



Los Alamos County Council

Minutes

February 7, 2012

7:00 P.M. – Community Building

These minutes have been approved by the Los Alamos County Council. Contact the County Clerk's Office to review and/or purchase the official minutes.

Regular Session

1. OPENING

Sharon Stover, Chair
Ronald D. Selvage, Vice-Chair
Frances M. Berting, Councilor
Vincent Chiravalle, Councilor
David Izraelevitz, Councilor
Geoffrey M. Rodgers, Councilor
Michael E. Wismer, Councilor

Harry Burgess, County Administrator
C. Brian James, Acting County Attorney
Naomi D. Maestas, Deputy Clerk
Members of the Media, Public
and County Staff

Councilor Stover called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Eric Fairfield, 3000 Trinity # 70, informed Council he has been contacted by a company who states they are able to monitor the County's water by installing a few simple instruments.

Mr. Steven Brugger, Housing Programs Manager, introduced Mr. Greg Fisher, as the newly hired Economic Vitality Administrator.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Izraelevitz moved, seconded by Councilor Berting, that Council approve the agenda, as presented. **The motion passed 7 – 0; by acclamation.**

4. PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND RECOGNITIONS

- A. Recognition of Deputy Clerk Recorder Naomi Maestas for Completion of Her Certified Public Official Certification.

Councilor Stover and Councilor Izraelevitz presented Ms. Maestas with the certification.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Vacation of Drainage Easement at Vista Del Este Partnership, Lot 44A, Quemazon Communities Phase 1 Subdivision, 4725 Quemazon, Los Alamos, NM 87544.
- B. Incorporated County of Los Alamos Resolution No. 12-02, A Resolution Authorizing the County to Submit an Application to the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division, to Participate in the Local DWI Grant and Distribution Program.
- C. Change Order No. 2 to Contract 2011-01 for the Purpose of Los Alamos Canyon Dam Modifications with Kiewit New Mexico Company in the Amount of \$225,367.92, plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax.

D. Board/Commission Appointment(s) - Art in Public Places Board.

Councilor Berting moved, seconded by Councilor Wismer, that Council approve Items A through D on the Consent Agenda, as presented; and that the motions in the staff reports be included for the record.

5.A. I move that Council vacate the drainage easement at Vista Del Este Partnership, Lot 44A, Quemazon Communities Phase 1 Subdivision, 4725 Quemazon, Los Alamos, New Mexico as described in the attached vacation of drainage easement documents.

5.B. I move that Council adopt Incorporated County of Los Alamos Resolution No. 12-02, A Resolution Authorizing the County to Submit an Application to the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division, to participate in the Local DWI Grant and Distribution Program.

5.C. I move that Council approve Change Order No. 2 to Contract 2011-01 for the Purpose of Los Alamos Canyon Dam Modifications with Kiewit New Mexico Company in the Amount of \$225,367.92, plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax.

5.D. I move that Council nominate Becky Cordova for re-appointment to the Art in Public Places Board for a term beginning on November 4, 2011 and ending on November 3, 2013. I also nominate Peggy Pendergast for re-appointment to the Art in Public Places Board for a term beginning February 12, 2012 and ending February 11, 2014.

The motion passed 7 - 0.

6. PUBLIC HEARING (S)

A. Incorporated County Of Los Alamos Ordinance No. 595; An Ordinance Adopting The Incorporated County Of Los Alamos Official Zoning Map Dated February 7, 2012 To Include All Previously Adopted Revisions.

Mr. Brugger acknowledged this is a yearly housekeeping matter of updating the official zoning map with the prior year's re-zonings.

Councilor Stover called for public comment. There was none.

Councilor Selvage moved, seconded by Councilor Berting, that Council adopt Incorporated County of Los Alamos Ordinance No. 595; An Ordinance Adopting the Incorporated County of Los Alamos Official Zoning Map Dated February 7, 2012 to Include All Previously Adopted Revisions through December 31, 2011. **The motion passed 7 - 0.**

7. BUSINESS

A. Presentation of NM 502 Design Options-DP Road to Airport Road.

Mr. Burgess provided a brief history of the project. He introduced Ms. Ann Laurent, Capital Projects & Facilities Director and Mr. Carl Moore, of The Community Store, who served as the meeting facilitator for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) process.

