

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3RD St.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rolf Hechler at 4:00 p.m., who presided and Angela A. Torres, City Clerk-Treasurer, acted as Secretary of the meeting.

B. INTRODUCTION:

1. ROLL CALL:

Upon calling the roll, the following Commissioners were reported present.

Hon. Rolf Hechler, Mayor
Hon. Destiny Mitchell, Mayor Pro-Tem
Hon. Amanda Forrister Commissioner
Hon. Ingo Hoepfner, Commissioner
Hon. Chaz Glines, Commissioner

Also Present: Gary Whitehead, City Manager
Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager
Jay Rubin, City Attorney
Angela A. Torres, City Clerk-Treasurer
Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer
Luis Tavizon, Chief of Police

There being a quorum present, the Commission proceeded with the business at hand.

2. SILENT MEDITATION:

Mayor Hechler called for fifteen seconds of silent meditation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Hechler called for Commissioner Forrister to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Hoepfner moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Rubin: One observation I'll make, something that's not on the agenda. If you'll remember, at the last meeting, we had a discussion with Mr. Muirhead regarding the bond ordinance, and decided that we needed to move it back. I had given the opinion that we probably could do it at this particular meeting. However, in speaking with Mr. Whitehead, we decided probably the safest way to proceed is actually to go back to publication again. So that's why it's not on the agenda for this meeting, it will probably be on the agenda for the next meeting.

City Clerk Torres: Yes, the May 13th meeting.

City Attorney Rubin: I'm just mentioning it because I had given the opinion that we could probably bring it back today, but after further consideration, we decided that the better thing to do is to just move it back.

Mayor Hechler: Alright, we'll be safe.

5. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Forrister: I just apologize for being absent.

Commissioner Hoepfner: Same here. Back in the country now, everything went well. Glad to be back and moving forward with everything.

Commissioner Glines: Happy Earth Day, everybody.

Mayor Hechler: Just preparing for Fiesta in 9 days, actually it's 8 days. It's going to be a nice event. We have a new group kind of facilitating this event. It's going to be fun and interesting, and things are coming together nicely. I hope to see everyone there on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

Commissioner Forrister: Red, white, and blue.

6. STAFF COMMENTS:

City Manager Whitehead: Today is Earth Day. My only comment would be that I'm not going to steal Andy's thunder. He'll be here to talk about our Earth Day project, trash collection. I'll just say that it was absolutely a success. I have a feeling the numbers will be double what we've taken in before. Congratulations to the staff, they worked really, really hard, and it went fairly smoothly. We were surprised that Monday and Tuesday turned out to be the bigger days of the event, versus Saturday. But Andy will come with a nice report about it. Staff did a great job, and everyone's really busy right now bringing Fiesta on-board and trying to get things going, so we'll have a busy couple of weeks.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 Minute Rule Applies):

Steven Zeschke, 1019 Parway, addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- Last time I was down here to give you guys an attaboy about the Love's project. Back in Chicago, where I never go anymore, I own buildings in five different suburbs. They all had industrial parks ready to go. You know what we don't have here? We don't have any kind of light manufacturing. They take nuts and bolts and plastic injection machines and putting small stuff together and to packages like this and shipping them out on I-25. Other than Ashbaugh's land over by White Sands Credit Union there, some guy comes in and says, "You know, I want to make, you know, X product, ship it out on I-25 I want to be in business in a year. I want to throw up a big, you know, big metal building, like the fair bar down there, where do we put them here?" We got anything ready to go, just in case? You know, you're always looking for jobs, you know, figure out how to get the light industrial down here. Where are we putting it? Besides Ashbaugh's property? Just saying, might happen, you know. But you know, you don't have a place, you know, because behind the White Sands there, he's got their streets, and I'm sure there's probably infrastructure up there, and he got a cut on that roundabout on his property there by Sonic. But you know, I'm sure Ashbaugh wasn't in favor of Love's. So if you don't want to buy property from Ashbaugh, want to come in and make a bunch of stuff and have a dozen permanent jobs, I want to be up in a year. You know, CID takes a while to get down here. I know about all of that, plus half the time we don't have a code inspector here, so there's problems. But just want to throw that out, because if you got any city land somewhere, you know, maybe we develop it just in case, because, you know, like the copper mine and a lot of stuff, they're all worried about the same stuff: pollution, water, we're trucking it down to Rincon, it's going to be smelted in Mexico, etc. But he's got a lot of problems with the kind of jobs that are coming in. But we get any light impact, light industrial jobs with plastic injection molding machines and stuff, we should have it. We should have a park ready to go. I know that's going to be a lot of money.
- My other side point is there should be a sunset on everybody donating buildings to the city because they're old. And then 30 and 50 years later, they're just dumps. You know, you got to Tafoya, I know you got a half a million already lined up for the Lee Belle Center, which should be bulldozed and made part of healing waters park. There's a reason they bulldozed the rink right behind it. You know, there should be a sunset clause, because 50 years from now, when your buildings are dumps, we should be able to bulldoze it.

