

Council Meeting Minutes
Town Hall
April 16, 2024
7:00 p.m.

Council Members
Present:

Dynette Lewis, Council President
Henry Cunningham
Sandra McMurray Jackson
Shelisa McCall Abraham
Alicia Johnson

Others Present:

Mallory Walker, Administrative Assistant
Luis Gomez Jr., Interim Mayor

Council President Dynette Lewis confirmed the advertisement of the Council Meeting/Bill List Review and opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

1. Open Meeting with Prayer

Council Member Henry Cunningham led the meeting in prayer

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present at the Council Table were Council President Dynette Lewis, Council Member Sandra McMurray Jackson, Council Member Alicia Johnson, Council Member Shelisa McCall Abraham, Council Member Henry Cunningham. Also present Mayor Luis Gomez Jr.

4. Public Forum

Nothing for Public Forum

5. Ministerial Acts

• Approval of April 16, 2024 Bill List

Council President Dynette Lewis requested a motion to approve April 16, 2024 Bill List Review

Council Member Shelisa McCall Abraham motioned

Council Member Alicia Johnson seconded the motion

No questions.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. Robert Hudson - Financial Statements

Robert Hudson: "First of all some items on the bill list were over budget. We're still half way through the year. Sometime before the end of the year we'll call on council to designate how much money I need based on the budget to put back. So, with all that said are there any questions concerning the financial statements?"

With no questions Mr. Hudson continued: "General funds first page in the middle of the page. We budgeted \$375,000 and have spent \$317,000. We're a little short on that. Gulf power doesn't give us anything in January or February. They pay us on a quarterly basis. Page 4 you'll see from October-February our total expense that was budgeted were under budget over all on the expense side of it. Special revenue. That's our L.O.S.T. funds. We use that money sometimes to purchase equipment. We've taken in \$112,000. We've extended \$8,000 of ARPA money. Water sewer funds revenues from the last 5 months show were a little under budget. We did budget the operating transfer into the special revenue. That's money coming in from ARPA. At the end of year our revenues will be more. Total expense Central Water Works is why we are over budget as far as water and sewer goes. Gas fund \$70,000 over budget. Should be reserve money left. Garbage fund always does well. We can't start too early on budgeting for next year. I think this year we should get started earlier and really have conversations with all the department heads so we can really get a good handle on the budget and budget for what is needed. If we're able to put a reserve in then that's going to give us some freedom and leeway to be able to handle whatever may pop up during the year that's unexpected. We've always went from the top down. This year I'd like to go from the bottom up. Start with what the bottom line should be and what we can put in reserves. It's going to show up a couple of things we can do to generate revenue. Revenue ensures we have the money to cover unexpected things that may come up and we'll already have it in the budgeted. Any questions?"

Mayor Gomez: "We had a snag in our last conversation about how they came up with those numbers. Any idea on how?"

Mr. Hudson: "I've looked at invoices, I've questioned, and I've called and as far as I'm concerned what I know is I don't know how they came up with it but the numbers are wrong."

Mr. Hudson: "Two things that have helped with the gas funds are having a fully executed contract and the new meters we had installed. At one time we were getting a certain quantity from BP maybe 30% less of what we were getting charged for. Since the new meters that's been fixed."

Mayor Gomez: "You may not be able to answer this question but what percent of the new meters have been installed?"

Mr. Hudson: "Should be 100%."

Mayor Gomez: "I'll get the answer somehow we need to figure out how many more need to be installed."

Mr. Hudson: "If they're not installed they should be laying on the ground somewhere."

Mr. Hudson: "Anymore questions I think in May we should start looking at next year's budget. Pass the budget in July. We'll talk more about putting some in a reserve. We need to have our minds set on how much we want to put in reserves. The water sewer fund is going to need more reserves cause there's more things that can go wrong."

7. Dale Long – Change Order No. 3 TOC MISC WW Phase 1

Dale Long: "We need the Mayor to sign the change order. There will be no cost for the town. You've already paid this is for Mr. Jowers to be able to begin his work."

Mayor Gomez: "There is no cost to the town. They just need me to sign the change order."

Council President Lewis requested a motion for Mayor Gomez to sign Change Order No. 3 TOC MISC WW Phase 1

Council Member Abraham motioned

Council Member Henry Cunningham seconded the motion.

