

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3RD St.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rolf Hechler at 9:00 a.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. 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
Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Supervisor
Jamie Foreman, Water/Wastewater Supervisor
Wyatt Graves, Service Center Supervisor

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

2. SILENT MEDITATION:

Mayor Hechler: We had a pillar of our community pass a couple days ago, Cookie Johnson. I've known of Cookie ever since I moved to Truth or Consequences and became really friendly with her in 2005 when she helped my wife get through breast cancer. Her illness took her really quickly and wasn't ready for her. But she's going to be missed. She's had a rough time the last few months, her husband is a dementia patient now at the Veteran's Administration. Ironically enough, she was a leading investigator at the Veteran's Administration earlier in her career. She has done a lot for our community as a former mayor, served on the Spaceport Committee, I served on the Hospital Committee with her, and I know she is going to be missed by our community and everyone in it. For

our next fifteen seconds, please keep her and her family in mind and in our prayers. Thank you.

Mayor Hechler called for fifteen seconds of silent meditation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Hechler called for Merry Jo Fahl to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

Mayor Hechler: Before we move onto item five, I'd like to take care of one quick order of business, recognizing the efforts and the work of our most recent retired Commissioner, Merry Jo Fahl. I want to thank you for your service, I enjoyed working with you. I know that you love this community, and everything that happens to this community weighs heavy on you. You worked really hard to get us through the last four years. We accomplished a lot with your help and assistance, and it was really nice working with you.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: It's been an absolute pleasure. Not everybody gets our humor and our back and forth with each other, I'm sure Jay cringes sometimes when you and I are doing things, but we understand each other and it's been a pleasure working with you.

Commissioner Mitchell: At the last Commission meeting in December, I said some very nice things about you and I don't remember what they are now. You and I have served on numerous boards throughout the past twenty-five years, and this was an absolute blast. I really admire your strength, your courage, and the values that you stand for. I think you were a very reasonable voice on our Commission, and you were much appreciated.

Commissioner Hoepfner: It was a pleasure working with you, you are an absolute powerhouse, you're making big differences in this town. Moving forward, you're not finished yet, there are many projects still open where your knowledge and passion is needed. I'm looking forward to working with you in the future on certain projects.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: Yeah, we still have to do our gameshow.

Mayor Hechler: As we proceed, we're actually going to give you two awards, because you're so special. One is a plaque, which is your public service award, "Honoring Merry Jo Fahl, Commissioner from 2022-2025 in recognition of your outstanding dedication, commitment, and support to the city of Truth or Consequences." That's our standard

thing. As a special award, this is a "Recognition certificate of service presented to Merry Jo Fahl, City Commissioner. In recognition of your years of dedicated service, leadership, and commitment to the citizens of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Your leadership and steadfast guidance regarding the many complicated issues facing our community have made a positive and everlasting impact. Presented with sincere gratitude and best wishes for your future endeavors, December 17th, 2025." We were going to give it to you then, but what's nice about this is that we've all signed it, the Commissioners that work with you, because I think you need to remember who we are, and it's something that you can put on your wall. I would be proud to do that if I received something like this. With that, let's all congregate in the front and do a photo op.

5. DISCUSSION/ACTION/RE-ORGANIZATION: SELECTION OF A MAYOR & MAYOR PRO-TEM.

Mayor Hechler: Since this is our first meeting of the year, what generally happens when we have a new Commissioner or new Commissioners, is we go through re-organization. With that, today we need to pick a mayor, we also need to pick a Mayor Pro-Tem. I'll open it up if there's any discussion, if not I'll entertain motions, however you'd like to do it.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: I'd like to start. I think we are in good hands here with our Mayor, I think you still have lots of good work to do. I think our community appreciates what you've been doing.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister made a motion to nominate Commissioner Hechler to serve as Mayor. Commissioner Hoeppe seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hechler: Thank you folks. I'm honored and I promise I will continue to work as hard as I can for this community. I've chosen to make this community my home, I want to make it better, we all feel that way, so thank you for the honor and I'd be glad to accept it.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: I would also like to pass the torch down the line as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister made a motion to nominate Commissioner Mitchell to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem. Commissioner Hoeppe seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: Thank you.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 Minute Rule Applies):

Steve Bauers addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I live at 600 N Foch. Most of you are new faces since I've talked to you last, so I'll give you my spiel. In the 90's, I went back to school and I got licensed with the Bonneville Power Administration to do energy audits and inspections. As it is today, the cheapest power available for business, for utility companies, for residential, is conservation. Insulation, weather stripping, caulking, saves so much money, and it's a forever thing. Owning our own utility company, we have a great possibility to really lower our utility rates, or our utility consumption. Less power for the city to buy and less power for people in our community to buy, with just simple insulation and caulking. It's amazing the difference it will make.
- The other thing I want to mention is to the Police Officers, because I live at 6th and Foch, I watch people run that stop sign almost hourly, I don't mean a rolling stop, they run the stop sign without even slowing down quite often. There are children catching busses there, there are people walking their dogs, there are elderly people, bicyclists, it's really a dangerous situation. Monitoring that intersection, especially with a vehicle, one of your police vehicles parked three doors down, it's just appalling to me how people can run a stop sign with a cop car right there. Just put somebody in it now and then. You could greatly reduce the danger on that corner. That's it, thank you.

Stacy Blum-Hay addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I live at 595 South Foch Street and I'm a board member of the Sierra County Arts Council, and we are requesting that two of us on the board would like to be part of the art in public places selection committee, when that happens. That's what I'm asking, it would be myself and Shennoa Bree. Thank you.

Becca Eza, MainStreet Truth or Consequences addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I have some quick updates on what MainStreet has been up to. Since wrapping up all the Christmas and holiday stuff, we took a little bit of a break, and now we're back to it in January. We have a litter clean up coming up on the 24th, Saturday a week from tomorrow. Part of the Clean and Beautiful grant that we get jointly with the city. At 1pm on the 24th, we're meeting at the Healing Waters Plaza, then we'll spread out around town and clean up. We're just trying to get folks from the community out to help pick up trash and make our town look a little bit nicer. That's all part of the in-kind hours that we have toward that grant. So those volunteer hours help us to continue getting these Clean and Beautiful grants every year.
- The Foch project is underway. They're finally out working on the street, and things are going fairly smoothly, I've been working closely with Assistant City Manager Alvarez to communicate with the businesses, sending out weekly emails to let them know what's happening that week, and as things move forward if they need to know any changes in the plan, or updates.
- Our wayfinding project, which we've been working on for nearly a year and a half now, is nearing completion. The team from New Mexico MainStreet is putting the

last details on the draft final plan, and we plan to bring that to you guys at the meeting on the 28th for any last input you may have on that, and then we hope that you would consider a vote of support, not any kind of financial obligation, but just a vote in support of the plan, and of installing these signs, then we will seek grant funding to actually be able to fund this.