Ms. Laurent gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the history of the project, the 502 Corridor project goals, the road design, how to find a balance of what the road should be, a breakdown of the different options, and the next steps in moving forward. (*The PowerPoint presentation has been attached for the record.*) She recognized and expressed her gratitude to the members of the Transportation Board (T-Board) and the TAC who assisted in this endeavor. She introduced Mr. David Quintana, the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) Technical

Support Engineer, Mr. Kyle Zimmerman, Engineering Division Manager, and Mr. Eugene Dougherty, Chairman of the T-Board.

Mr. Moore outlined the process in which the TAC members considered the design options and the nature of the work conducted. He noted their findings can be found on the final TAC Report.

Mr. Dougherty provided a summary of the board's analysis of the project. He acknowledged while the T-Boards formal recommendation is not on the table, option 1 was the option valued by the T-Board.

Councilor Stover called for public comment.

The following citizens cited evidence that supported their opinion and spoke in support of option 1: Ms. Sue Pope, 966 Nambe Loop; Mr. Don Machen, 1110 1st St.; Ms. Susannah Smith, 109 Glenview Dr.; Ms. Janie O'Rourke, 426 Circle Dr.; Mr. Randall Rytte, 1879 Camino Manzanita; Mr. Peter O'Rourke, 426 Circle Dr.; Ms. Kyle Wheeler, 1855 Los Pueblos; Mr. Mark Jones, 520 Navajo Rd.; Mr. Michael Redondo, 390 Manhattan Lp.; Ms. Kate O'Donnell, 1300 Bathtub Row; Ms. Betsy Lucido, 944 Santa Clara Pl.; Mr. Norm Delamater, 960 Otowi; Mr. Scott Lucido, 944 Santa Clara Pl.; Mr. Victor Rutherford, 1060 Pinion Lp.; Mr. John Tauxe, 550 Kiva St.; Mr. Benjamin Warner, 903 Tewa Lp.; Mr. Jose Carreno, 937 Tewa Lp.; Ms. Julia Baker, 2464 46th St.; Ms. Karyl Ann Armbruster, 605 Totavi; Ms. Sallye Sibbitt, 939 Tewa Lp.; Mr. Michele Altherr, 1900 Camino Redondo; Mr. Chris Stubben, 2482 A 46th St.; Mr. Skip Dunn, 107 Sierra Dr.; Ms. Becky Shankland, 6 Mariposa St.; Mr. Joe Ben Schaumberg, 3745 Trinity Dr.; Ms. Kelly Myers, 1234 45th St.; Ms. Kristen Henderson, 5075 Alegria; Mr. Mike Hoog, 1196 45th St..

Also citing evidence that supported their view, the following citizens spoke in favor of options 2 or 4: Mr. Norbert Ensslin, 3097 Woodland Rd.; Ms. Patricia Max, 2156 37th St.; Mr. Don Upham, 297 El Viento; Ms. Coleen Hanlon, 911 Circle Dr.; Ms. Joyce Cady, 1451 47th St.; Mr. Howard Cady, 1451 47th St.; Ms. Phyllis Holland, 215 Rio Bravo; Mr. Victor Gavron, 40 La Cueva; Ms. Bo West, 10 Kachina; Mr. William Mead, 10 Bonito Pl.; Mr. Anthony Amsden, 520 Rim Rd.; Mr. Greg Thompson, 260 Navajo; Ms. Shannon Blaylock, 274 Barranca Rd.; and Mr. Michael DiRosa, 3045 Orange St..

Mr. Eric Fairfield, 3000 Trinity #70 suggested considering what the future traffic patterns may be in this area.

Ms. Liza Ermeling, 61 Joya Loop, spoke as the Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Board. She noted the board unanimously supported an option that is based on sustainability and environmentally sound goals and requested that Council take those goals into consideration.

Mr., Vernon Smith, 109 Glenview Dr.; asked what options are supported by NMDOT.

Councilor Stover called for a recess at 9:31p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 9:48 p.m.

Councilor Stover welcomed Mr. Quintana to the dais.

Councilor Berting asked Mr. Quintana what is NMDOT's position on the various options.

