

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3RD St.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025

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. Amanda Forrister, Mayor Pro-Tem
Hon. Destiny Mitchell, Commissioner
Hon. Merry Jo Fahl, Commissioner
Hon. Ingo Hoepfner, Commissioner

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

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. He asked that we keep Pope Francis who passed the day after Easter, Billie Jean Rutledge who passed on April 11, 2025, and Willie and Shenandoah who lost their home yesterday in a fire in our thoughts and prayers.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Hechler called for Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve the agenda with the removal of item F2. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

C. PRESENTATIONS:

- 1. Proclamation naming May 23, 2025, as Poppy Day for the American Legion Auxiliary.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister presented the proclamation to the American Legion Auxiliary.

- 2. Proclamation naming Saturday, May 3, 2025, as Miss Fiesta Day.**

Commissioner Mitchell presented the Proclamation naming Saturday, May 3, 2025, as Kendra Cook, Miss Fiesta Day.

- 3. Issuance of certificates to the 2025 Miss Fiesta Royal Court Winners.**

Mayor Hechler issued certificates to the 2025 Miss Fiesta Royal Court Winners.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 1. City Commission Special Budget Minutes, April 3, 2025**
- 2. Purchase report of items between \$20,000 and \$60,000**

Commissioner Fahl: Gary, you did a great job on the Purchase report of items between \$20,000 and \$60,000. The format is full of explanations for us and for the public.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: I know we don't have reports listed today, but I wanted to say two quick things. In honor of Earth Day, there will be an Ag Day held on Friday, at the Sierra County Sheriff's Posse. That is a really fun event that our kids from 3rd grade to 5th grade attend. Also, law enforcement lost at the donkey basketball game.

Commissioner Mitchell: The downtown litter cleanup for Fiesta is this Saturday at Ralph Edwards Park.

City Manager Whitehead introduced the city's new Public Information Officer, Carrie Gaston, to our governing body members.

E. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING:

1. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 39 24/25 Budget Adjustment Request.

Jocelyn Holguin, Finance Director, reviewed the budget adjustments provided in the packet. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve Resolution No. 39 24/25 Budget Adjustment Request. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 40 24/25 Foch Street Renovation Project.

Becca Eza, MainStreet Truth or Consequences Director: This is an additional funding amount. The bid for the Foch Street project went out in March. Bids were received. We were finally able to schedule and hold a bid discussion with Traci, Jocelyn, and members of the New Mexico MainStreet and Flynn's Collaborative. In that discussion, it came out that, because this project has been underway for so long, it was expected that the bids would come in over the total amount of funding that we have so far. New Mexico MainStreet network has an additional \$910,000 that we have applied for, and they are offering us to complete this project. Hopefully that will be enough to cover the total cost. I know that they are still taking a look at the bids and assessing that. This is basically that additional funding amount that has been offered by the MainStreet network. It does not require any kind of match. They take into account the investments that have been made by the city in other infrastructure projects in the downtown district, and they use that to say that you guys are investing in the district, so we will invest this money for this project. It is the \$910,000 being offered for a total of \$2.8 million or \$2.9 million for the project to be completed.

Mayor Hechler: Manager Whitehead, are we closer to the bids now that we've gotten this extra money?

City Manager Whitehead: I have not had an opportunity to look at the bids. I look forward to doing that very quickly. I believe there were 3 bids. The lowest bid, this amount of money will come in line with that bid. We have \$50 million worth of water projects coming on. If every one of the bids that comes to the City of T or C are going to be 30% to 40% over the engineer's estimates, we are going to have a problem. I'm going to remain steadfast to say that it's my obligation to look at this contract in detail and understand why we missed it. I get it. It's been a long time, but I feel that the crew has done a good job. They've worked really hard, so we'll get that done. The money that they have found and put together should accomplish the project.

Mayor Hechler: I appreciate those remarks. I think that's important.

Commissioner Fahl: It would be exciting to do this. It's been a long time. We are looking forward to you coming to us and saying, here, we awarded the bid, and we have enough money.

Mayor Hechler: The longer you wait, the prices aren't going down. They are always going up. Becca, we appreciate your comments.

City Manager Whitehead: We fully expect to have it on our May 14th agenda. Jocelyn has done some really hard work this week to get us to a spot where everything is in order. We should be able to get the reviews and get it on the agenda so we can get moving on this pretty quickly.

Commissioner Fahl moved to approve Resolution No. 40 24/25 Foch Street Renovation Project. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion/Action: Chief of Police Contract Amendment.

City Manager Whitehead: The State of New Mexico, they have been graciously adding funding for police officers and for small rural communities to allow for retention. They create these retention programs and then the Chief is able to take those dollars and distribute it potentially as a stipend across the department for those officers that have certifications. It comes with hopes that the individual officer will stay and support the rural community for a year. That's the way we've done it. The Chief has done a great job and he has taken those funds to the officers. At the last meeting, his officers also voted to include him in that funding. He would absolutely be eligible. He is a certified police officer, and he is able to do everything that they are able to do. So, when I reviewed it, it looked like the contract really didn't separate what we pay vs. what he would be eligible for, so I wanted to correct that in this contract to make sure that any funds that would come from the State of New Mexico that's a direct benefit for his work as a law enforcement officer. Whether it be here or anywhere else in the State of New Mexico. He would be entitled to, so the language we drafted affectively says that he would be allowed to participate. Those fundings would have to be department wide. He wouldn't be looking for something for just himself. The only issue that I would have is if we were able to find a federal grant that would offset salaries for us across the board to help us reduce any budget obligation, the department would not be eligible for that. Otherwise, we are fully in support of Chief, and his department's ability to participate. The legislature did fund this program again this year, so they will be getting additional stipends for retention in small rural communities.

Commissioner Fahl moved to approve the Chief of Police Contract Amendment. Commissioner Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Approval of Purchase Requisitions over \$60,000.

This item was removed from the agenda.

G. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. Threatened & Pending Litigation (Rachel Higgins vs. City of T or C) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7).

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister made a motion to go into executive session at 4:32 p.m. to discuss Threatened & Pending Litigation (Rachel Higgins vs. City of T or C) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7). Commissioner Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hechler reconvened the meeting in open session at 6:02 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister certified that only matters pertaining to Threatened & Pending Litigation (Rachel Higgins vs. City of T or C) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7) was discussed in Executive Session and no action was taken in executive session.

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

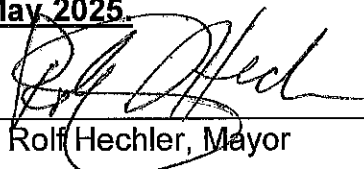
1. Threatened & Pending Litigation (Rachel Higgins vs. City of T or C) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7).

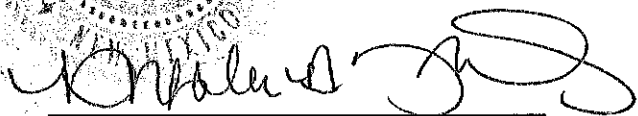
No action was taken.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Hechler adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Passed and Approved this 14th day of May 2025.


Rolf Hechler, Mayor


Angela A. Torres, CMC, City Clerk