Chelsea Meece, 207 S Foch St, addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I am here to officially invite everyone to the T or C in Sierra County treasure hunt. We have hidden a Golden Turtle somewhere in Sierra County worth \$2,500 I'll pass these out to you guys so you can have them, if you can, happily take them and put them outside of your businesses, if you have them, thank you. Yeah, so if you can post those up, that would be amazing. The website is still getting some finishing touches at the moment, but will be completely live by Friday. As of right now, you can sign up for the treasure hunt. It is \$5 to sign up. Nobody else in this

county knows where the turtle is, besides myself and my dog. So, we wanted to make sure that everyone can participate. I am the chamber membership manager for the Truth or Consequences Sierra County Chamber of Commerce. I came down here in November and kind of got sucked into this area. I'm a virtual assistant for small businesses, and so I have come up with this initiative to kind of help with summer tourism, to help support small businesses, to gain some foot traffic. How it'll work is individuals will sign up via TorCchamber.org/treasurehunt. Then, on Fiesta Sunday, they will receive a poem. This is very similar to Forrest Fenn's treasure hunt, where he hid a treasure in the Rocky Mountains, and it lasted 10 years. Our goal is that somebody will find it this year, and we can repeat this next year because it is technically a fundraiser for our chamber, as well as support for our small businesses. The small businesses will be clue-holder pit stops. So if any small business wants to sign up to do that, you have to have reliable hours that I can put up, that people can come visit and do either a puzzle, or they can do a minimum spend, kind of like a qualifying purchase, in order to gain an additional clue to get them closer to – his name is Tucker the Turtle – So they get the poem on Fiesta Sunday, or whenever they sign up after that point. And then the goal is to have them come into town, go to the visitor center, sign in to the hunt there. They'll receive their first clue there, and then they can pick their own adventure from that point, visiting our small businesses and going out to hunt for Tucker. The prize for him is \$2,500 like I mentioned, and we're hoping to gain a lot of attention towards this treasure hunt to help our small businesses out. I know you guys are discussing this later on in the agenda, if you have any questions at that point, I'd be happy to come back up and answer those. I really like that I got some excited reactions, so thank you.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Acknowledge Subrecipient FY 25/26 3rd Quarter Reports.

Commissioner Forrister moved to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion Update: T or C Municipal Airport Presentation. Chad Rosacker, Tech 45 Airport Management

Chad Rosacker, Tech 45 Airport Management: I appreciate you guys giving me a few minutes again here. It's been a while since I've been able to get in front of you, so it's good to finally get out here. So today I'm just going to give you another update, kind of similar to what we've done in the past. I'll give you an overview of what's kind of going on at the airport, some of the new things that we have, some of our accomplishments, and some of our needs, so that everybody has a good understanding. Copy of presentation is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Mayor Hechler: What do you perceive as being the next big steps at that airport? What, aside from the renovation of these buildings, what else do we need to do?

Chad Rosacker, Tech 45 Airport Management: So, I think that setting the airport up to be a desirable place to develop is number one, there is plenty of land. There is plenty of opportunity to put together a master plan that really is something that that organizations look at as being a highly desirable place to come. This also extends to not only purely private sector, but also fire, police, and things of that nature. Fire, especially, there is a need for that around the country. There is a lack of well-supported fire stations; that's been well known for a long time. There is more money being put into that right now, but, yeah, having that plan ahead of time so that we are prepared when somebody wants to build is important. You know, figuring out parcels, figuring out standardized rates is going to be is going to be critical. Because when someone comes in and wants to develop, I think you all know as well as I do, a lot of times it goes to the one that's easiest to develop on. That's a deciding factor. So, we want to be easy to develop on. I want us to be a "yes" airport and a "yes" city that builds infrastructure when that time comes. So, a focus on that would be important, and I think that that's also one of the views of the engineering firm that we have here at the airport as well. So there's a lot of support behind that.

