



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

COLORADO

HOLLY WILLIAMS
STAN VANDERWERF
CAMI BREMER

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

SHERRI CASSIDY, CPFO, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

&

RYAN PARSELL, CHIEF PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Citizen Outreach Group - November 18, 2019

Members Present: Stephanie Adams, Kelvin Dean, Ed Dills, Arthur Glynn, Creed Spillane

Excused Members: CheyAnne Clemons, Annette Hagopian,

Unexcused Members: David Couch, Roland Rainey

County Staff Present: Sherri Cassidy, Kenny Hodges, Ryan Parsell, Deanna Ruschioni, Nikki Simmons

Commissioners Present: Mark Waller, Chair

Guests:

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

Administrative Items

- 1) A motion was made to approve the August 19, 2019 meeting minutes; it was seconded, and the minutes were approved as written.
- 2) A motion was made to approve the October 7, 2019 meetings minutes; it was seconded, and the minutes were approved as written.
- 3) Ryan Parsell, Public Information Officer, addressed the proposition of changing how an absent committee member is documented in the meeting minutes in reference to excused versus unexcused, and that perhaps the COG should follow the BoCC's lead to vote as a body to excuse or not excuse their absent committee members at each meeting. The members present in this meeting on November 18, 2019 agreed to the proposition, and these terms will be incorporated into the COG Bylaws beginning in the new year of 2020.



- 4) Sherri Cassidy, Chief Financial Officer spoke to the 2020 Proposed COG Meeting Schedule & Agenda. It was suggested by the COG members that brief updates from the El Paso County Executive Directors be added to the scheduled meetings for 2020 to provide the COG with greater insight to their priorities, goals, and objectives for the upcoming year. This will be incorporated into the COG meetings beginning with their first meeting in 2020, on February 10th.
- 5) Commissioner Chair, Mark Waller spoke to the COG regarding the following:
 - The Commissioners want to do what's right by the citizens of El Paso County, and they welcome feedback from the COG regarding any ideas, questions, or concerns they hear from the public. Commissioner Waller asked the COG to let him know what he can do to be more helpful for the citizens of El Paso County, and the COG committee.
 - Regarding El Paso County's Budget, Commissioner Waller mentioned El Paso County is in a unique circumstance; the County has had record growth and a booming economy, yet even though revenue is up, the County is still having budget cuts as they do not have enough dollars to go around.
 - Still trying to grow out of the Recession – deferred maintenance on buildings & roads and bridges.
 - Sahwatch Parking Garage's current repairs are approximately (1M).
 - State has imposed several unfunded mandates (around 10M).
 - Addition of new case workers for DHS; State level reducing prison population and pushing them into the jails; Family Leave Act; Elections Law area, etc.
 - Only able to give 1.5% raises to the El Paso County employees; not even cost of living raises which causes vacancies within the County's staff.
 - Transportation will take the hit most.
 - Federal dollars are not subject to the TABOR restrictions. El Paso County just received a grant (18.3M) in a Federal commitment for roads for specific projects in the community.
 - Mayor Suthers and Commissioner Waller are working together on projects. Commissioner Waller feels that there is a need to work together to become more pro-active working with the coordination at the local level.
 - Still a lot of challenges; therefore, to the degree that COG can put this information out to the public is appreciated.
- 6) COG enjoys receiving links from PIO regarding updates and matters regarding the County such as Town Hall meetings, etc. They would like to be more pro-active with attending these meetings and getting the Elected Officials involved. COG would like to be able to assist with getting their message out to the public.

Final Direction on 2020 Budget:

Sherri Cassidy, Chief Financial Officer, provided a presentation overview of the Final BoCC Direction on the 2020 Original Adopted Budget which the Board of County Commissioners provided during the 2020 Budget Hearing #4 on November 14, 2019. The final, updated BoCC direction and the Budget Hearing #4 meeting can be viewed on the El Paso County website at: <https://admin.elpasoco.com/financial-services/budget-finance/county-budget/>;

The presentation overview touched base on:

- Revenue Updates
 - Subsequent Revenue Review – 2020 Updated Revenue Projections (Impacts to Financial Roadmap)
- Reserve Strategy
 - As established in 2017 Roadmap, expectation is to reserve unanticipated General Fund revenues and General Fund underspending into an emergency reserve.
- Next Steps
 - Final direction today on budget
 - Next three weeks – staff prepares all required budget documents and loads budget in JDE system
 - December 10, 2019 – Approval of:
 - 2020 Original Adopted Budget
 - Mill Levy Resolution
 - Transfer Resolution – Statutory deadline of December 15, 2019
- Updated Roadmap
 - 2020 Original Adopted Budget - Newly Requested Critical Needs 2020-2024
 - Updated Financial Roadmap

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.