

**CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting of the Public Utility Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico to be held in the City Commission Chambers, 405 W. Third, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 3:30 pm.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dornbusch.

ROLL CALL:

Jeff Dornbusch, Chairman
Don Armijo, Vice-Chairman Via Phone
Gil Avelar, Member
Chris Sisney, Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Gary Whitehead, City Manager
Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager
Katy Martinez, Deputy Clerk
Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Director
Wesley Myers, Sanitation Supervisor
Jamie Forman, Water/Wastewater Iterum Supervisor
Bo Easley, Electric Department Director
Zakariah Carrera, Electric Department Admin Assistant

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Sisney made a motion to approve the agenda.
Vice-Chairman Armijo seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Regular meeting of December 20, 2025.

Member Sisney made a motion to approve the minutes.
Vice-Chairman Armijo seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: (3 Minute rule applies)

There were no comments at this time.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion/Update: Solid Waste/Recycling Center

Sanitation Director Andy Alvarez: I want to introduce you guys to Wesley Myers he is my supervisor he is an amazing young man and employee he is doing an awesome job. Im going to let him give you the report today.

Sanitation Supervisor Wesley Myers: I have a tonnage in pounds of trash and recyclables to present to you. From July 2025 to December 2025, we have sent roughly 3,999 tons which is about 7,998,540 pounds of trash to the landfill. From July 2024 to December 2024, we sent out about 4,868 tons which is about 9,737,260 pounds. That is 869 tons which is about 1,738,720 less trash that got sent to the landfill in 2025. For the recyclables from January 2025 to December 2025 we recycled .83 tons of aluminum bales which is about 16,000 pounds. In 2024 it was .84 which is about 60 pounds less than 2025. In 2025 from July to December it was 86.85 tons of scrap metal which is about 173,700 pounds and 102 tons which is about 204,200 in 2024. Which means we did 30,500 pounds less in 2025. For cardboard in 2025 it was 81.35 tons which is 162,700 pounds. In 2024 we did 61 tons 122,060 pounds. That is 40,640 more pounds in 2025. We had a little extra come in this past year. On another note, on the day of trash pickup customers do need to make sure that their poly carts are out on time. The city ordinance states that you must have your poly cart by 6:30 am or the night before your trash pick up day. Our trash routes don't have an exact time for each day, sometimes our trucks will run late, for instance if we have a safety meeting that morning, a trip to the service center or they could even be earlier on their routes because we split between 2 different drivers. We ask that when you budget for an expense such as sofa or a new mattress we ask that you don't forget to budget for the cost of disposal. Along side the cost of disposal please keep in mind the proper way to dispose of any items and whether they can be recycled. Make sure you are taking them to proper facilities such as the collection center in Williamsburg or even a thrift store so the items can be properly dealt with instead of just thrown out.

Chairman Dornbush: Are you guys still taking things like hot water heaters and things of that nature?

Sanitation Supervisor Wesley Myers: Yes we do. Any thing that is scrap metal you can bring it to our facility for free.

Chairman Dornbush: The aluminum can do you guys bale them up?

Sanitation Supervisor Wesley Myers: We do. We will any aluminum cans whether it be in a bag or lose we have 1.5 dumpsters in our recycling yard that we will take and we process them and turn them into the bales.

b. Discussion/Update: Water/Wastewater

Jamie Foreman Interim Supervisor: We had to send out a water notice for our sanitary survey. There was 20 deficiencies on there. We has completed all but 2 of them before the deadline however I failed to send out the notice in proper time so that is why the letter had to go out. As of date we have completed all the required deficiencies. I got a verbal concurrence today from NMED that our sanitary survey is complete. We currently have about 20 leaks in town. We do have a contractor helping us out. He is taking some of the minor leaks and so my crew can work on the major main lines and such and focus on those. As of date since November of last year we completed over 50 leaks. The contractor has completed about 20. We are catching up on our leak list. We get them as we go. We are asking customer in the Silver Street area and the 9th Street area where we are currently doing work for shovel ready to sign up either through my office or the city website for the Daupler notify. So we can notify them promptly if we are going to need to shut down water, a road closure or anything that has to do with the project.

Chairman Dornbush: The Shovel Ready project is that pressure reducing?

Jamie Foreman Interim Supervisor: No that one is line replacement.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Shovel Ready Project is the projects that where all designed in all the various different ones but we didn't have enough funds. Like in Drinking Water, MSD and all of those. They where considered shovel ready because they where all designed so we were able to package them up do minimal bid engineering cost to go out to bid and put most of the dollars into construction.

Chairman Dornbush: Pressure reducing is still on?

Jamie Foreman Interim Supervisor: That one is going out for bid shortly I believe.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Ill give an update on all the water projects.

Member Sisney: Could you out those notices on the city website?

Jamie Foreman Interim Supervisor: I believe Carrie has been putting them on the website.

Member Sisney: Because someone was asking me and I told them to check the website. I started looking last week and it wasn't on there.

Jamie Foreman Interim Supervisor: I will verify with Carrie. We were working on it this morning and getting a schedule conformed.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Will you update on what the deficiencies were. So they know that our water was fine.