Mr. Quintana remarked further data and analysis will need to be gathered before he could provide a constructive opinion of options 1 and 3. He added NMDOT can support the 90 degree geometric changes to DP Road intersection and NM502, as proposed by Mr. Zimmerman, as well as the roundabout at Central and NM502, as those modifications are similar to the preferred alternatives NMDOT accepted in 2007. However, the remainder of the road east of Central to the Airport will require further engineering analysis with regard to levels of service and capacity. He affirmed that NMDOT could support option 4, as it is almost identical to the design NMDOT proposed in 2007, or a similar five-lane option. He also affirmed that if the county and state entered into a road exchange agreement, NMDOT would support any option.

Councilor Berting questioned if a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required for each any of the options.

Mr. Quintana answered due to the time lapse an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be required of any of the options; however, the level of effort for an EIS will not be required.

Councilor Wismer asked for specifics regarding long-term maintenance costs for a signalized intersection versus a roundabout.

Ms. Laurent explained while both roundabouts and traffic lights have similar initial construction costs; intersections and traffic signals have a life cycle, which will require routine maintenance.

Mr. Zimmerman further clarified traffic signal equipment must be replaced every 15-20 years, as over a period of time parts are no longer stocked. Currently, the cost to replace each mast arm, which weakens due to the wind, is \$300,000, divided over a 20 year life cycle that supplementary cost is estimated to be \$15,000. Signals also require electricity and yearly maintenance, which entails approximately one week of labor annually by county staff. He stated there will be landscaping costs associated with roundabouts.

Councilor Wismer asked if the process of granting over this portion of road to the County has been initiated.

Ms. Laurent explained this issue requires a lot of research, as to what the implications would be to the County. However, those discussions may be evident if NMDOT returns to Council with conditions that Council feels are unacceptable.

Councilor Wismer asked Mr. Moore for a general overview of the process used to conduct the TAC meetings and how comprehensive were the TAC meetings?

Mr. Moore explained it was made clear at the initial meeting as to what the purpose of the TAC was and was not. The essential structure of the meetings included an expert presentation of some of the options considered, with the group having an opportunity to provide their feedback of each presentation, as well as to contribute ideas of potential modifications of what was being proposed. There was also a very active email exchange in between meetings.

Councilor Rodgers asked if one of the revised motions were passed what would the trigger event be that would cause staff to bring this matter back to Council.

Ms. Laurent replied option 1 or 3 have a trigger of any type of revision. With options 1R and 3R that trigger is not inherent in the motion and would come back before Council in the form of an agreement.

Councilor Rodgers asked if the T-Boards recommendation was option 1.

Ms. Laurent confirmed it was.

Councilor Rodgers requested that the record reflect that the T-Boards official recommendation is option 1.

Councilor Selvage asked if reducing the two eastbound lanes will be an issue for approval by NMDOT.

Mr. Quintana remarked the further engineering analysis will determine if the reduction of the second eastbound lane can be accepted.

Councilor Selvage asked if option 1 was approved who would conduct the additional analysis.

Ms. Laurent answered that would be a joint effort made by the County and NMDOT; until questions are formulated it is unclear if an outside entity is required.

Mr. Quintana affirmed he was comfortable with County staff conducting the analysis, which then would be reviewed by NMDOT traffic engineers.

Councilor Chiravalle asked if NMDOT would accommodate the concern of the community and install specifically pedestrian hybrid beacon (HAWKs) crossings.

Mr. Quintana stated while he could not commit to a specific type of crossing; NMDOT is committed to providing pedestrian access across the facility. However, as LAC would be maintaining those crossings, there may be a possibility to defer to the county's preference.

Councilor Chiravalle questioned why options 1 and 3 were not referred to in the report received from the TAC.

Ms. Laurent explained options 1 and 3 were a result from the questions posed at the last TAC meeting in January.

Councilor Chiravalle requested an example of the split median intersections of option 1 and 3.

Mr. Zimmerman explained lane shifts are very common and can be found on Cerrillos Rd. and other roads within New Mexico.

Councilor Chiravalle inquired if any types of peer review were undertaken of the current designs.

Mr. Zimmerman replied no, as these options were recently derived from an idea proposed by some of the TAC members.

Councilor Stover asked what the timeframe would be if Council were to move forward with any of the options.