- We're gearing up for the Levitt music series. In the beginning of February, I along with two board members from MainStreet, are going to the Levitt Learning Conference, and we hope that they give us a lot more information about what they expect from the grant, and how to put these shows together. Our plan it, then in February when we come back armed with all that knowledge, we will schedule dates, get performers, and hopefully by the beginning of March, have everything for the first season on the calendar. Just as a reminder, those will all be free, outdoor shows at Ralph Edwards Park.
- Finally, we are gearing up Fiesta planning for this year, we've already had a couple of meetings with our core planning team, that is made up of myself, Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell, who is in an advisory role this year, we have a new coordinator. We are having our first general volunteer meeting on Tuesday the 20th at the museum, it's right before the Police open house, so we're going to have ours be a quick one, and then send everyone over to the Police Station. Tuesday, the 20th at 5pm, if you're interested in volunteering, please come. Thank you!

D. REPORTS:

City Manager Whitehead reported the following:

- Congratulations to our new Commission. I look forward to continuing to work with each of you on some exciting things that we have in front of us this coming year. I will try to keep my report as simple as we can, we're back to normal, so we will have our department heads reporting to you as well this morning. We'll try to go quick.
- Becca kicked things off a little bit talking about Foch Street. That project is hard to miss, it's in the middle of town, and it's going very well, seems to be in order. The contractors should have some electrical work done today where they're starting inspections, they're going to build it out and in a couple of weeks they think they'll be starting to put sidewalks down. All contractors are moving ahead of schedule really well, so we're really excited about that.
- Shovel-ready, believe it or not, got started. Some of you got started off with a bang by shutting the schools down. Again, we really apologize, they'd been waiting for six weeks to get started, it took us a while to get the NMED release so they could start, so the minute they got it, they got started, opened up one of the lanes on Silver Street, and one of our fittings actually just popped off, so it was just kind of waiting to happen, but the crews did a good job, we resolved that issue pretty quick, unfortunately not fast enough for the schools, so again, as always, I apologize for that. I know it's an inconvenience to our community, to families, to businesses.

Commissioner Forrister: Parents trying to get anything done.

City Manager Whitehead continued:

- Parents, absolutely. So, our team's going to meet next week, we're going to reconvene with the contractor. They will be working from Silver Street, that's one block on Silver, and then down to 8th, and then the line will extend all the way down 8th to Ash, then come back to 9th Street, and then go all the way across, go underground under Date. So, it's going to be a loop line that we'll create and put new valves, so they're going to be in that area for a bit. We'll be sending a crew out to identify all the valves in that area, so that we can potentially respond a little quicker if we get a water break, so we can get water turned off. Remember, some of the challenges that we don't know are what valves work and what valves don't work, which is what happened that day, it just took us a while to find the right series of valves. The minute we turned off the right series, the pressure at the school came back, so we think if we can solve that in the front end, we'll be better. Part 2: we really like what we did on Foch Street, certainly working with MainStreet in our office, we communicated really well with the owners in and around that, so we're going to start putting that list together for the folks that are in the impacted area, so we can let them know we're going to be there and get them on an email schedule, so we can give them a weekly update of when they're coming on those kinds of things, because it will be disruptive. The best part is the work that the Commissions have done in the past is going in the ground. A \$6 million project that's real, and it's happening, so we're excited to talk about that.
- USDA, our WSPI-1 project is finally almost released, I think we're ready to potentially put it out to bid, which is exciting. When I got here, the first meeting that I attended for Water, the team had indicated that we would be ready to go to bid on WSPI-1 in April of 2025. So that's the challenge that it has been to get to this point, with changes in the federal government, challenges we've had there, but it's ready to go, which will be the most exciting project for our water system. It's potentially eight new pressure relief valves. The city is running on one pressure relief valve right now. That's causing the main problem where our lines are breaking and we end up with high pressure in certain areas, so we're excited to get that.
- I would be remiss without reporting to you on our leak list. Again, it has been a challenge. I want to report to you that at the end of December, from October 22nd forward, we've repaired 65 water leaks. Late in November, I made a decision that I needed some additional help, so we brought in a contractor. The contractor that we have been helping us with our licensure is also licensed to do repairs, so with that help, the contractor fixed 16 leaks, and the team was able to get 49 leaks. So we just have a lot of leaks. This morning, we're still under 20. I've made a point that weekly, I'm driving to each of those leaks, and trying to help Jamie assess; what are leaks that we think are putting out a significant amount of water? What leaks are putting out a minor? So that we can then send those minor leaks, like at a water meter, we have some that aren't running down the street, and causing problems. We're trying our best to really assess, but it does

take an effort when you're down 20, and at that point in October, down 65. I really want to thank the team, and to the community, I know it's frustrating, I know you see the water, but the water team shows up every day and they work. My balance is to figure out how to help keep us as productive as we can and still provide them with an environment where they feel safe, and they can get out there and work, and try to do so. That's where we are with water leaks.

- I do want to talk a little bit about the public notice that went out that everybody received, I think it's important to note that we are a young water department right now, and we are going to make a few more mistakes. This particular issue, the city goes through a water study every three years, where the environment department comes down and does a critical analysis of all of our water structures. One of the good items that came out of this was the really poor condition that Well #2 was in. I want to make sure that you guys recognize, we responded to that immediately, we used bond money to get that fixed, Well#2 is coming online, that old, broken-down building is gone, and we'll repair that. The primary issue that happened is we failed to timely report the progress that we had made on the 20 issues. If the water department would have sent a timely letter, saying "We fixed 18 of the 20 issues and here's our plan to finish the last 2." We would have been compliant. Your water team, we took that seriously, I met with the crew when they were here. Our water department works under my direction, so I own up to the fact that we didn't get that done, but it wasn't an issue, there's no boil order, there's no major failure, for the system we pass all of our tests all the time. So, I really wanted to reconnect. The other thing that we learned in this process, so when Jamie came and reported what had happened, she, myself, and the PIO met quickly to decide what our response was going to be, how we were going to do it, we developed a letter, and we had to put out the letter in the form that it came to us. We didn't get to say, this is what happened, we have to report to the public on that issue. We probably failed to really make sure that we put that information out, again, department-wide, city-wide, and get that out. We really focused on the public and how we were going to notify them. We'll do a better job in the future. Hopefully this doesn't happen, we make these mistakes, this is a good learning curve for us to recognize the importance of that. I would answer any questions the Commission may have on that particular issue down the line.
- A few things we're working on, obviously the audit for the city was due. Generally, those audits are due in December, but as our Chief Financial Officer reported, due to a federal slowdown, they needed to give us a date to do a single audit. When you take federal money, you have to do a single audit on one of those federal programs. The White House, not throwing anybody under the bus, but through the income from the office of the White House, they set a schedule, and they were delayed in getting their schedule out this year, so it moved everyone's audit down 30 days. We ended up with an extension to January 20th instead of December 20th. The audit, they're here, they've been on staff, our crew has worked tirelessly, we've been on this now for 15 days nonstop, trying to finish up and get the audit. The audit crew does believe we're going to be timely. It's due at 5:00pm on Tuesday, we've been reviewing audit findings for the last

three days, so they give us a finding, and then we get an opportunity to go find and see what we could do to clear that audit finding. In every case, we have been able to find something to support our ability to think, it's not a major finding, it's a minor. The team's really spent hours doing this, I'm really thankful for them.