Jamie Foreman Interim Supervisor: The deficiencies weren't catastrophic. They were mostly mechanical. We had one well port that didn't have a vent on it. It now has a vent. A couple of them had bolt holes that they considered uncovered. We have covered those. Our up zone tank had an old bib hose on it. That is for pressure reading. It was leaking, it has been fixed. An indicator was no longer in use so they wanted to make sure it wasn't connected to the roof. It wasn't. Well 2 as you know we went out for rehab on that. There was significant leaks with in the well pump house. That is currently in construction and the pump is being put into a submersible pump. It was mostly mechanical issues versus sanitary issues.

Chairman Dornbush: I got a lot of calls wanting to know if its safe to drink because there was a disclaimer at the bottom saying pregnant women and all that. I tried to tell people that its only if you have a condition and it still doesn't affect the water quality at all. So if the water wasn't affected it would be like issuing a boiling water notice or something.

Jamie Foreman Interim Supervisor: Right, if the water would have been affected we would have issued a boil notice. Unfortunately we cant change that templet. That templet came straight from NMED and so we understand that is was really hard the no boil order was on the back but you had to read through all of it to get to the no boil order. We can change it. Its something NMED sends out. It was very confusing. We do test monthly for bacteria. Chlorine levels we test daily and all of those have come back ok. The water is safe to drink it was a mechanical issue.

Chairman Dornbush: Have you got anything saying you are in compliance.

Jamie Foreman Interim Supervisor: Yes we did get a verbal concurrence today.

5. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD:

There were no reports from the board at this time.

6. REPORTS FROM STAFF:

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Our water meter project with CBDBG we are getting ready to go out advertise for bid. That should be going into construction here shortly. The WISPI 1 which is our pressure reducing valves. We finally got approval through USDA. They had turn over at the USDA level unfortunately the person we had been originally dealing with wasn't really good at keeping her files so when we got a new person even though we were already in process. We had been processing invoices and doing payments he put a halt to everything until he completely audited both files for WISPI 1 and WISPI 2. I took a lot of him getting through some new documents that had to be done. We had to do that title search to say that yes all of the water system was owned by the city. We are all completed. We are good to go he has released us and we are getting ready to bid on WISPI 1. For WISPI 2 we are good to proceed forward on that one. We are working on out construction financing. As you know USDA we have to get all loan documents in place. We have predevelopment so we have done the design on WISPI 2 but now we have to go in for the full construction loan. Once that is in place we will go to bid and that one will be getting in the works real quick. Shovel Ready they are out there working. We are going to be meeting with the contractor, engineer and internal staff so that we can get a better game plan. That one got held up a little bit at NMED with Steven Deel took a little time from the time we awarded the project till we can give them notice to proceed. As soon as we gave the contractor J&H the notice to proceed they were on it. They jumped a lot quicker then we were expecting. They started construction immediately unfortunately there was an unstable line and the construction cause the line to break they didn't hit the line. It was the vibration from the construction. Unfortunately that line also services the hospital and the school so we ended up with a big shut down. We will be meeting with the contractors this week to get a game plan in place to ensure that we don't have to go through that process. We go the water up and going pretty quick but the school had already been notified. We are talking about maybe working internally with Rain for Rent about getting a water tank for the school so we have a little bit of buy time so they don't have to shut down immediately. Same with the hospital and the county. You guys see the Foch street project going on. That is also moving quick. I am currently working on my capital list. I know you have seen it in the past. I am currently updating that and I will be brining that to commission and then hopefully to you guys by next month. That will show you all the projects we currently have funded, all the projects that were just completed and the ones that were in application and then fiscal agents. Just as a rough number currently projects that we have going right now and are fully funded for we are right around 76 million dollars. We got the money coming in. We just received another potential grant award through Heinrichs Office that came through today for the FY26 funding. It will be a little over a million dollars. That's the money Bruce advocated for from Senator Heinrich and it seems like we have been on a rolling approval from him every year since 2023. We have a lot going on. We are going to construction cone heavy in town. We are going to try and keep the website updated with all the projects. Keep following on that as well.

Chairman Dornbush: Do we have an end date for Foch Street Project?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: We are looking at just before Fiesta. I think April was their end date for that.

Bo Easley Electric Department Director: The electric car charging station things are getting ready to start moving. They were here with the GeoTech surveys. Loves truck stop we have been installing poles and running wire. We have 2 more poles to set. Then we can start working on the transformer. One contractor is going to be here the 19th to finish building the 3 phase from Dennys to the interstate. I have another contractor that is going to do the west side of the interstate to back behind Marios replacing all the poles and replacing all the conductors. They should be here hopefully with in the next 3 to 4 weeks. Morgan complex the electrician started running the electrical wire there. We should be hooking up the wire inside the transformers here soon.

Member Sisney: How is the power going to cross I-25?

Bo Easley Electric Department Director: Its already there.

Member Sisney: Under?

Bo Easley Electric Department Director: No its overhead.

Chairman Dornbusch: Do you know when Loves is planning to open?

Bo Easley Electric Department Director: They are pushing for the end of April. They are moving quick.

Deputy Clerk Martinez: I just wanted to remind the board that the open house for the new Police department is tonight at 5:30pm

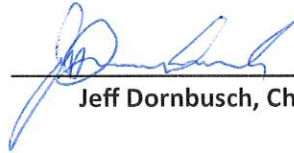
7. ADJOURNMENT:

Member Sisney made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Armijo seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 16th DAY OF MARCH 2026.



Jeff Dornbusch, Chairman