The Labor Management Relations Board of Las Cruces held a meeting on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. remotely via Zoom.

THOSE PRESENT: Jo Richards, Chair, HR Director, City of Las Cruces
Matt Holt, Attorney
Carol Flinchbaugh, Associate Professor of Management, NMSU
Patrick Nolan, Labor Representative
Christine Rivera, Las Cruces City Clerk

Jo Richards, HR Director called the meeting to order.

Board Members introduced themselves.

Jo Richards asked for a motion to accept the Agenda. Matt Holt, Attorney moved to accept the Agenda. Carol Flinchbaugh, Associate Professor seconded the motion. The Board said “aye”.

III. Rules

Jo Richards said with that we’ll go to the Action Items. Part of the reason why we’re here today is to review and accept the Rules for the Board. I hope you all had a chance to review those. Can I get a motion to review these documents?

Matt Holt moved to review the documents; Carol Flinchbaugh seconded the motion.

Matt Holt asked have these rules been in place before with prior Boards?

Jo Richards said I believe these are our standard rules that have been used with other municipalities and other organizations that have distributed by the State.

Christine Rivera said we used whatever the State Statutes were which was also adopted into our Ordinance. So these are just to reflect the new changes that were recently made which we’ll discuss following.

Jo Richards asked any other questions, discussion?

Matt Holt said move the adoption of these as our Rules; Carol Flinchbaugh, Associate Professor of Management seconded the motion. The Board said “aye”.

Jo Richards said the rules have been approved. From here we’ll go to the Ordinance changes.
IV. I Ordinance Changes

Jo Richards said there were several different changes proposed to the Ordinance from the State. We provided a marked-up version and so hopefully you’ve had an opportunity to see those. Any discussion around those questions?

Carol Flinchbaugh said I noticed that the whole Section on the Negotiations appears to be deleted on this one and I don’t know if I’m in the right spot. Is that the case? It’s Exhibit “A” J.

Jo Richards asked which Section is that?

Carol Flinchbaugh said it’s in Section 15-14. Scope of Bargaining J.

Matt Holt said it’s Page 25 of 63.

Carol Flinchbaugh said it appears that the entire Negotiation Process has been removed and I didn’t see any other changes to where that would have been added in a different Section.

Jo Richards said I believe that was added there, not struck through.

Matt Holt said it does look like it’s been struck through.

Christine Rivera said if you click on the packet that I sent them that whole Section was struck out.

Matt Holt said so to be sure, what we’re looking at is the Ordinance as it currently exists?

Christine Rivera said yes, this is the Ordinance that was recently adopted by City Council on February 16th. It was reviewed by the State, sent back to us and these are all the corrections that they sent to us to make to it. It was approved by the State recently so this is the most accurate.

Matt Holt asked do you know why Section J. was struck?

Carol Flinchbaugh asked and it was approved with the changes?

Jo Richards said yes. Essentially the City had to adopt this in order to retain our local Labor Board.

Christine Rivera said the way it’s written was the template that we were given from the State, and so we had to write it exactly as they had it. So that’s why that Section was struck out.

Carol Flinchbaugh said it doesn’t make sense because I. (1) right above there it says “meetings for the discussion of bargaining strategy preliminary to collective bargaining
negotiations" unless they’re changing the language to just the collective bargaining sessions.

Jo Richards said it appears that that language was already included there.

Carol Flinchbaugh said kinda seems like a big part of the Union Process.

Matt Holt said I take it this is really informational for us. We don’t have any say-so what goes in the Ordinance because that’s why we have a City Council. Is that correct?

Jo Richards said in order to retain our local Labor Board the State said this is the Ordinance as it reads and you have to approve it in order to retain that right. So that’s where we stand right now.

Christine Rivera said we didn’t really have an option as to what wording we could put in there. They just gave it to us and said adopt it.

Matt Holt said according to the introductory memo, these changes are ordered to conform with House bill 364 which I’ve never read but be fun to take a look at.

Carol Flinchbaugh said and the above statements say they can still have negotiations, I guess that maybe they’re just not putting parameters on the negotiations.

Christine Rivera said I’m wondering if it has to do with the fact that because it’s a closed meeting and we don’t really disclose what’s done in the closed meeting, if that’s why they took out that section.

Jo Richards said it could be. And there were a number of other items that were changed too with regard to information that work withheld to release to the Union regarding membership; there’s some different sections regarding positions and what positions are represented and changes that you can or can’t make to those positions regardless of market conditions. So there were several items that were changed and some history that I understand is that the Unions had been working on this for quite some time before it went to the Legislature and there wasn’t a whole lot of time for response from any Public Agencies.

Carol Flinchbaugh said looks like they don’t provide a definition for negotiations anywhere either, so maybe they were just trying to remove something that might have muddied the process.

Jo Richards asked are there other Sections that you want to discuss?

Matt Holt said not for me.

Carol Flinchbaugh said I’m good.

Christine Rivera said if no one has any further questions or discussion we can adjourn.
Matt Holt moved to adjourn; Carol Flinchbaugh seconded the motion. Board said “aye”.
The meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Matt Holt Moved to Adjourn and Carol Flinchbaugh Seconded the Motion. The Board said “aye”.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:20 a.m.