- I want to thank the crews for Christmas; I think the Christmas event was just fantastic this year. It went up pretty fast, and it came down just as fast. Thank you to everyone that works on our Christmas.
- You guys just came back from your training with the New Mexico Municipal League. The next Municipal League meeting for the legislative session is set for the 4th and 5th of February. I will be attending, so for those of you that might want to go back, it's a one-day event, primarily meant to be and spend time at the legislature. Please let us know if we can get that set up for you.
- I'll let the chief talk a little bit more about the Police Department open house, that is scheduled for next week. The vision there would be, we have a design, a plan, for how we're going to renovate that building for the Police Department. We have the \$750,000 in the bank to do so. We're going to bring the public into the space next week so they can see the Police Chief's vision, the mayor's vision. Then we'll get started hopefully going to RFP really soon for that particular project.
- The last thing is, we met with a contractor that could potentially paint the helicopter, so I want to thank OJ for putting that together. We have a temporary plan we're trying to build, I don't want to let too much out, but the first step was trying to find a way to get the helicopter painted. Hopefully soon, we'll be trying to get that thing on display as quickly as we can. With that I will stand for any questions on the water leaks or the public notice.

Mayor Hechler: I just want to make one comment regarding the report that was sent out to the public from the environment department that we had to sign. That's not the way that I would have written the report. Unfortunately, it alarmed everybody on the front page, and there wasn't a resolution to it until you got way back down on the second page. Some folks that didn't take the time to read it or to comprehend it all the way through went somewhat overboard on some of their comments. I can understand that. It's just that it was beyond our control, what you're telling me is that's the form it had to go out in, and I think it unnecessarily alarmed some of those in our community, and I'm glad for the explanation and thank you for scraping that out for us.

City Manager Whitehead: I did make some notes meeting with the team, again, we do have two of the violations that are out, they're both up on our main water tanks, on Cemetery Road. The one repair that has to happen is on a sensor; it's a valve that needs to be replaced that is at the 4ft. mark at the bottom of the tank. So, we're struggling with figuring out how to get the water moved from that tank, we have to drain the tank to get to that 4ft. mark to do that, so it's going to take a minute to repair that, it's not simple. It really doesn't have anything significant to do with the quality of the water, it's a valve that just wasn't functioning properly. The team will continue to work. What's made it a challenge over the last two months is that Love's is working in exactly that area, so it's become a challenge for us to figure out how to drain that tank. We may, potentially, have to move all that water out to get to it, put the new valve in, and then

refill the tank. It's a challenge, we'll get it done, and we'll be timely the next time we get through this report.

a. Police Department Update.

Chief Tavizon reported the following:

- I wanted to start off by just closing out December with the stats, then next meeting I'll have a comprehensive view of what our crime trends are in the community with a presentation. Just to give an idea of how we closed December out:
- We fielded 1,055 calls for service.
- Animal Control had 133 calls for service.
- We're still dealing with motor vehicle accidents, 24 for the month. Remember, some of these are going to be on private property as well, so it's not just public.
- We had 4 follow-ups on sky reports
- We had 1 DWI
- Code Enforcement has been working 7 different properties.
- We conducted 224 traffic stops for the month.
- We issued 175 citations.
- The officers had 14 arrests.
- We had an officer get certified as a DARE instructor, so we're going to get that back in the school, we'll start that pretty soon, they're working with the schools to schedule time for them to work. Initially, it's going to be 5th grade, but they do have curriculum where they're going to work in the middle school as well and try to help those juveniles there.
- We had officers attend blood reconstruction class, hostage negotiations, advanced crime scene photography, and grants management.
- We had our Shop with a Cop program in December. Huge shout-out and thank you to all the donors, obviously we couldn't make it happen without them. We did serve 140 kids in our community. Walmart is also huge in allowing us to do that, they set it up really nice, put some snacks and things out for the families to have while they were shopping.
- Those are our stats for the month, as it was mentioned earlier, we are having an open house at the new Police Department, 210 Main Street, on Tuesday the 20th. We do have some conceptual plans, it'll be posted out there, people can come in and do a walkthrough of what the department looks like. We'll have another open house once construction's done that way they can see where we're at. Just to reiterate, the reason that we pushed so hard for this is we're always trying to move forward, looking out for the best interests of the community. One of my biggest visions was to become an accredited organization. We have the policies, we have the officers doing the job, the work on a daily basis, but when we had the auditor come in and do a walkthrough of our current facility, there was no way of getting accredited in that facility. There were some issues there, and with your support, we were able to get this within our budget without getting a loan, so I feel that it was extremely efficient and effective for us to find a way to do that,

and I appreciate that, thank you for that. With that, I'll stand for any questions you may have.

Mayor Hechler: How do you do shift change? Is there a debrief or a brief for every shift where you pass on information? How does that go?

Chief Tavizon: Yes, sir. We work 12-hour shifts, we send emails to each other, we have a pass-down email that's sent, so any information that happened on that previous shift is put on that pass-down, that way officers can follow up if need be.

Mayor Hechler: Could I ask you just to highlight 6th & Foch for your officers? I know we can't afford to set somebody there, but perhaps they can make a couple extra patrols here and there, pay particular attention to it?

Chief Tavizon: Yes sir, absolutely. We'll address that issue. We're out there trying to stop, not just specific residential areas, we have areas across town that have complaints. If we could get people to change their mindset on it and comply with whatever the rules are, then it would be a lot easier.

Mayor Hechler: It seems like you're making a lot of contact, I know we're making a difference.

Chief Tavizon: And just to reiterate, the way it's set up for citations, there are some people that think that we get any percentage of the citations, we don't. It doesn't go to us at all, it goes to the state, to the general fund, and the community doesn't see any citations, so every citation that we issue, if it's adjudicated in the court, convicted, then that fee goes to the state, not to us. There's no specific benefit other than public safety that we get, and that's good enough for us to cut those citations.

b. Department Head Report.

City Clerk Torres reported the following:

- In our office, we are currently working on business licenses. They were due December 31st, but the businesses have a grace period until March 15th to get them in. We've had almost 300 business renewals so far. We've updated our application this year to include things such as a business's dba, zoning and business hours. We now also have a section that indicates whether it is a one-time business license, so we'll know not to send them a renewal notice at the end of the year.
- In March, I'll be doing an IPRA training for our department heads. We've been getting a lot of IPRA's in lately, and we have a lot of directors that have retired, we have new staff that have come in, and we have staff that are not as familiar with them so we think the training will be beneficial. Under your agenda, I gave you some email guidelines for IPRA's. Sometimes you guys will get an IPRA for some of your emails or something like that, so that just lets you know what you

do need to keep, what you don't need to keep, and what you need to provide to us, should we send you an IPRA request.