Ms. Laurent explained an EA will be required with any of the options, which could take 6 months to a year; also, additional engineering should be conducted with any of the options chosen. With options 1 and 3, the final construction documents will require the most amount of time. Any additional engineering and counts can be conducted with staff within the next few months.

Mr. Quintana suggested moving forward with only one preferred alternative before considering an EA.

Councilor Wismer moved, seconded by Councilor Berting, that Council direct staff to relay to the NM Department of Transportation the County's preference to move forward with the following design criteria, subject to such minor modifications as may be needed to implement best engineering practices that do not change the basic features of the design, for NM502/Trinity Drive section between DP Road and Airport Road:

Motion Option 1 - NM502 Hybrid Design with a Roundabout at Central described as follows: one lane in each direction with widened medians at the intersections of Airport Road and Tewa Loop that are designed for a travel speed of 35 miles per hour; west of Tewa Loop NM502 will be one lane each direction with a center median for landscaping, left turn bays, and pedestrian refuge; up to two pedestrian hybrid beacons (HAWKS) will be installed between the Tewa Loop and Canyon Road intersections; the Canyon Road intersections will be reconfigured to increase deflection to reduce vehicle speeds; between Canyon Road and Central Ave or where determined necessary by the NM Department of Transportation, two east bound lanes from Central will merge to one east bound lane; the center median will continue along with one west bound lane; the Central Ave and 4th Street intersections with NM502 will be combined into one intersection controlled by a roundabout; west of Central and 4th, NM502 will have two east bound lanes, a center median, and one west bound lane; the DP Road intersection will be reconfigured using existing right-of-way to be more of a 90 degree intersection with NM502; and west of the DP Road intersection, NM502 will connect to the existing road section of two lanes east bound, a center median, and two lanes west bound; sidewalks will be included on both sides of NM502 from Tewa Loop to DP Road. This option is to be modified to incorporate bicycle lanes or bicycle paths where it is physically viable and cost-effectively feasible to so do in the opinion of the NM Department of Transportation and Los Alamos County.

Councilor Wismer spoke in favor of the motion, stating it is consistent with the policy for the design of streets and the right-of-way processes that were approved by Council, offers a safer option to mitigate traffic, will provide a suitable crossing, and offers more cost savings to the County

than an option with street lights. He thanked all who assisted in this process.

Councilor Berting also spoke in support of the motion as it creates a method of pacing traffic, offers a pleasant entrance to town, and will provide a sound wall for the residents of the eastern area. She also thanked those, from both views, who assisted in this process.

Councilor Selvage also spoke in support of option 1, as it is very close to the original design that NMDOT proposed, with the exception of the one roundabout. He also expressed his gratitude to those involved in this process.

Councilor Chiravalle stated he is not able to support option 1, as it was not evaluated by TAC or included in the TAC report. He also stressed concern of the split median intersections. He spoke in support of option 4.

Councilor Rodgers echoed the appreciation and recognition given by the previous councilors. He also spoke in favor of the motion.

Councilor Izraelevitz spoke in support of option 1, as it aligns with the community and the council policy.

Councilor Stover also thanked all involved of this process and also expressed her support of option 1.

The motion passed 6 – 1; Councilor Chiravalle opposed.

8. COUNCIL BUSINESS

- A. APPOINTMENTS**
- B. COMMITTEE REPORTS -**
- C. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT -**
- D. LEGISTRATIVE UPDATE –**

Councilor Stover mentioned the recent House Bills heard at the Legislature and noted that local fire fighters will be recognized by Senator Cisneros and Representative Hall.

- E. APPROVAL OF COUNCILOR EXPENSES -**
- F. PREVIEW OF UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS**

Councilor Wismer requested the following items be placed on a Work Session Agenda for further discussion:

- 1. The general organization of committees that are formed by Council and the role of the County Staff assigned to such committees.
- 2. An appropriate Council policy on the spending of County resources to disseminate information to the public on major projects and how balance can be achieved.
- 3. Tax incentives to local businesses that would like to regenerate, rejuvenate, and/or rebuild in the community. *He requested that this matter be put on a Work Session Agenda prior to budget discussions.*

9. COUNCILOR COMMENTS -

10. PUBLIC COMMENT –

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 p.m.

INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS

Sharon Stover, Council Chair

Attest:

Janet Foster, County Clerk