

Public Hearing
May 21, 2019

The Colfax County Board of Commissioners met on this date in a Public Hearing in the Commission Chambers with the following members present:

Bobby LeDoux, Chairman
Landon Newton, Vice-Chairman
Roy Fernandez, Member
Rayetta M. Trujillo, County Clerk
Mary Lou Kern, County Manager
Terrence Kamm, County Attorney

1. Call to Order

Chairman LeDoux called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Fernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Salute to the New Mexico Flag

Commissioner Newton led the Salute to the New Mexico Flag.

4. Agenda

Chairman LeDoux called the Public Hearing to order at 8:30 a.m. The purpose of the Final Public Hearing was for discussion or any public input regarding the County Implementation of the Lodgers Tax Ordinance 2019-02. He stated there were 2 previous Public Hearings with May 21st as the 3rd and Final Public Hearing before the Commission considers the adoption of Lodgers Tax Ordinance 2019-02.

5. Recognize Visitors

Others present: Sara Torres, Amanda Segura, Roger Smith, Kathee Adams, Joel Lemons, Nick Cardenas, Joana Apodaca, Kathy M. Trujillo, Todd Tatum, Ronald Schmeits, Joshua Adams, Robert Thompson.

6. Public Comment

Chairman LeDoux requested County Manager Kern summarize the changes which were made to Lodgers Tax Ordinance 2019-02. County Manager Kern presented a drafted ordinance to the Commission. She stated the 1st Public Hearing was held in Raton with no public admissions and the 2nd hearing was held in Eagle Nest with commendable public admissions. County Manager Kern stated there were changes made to the Ordinance with respects to the public admissions gathered from the previous Public Hearing. She presented the changes marked in yellow and went through each change as presented. There was discussion over the changes made and suggestions for the final copy. County Attorney Kamm questioned if there is a separate CRS report on lodging and asked if it is identified in the County's Lodgers Tax Report. Commissioner Newton stated he reviewed the statues and every service provided is taxed under gross receipts within the state. He stated a 6.0833% gross receipt would be inputted along with the gross receipts report turned into the County. Commissioner Newton stated the County will desire the CRS reports which will specify the lodging tax collected for verification of the appropriate amount being reported and collected.

Colfax Gazette Reporter Roger Smith commented on the Public Hearings concerning Lodgers Tax Ordinance 2019-02. He stated the 1st public hearing was held in Raton at 8:30 a.m. before a Commission Meeting which gave the appearance it was held for the convenience of the Commissioners. Roger stated he determined the attendance was zero. He stated the 2nd public hearing was held in Eagle Nest which was rescheduled. Roger stated in the last Commission Meeting it was declared how important it was to host meetings out in the County for citizen admissions. He stated the 3rd meeting was suggested to be held in Cimarron on May 20th. Roger stated the meeting is now on May 21st in Raton at 8:30 a.m. which suggests it is for the convenience of the Commissioners. He stated if there was sincere concern to get citizens engaged the current process is not viable. Chairman LeDoux stated discussion for the Lodgers Tax Ordinance will be on the May 28th Agenda for consideration of adoption and at that point suggested