- I'll also be doing a TORT claim training as well, because we do get quite a few of those.
- Our Parks Department and the Clerk's Office did the final training on our cemetery program. Right now, we're trying to do some input, it should be launched next month, and we'll get all the information out to our PIO. What it does is allow our community to go onto the website, enter in their loved one's name, and it'll show where they're buried. It also shows a picture of their monument, and it will give information such as date of birth, date of death, and date of internment. I think it'll be very beneficial for the public.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: In the Municipal League training this week, we did a whole section on IPRA requests, and we were told that municipalities should have a designated person. Is that you?

City Clerk Torres: Yes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: Okay, I was just going to ask.

City Clerk Torres: And the Police Department. They are their own records custodian, so if we get an IPRA that pertains to their department, we will send it over to them, but yes the Clerk's office is the designated custodian.

Mayor Hechler: I have a couple questions. When we're getting IPRA requests, there's an email string that involves myself and other people, and you've gotten that request in, and we don't have to be redundant and keep those things?

City Clerk Torres: Correct. If it's an original and it's only sent to you, then you would provide it. More than likely, if it's between you and the City Manager, I'll get that IPRA from the City Manager, and if I see it and I don't have a copy, then I'll reach out to whomever I need to.

Mayor Hechler: So just in the interest of full disclosure, I don't do any business on my personal cell phone. However, what we're told is that if you're going to conduct any business on our cell phones, we should probably have a city phone and keep that separate. We don't want to have our phones seized or IPRA'd or anything else, I make a point not to do that. I think we should all buy into that, and if we require a phone, we were advised very strongly that we should have a separate work phone. If the city could do that for us, or maybe that would be a possibility?

City Clerk Torres: It's funny you brought that up. We just talked about that yesterday. We are looking into getting all of the Commissioners city-issued cell phones for that reason.

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Commissioner Forrister: That's why I don't have my email on my phone, so it takes me a while to get back to emails.

Mayor Hechler: Thank you for working on that.

City Clerk Torres: You're welcome.

City Manager Whitehead: I would just also give Commissioner Hoepfner a little credit for that, he prompted me a little bit last week to think about getting a phone for everybody. After our little meeting, I asked the team, "What do we do? How do we do it?" and I was unaware that we had laptops for the Commissioners, so we really need to make sure that whole process is right, where each of you would get technology, because you could do the meetings without paper, that would save us, have the ability to communicate, and then have a phone, so we'll get that put together pretty quick. Michael and Angela are working on that.

Mayor Hechler: And the laptops that are issued from the city are just to conduct city business, nothing else. That way these things stay clean and clear, and we don't have any issues.

Commissioner Forrister: So we're getting a laptop? We already have one.

City Clerk Torres: Right now you guys have the tablets, so you can choose if you want a laptop instead of the tablet, and we can get that for you.

Commissioner Forrister: I'll trade. I don't have – I gave mine back, but I don't want to carry around another laptop, I'll just use mine.

City Clerk Torres: And it's up to you.

Mayor Hechler: Yeah, it's up to you. It was just a very strong recommendation from the Municipal League.

City Manager Whitehead: With phones, let me bring utilities down, Sonya, she does kind of take care of our phones and she might have some comments.

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Supervisor reported the following:

- As far as the cell phones, we have promotions, so most of our phones – all of our phones – are a set price for us. We actually have a promotional guide that you guys can pick from. I can send that out to you, the City Manager, and Angela, and they can give it to you.
- Also, in my department, I would like to say that we are fully-staffed. We have a customer service person, his name is Antonio Otero, he's been working with us since November. He's been coming along really well, I had him and another one of my people, and also the Electric Admin, she's young, I had them all in training a couple days ago, they had a three hour training for Tyler. I'd like to thank the

finance department, they set up training for us, and I think that's wonderful, because they were teaching us some new stuff that comes out. Everything changes on a consistent basis.

- We're also updating our Relay 5000. It'll be coming in next month, and that's what actually folds and stuffs all our utility bills. So we're just going to keep our fingers crossed that comes in and works great.
- We were also having issues with our effluent water, and Jamie will talk about it more, but I also wanted to thank her and her crew. Mr. Whitehead picked me up, we all went out there, we came out with a plan, so we are still able to use effluent. I just think it's wonderful when departments all work together, it makes everything so much better.
- Of course, this is the time of year when our red tags do go up, we have more red tags during this time of year, and I think it's just the holidays, Christmas, everything like that, but the customers are coming in, they're making payment arrangements. Another thing with Tony, I want him to get comfortable with the customers because once a customer is comfortable with someone, that's who they want to talk to all the time. It's great for him to know all the accounts and be able to answer any questions.
- We did have quite a bit of audit, I wanted to also let everyone know that Chelsea LeClair, my AR, she worked very, very hard and diligently on the audit, and I just wanted to praise her. I appreciate any of our workers that go above and beyond, and I feel like Chelsea did. I believe that's all I have for you. Do you have any questions?

Commissioner Forrister: I guess I have a question on the phone, which might be addressed. Right now our numbers are our personal numbers on our contact list. We'll have a new number that will be changed on our contact?

City Clerk Torres: Yeah, we'll change all of that and have it match the city-issued phones.

Commissioner Forrister: Sounds amazing.

City Clerk Torres: And again, if you don't want one, you guys could opt out, you don't have to have one.

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Supervisor: Verizon's great, we have the list for androids, and we have the list for iPhones. Basically, you can get whichever phone you feel most comfortable with.

Mayor Hechler: So, when we get the phone, we can add the internet – not the internet – but we can also do our city accounts and all that stuff on the phone, to keep everything in one place.

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Supervisor: Absolutely, yeah. Michael will set up the email and everything on the phone also, so that'll benefit you guys if that's the route you

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choose to take. We also will supply an OtterBox for your phone, screen protector, things like that. Once you guys make the decision, it only takes three days, we can have your phone in three days, just let me know.

City Manager Whitehead: Let me just chime in. Sonya Renfro manages the phones, The City Clerk manages other things, so what we really want to do is put together the program so that we can say, "Every Commission going forward, this is what we're going to provide to you to do your job, give you that training. So, if you don't want to use that technology, as long as you understand what's going to be required of you for IPRA, what's required for these pieces, that's up to you, you make that choice. I think the city just has to be clear on how we provide those to you. You shouldn't have to come in to see me to say, "Hey can I get a cellphone?" it should be when you come on board, here are the policies, you go to see Angela when you get all signed in as a new Commissioner, and she can get everything out, turn it over to you, and get it put into place. That's what we need to do to streamline it, and it's just your decision. It'll take us probably a couple weeks to get it all formatted, we'll get it done and put it in a better spot.

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Supervisor: Yeah, and I'll make sure Angela has all the promotional stuff, that way she can get it going.

Mayor Hechler: Ms. Renfro, your new position is also going to be in charge of collections?

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Supervisor: Yes, sir.

Mayor Hechler: And how are they doing with that and what's your plan for that?