Mayor Hechler: Okay, what kind of relationship do we have with Spaceport America? I know that you can't fly private planes out there generally, so are we seeing an uptick in their usage at our airport?

Chad Rosacker, Tech 45 Airport Management: So, they're one of the ones that we're going to contact. This is - and I've spoke briefly about this and a previous meeting, it might have been a couple of years ago now - so places like those companies at Spaceport, there was a couple of them that were operating regularly out of Truth or Consequences, and then there was a few incidents that had to do with that foreign object debris that was around the airport. One of those, I happened to work for the company at the time, and the aircraft came back and it had two propellers that were damaged enough to be very, very expensive. We've solved that. So now our facility is better than it's ever been, and we want to re-engage with those potential customers. And I think that there is a preference to come to T or C over other places, as long as we can provide them with the same services. So, the vast majority of the airport is capable of handling anything that they would like to do. And if there's anything that's lagging, I also want to know what that is. So, there are a couple of customers that are there now that I will be engaging with to see what their appetite is for coming out and at least seeing what the new T or C airport looks like and see if they want to start doing some more frequent operations.

2. Discussion/Action: Accept the Notice of Award for ITB #2026-01-008 CDBG Water Meter Replacement Project and Execute Agreement.

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: I'll state for the record that this award is for ITB #2026-01-008 Water Meter Replacement Project to the TLC company, as presented and authorized execution of the contract agreement and applicable documents. So, we did an invitation to bid, with the assistance of Wilson and company, and based on the submittals, TLC was the lowest bidder. It's also an agenda item for \$60,000 and over. This is the CDBG fund, and this all includes for the projects with the water meter replacements, and I'll defer to Traci.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: So, we actually got pretty lucky, the bids came in low enough that not only were we able to award the base bid, but we were able to award alt bib one as well. So our base bid would have been around 950 or so water meters, and the award will actually allow us to put in closer to 1100 water meters. And that's it, I do believe I highlighted the requested recommendation, CDBG is particular about meeting minutes and specific wording for the motion.

City Attorney Rubin: I'll just mention a couple of things; in the packet, you'll see there is a notice of invitation to bid, and there's also the recommendation made by Wilson and company. So, it appears to me that it looks like the bid process is properly followed when we did this. Towards the end of your packet, there's the agreement between owner and contractor. I noticed on Article One, it says the contract documents consist of a lot of things that are listed, which actually are not part of the packet. But I don't think that really is a problem, because as I'm reading Article Five, under progress payments, basically, this is a reimbursement contract, so it's actually the services are delivered first before we actually have to worry about the payment. So I think with that, that copy, I think that we're fine to go forward.

Commissioner Forrister: And we awarded this bid, or we're looking at awarding this bid because they are the lowest. Do they meet other standards that we wanted or are they just the lowest bid?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: The lowest bid.

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: They're the lowest bid, but they're in compliance with the requirements.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: CDBG requires the lowest bid, as long as They meet the bid requirements and specifications.

Mayor Hechler: Do we have a history of working with TLC? We've worked on other projects with TLC, haven't we? Do you know of any?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: I don't off the top of my head.

3. Discussion/Action: Approval of an MOU between the City and Bureau of Reclamation regarding the storage of material and blocking off a section of Rotary Park during removal/installation of the dam in the Rio Grande.

You'll see everything's outlined here. They would block off the section in the green, it's going to be heavy equipment moving in there. It's actually become sort of popular. People like to go sightsee and watch it. So, you know, for safety concerns and safety reasons, they would block off that area. The City Manager and myself, paid a site visit there last week, we looked at it. It's



not real esthetically pleasing sitting there, and it's not real functional. So we would ask them to move the material to the west a little bit right there, stage it in a long, kind of elongated section there marked in red, and then no more than five feet high. So that's the MOU. And obviously this is contingent based off BOR's approval as well.

City Attorney Rubin: I'm looking at the last sentence under the purpose, I think it's important because it shows the benefit that we're getting from this, because it says this MOU supports the city by facilitating coordinated dam operations that minimum minimizes disruption to public spaces and ensures safe and efficient use of city property. I thought that was good to have that in there. And as you and I discussed, we also put into the agreement, under paragraph six, that either party can terminate the MOU with 30-days written notice, without cause.

