman Lynette Wolf seconded to approve the contract and the change order and authorize Mayor Scott Peterson to sign the documents and to ratify the action with a Resolution at a future meeting. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

b. Tim Shefchic-Cobblestone Hotels contractor

Mayor Scott Peterson recognized Tim Shefchic. Mr. Shefchic gave an overview of the Cobblestone Hotels proposal for Las Animas. Mr. Shefchic went over the current properties in Colorado that have a Cobblestone Hotel. Mr. Shefchic explained that a hotel with 41 to 45 rooms is planned for Las Animas. Mr. Shefchic is hoping that the City is willing to create an incentive package with possible tax incentives, water, sewer and electric rebates, and/or infrastructure incentives to help sell the project to the investors. Mr. Shefchic explained that the hotel would bring in 8 to 10 jobs in addition to bringing in customers who will spend money in our City while staying in the hotel. Mayor Scott Peterson thanked Mr. Shefchic for his presentation.

c. Toni Umi-Dog Control by the Bent County Sheriff's Office

Mr. Umi stated that he has just moved to Las Animas. Mr. Umi stated that he is very disappointed with the response he received during an animal call. Mr. Umi is asking the City Council to act on the complaints concerning the animal enforcement by the Bent County Sheriff. Mr. Umi also asked that the City Council work on updating the City of Las Animas/Bent County Sheriff agreement.

PUBLIC WORKS BOARD REPORT

Upon recommendation from the Public Works board, Councilman Troy Abdulla moved, Councilman Robert Smith seconded to approve the waiver of the surcharge for water leaks for the following properties: William Nelson of 616 Vine Ave in the amount of \$39.15, Joe Campos of 524 Bent Ave in the amount of \$25.22, Chasity Duran of 223 Bent Ave in the amount of \$162.71. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

BENT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION DIRECTOR REPORT

Amanda Leck reported that she is continuing to submit grant applications to different agencies to benefit the City and County. Ms. Leck announced that a groundbreaking ceremony will be held at the workforce housing on May 25, 2022.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas announced that the paint & connect project will take place from June 20, 2022 to July 1, 2022. Councilwoman Siefkas stated that there will be a place to sign up to volunteer. Councilwoman Lynette Wolfe stated that there will be a music fest during the paint & connect.

Councilman Troy Abdulla announced that additional banners have been ordered for the four seasons for the downtown area.

Councilman Troy Abdulla discussed the lease with the Las Animas/Bent County Golf Course. The Board and the City are working on the golf course lease. The hall will be rented and taken care of by the City of Las Animas.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-22, A RESOLUTION OF ELECTRICAL POWER PROVIDED TO RATE PAYERS OF THE LAS ANIMAS MUNICIPAL LIGHT & POWER

Upon recommendation from the Las Animas Light & Power Board, Councilwoman Kimberlie King moved, Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas seconded to approve RESOLUTION NO. 4-22, A RESOLUTION OF ELECTRICAL POWER PROVIDED TO RATE PAYERS OF THE LAS ANIMAS MUNICIPAL LIGHT & POWER. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried. Public comment was asked for at the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 5-22, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAS ANIMAS, COLORADO APPROVING A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FOR SMART WATER METER UPGRADES

Upon recommendation from the Public Works Board, Councilwoman Lynette Wolfe moved, Councilwoman Kimberlie King seconded to approve RESOLUTION NO. 5-22, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAS ANIMAS, COLORADO APPROVING A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FOR SMART WATER METER UPGRADES. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried

FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAS ANIMAS, COLORADO, TO CREATE BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Councilwoman Kimberlie King moved, Councilwoman Lynette Wolfe seconded to continue consideration on first reading until the June 14, 2022 Regular City Council meeting AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAS ANIMAS, COLORADO, TO CREATE BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 6-22, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAS ANIMAS, COLORADO, APPOINTING BOARD MEMBERS

Councilman Robert Smith moved, Councilman Troy Abdulla seconded to consider RESOLUTION NO. 6-22, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAS ANIMAS, COLORADO, APPOINTING BOARD MEMBERS on the July 12, Regular City Council meeting. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 7-22, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAS ANIMAS, COLORADO, APPROVING CERTAIN EXPENSES FOR FURNITURE AND FIXTURES ON THE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Councilman Troy Abdulla moved, Councilwoman Lynette Wolfe seconded to approve RESOLUTION NO. 7-22, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAS ANIMAS, COLORADO, APPROVING CERTAIN EXPENSES FOR FURNITURE AND FIXTURES ON THE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT GRANT. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL TALMAGE TO THE LAS ANIMAS LIGHT & POWER BOARD

Upon recommendation of the Las Animas Light & Power Board, Councilman Troy Abdulla moved, Councilwoman Kimberlie King seconded to appoint Michael Talmage to the Las Animas Light & Power Board. On a voice vote, with Councilman Robert Smith abstaining, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF JESSICA TOMLIN TO THE LAS ANIMAS/BENT COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

Councilwoman Cassandra Siefkas moved, Councilman Troy Abdulla seconded to appoint Jessica Tomlin to the Las Animas/Bent County Library Board. On a voice vote, Mayor Scott Peterson declared the Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Archway Discussion-Mayor Peterson stated that the Archway project was not possible due to the logistics. Councilwoman Kimberlie King stated that she just wanted to be informed of the decision to not move forward with the Archway.

ADJOURNED: Mayor Scott Peterson Declared the meeting adjourned 10:28 p.m.

Charmaine D. Tripp
City Clerk & Treasurer

ATTEST:

Scott Peterson
Scott Peterson, Mayor