No questions. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Mayor Gomez – Laptop Purchase

Mayor Gomez: "Council as you notice we have Teams. We're going to have Teams in our meetings in the future. Mr. Brown requested that Leslie Howington reach out to Southern Computers and try to purchase a laptop. Request is for Ms. Howington to get a laptop to serve multiple purposes. These are the options and it supposed to come out of ARPA. Depending on who's going to be using it. Mr. Brown can you elaborate a little more?"

Mr. Brown: "So, there is no laptop. We need a laptop there that has the capability to communicate that's the reason why this purchase is necessary."

Mayor Gomez: "So, this will be a one-time purchase. It will be assigned to the Clerk's office for Teams and Zoom. I don't know which one Ms. Howington would prefer. The recommendation is to select. This is a one-time purchase from ARPA funds."

Council President Lewis: "What's the difference between the two?"

Mallory Walker: "The second one has higher resolution and quicker download times."

Council Member Abraham: "I did research on both of them and in my opinion the first one will be fine unless we are taking it off site but the first one will serve our purpose just fine."

Council President Lewis: "The accessories are for either of them?"

Ms. Walker: "Yes."

Council President Lewis: "Cause of the fact you just said it will assigned to the Clerk's office and won't be taken off site."

Mayor Gomez: "I'm saying it'll be for the office and not a personal laptop."

Council President Lewis: "What is the percentage of maybe having to take it off-site?"

Mayor Gomez: "I do not know. Ms. Howington would work from home sometimes."

Council President Lewis: "We want that capability but why wouldn't the first one have that? I just need something to support spending a \$1,000 more.'

Council Member Abraham: "They have the same graphics they both have touch screen."

Council Member Johnson: "So, they're very similar?"

Council Member Abraham: 'Yes."

Council President Lewis requested a motion to purchase the Dell Latitude 5540 from ARPA Funds

Council Member Johnson motioned

Council Member Abraham seconded the motion.

No questions.

The motion passed unanimously

Council Member Abraham: "Are there any policies regarding laptops or any security policies."

Ms. Walker: "Not to my knowledge."

9. Howard Brown - Discussion of the Southern Computer Contract and Authorization to renegotiate with Southern Computers or solicit proposals for IT services

Mr. Brown: "Good evening, Madam President and Town Council. The town currently has a contract with Southern Computers. This will allow Mayor to renegotiate with Southern Computers or solicit other IT services. Our issue is we don't know what Southern Computers offers as far as security services. We would like for the Mayor to be able to renegotiate this contract or solicit other proposals. That's all I have. Any questions?"

Council President Lewis: "Just to clarify you did say to renegotiate with Southern Computers or solicit other proposals?"

Mr. Brown: "Yes."

Council Member Abraham: "Has the current contract ever been reviewed by our attorney?"

Mr. Brown: "I don't think so but any contract like this should be looked at by our attorney. We'll make sure that happens in the future."

Council President Lewis: "So, do we need to renegotiate prior to that to the attorney reviewing it?"

Mr. Brown: "If we were authorized to renegotiate the contract then the attorney would be involved."

Council President Lewis: "Do we already have any other computer services in mind?"

Mr. Brown: "Well, we just brought in the procurement service and they hit the ground running so this is something they could handle."

Council President Lewis: "Okay."

Council Member Abraham: "How much time do we have to renegotiate with Southern Computers?"

Mr. Brown: "2025 but we have to give them 6 months notice."

Council President Lewis: "Any questions?"

No questions

Council President Lewis request motion to authorize Mayor Gomez to renegotiate contract with Southern Computers.

Council Member Henry Cunningham motioned

Council Member Abraham seconded the motion

No questions. The motion passed unanimously

10. Howard Brown - Authorization to allow the Mayor to negotiate a contract with City Services for a one-year period. (This item will be brought back to the Town Council for final approval)

Mayor Gomez: "I'm going to try to explain this in a way everyone understands what the issue is. Back in October we had issues in the gas department where we weren't compliant and our staff could not handle the tasks. So, we reached out to City services to get ourselves in compliance. Council approved it and City Services did a great job but after the compliance they were still doing work. When I asked for the contract I got a copy of the old one so basically right now we don't have a contract with City Services and we need to consider doing a new contract. If there are no objections, I think we can move forward with City Services."

Council President Lewis: "How long, one year?"