OJ Hechler, Community Services Director: This MOU would be approximately for two years, or two irrigation seasons.

Commissioner Forrister: What did they do before the MOU?

OJ Hechler, Community Services Director: Nobody owned the land officially. I've heard stories that the river changed and eroded a little differently. BOR didn't really want to pursue the land at all. I think it's a great thing for the city to be able to use, because to me, it's a blank slate. It's an awesome idea for a future park or something of that nature. We have to remember, too, that BOR does this as a service for our community, for hot mineral baths in our spas, for some of the hydraulic pressure, and stuff like that, it helps with that.

Commissioner Glines: Just to clarify, when you say material, it's the actual material of the dam itself?

OJ Hechler, Community Services Director: Correct, yes the dirt and the rocks.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to approve the MOU between the City and Bureau of Reclamation regarding the storage of material and blocking off a section of Rotary Park during removal/installation of the dam in the Rio Grande. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion/Action: Approval of Agreement for the 2027 Farmers Market rental at Ralph Edwards Park.

City Manager Whitehead: I was approached a few months ago, actually, our PIO was approached by the farmers market and indicated that the cost had risen to a spot to rent the farmers market that was becoming unattainable. Many of the farmers that come and bring their products, the costs were just getting too high for them to afford, have affordability. So, we sat down together and kind of went over all the costs. As you know,

a few weeks ago, we did approve a new cost structure. And so what we did is look to that and say, "What could we do to make sure that we maintain the cost within the structure that we have, but find some ways to accommodate and lower some of those fees?" I think that the main discussion, and there's folks here that could add to this, the main purpose, would be to find a way to make sure that we could sustain the Farmers Market in Ralph Edwards park at a reasonable and a fair cost to those users. The farmers market, using the Bountiful Alliance, has been able to provide the service where they can take WIC, they're able to supply, and the farmers are able to benefit from that, as well as being able to use the EBT card. In addition, any items the farmers are not selling, they are taking to the food pantries and giving those items away. So, the community benefit is really being able to support folks that are on those programs to be able to buy wholesome new food that's grown right here in our community. And then the last piece that we would strengthen is really our economic development, supporting the small farmer, supporting those community members that want to use this as not only a way to supplement their income, but, you know, explore and teach and show you know how farming and sustenance can help and support our community. Our recommendation would be that you allow us to enter into a new contract with the farmers market. The nice part, they have already paid their fee for '26 so they're already operating. They've agreed to maintain that fee, which is around \$2,200 this contract would then allow us to move to a base fee of \$1,500 for the 2027 Farmers Market Year. And then, of course, they would set up with the clerk's office to pick the dates. They don't use the entire facility every time they so we, we kind of set some J's, and they were kind of paying for the gazebo for every day. They were kind of paying for all these services all the time, so we kind of broke that out, which helps us save so that the total Park is still available to the general public at any other time.

Jeff Deming, Sierra County Farmers Market: Some of the benefits that we provide are the WIC or WIC senior WIC participants. We kind of help them with applications. We give them balance inquiries, we just kind of help them through the entire process from application to implementation and just information throughout the season with how much they're getting. The SNAP EBT customers benefits that we have are with the farmers market, so when somebody comes and swipes their card for \$10 they'll get \$10 worth of EBT that coins an additional \$10 worth of what's called Double Up Bucks, which they can spend just on local fruits and vegetables. And actually, starting next week through August 31st, they get an additional \$10 there again, just it's another grant that we've gotten through New Mexico Farmers Market Association, so there'll be another additional \$10, so they're \$10 EBT will give them \$30 worth of fruits and vegetables.

Commissioner Forrister: I have a question. The school sometimes sends out something like a food program once or twice a year. Do those get to go and double these bucks?

Jeff Deming, Sierra County Farmers Market: I'm not sure.

City Clerk Torres: Og, like the school EBT thing that they would send for the kids? Probably, because I think it's under the same system.

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Jeff Deming, Sierra County Farmers Market: If they have an EBT card, we can run it. Honestly, I'm not aware of this program.

Commissioner Forrister: Yeah, I think they send them out once or twice a year.

City Clerk Torres: Yeah, something like that. They're white ones, they're from the Income Support Division, and they would send them out during Summer. They put so much money for each kid that you have in the household, so it's pretty much used the same way. It's just it was issued for that.

Commissioner Forrister: Well, that's good to know for those parents that are needing meals for their children.