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Supervisor: He's still learning, but we have started with our disconnects, delinquents, and red tags. We're having him start making phone calls to people, calling to remind people of payment arrangements, and stuff like that. He's been doing really well with that. It's also a lot of help to me and the team.

Mayor Hechler: At some point I would like to see the numbers again, and maybe an update on how we're doing with collections. If you could kind of give us an idea of what's out there and what needs to be picked up?

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Supervisor: Yeah absolutely. The next time I come, or even sooner, I can get all that information for you guys.

City Attorney Rubin: It might be helpful to maybe even have a listing of all the liens that have been recorded, because those are the ones that we want to look at and see if we need to follow up with anything or enforce these things.

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Supervisor: Yeah Absolutely, thank you guys.

Wyatt Graves, Service Center Supervisor:

- Over at the Service Center, since I've seen you folks last, I'll just give you the overview.
- We've gotten at least 28 full services accomplished
- 7 sets of tires replaced
- With the colder months happening, we've replaced over 10 batteries
- I've got batteries on the shelf, and I recently just acquired a new vendor, Batteries Plus down in Las Cruces, so we've gotten a really good deal on those.
- Some of the larger repairs that have taken some time include Electric's Vactor truck that is currently at our shop; it was getting rocks thrown into the impeller housing, so we purchased a new one through Pete's Equipment, we found the problem, where rocks were coming in through, and I've got Ron Hoskins who is going to weld the inside of a pipe to make sure that this doesn't happen again, and we can keep that truck for as long as we need it, so that's being done. Our guys, of course, put in the impeller.
- We've got a GMC trash truck from Sanitation, it's got an Isuzu motor, so we're getting the inner cooler replaced.
- Again, the sweeper is down, lots of hydraulic leaks on that thing. What the guys essentially have to do is drop all the innards, all the brushes to come out before you can get up under the cab of it, to get at the hydraulic manifold. We're going to have to repair some leaks up in there.
- We've also got this dilapidated Streets roller, I think they primarily use it for flattening the asphalt. It's got a 1-cylinder Deutz motor on it, parts are very obsolete for it, so I'm going to be looking into what we can potentially replace that with, because it's too finicky, and it can be dangerous if somebody's not aware; essentially it doesn't idle correctly, so you don't want that revving up, and trimming off somebody's toe.
- Other things we've got outsourced right now: John Deere down in El Paso, they've got a backhoe getting a transmission replaced; we've got 2 police cars out for body work on insurance claims, 1 truck from the Parks department should be returning. The electrical power steering – get this, they don't have power steering anymore, it's all an electronic rack that has to be programmed by Chevrolet, so that's being done.
- When we received some new Durango's for the Police Department, I got recall letters within 3 weeks of those cars belonging, so from what I understand, all 6 vehicles have had the recall taken care of at the Dodge dealership, but we're starting to see them putting coolant into the oil passages, so we're just going to keep a closer eye on what's going on with that, but right now we have 2 where we're seeing a reoccurring problem. We just want to keep them on the road.
- Currently, at the Service Center, we've got that Vactor truck from Electric, the GMC trash truck, the sweeper, and the roller.
- As for our building, we've had an issue with our garage doors recently, so I've gotten a quote to have the controls replaced, that way we can have a chain-drive over an electric. Basically, we don't want that electric failing where we can't close the doors for the evening when we go home. That's what I have on my sheet, I'd be delighted to answer any questions for you.

Mayor Hechler: How many staff do you have now?

Wyatt Graves, Service Center Supervisor: I've got two mechanics and an admin, and I, myself, do go down and help out when I can.

City Manager Whitehead: Just to give Wyatt and the staff some kudos, we're improving and building something, we're getting things done and they're committed to that street sweeper. We hope to get an additional one, we want that one to keep working as an enhancement, but it feels really good to have the crew there, so we're thankful for that. Our Streets department is going through a change, so we'll not have streets today, let's go to Wastewater/Water.

Jamie Foreman, Water/Wastewater Supervisor:

- As Sonya said, with the effluent water, just to touch base on that, our control panel where the contractors can put in their ID pins and passwords went down earlier this week, so we are going in there and manually tracking and turning on and of the pumps for them. They do have to call either myself or my admin so we can dispatch a team member out there to get them water. We like them to use the effluent water, so we're not using potable water and issuing out hydrant meters, because that puts a lot of stress on our water system that's already fragile as it is.
- As the City Manager mentioned, we are still working on leaks. We're down to about 16 on our list, we had 4 emergencies, 3 of which were this week, that we had to complete this month. Silver being one of them, and then we had one on 2nd on Sunday, and then we had one on Birth & 3rd late last week, so we had 4.
- I am going for my Water 3 certification at the end of this month, so I'm going to training and then hopefully 1-2 months after my training, I can go for testing. It is a process to get into testing, but I am going for training at the end of this month for my Water 3.
- I am still working really closely on getting all of my crew members at least an Operator 1, if not higher. I have Tony going for his Water 2 shortly, Conrad's going for his Wastewater 2 training here shortly, and then we have Patrick also going for his Wastewater 2. So we will have several members with higher level operators.
- I'm working with J&H, who is our contractor for the shovel-ready project, I've been meeting with them every morning to go over their plan.
- I'm also working with Carrie to get a communication plan in place, that way we can communicate with the public on where we're shutting things off, where the road closures are, and we're encouraging everybody to call my office and give us either an email address or a phone number we can use to contact them, that way we can use our Daupler Notify system to its full potential. Unfortunately, when Silver did go down, we didn't have anybody signed up for Notify in the system, so we are working hard to get those numbers and email addresses into our system so we can get people notified promptly.

- For our Wastewater, we test weekly, we send out several tests weekly for Wastewater, those have all come back with no issues. The compost, we have approximately 10 of the piles we have been working with ready to go out for testing next week, so we will hopefully have compost ready before everybody starts planting for the spring. I will stand for any questions.

City Manager Whitehead: I just can't say enough, we're trying to build a team from the inside, it's just going to take a minute, but we're doing training, we're practicing, and then we have to educate them while we're still fighting 60-70 water leaks. We'll still work and continue to try to grow that, so I'm really proud of the work Jamie and the team have done.

City Commission Reports.