Mayor Gomez: "We'll start fresh. We'll get a new contract and get Matt Danhiesser to review it and return it to council when we decide but we need a new contact."

Council President Lewis: "Any questions?"

Council Member Abraham: "Are we going to renegotiate the contract?"

Mayor Gomez: "We do not currently have a contract with them."

Council Member Johnson: "So, you need a motion to allow you to negotiate a contract with City Services?"

Mayor Gomez: "Correct."

Council President Lewis requested a motion to authorize Mayor Gomez to negotiate a contract with City Services for a one year period.

Council Member Abraham motioned

Council Member Jackson seconded the motion.

No questions. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Howard Brown Authorization - to allow Mayor Gomez to retain the services of Ms. Elizabeth Joy to provide interim town clerk services for a period not to exceed six (6) months

Interim Town Manager Cheryl Harrison-Lee: "We are asking for authorization for Mayor Gomez to retain the services of an interim town clerk for a period not to exceed six months. Retired town clerks. Authorization to reach out to Florida League of Cities for assistance."

Council President Lewis: "Does anyone have any questions?"

Citizen Emma Fletcher: "I have a question, is Leslie no longer the town clerk?"

Mayor Gomez: "Yes Ms. Howington is still the town clerk. She's out for a couple of weeks. There's a lot of work and its getting overwhelming so we're calling in a temp to asses and see how we can keep things moving and help get caught up. That's why I reached out to get a certified and qualified person to help get us out of this mess."

Council President Lewis: "We're not needing a town clerk we're just need assistance?"

Mayor Gomez: "Ms. Howington is out so, we need help ASAP. I'm not at liberty to discuss why Ms. Howington isn't here but we need help whether she's here tomorrow or not."

Council President Lewis: "Is this in our budget and how are we paying for it?"

Mayor Gomez: "ARPA but it would also be a contract. We can do it for 2 days a week or one day a week whatever we may need."

Mr. Brown: "Can I say something?"

Council President Lewis: "Yes."

Mr. Brown: "Several months ago the town purchased this software called CivicPlus. CivicPlus is an agenda software that should already be in place. We need a clerk who's already familiar with the software."

Council President Lewis requested a motion to authorize Mayor Gomez to retain temp services for interim town clerk services not to exceed 6 months.

Council Member Johnson motioned.

Council Member Jackson seconded the motion.

Council Member Abraham: "I don't think this should be as a contract for an interim town clerk you can go through Florida League of Cities and get a temp."

Interim Town Manager Harrison-Lee: "This is going to be someone who is already certified and maybe they are retired. This is not going through a temp services but someone who is trained in municipal services such as a retired town clerk."

Council Member Abraham: Then I vote yes.

No further questions. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Howard Brown - Allow Mayor to negotiate and execute agreement with Pensacola Energy Services to assist with backfilling the recently vacated position of Gas Superintendent

Mr. Brown: "So, this is to authorize the mayor to negotiate and hopefully make an agreement with Pensacola Energy to help backfilling the recently vacated position of the Gas Superintendent. On a short basis while we look for a new Gas Super, so this gives mayor authority to talk with Pensacola Energy."

Council President Lewis: "Any questions?"

Council Member Johnson: "Would they be providing a person to fill this position until we were able to hire someone for the position?"

Mayor Gomez: "It's sort of like getting enough help just in case. There are more choices on the agenda. It's going to be up to the council. This is just to explore and maybe make an agreement with Pensacola Energy."

Council Member Johnson: "So, we wouldn't actually enter a contract?"

Mr. Brown: "No, it's just an option if we can get an agreement with the Town of Jay or City Services we may not need this but this is just for another option."

Council President Lewis: "So, why is it two separate items instead of one?"

Mr. Brown: "Town of Jay is not for gas. This item is to authorize an agreement with Pensacola Energy services."

Council President Lewis: "Both of those items say the same thing. Item 11 and 12. (Agenda was amended on Friday. Items being discussed were 12 and 13)"

Mayor Gomez: "This is just to explore services with Pensacola Energy. Do you want to move passed this and go to item 13 because I can explain item 12. Monday I found out we had talked to Jay and it was brought to my attention we had an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) 2-3 years ago and it was never executed. Jay revised the ILA that was from 3 years ago and it's not just for gas. We have an agreement that we can use their equipment if needed and they can use ours or if we need a guy they send one over and vice versa our gas man is going on vacation next week and the superintendent resigned 2 weeks ago. So, Jay is going fill that position for us this ILA should have already been in place 3 years ago. They had their meeting last night and approved it. I'm trying to clear it up cause it's not the same as Pensacola Energy they will back fill and help us out."

