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MARK WALLER (CHAIR)  
LONGINOS GONZALEZ, JR. (VICE-CHAIR)

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

SHERRI CASSIDY, CPFO, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
&  
RYAN PARSELL, CHIEF PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

**Citizen Outreach Group – May 13, 2019**

**Members Present:** Stephanie Adams, CheyAnne Clemons, Kelvin Dean, Ed Dills, Arthur Glynn, Annette Hagopian  
**Excused Members:** Jeff Aldrich, MaryAnna Clemons, Roland Rainey, Creed Spillane  
**Unexcused Members:** David Couch  
**County Staff Present:** Sherri Cassidy, Ryan Parsell, Deanna Ruschioni, Nikki Simmons, Joel Quevillon  
**Commissioners Present:** Mark Waller, Chair, and Longinos Gonzalez, Jr., Vice-Chair  
**Guest Speakers/Guests:** Dana Nordstrom, Jim Reid

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The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Administrative Items**

A motion was made to approve the April 15, 2019 meeting minutes; it was seconded and the minutes were approved as written.

El Paso County Commissioner Chair, Mark Waller addressed the COG on financial challenges the County is facing as a result of some \$6.5M unfunded legislative mandates from the State and Federal governments. These legislative mandates will have a substantial effect on several issues, some of which include:

- Tabor overage issues (do we engage in refunding, or put on the ballot to vote and ask to retain).
- Adds an additional \$1M to election costs.
- Changes current felony charges (State) to misdemeanor charges (County), which adds additional challenges to the already overcrowded inmate population at the El Paso County Criminal Justice Center.
- Roads and Bridges will be effected, and we are already \$100M behind.

Commissioner Waller mentioned that he appreciates what the Citizen Outreach Group committee does, and encouraged them to share this information with their contacts, sources, and the constituents in El Paso County to help bring awareness to the public regarding the challenges in which these mandates pose on the County and services they provide.



## General County Update

**Sherri Cassidy, Chief Financial Officer provided the COG with a 2018 Budget Update, and spoke to the following topics:**

- Net General Fund which ended with a positive variance of \$4.3M
  - Will have a Tabor overage
  - Verifying all numbers with our external auditors at this time
  - Tabor concern in General Fund is State Community Corrections program passed additional funds to County which contributed to our Tabor overage
  - Will take to Commissioners with options of approaches with overage
- Road & Bridge ended with a positive variance
  - All of those funds appropriated into 2019 for use on projects
  - Tabor concern is additional HUTF received exceeded budgeted amount so all counted against our cap
- Human Services on budget
  - Tabor concern is new caseworkers funded with mostly state funds which exceeded anticipated state revenues
- Self Insurance ended with a positive variance of \$864K
  - Will use to cover increased IBNR reserve
- Public Safety Tax ended with a positive variance of \$2.2M
  - All of those funds will be appropriated into future budgets for projects

**Sherri also addressed the 2020 Budget Schedule highlighting the following dates:**

- 6/06/19 2018 Final Report (delayed due to Revenue Adjustment)
- 6/20/19 Present 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)
- **6/21/19** 2020 Critical Needs & Revenue Projections Due, and Verification of FTE Count
- **7/17/19** **2020 Budget Offsite #1** to address Critical Needs/Roadmap, Revenue Projections with May Sales Tax, 27 pays in 2020, and Schedule for the 2020 Budget Process
- **8/21/19** **2020 Budget Offsite #2** to address Revenue Projections July and June Sales & Use Tax, 2020-2024 Roadmap, Critical Needs Funding Availability, and Final Presentation Schedule for October 15/17
- **10/03/19** **2020 Budget Hearing #1 – Preliminary Balanced Budget**
- **10/15&17** **2020 Budget Hearings #2 & #3**  
Department/Offices Critical Needs Presentations, Updated Revenue Projections (Sales Tax through August), Five Year Forecast, and COG Presentation to BoCC
- **10/31/19** Operating Indicators, Performance Measures, and Department Narratives Due
- **11/14/19** **2020 Budget Hearing #4** - 2020 Budget Final Direction by BoCC
- **12/10/19** **2020 Budget Hearing #5 - 2020 Original Adopted Budget**  
Certify the County Mill Levy, Authorize the Treasurer to Transfer Between Funds (Backup Date is 12/12/19 & Statutory Deadline is 12/15/19)

### **2019 El Paso County Fair Volunteer Events (sign-up process)**

Dana Nordstrom, Community Outreach Coordinator with the Community Services Department spoke to the volunteer opportunities COG decided to assist with during their April 15<sup>th</sup> COG meeting; 1) the VIP Reception on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, and 2) the Bull Riding event on Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. She provided sign-up sheets for both events; Deanna Ruschioni will e-mail this information to the COG members with the instruction to contact her with their choices. This will be consolidated and sent back to Dana.

The Public Information Office is working with Creed Spillane regarding the t-shirts the COG members would like to wear.

### **2019 El Paso County Citizens College (discussions)**

Stephanie Adams, Vice-chair of the Citizen Outreach Group, suggested that a sub-committee be formed to work on developing the Citizens College draft for the COG team which is to include a prioritized list of topics, the dates, times, and locations. This sub-committee is to consist of only five or less COG members to avoid forming a quorum. It was proposed, voted on, and approved unanimously by the members present (6/0) (with 5 members absent). Four of the six members present signed up to be on this sub-committee, and will bring the draft back to the next COG meeting scheduled on June 10, 2019.

Ryan Parsell, Chief Public Information Officer mentioned that at this portion of the year, and with the ongoing discussions, the Citizens College will probably not occur this fall and that we are looking at a 2020 session instead.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m., with a tour afterwards provided by Jim Reid, Director of the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management (now City and County working concurrently).