Commissioner Glines reported the following:

- My name is Chaz Glines, I just want to say a thank you to the voters for putting me in this position, I'm excited, and especially excited now that I have a good grasp of what's going on, thanks to the New Mexico Municipal League. That was really informative. We did the Newly Elected Officials and the Molly Level 1 training: Open Meetings Act, Ethics, Municipal Tax Overviews, it was really lengthy but we got so much information out of it. Thank you to the Mayor and fellow Commissioners that went with me, it was good to have you guys there for support, and it was really useful for me to be there.
- Looking ahead, some of my plans for the next year include: prioritizing infrastructure upgrades, we've got a lot of stuff going on with that now, that's exciting, there's going to be a lot of construction going forward, but I'm looking forward to it. Also, boosting economic development, as well as strengthening community partnerships to enhance planning.
- I got some good resources, as we did meet with representative Dow, she gave me some good resources to look into for what we have going forward.
- Thank you, again, to the team, staff, Mayor, Commissioners, Mayor Pro-Tem, for your support. Together we'll keep advancing smarter governance for T or C.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell reported the following:

- He just put my whole report to shame. I will just make a small report, it was great to go to the training, we got a fresh overview of a lot of stuff, met a lot of other community's Mayors, Commissioners, and Council members, that are all in the same boat. It was interesting to just talk to each of them and find out what their problems were in each one of their cities across New Mexico, and it was infrastructure, funding, and affordable housing. It's interesting to see how we're all in the same boat, and it was really cool to connect with those people, even though they're newly elected. Me, being a four-year veteran, it was a different perspective, and it was really cool to get to meet everybody. Of course, us speaking with Rebecca Dow, she gave us a lot of great information coming down from the state level, some programs that we'd like to get implemented here,

funding for the community, renovation of houses and engaging – especially people with disabilities, veterans, etc. – so we'll bring that up later.

- On another front, I did attend the SCRTAB (Sierra County Recreation and Tourism Advisory Board) meeting at the beginning of the month. Kim Skinner, the Chair, had asked me if I would step in since Merry Jo was stepping off. Great resource connection in that meeting with a bunch of different people from around the county. I'm looking forward to either attending that again, or if we want to make Chaz go, I'm cool with not going to one more meeting a month.
- With what Becca said, on the Foch Street project, of course I live and work on Foch Street, some days I can't even walk across Foch Street to get to my other place, but I'm seeing lots of progress and I'm excited that it's hopefully going to be over soon. I sleep at night, and visions of jackhammers are in my head, my walls are shaking, it's crazy, but it's going to be a good end result.
- Come out to the open house at the Police Department on Tuesday night, if you can stop by and meet the new Fiesta crew, which there is a new crew and it's not me, so I'm happy that they're going to be moving forward with the community.
- Thank you, also, to everybody for re-electing me last year (this year). Thank you.

Commissioner Hoepfner reported the following:

- Everything has pretty much already been said, but I wanted to say that I'm looking forward to working with the team here to make a difference in our town, going into the new year.
- There are a lot of projects happening and soon to be starting. Everyone is happy that we have new water pipes coming in. Yes, there will be construction fatigue soon, but we are looking forward to accomplishing a lot and we are doing our due diligence, going up to Santa Fe, getting new funding for projects.
- Last year was good for downtown, and I hope this year will be even better. With more events coming up, with the Foch Street project, Fiesta will be amazing, there is plenty to look forward to.
- Thank you to the City Manager for always being there for us when we have questions, and sending us off to important trainings, so that we can continue to grow as Commissioners. Together we can continue making a difference, let's have a good 2026.

Commissioner Forrister reported the following:

- Last month I attended a Christmas party with the 4H kids, as well as other community members at the Veteran's home. It was put on by Denise Addey, who does a lot of outreach in our community, and a lot of these really nice events. Please keep Denise in your thought and prayers, as she is very sick in the hospital fighting cancer. She always plans a Valentine's thing at the Veteran's home, but that is now being ran by Victoria with Rebel, so if you guys want to volunteer or help out with anything, please reach out. The 4H kids also go to hand out cards to the veterans during that time, and they just love seeing the kids. We go into their little pods, play games with them, etc. If any community members want to get involved with that too, I know Victoria at Rebel is looking for support with that, as Denise is unavailable to keep leading that right now.

- I want to have a little plug in for our kids, it was 1st and 5th yesterday, I went to their spelling bee, and we have some smart little kids, they are awesome. It got down to the final round, there were three students, and all three of them, were just, boom, boom, boom, getting every single word right, and there were words Al had no idea what they meant, and definitely didn't know how to spell them, so that was really cool. A little plug for my son, he was his class representative and his goal was to make it out of the 1st round, and he made it to the final eight, so that was pretty cool. Our kiddos are super smart, and it was fun, they streamed it so everybody could watch it, so that was cool to see.
- Goals for the new year is getting the money we have received in the ground with our water lines. Yes, we will have water breaks, and the community has to understand, we've had that water pipe sitting up here for how long, that you can barely put any water through, so you've just got to remember any time we put a new line in, that puts pressure, and we will continue to have water leaks all the time. My kids, and I'm sure everyone else's kids love when school gets out. I don't know if I like it so much, but let's continue doing our best.

Mayor Hechler reported the following:

- I won't talk too much about things that have already been mentioned. Thank you to Commissioners Glines, Hoepfner, and Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell for their Municipal League attendance, I think it was good. I'll meet with Manager Whitehead sometime next week to brief him on some initiatives and opportunities for us that we can participate in.
- I spent the last couple of weeks preparing Manager Whitehead's evaluation, got that done, it's ready to go, I have input from every one of our Commissioners, so thank you for submitting those things, we submitted them through the Clerk, then they give them to me, and I put those things all on one form. I also am starting to develop the new evaluation, and the evaluation was due the last day of January, and the new evaluation is due in February. According to your contract, there is a 5% raise attached to it, so we're looking forward to issuing your evaluation, giving your new evaluation, and setting some new goals. So when you see in our executive session, "Limited Personnel Matters (City Manager) Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2)." it's not because he's in trouble, as we've seen in the past a few times, it's because we're going through a process right now of evaluation, and we'll work on that later this morning a little bit, and come up with ideas.
- Also, when we went to Santa Fe, we met with representative Dow. You know, only 12% of her constituents live in T or C. We get an overrepresentation from her, she takes care of this community because she lives here, and last year she supported us strongly, and I think she'll do that again this year, so we really appreciate her. When we saw her yesterday, we saw some of her passion for the job that she's doing. She's involved with the CYFD situation, and she had a couple of successes when she met with the governor, and she was literally in tears because it's such an impassioned and important conversation that she had, and endeavor that she's trying to produce. I really appreciate her energy level, and her compassion. She's a great resource, and a great person, and a good supporter of our community.

- We're preparing to go back to Santa Fe February 4th and 5th for Municipal Day. We'll probably also go another day, after talking to our senator and representatives, we'll figure out another day we can go up there when we can do the most good to advocate for our Capital Improvement Projects, which are, if you'll remember, Lee Bell Johnson Center, Rec Center, Marie Street, Substation Power Transformer, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant, those are the five things that we're going to advocate for, I think we'll have a good chance, develop a strategy, and go up there and see what we can get for our community, it'll be exciting to do that and I always look forward to that this time of year. It's a 30-day session, so it's going to be a quick turnaround, but hopefully we'll get the support we normally get. That concludes my report.

City Attorney Reports.