Council Member Johnson: "City Services can provide the same thing so we could just use them?"

Mayor Gomez: "City Services knows the town better. There's a compliance problem that we're going to have to fix this year either City Services can do it or Pensacola Energy. FGU wasn't doing it anyway."

Council President Lewis: "I want to make sure were sticking to the issue. So, we have 3 separate options Pensacola Energy Services, City Services, and Town of Jay?"

Mayor Gomez: "City Services is working without a contract we need to get that fixed first."

Council Member Johnson: "There's no cost associated with the Town of Jay?"

Council Member Abraham: "Contract says no."

Council President Lewis: "So, you're basically just wanting options."

Council Member Johnson: "Say we need something major and Town of Jay doesn't have it but Pensacola Energy does. It would be nice to have that option."

Council President Lewis: "Back to item 11. I think we lost our motion."

Council Member Johnson: "Will there be monthly service fee?"

Mayor Gomez: "Whatever is decided it will come back to council first."

Mr. Brown: "It's on the agenda because we need a plan of action if were in this situation again."

Council Member Johnson: "It's not clear, will there be a recurring fee or not?"

Council President Lewis: "Pensacola Energy only provides gas correct?"

Mr. Brown: "Pensacola Energy doesn't own anything in Century."

Mayor Gomez: "Question Mr. Brown, are we 100% with new gas meters?"

Mr. Brown: "No, there's still about 2/3 of those meters that need to be replaced."

Council President Lewis: "Any questions?"

Council President Lewis requested a motion to authorize Mayor Gomez to negotiate an agreement with Pensacola Energy.

Motion died on the table.

13. Howard Brown - Allow Mayor to explore the opportunity with the Town of Jay to negotiate an Intergovernmental Agreement to provide emergency services for the recently vacated Gas Superintendent position at The Town of Century. (This item will have to be ratified by the Town Council.)

Mr. Brown: "We request you allow the mayor to negotiate an ILA with the Town of Jay."

Mrs. Harrison-Lee: "This will allow the town to borrow equipment and the town does not pay compensation for those items we don't charge you, you don't charge us."

Mayor Gomez: "We didn't have time to include the new contract. They sent us over it was drafted last night."

Council President Lewis requested a motion to authorize Mayor Gomez to entered into an ILA with the Town of Jay.

Council Member Abraham motioned.

Council Member Cunningham seconded the motion.

No questions. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Mayor Gomez - Camp Fire Emergency Agreement

Mayor Gomez: "This is requirement from Camp Fire and it is renewed every year. The recommendation is to renew."

Council Member Abraham: "We provide shelter from storms."

Council President Lewis requested a motion to renew Emergency Agreement with Camp Fire.

Council Member Abraham motioned

Council Member Alicia Johnson seconded the motion

No questions. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Mayor Gomez - Policies (comp time, sick leave, on call, vacation, utility bill)

Mayor Gomez: "Okay, this is touchy situation. The polices I put on the agenda are comp time, sick leave, vacation time, on call time, and utility bills. There is a 1993 handbook that

shows all the policies. Somewhere in the process things have been misinterpreted. The policy in the handbook states there is 2 hour call out Monday thru Friday."

Council Member Johnson: "If they have an emergency and have to go out even if it's for 15 minutes they get paid for 2 hours if they employee is on call."

Council President Lewis: "That's in the policy? Council Member Johnson: I don't know."

Council President Lewis: "I don't see anything."

Council Member Johnson: "That's how it's traditionally done."

Mayor Gomez: "Throughout the years employees have received two hours if they are on call Monday thru Friday."

Council President Lewis: "Two hours for what?"

Mayor Gomez: "If you're on-call you get 10 hours Monday-Friday."

Council President Lewis: "What are the two hours for? Just being on-call?"

Mayor Gomez: "Yes, just being on call. Saturday and Sunday if you're still on-call you get 4 hours but if you're never called out you'll still receive 18 hours. If you're called out for 5 minutes you're still going to get 2 hours but some people are claiming two hour of OT and two hours of straight pay. If you're on sick leave can you be on call?"

Council all agreed no.