Jeff Deming, Sierra County Farmers Market: It's fantastic, yeah. And it's good for the farmers too.

Commissioner Forrister: They better send it out while you're doing this 3x up thing.

Jeff Deming, Sierra County Farmers Market: Until August 31st, yeah.

Commissioner Forrister: August 31st, okay, send it out, school, or whoever sends it out.

Mayor Hechler: I noticed that the contract period is January 1st through December 31st, what else is available out there after the season for fruits and vegetables?

Jeff Deming, Sierra County Farmers Market: We can do dried herbs and stuff like that.

Mayor Hechler: Okay, and you guys still stay pretty busy that way?

Jeff Deming, Sierra County Farmers Market: We do, we try to.

Commissioner Forrister: Some people have greenhouses, you know.

Mayor Hechler: That's true.

City Manager Whitehead: We had discussed, in our meeting about setting this contract up, that we're really trying to get our contracts to be tied to our fiscal year, so that it becomes easier for us to track. But in this particular case, they really do work from January to December. So, we felt like, again, this one ending mid-year still gives us a good point to pay attention. And again, just a reminder, they have paid their full fees, over \$2,200 for this calendar year. They're in compliance. This would be really for next year, next season. We're really ahead of the game.

Commissioner Glines made a motion to approve the Agreement for the 2027 Farmers Market rental at Ralph Edwards Park. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5. Discussion/Action: Approve employee reclassification of a Public Service Director, Public Works Director, and the Public Safety Director, to include the following employees: Luis Tavizon, Bo Easley, Chris Rees, Brenden Anglin, OJ Hechler, Alona Niebergall, Deanna Knull, Kailey (Keegan) McCraw, Zakaila Carrera, Thomas Cool, Jamie Foreman and Michael Kozloski. City Manager Whitehead**

City Manager Whitehead: This has been a plan that I've been working on for a couple of months we've allotted to kind of mature and move slowly. Three meetings ago, the Commission did approve the restructure concept that I had where we would create three divisions. The main concept of what we're trying to change here is currently, the current structure, or the previous structure, was that we had department heads, and every department head reports directly to the City Manager. I can tell you, in a year, I've found that it is cumbersome. So, this structure would create a situation where we would have, effectively, three departments, one side of our house, taking care of all of our communities, our facilities, our parks, our recreation side, and then the other side taking care of what we call the Public Works, the streets, the utilities, the water, I would have the ability to have a manager in each of those two positions. And then the third position really being the chief of police, remaining as the chief of police, no change in structure or salary, but would be called the Public Safety Director where, as you know, we've kind of moved our emergency management in those items. And then one of the other challenges that we've had is, again, Human Resources is under the finance department where there are 100 plus employees. It's kind of a, it has been a, kind of a strange relationship. I think that ultimately we've come to recognize that the human resources really should work more with the City Manager. Those are that person and I are more connected than, technically the finance director, even though it works well in the space and there were connectivity, so we would be changing human resources to move under my umbrella. The other item, we when we started, we put it under finance. It's good space, Michael works well there, but technically, the IT person works over the entire city, so really, supervision should fall under my department, so that, again, our IT person has that flexibility. So as you can see by the presentation, the plan is for me to change many different areas that we have. The reason we're here for reclassification is under the current pay study, it would require that new positions would have to go out to be promoted, advertised, and applied for. In these particular cases, I don't have the second job, so if somebody stepped away from their job and didn't get this promotion, I wouldn't have a place to resend them. I'm effectively taking the employees we have, taking the money we have, and restructuring it within the confines that we have to make it work and hopefully make it more efficient. So with that, Mr. Chairman, I've given a list. You have a list of the employees that we would change effectively. Bo Easley would become the public works director. He would oversee the items in those areas. Alona