City Attorney Rubin reported the following:

- From a litigation standpoint, things are fairly quiet right now, which is a good thing. Just off the top of my head, I believe there's around three cases that have been pending for quite some time, there hasn't been much activity on it, I believe there may have been a new case that was recently filed. It's my plan to talk to Gary and maybe get this on the agenda for the next meeting, or whenever Gary feels it's appropriate, so I can go into closed session and kind of give you some updates. I also know we have Commissioner Glines now, who would probably appreciate knowing where we stand. So that's the game plan here.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **City Commission Special Workshop Minutes, December 10, 2025**
2. **City Commission Regular Minutes, December 17, 2025**
3. **December 2025 Accounts Payable**

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

F. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING:

1. **Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 32 25/26 Budget Adjustment Request.**

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: I'm a little off because of our audit, but we're asking for a budget adjustment because of the freezer funding we got from the SJOA, which was \$100,000. Traci was able to get that to us in time to put that on the agenda, and we're asking for approval to issue the BAR. I stand for any questions.

Mayor Hechler: What was the value, again? I'm sorry.

Commissioner Forrister: For the freezer is \$36,710 but it's covered because she got a grant for \$100,000. So it's just moving money, transferring.

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: Yes, ma'am, correct.

Mayor Hechler: Okay, I see.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: We're requesting approval of the BAR, pending your review and approval of the grant agreement that's later on in the agenda.

Mayor Hechler: Yeah, I just wanted a little further explanation so it's clear to everyone, and I think we got it, thank you.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to approve Resolution No. 32 25/26 Budget Adjustment Request contingent on the approval of item G8.

Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Publication of Ordinance No. 771 amending Chapter 3 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances pertaining to animals.

Tyler Knull, Code Enforcement Officer: I've made some changes based on the last workshop/public comment, and clarified a few things, just thinking about it after some discussion, not only with the Chief and City Manager, but also the state livestock board. The first thing – and I will preface this working our way down – I made an adjustment to Section 3-1 "Title and Intent of the Chapter". It's important that we have a title and intent in our chapter for our city ordinances for the purpose of guiding courts, community members, and city officials to interpret the ordinance. Basically, this is our goal for the ordinance and why it's written the way it is. The addition I made is a secondary line on that title and intent that says, "It is further the intent of the City Commission to promote responsible pet ownership, and to encourage education and voluntary compliance with the provisions of this chapter, as well as ensure that enforcement is applied in a fair, effective, and humane manner." We really can't change how the courts look at enforcement of our city code, we can instead look at how we treat it. The only way we can change the way it's actually treated with enforcement is if we change from the courts to an administrative hearing, or if we adjust our title and intent to teach our city officials and future officers on how we are interpreting this ordinance. We're looking for voluntary compliance, responsible pet ownership, and education of the code, rather than strictly enforcement. You get a lot more bees with honey than with vinegar, and statistics actually show that educating people and giving them a chance to fix their issue is a lot more effective than simply giving them a fine, taking them to court, and putting something on their record. That's one change.

City Manager Whitehead: To elaborate on that point, in our conversations, if you'll remember, we did have public comment about the code and having a problem with an

animal, it going on as civil, and being a misdemeanor, and lingering on someone's record. So we really did go back, we had comments from Mr. Oliver, I was able to meet with him, so we looked through the items, working with Jay, the Chief, and just agreed that based on state law, the way the law is written, the fact that we have to use the magistrate court for our adjudication process, there's just no way to get around it until we come up with, as Mr. Knull said, a different process. So again, our comments from administration are that we heard the comment, we listened, we attempted to, and I am pleased with the language we have in the intent, which is something we probably need to look through as we do other ordinances, to make sure that on a regular basis, we're carrying out the intent of the Commission. You could have a Commission that hypothetically would say, "We want to be stricter, we want more enforcement." Or "We want less enforcement." But the intent is the goal, and it should set the pace for which enforcement happens. So this was our best workaround to try to make sure people understand that we're really just hoping people participate in good pet ownership, we're not looking to interfere.

City Attorney Rubin: I think, really, the general philosophy has always been that before we even file a complaint against anybody in magistrate court, we're always trying to work with people. In almost any of our code cases, we're always trying to give notice to people, "Before we file, here's what needs to happen." So there's always the philosophy of working with people before something is filed in court. That's been how we've always done it.

Tyler Knull, Code Enforcement Officer: Yeah, exactly. That's how we've always done it. This is simply putting pen to paper and saying, "This is exactly what we intend to do." And of course, as a Commission, you guys can change that intent, that intent can always be changed, but this is the way we are looking at it now, this current Commission, and current Code Enforcement Officers, this is the way we look at it. We figured it would be nice for the public to see it written plainly, this is what we intend to do with this revision. The second change, and I know this one is really back and forth, is the change to Section 3-90, Livestock Running at Large. You guys have received two different proposals, Proposal A and Proposal B. I'm not sure if they're labeled as proposals, or Exhibit A/B, however they're labelled. So Proposal/Exhibit A is what my professional recommendation would be to utilize. I'll explain why in a moment. Proposal/Exhibit B was simply to give you, as a Commission, a secondary option to look at to say, "You know what, we'd prefer this." You guys can do something completely different than what we have, but these are simply based on listening to public comment and discussion. Understanding New Mexico is a fence-out state, I contacted the New Mexico State Livestock Board Supervisor. He advised us that fence-out does not apply within a municipality. Fence-out is simply for unincorporated areas of counties. If you look, you have received, from the New Mexico State Statutes, [Chapter 77-14-7 – Livestock Running at Large; When Unlawful; Impounding; Disposition; Suit for Damages which states](#), "It is unlawful for the owners of livestock to willfully allow the livestock to run at large within the town, conservancy district, irrigation district" etc. It doesn't apply for fence-out within a municipality. [Necessity for Fence, 77-16-1](#) is also attached, and it's highlighted in the annotations that the supreme court of the state has ruled that fence-out doesn't apply within communities. Talking with the livestock board, they will not respond within a municipality because it's the

municipality's authority to enforce the code as they have it. However, we end up going with Section 3-90 is the way that we're expected to enforce that. Nobody else is going to come help enforce for us, so we have to look at it from the perspective of, "How can we fairly, impartially enforce these codes?" Proposal/Exhibit A is my professional recommendation we utilize, it keeps the same language for animals running at large, and livestock running at large. Understanding that we are an agricultural community, which is why I changed the title and intent to help explain across the board that we're not going to cite first offense. We don't plan to, if we have to we will, we're going to try to educate you to try and get voluntary compliance first. If we go with Proposal/Exhibit B, or add anything extra such as "Willfully" to match state statute, things like that, we have the ability to make our code – for that section – almost unenforceable, and unfair to other animal owners such as dog and cat owners that may have dogs or cats running at large, and they could say, "Well I want that insertion of 'willful' or 'habitual' into my code. Why do livestock owners get special privileges?" I think that we can exercise our discretion as officers to be able to figure out when something is actually violating a code, as opposed to trying to prove owners' intent, which Attorney Rubin has already previously stated is a very hard thing to do. In discussions with the Chief in his experience of trying to enforce "willfully", even at a state statute level, it's extremely difficult to prove owners' intent.

Commissioner Forrister: What page are they on, looking at our packet? I know they're 25 on yours, but what is that on ours?