Mayor Gomez: "Basically that's where we're at but I want us to abide what's in the handbook. We need a written policy that is approved by council."

Council Member Johnson: "Do we have a policy to look at? Can we do that tonight?"

Council President Lewis: "It's hard to look at a policy that we don't have. Where are we coming from with this?"

Council Member Abraham: "We can't make a change to something that we don't have. On-call and comp time are all very normal but we need something to look at."

Council President Lewis: "With on-call there are several guidelines we need to be looking at. Call Out time means you're on call. It means I call you in for 5 minutes you the two

hours but if you're on call and not doing anything then you can just decide to lay out on the beach and get paid for it."

Council Member Johnson: "But you can't because you have to respond within 45 minutes so there's limits on what you can and can't do."

Council President Lewis: "But not for everyone there's not."

Council Member Johnson: "I understand that but that is the purpose of the on call."

Council President Lewis: "It's not quoted in the policy at all so I can't say someone is doing something incorrectly cause I don't know where this policy is coming from. I need to know where its coming from."

Mayor Gomez: "Let me ask you all a question one at a time. Can you be on call when you're sick?"

All council members said no.

Council President Lewis: "We can't go on opinion."

Council Member Abraham: "No you can't be sick and on call."

Mayor Gomez: "Can a person be on call during vacation?"

All council member said no.

Mayor Gomez: "Let's get back to if you're on call and its Monday and its after hours. If I work 30 minutes how much am I charging?"

All council members said 2 hours.

Council President Lewis: "Different places do over time differently."

Mayor Gomez: "Are you going to get 2 straight hours and then two more cause you're on-call but there's nothing supporting what I'm saying. If you worked 60 hours you're going to have 18 on call hours added but one department gets 26."

Council Member Johnson: "Why the difference? Mayor Gomez: That's the way it's been being done."

Council Member Abraham: "We can't make decisions without a policy."

Ms. Harrison-Lee: "You need a new policy. We look at federal guidelines. My recommendation is that you ask Mr. Brown and I to bring a new policy to you to have council review. We don't have a policy saying one department gets 2 and the other gets 4."

Council President Lewis: "Something has happened somewhere and the problem is our employees have become accustomed to getting paid a certain way and now we're having to change it."

Council Member Abraham: We have to have a policy.

Ms. Harrison-Lee: "You need a policy from the council and not from staff. You have policies that are executed by people that not over the govern body members. Members being Mayor and council members. We take policy from govern body and we execute it. What you have taking place now is someone saying we get paid this and it's a liability to the town to call someone out who is on sick leave so it's problematic."

Council President Lewis: "Not only if you're on sick leave you're getting paid for sick leave and on call pay."

Ms. Harrison-Lee: "Yes, and I would never as a town manager ever call someone out who's on sick leave."

Council President Lewis: "Where are we at?"

Council Member Abraham: "Making a motion."

Ms. Harrison-Lee: "Mr. Brown and I will get it done. If you have something you want to be looked at email it to Mr. Brown."

Council President Lewis requested a motion to approve Interim Town Managers Cheryl Harrison-Lee and Howard Brown to provide a policy.

Council Member Johnson motioned.

Council Member Abraham seconded the motion.

No questions. The motion passed unanimously.

Council President Lewis requested for no questions until public forum.

16. Mayor Gomez - Webber contract

Mayor Gomez: "This is for a contract to mow the grass and the medians between Century and Molino. Webber was doing it but now they pay us to do it. Kevin Merchant came to me and said that the town is losing money. The contract is in the packet. We have two options here: continue to cut it or to let them cut it. If Mr. Merchant decides he doesn't want the Town to continue we'll tell Webber we want to cut our own grass."

Council Member Johnson: "How are we losing money?"

Kevin Merchant: "It puts a lot of wear and tear on the mowers and the man power. It just doesn't add up. We need a counter offer that works for the town."

Council President Lewis: "Why did Webber start cutting it?"

Council Member Johnson: "They have a contract with FDOT."

Mr. Merchant: "Why can't we negotiate and be the contractor?"

Mayor Gomez: "We just hired a procurement agency. Maybe they can handle it. It's up to council to either accept it or reject it."

Council President Lewis requested a motion to table the Webber contract.

Council Member Cunningham motioned.

Council Member Jackson seconded the motion.

No questions. The motion passed unanimously.

