

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

December 7, 2021

The adjourned regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities held on the 7th day of December, 2021, was called to order at 4:00 p.m. with CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL presiding and the following COMMISSIONERS present:

COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE, BROWN, MOFFITT AND McNEIL

Also Present: SECRETARY SALLIS, CITY MANAGER DANIELS AND OTHER KEY STAFF

EX ABSNC COMMISSIONER MOFFITT MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, to grant an excused absence to COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE, BROWN, MOFFITT AND McNEIL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER

APPROVAL AGENDA COMMISSIONER McNEIL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MOFFITT, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE, BROWN, MOFFITT AND McNEIL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER

CORSPNDN: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL acknowledged the resignation submitted by Candace Martinez.

PBLC APRN: None

CONSENT CALNDR CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL requested to pull agenda item 3 (Forbearance of Conserved System Water under the Palo Verde Irrigation District 2021 Agricultural Fallowing Agreement).

COMMISSIONER McNEIL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, to pull agenda item 3 and approve items 1, 2 and 4

1. Minutes of regular meeting held November 2, 2021
2. Approve Tasks No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 of the Electrical General Services Contract with Petrelli Electric Co working under the electric circuit reliability program to energize a cultivation site located at Victory Lane and Highway 95 South, and continue the pole change out program for poles located on J Street from Balboa to Parkway and Needles Christian Church with total work not to exceed \$535,650 (\$267,650 to be paid with electric system improvement funds and \$268,000 to be paid with electric asset replacement funds)
4. Cancel the regular Board meeting of December 21, 2021

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,
BROWN, MOFFITT AND McNEIL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER

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CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL spoke on issues which included if the restoration of the lagoon is considered a capture of agricultural fallowing; the city can only order its maximum allotment of water so why is this agreement necessary; and when there was a similar letter previously, the city said no as Needles received nothing from it. Why not say no again and get something out of it? City Manager Daniels explained that the city does order its maximum allotment of water every year but does not use that maximum. The Bureau of Reclamation is asking that when underutilized, that water will stay in Lake Mead and the city cannot come back and claim it later. This is part of the cooperative efforts to conserve water and does not jeopardize the city's water rights or impose any liability.

COMMISSIONER MOFFITT MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LeJEUNE, to authorize the city manager to execute a Forbearance of Conserved System Water under the Palo Verde Irrigation District 2021 Agricultural Fallowing Agreement acknowledging that Needles will not exercise its right to capture water that other users leave in the Colorado River for conservation and storage purposes. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,
BROWN, MOFFITT AND McNEIL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER

REG ITEMS: None

REPORTS: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL acknowledged the following reports with a brief explanation and discussion: 1) Needles Public Utility Authority first quarterly newsletter (winter 2021) addressing electrical power purchasing education, upcoming water improvements, and recent wastewater maintenance; 2) California arrearage payment program (CAPP) and California water & wastewater arrearage payment program to provide relief to community water and wastewater systems for unpaid bills related to the pandemic; 3) EUSI, LLC operational support services relating to the wastewater treatment facility and collection system October 2021; 4) Needles present perfected rights (PPR) report October 2021

MGR'S RPT: City Manager Daniels noted that the electric dept. float placed 1st in the Christmas parade. He also explained that the city received \$1.9 million in grant funding for the new well which was put out to bid and came in at \$5.2 million. The engineer's estimate was \$1.9 so was granted that amount. Staff is working with the State Water Resources Control Board who have indicated that they will cover the cost. Only one bid was received from Layne Christensen and City Manager Daniels has

provided them with a letter of intent to secure timing for our project to move ahead. He's further authorized purchase of the pipe to avoid a continued increase in those costs. Anticipated start date is end of January/early February 2022. Lily Hill and 'L' Street booster stations bid openings are scheduled for tomorrow. Lastly, he reminded the Board of the current vacancy and encouraged interested persons to submit an application.

BRD RQSTS: COMMISSIONER McNEIL expressed his appreciation for the nine water projects moving forward.

City Manager Daniels reported on a proposal at a city council meeting to take a portion of the cannabis revenues and use to rebate the utility customers for the recent increase. CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL and VICE CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDER sent a letter to the council encouraging them to reduce the utilities debt. Asst Utility Manager Torrance is working on scenarios to pay down the debt and reduce operating costs.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL declared the adjourned regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities held on the 7th day of December, 2021, adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

ATTEST: _____

Chairman

Secretary