would still remain as our human resource, only she would be moved under my direction. Michael's Kozloski, he would still remain our IT, but he would move under my department. Mr. Reese would then become the electric crew chief. We would move Jamie Foreman into formally, the supervisor of the water wastewater. Keegan, we're going to change, to change that job from an administrative assistant to administrative and testing. Zakaila currently is the admin for the electric department, so she would become the admin for the public works director now. What I'm seeing in the electric side is we have just a true crew now, right? We don't have an operations and a crew. Chris would oversee just the crew in that operation. In this plan, we are not replacing the director of the facilities who retired this year. So, Mr. Cool would become the facilities foreman, working under OJ Hechler, who would become the community service director, and be now in charge of facilities. Chief Tavizon would just effectively become the Public Safety Director. Always titled the chief of police, but his title would also include that. And then we recognize that, as such, the administrative assistant for the chief needed to become an executive assistant due to the nature of the privacy and the items that that she oversees within the police department. We would be creating a couple of new positions. Again, savings would be - we're not replacing the Streets Foreman and we're not replacing the facilities directors both at this time. We would then create an admin assistant for the community service director and for the assistant City Manager. Currently, the assistant City Manager and I share my executive assistant, but now they would, we would create a new position to do that. My executive assistant would now work with Human Resources. So we would then, instead of being with the assistant City Manager, would be us and human resources sharing that particular individual, and we are going to create another IT specialist, so that we would have a two-person IT team, one that would work on site, and then, as I indicated earlier, Michael would still be our supervisor, but he wants to be able to work for other communities. He has other ambitions, and so he would remain on as a part-time supervisor. And the work that he does is always internal, where he could chime in and get into our systems where we need. Those are the changes we'd like to make. You've approved the structure, you've approved the rate study, so we would stay within the same rates. We're just adjusting these positions with inside of those. And so today, I would ask that you approve reclassifying these particular individuals into the jobs, as I designed.

Mayor Hechler: Okay, thank you.

Commissioner Forrister: Our IT people better step it up and get us some internet.

City Manager Whitehead: I have to say, in defense of Michael, this is probably the hardest and the worst that we've had. He's really fantastic.

Commissioner Forrister: I'm totally kidding, I know that IT isn't the problem.

City Manager Whitehead: I also want to point out, just in the water side, if you remember when I started the season, we put Jamie in the interim position for supervisor, I also kept the budget for a full-salary for a water wastewater director if we

needed it, and I kept the compliance space open. So, I'm going to take - we're going to use those funds to offset some of our costs, and then I am creating one more position within the water wastewater department so I can hire an additional person. You know, we are trying to get our system there, right, and so the addition of another employee would be a benefit there. Overall, the cost savings on the utility side were about \$52,000, it's going to cost us about \$52,000 more from the general fund to make these changes that I proposed.

Mayor Hechler: I remember it was just about a wash with these changes, so that's a good move.

City Manager Whitehead: Correct. It was a focus of mine to try to make it work within the structure we have. Who do I have? What can I do? How can I change it, to make it hopefully effectively a little bit better.

Commissioner Forrister: I will say that I feel like every time we get a new City Manager, we are restructuring something to fit their needs, and that is your lead, and we're going to support your direction on that.

Mayor Hechler: I think so. But I think we also need to set up a template for the future and a structure for the future, so that if we do have to replace the City Manager at some point, like we have five in the last seven years, we can still function as a city, and we have three department heads that kind of take care of the business of the city, I think will make things and the transitions in the future a little bit simpler. So, you know, I think that was part of the objective here.

City Manager Whitehead: Overall, I would say, when I came on and interviewed, I saw kind of what we were dealing with, I felt like a public works director is the right decision. I'm not completely there yet. I get that, we've talked about that personally, but the structure here is there, as we grow just within, open that door in the future, to stay within that structure. And then likewise, you have 14 different department heads right now that have to deal with one new manager. And each one of those managers is different. The last three, we're all different. We all attack things a little bit different. We all see things a little different. So again, hopefully, if the manager leaves, this structure works, the three can continue operating or vice versa, one could leave and you could replace one of those, and we could easily fill in.

Commissioner Forrister: Yeah, I definitely see that as a benefit, for sure.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to approve employee reclassification of a Public Service Director, Public Works Director, and the Public Safety Director, to include the following employees: Luis Tavizon, Bo Easley, Chris Rees, Brenden Anglin, OJ Hechler, Alona Niebergall, Deanna Knull, Kailey (Keegan) McCraw, Zakaila Carrera, Thomas Cool, Jamie Foreman and Michael Kozloski. Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion/Action: Approval of Contract and Allocation of Funds to the T or C/Sierra County Chamber of Commerce for the T or C & Sierra County Treasure Hunt. City Clerk Torres

City Clerk Torres: As you guys heard in public comment, Chelsea kind of went over what their treasure hunt consists of. So, they went to the lodgers Tax Board, and they requested \$6,359 for tourism and marketing items that are listed in your scope of work in your packet. The Board approved the entire amount of the \$6,359 so right now, we're requesting the allocation of funds and the approval of the contract.