17. Staff Report

Nothing for Staff Report

18. Mayor's Report

Mayor Gomez: "The fireworks last year were in Flomaton. This year they will be in Century. We have \$8,000.00 for the festivities. The fireworks company has 2 days available Friday the 5th and Saturday the 6th. The showing on the 5th is \$10,000.00 and the showing on the 5th is \$15,000.00. Flomaton contributed. This year we have \$8,000.00 and Flomaton has

\$5,000.00 for a total of \$13,000.00. The Flomaton clerk wants to help. Mr. Brown negotiated for us to get the \$15,000.00 show for \$13,000.00. We need to decide between the 5th and the 5th. I'm pushing for Friday the 5th because by Saturday everyone is going to be tired and wanting to head back home. If Council will give me permission to lock in Friday the 5th. We'll have enough time to reach out and add everything. The festivities will be at Showalter Park."

Council voted on Friday, July 5th. \$13,000.00 for fireworks show.

Council Member Jackson made the motion.

Council Member Abraham seconded the motion.

No questions. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Gomez: "Staff has started sending stuff to HCT auditors and we are working on a list they gave us. We're going to get it done on time this year."

Mayor Gomez on meeting with DEP: "We had a lot of issues and we called in U.S Water. They are working on it and doing a great job of catching up. The meeting was very strict and it doesn't feel like we're out of the woods yet. Overall it was a good meeting cause they didn't penalize us. Ms. Johnson has been working pro bona and we need to let her go back to her everyday life. We reached out to two vendors to help with day to day operations."

Council Member Johnson: "I can explain what we need. What U.S. Water and Clear Water Solutions will provide to us. It's procurement services not just the super position. It's total operations overall. I am unable to continue in that role so with council approval we're going to turn over operations until we can fill the position. It's a surprise to me we haven't had more interest in the position. It's in the towns best interest to have a contract company to keep us in compliance until we can fill the position and once we do we can release them from the contract."

Mayor Gomez: "We understand. I have this for the council."

Mayor Gomez gives packet containing information on Clear Water Solutions to the council.

Ms. Harrison-Lee: "In light of the fact that Ms. Johnson is going back to her life we need to have someone oversee operations. Clear Water Solutions can provide that. This is a critical issue because you don't want to lose the ability to operate your own plant. We're asking for authorization for mayor to start a contract with CWS".

Council Member Johnson: "This is for Water and Wastewater?"

Council Member Abraham: "It's \$240,000.00 for one year. Will we need them for a year?"

Council Member Johnson: "Hopefully not. Century gets a lot of bad press and it scares people. It's best to rebuild our operation. People need to feel comfortable taking the position. We need to make sure we're covered. It's hard to say how long it will take."

Council President Lewis: "This is monthly and not yearly?"

Council Member Johnson: "It's for a year but there's a clause saying if we hired someone then we can release the contract with a 90 day notice."

Council President Lewis: "So it's \$19,000.00 monthly and not \$240,000.00 all at one time?"

Ms. Harrison-Lee: "Yes, and it could boost your applicate pool but they may need 90 days of additional support."

Council Member Jackson: "This will cover everything?"

Ms. Harrison-Lee: "Yes."

Council President Lewis requested a motion to authorize mayor to sign a contract with Clear Water Solutions.

Council Member Johnson made the motion.

Council Member Abraham seconded the motion.

No questions. The motion passed unanimously.

19. Council Comments

Council Member Abraham: "FBC LEO was a very valuable experience. I met Mayors and council members from all around. I got a list of resources and a list of grants. I've been invited back and they will pay for it. Fast Fly is in May."

Council President Lewis: "Where is it?"

Council Member Abraham: "Washington, D.C."

Ms. Harrison-Lee: "Need a motion to approve to attend."

Council President Lewis: "What is the dollar amount?"

Council Member Abraham: "Registration is \$100. It's a 2-night stay and the flight. Representatives at the White House."

Council President Lewis: "Do we know the cost of last year and is it in the budget? When is it?"

Council Member Abraham: "May 22nd."

Council President Lewis: "What is the benefit to the Town?"

Council Member Abraham: "We have a voice at the table and weekly calls to the White House."

Council President Lewis: "And our voice is being heard? Council Member Abraham: Yes ma'am."

Council President Lewis: "We don't know exact dollar amount. What amount not to exceed?"

Council Member Johnson: "Probably \$800.00. Do we have that in our budget?"

Council President Lewis: "I don't think in education. Mayor Gomez: We have a separate budget for travel."

Council President Lewis requested a motion to approve the trip for Council Member Abraham's trip Washington, D.C. for Fast Fly In not to exceed over \$800.00

Council Member Johnson motioned.

Council Member Abraham seconded the motion.

No questions. The motion passed unanimously.

Nothing further for council comments.

20. Public Forum

Mr. Merchant: "How much will the Town assist with Clear Water Solutions?"

Council Member Johnson: "To the extent that we've been doing. According to your schedule the operators will reach out to you if they need your assistance."

Mr. Merchant: "Just to be clear about the pay for the men, is on call pay no more?"

Council President Lewis: "Things will not change until something is put into place but what has been going on will change."

Mayor Gomez: "We need a change tonight. We don't have a policy saying 4 hours."

Council President Lewis: "So how do we proceed?"

Mayor Gomez: "Whatever we have to do. I would appreciate if council would rectify this situation."

Council Member Abraham: "There's no automated time clock?"

Council President Lewis: "Someone should be keeping track of their hours. The supervisor holds the responsibility."

Mayor Gomez: "If you have 20 hours of overtime someone has to authorize it. They write down what they think they should make."

Council Member Abraham: "But they don't have to turn that in? If they call out who are they calling out to?"

Mayor Gomez: "We had some issues cause one employee got paid overtime, call out, and sick pay at one time."

Council President Lewis: "That's not that persons fault."

B.J. Johnson: "I was the one on call. I was sick but I still had to answer. The Highway 4 project had to have a supervisor. I had to get out there even though I was sick."

Council President Lewis: "If you're on call and you went out to work that sick time should have stopped."

Mr. Johnson: "They are holding 240 hours of mine hostage."

Mayor Gomez: "That is a false statement. You accrue sick time and vacation time. He was short by September of his 10 years. So he gets 2 weeks of vacation and 2 weeks of sick and it was told to me that is rolls over but I have yet to see a policy."

Mr. Johnson: "I have an email from Gomez right here where he approved it to be roll overed."

Mayor Gomez: "I have signed several things but you can have all the emails you want unless it's been approved by council it doesn't matter."

Council President Lewis: "We're not going to continue to discuss this."

Mayor Gomez: "He was over paid the first week."

Council President Lewis: "We're done with this discussion."

Gary Bradley: "I came to talk about cleaning out the ditches in city limits."

Mr. Merchant: "When we have the time."

Emma Fletcher: "That building isn't secure."

Council President Lewis: "What building?"

Emma Fletcher: "The water plant on Henry Street."

Council Member Johnson: "The door blows open and I will go by after this and close it."

Gary Small: "I was told this week we won't get paid for on call and overtime, is that correct?"

Mayor Gomez: "Yes."

Mr. Small: "Why?"

Mayor Gomez: "I am going out of town. Everyone will receive 40 hours and get the over time on Monday. I told Mr. Merchant that."

Mr. Merchant: "I did not have time to tell everyone."

Mr. Small: "Granted when you're on call you get 2 hours no matter what but what you don't understand is that when you're on call you have to sit at the house with your phone constantly on you. You can't do anything. It's not something that I asked for and I don't

have problem doing it but what I do have a problem with is not getting paid for it. It's going to be really hard to answer my phone for the next two days if I'm not getting paid."

Mayor Gomez: "What are you not getting paid for?"

Mr. Small: "You're saying you're not going to pay on call."

Mayor Gomez: "That's not what I said. Everyone gets a 40 hour check on Friday."

Council President Lewis: "Mayor Gomez your point has been made. Anything else?"

Mr. Small: "I'm sorry I'm confused. I've been on call all week and he's saying I'm not getting paid for it this week. I'm on vacation next week. It'll be 2 weeks before I get paid for it."

Council President Lewis: "It's not his fault you're going to be on vacation. All he can do is uphold his part that you will get paid next week."

Mayor Gomez: "The problem is every check requires two signatures. Leslie is not here. Kristina is the only one who can sign checks. That's why we cut the 40-hour checks. I am going out of town to bury my only sister."

Council President Lewis: "Anything else?"

21. Adjournment

Council President Dynette Lewis requested a motion to adjourn.

Council Member Jackson made the motion to adjourn.

Council Member Abraham seconded the motion.

No questions. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