Commissioner Forrister: It's great when these things can happen and they're using larger tax funds to pay for those things and going directly to them.

Mayor Hechler: I think it's an exciting event to put us on the map, so to speak. All right, we're agreement.

Commissioner Hoepfner: I think I have to recuse myself here, I'm part of the Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Glines made a motion to approve the Contract and Allocation of Funds to the T or C/Sierra County Chamber of Commerce for the T or C & Sierra County Treasure Hunt. Commissioner Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously. – Commissioner Hoepfner recused himself.

7. Discussion/Action: Approval of Purchases \$60,000 and over.

**a. Bohannon Huston Inc.: Engineering Services
Design/Construction Services**

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: Hello again, I'm going to present for Carlos since he's out in training this week. Our first item, A, for Bohannon Huston, to incorporate our on-call services for a design construct on the Colonias infrastructure. It also will include the replacement of our inoperable bar screen with this on-call contract that is part of the amount of \$306,137.70. I will defer to Traci and Gary for any questions on the Colonias infrastructure funds, and the capital outlay.

Mayor Hechler: So, this is engineering services only? There's no construction associated?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Construction oversight will be included in there. This will address the bar screen issue with wastewater treatment plant from Colonias funds. And then we'll be using a portion of the capital outlay that we received to address the

weirs, and so that'll take care of some of the items that were listed on the administrative order, and engineering is required through the funding sources as well.

City Manager Whitehead: I would point out that it's a two-part approval. So, it's about \$170,000 for the engineering and design, and then the construction and construction management will be the second half of the contract.

Commissioner Forrister: Okay, it looks like the Bohannon Huston is for \$306,000.

City Manager Whitehead: Correct, they'll be doing the design for \$170,000 and then the construction management for \$106,000. That's the total.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to approve Bohannon Huston Inc.: Engineering Services Design/Construction Services. Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

b. TLC Plumbing & Utility: Construction Services CDGB Water Meter Replacement Project

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: This is part of the discussion we had earlier on the bid, for the low bid. This is for the contract for construction services, for TLC, \$708,090.82. This is for approval of the award to TLC for the lowest bid, for the CDBG grant.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to approve TLC Plumbing & Utility: Construction Services CDGB Water Meter Replacement Project. Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

F. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING:

- 1. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 52 25/26 Authorizing the Submittal of an application for the 2026-2027 New Mexico Department of Transportation's (NMDOT) Project Fund (TPF). Assistant City Manager Alvarez**

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Staff is requesting authorization to submit an application to the TPF fund, receiving funding for phase one of the Smith Street project for plan, design, and construction. Total project cost is estimated at \$1,011,602.61. Of that, \$961,022.48 would be grant. \$50,580.13 would be our local match. Resolution is required by the Commission in order to submit the application.

Commissioner Hoepfner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 52 25/26 Authorizing the Submittal of an application for the 2026-2027 New Mexico

Department of Transportation's (NMDOT) Project Fund (TPF). Commissioner Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to move into executive session at 5:25 p.m. to discuss Threatened & Pending Litigation (*Tanya Reed vs. City of Truth or Consequences*) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7) and Limited Personnel Matters (*City Manager*) Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2). Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

G. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Threatened & Pending Litigation (*Tanya Reed vs. City of Truth or Consequences*) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7).
2. Limited Personnel Matters (*City Manager*) Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2).

Mayor Hechler reconvened the meeting in open session at 5:28 p.m.

Mayor Hechler certified that only matters pertaining to Threatened & Pending Litigation (*Tanya Reed vs. City of Truth or Consequences*) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7) and Limited Personnel Matters (*City Manager*) Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2) were discussed in Executive Session and no action was taken in executive session.

H. RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION; ACTION (if any):

1. Threatened & Pending Litigation (*Tanya Reed vs. City of Truth or Consequences*) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7).

No action was taken.

2. Limited Personnel Matters (*City Manager*) Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2).

No action was taken.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Hechler adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Passed and Approved this 16th day of May, 2026.

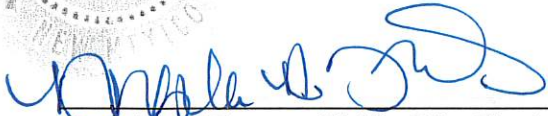
CITY COMMISSION APRIL 22, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES



Rolf Hechler, Mayor



ATTEST:



Angela A. Torres, CMC, City Clerk