Tyler Knull, Code Enforcement Officer: Which one, the statute?

Commissioner Forrister: The difference between Exhibit A and Exhibit B.

City Clerk Torres: Exhibit A starts on page 101, Exhibit B starts at 151.

City Attorney Rubin: I would just make the observation, Officer Knull, I believe you sent us a subsequent memoranda, and I believe you're in support of Exhibit A?

Tyler Knull, Code Enforcement Officer: That's correct.

City Attorney Rubin: And I know you and I had a bit of a dispute regarding the word "willfully", that's fine, I totally agree, I think Exhibit A is the way to go. The only reason I had suggested adding "willfully" in there is, as you already pointed out, is because that's what the state statute says. I always like for us to be consistent with the state, but you are absolutely right, we don't have to do that. We have the right to be more restrictive or less restrictive, however we feel is appropriate for our city conditions. I would say, I like being consistent with the state, but that's up to the Commission whether you want to have that in there. Let me make just one interesting observation about that point, though –

Commissioner Forrister: 101 is not the page for the Exhibit we're looking at for the animals running at large. Okay, 125 for Exhibit A and 175 for Exhibit B are the two differences.

City Attorney Rubin: What Officer Knull and I have been talking about, if you look at Exhibit A where it says, "It is unlawful for the owners of livestock to allow" the state statute inserts the word "willfully" in front of "allow". That's what we've been talking about. But again, you don't have to do that just because the state has, and I get that, but let me just mention one more thing, if we were looking at Exhibit B, on letter i, you had a provision in there that "an owner or responsible party shall not be in violation of the section when livestock escape unintentionally" so actually, you are kind of giving the exemption there, where you would have to prove willfully, if we were to go with Exhibit B. Nonetheless, if the Commission votes for Exhibit A with the way Officer Knull has drafted it, I won't have any major issue with that, so it's up to the Commission how you want to go.

Commissioner Forrister: I don't like Exhibit B anyways. It was too hard to understand.

City Attorney Rubin: The definitions, yeah.

Commissioner Forrister: I like leaving it like this, but I do like Jay's support in adding "willfully allow" that is my stance.

Commissioner Glines: You're talking about Exhibit A? Adding "willfully allow"?

Commissioner Forrister: I would like to add "willfully". I understand the officer's discretion, but that would just enforce that discretion with livestock, or any animal, if they *willfully* are letting them out because they didn't fix the fence or something, but if it's accidental – I don't know, those are just my thoughts. I like "willfully". It goes along with state statute, I know we can be more strict, but why?

Tyler Knull, Code Enforcement Officer: And the issue is, like I said, we actually had to adjust some other sections that had the word "deliberately" and "willfully" because it's hard to prove owner's intent, so it would basically be hard to enforce the code. We couldn't really enforce it. In discussions with the Chief, state statute for reckless driving says "willfully", and it's very hard to get a conviction for reckless driving because you can't prove owner's intent unless you have something from them saying "I meant to do that." So if we insert the word "willfully", I understand where you guys are coming from, and I understand what state statute says, but it's going to make it really hard to enforce that code, and I would caution against changing it to match with Animals Running at Large, because we may have to give them that same exemption, and it may just spiral from there. I'm trying to keep a modern balance within the code to make sure we're equal across all animals. We're actually one of the only municipalities that split livestock running at large and animals running at large. Every other municipality keeps them the same and says, "Your animals stay in your yard. We're a municipality, we want you to keep your animals in your yard." Understanding that accidents happen, that's how we treat things, that's why we adjusted our intent.

City Attorney Rubin: If I could just say one thing about that, I'm sorry if I'm interrupting here, but I'm not so sure by not adding "willfully" to 389, you're actually being inconsistent, because I think you're making a distinction that we're talking about you have to have a

higher standard in improving livestock, but when we're talking about people just having their own pets, we do want to be more careful there. I don't mind not having "willfully" in 389 and putting it in 390, those were my thoughts.

Mayor Hechler: Attorney Rubin, can you construe "willfully" as if someone has a repeat offense several times? Can we construe "willfully" into that?

City Attorney Rubin: It would ultimately be up to a judge to make that determination. I think that the more times it happens, the more you're showing that it is willful, that you're just not really taking care of a problem.

City Manager Whitehead: We discussed it, and in thinking through it, first of all, this is a tough one for the agriculture community. You have to live with the fact that "It's a fence-out state is my stance" just doesn't work for us, and I've been concerned about that. If an animal ends up on a city street in the middle of the night, and a tourist/driver/visitor is driving through to get gas, and runs in to a cow, it's not the same as being in Winston, New Mexico or Engle, or any of those other places where you know you're in that area, so there could potentially be city liability. Our intent would be to say, "If your animals continue to enter and cause damage" I have to advocate for some of those residents that end up with their fences that they have, to fence-out, being torn down by an animal, and if that continues, we need the ability for that person to recognize that they may need to build a fence to solve that problem, because it's just not a fence-out area, and it's our obligation to do so. That's the piece I do need you to think a little bit about, it's not so much "my goat gets out and runs across the street." It's really more for the constant animals that run through the street. I'll share with you, it happened Monday morning. We started Monday morning out with two cows right on Broadway. We're lucky we moved them, there was a city truck behind me, Wes was behind me, I went one way, he went the other, and they both went down the street, and by the time we called Tyler, he said, they've already called it in and they've called the permittee, and they're on their way. Beautiful, right, we all went on to work. I think that's going to happen more than not, so we need that ability to say, "You just can't be on the city streets every other day." Because those citizens that don't want that need some relief from us to be able to support them as well.

Commissioner Forrister: I totally get it, I know we're having that problem, but what is the difference in putting "willfully" in this to match that? In your example, they willfully came and fixed the issue. And again, I've stated before, I have all my trust in you guys, but you guys are not always going to be here, we're not always going to be here, and we might get a Chief next week that's like, "We are absolutely not" – we have a 4H kid that their pig gets loose, and we're citing that family. Willfully, I would feel more comfortable for our constituents – and how do we distinguish that yes, Engle and Winston, but we have all along the Rio Grande and those people are in the county, and when the river's down then you have cattle coming, those are county properties that follow the fence-out, and then here... I would just ask, is this what we want?

City Manager Whitehead: As we think through it, let me just add, the willful determination would happen at adjudication. Right?

Commissioner Forrister: Right.

City Manager Whitehead: Period. What you would do, potentially, if this continued to happen day after day after day, and finally there was a citation issued, then that permittee, let's use that as an example, so if they come across the river, they may get relief, they're going to say, "No problem we're not going to cite you. Do something about it." eventually, you would hope that someone would then solve that problem. That's where "willfully" might be the best word to use, where after a while, the citation would come because we just have to do something, but it is going to then be up to the judge to decide if that is inconsistent with law. I would advocate for following the recommendation of Tyler, what we've done, stick with the state law, and use the word "willfully" if we can.

Commissioner Forrister: I agree with that.

Tyler Knull, Code Enforcement Officer: And both recommendations, I would recommend inserting "willfully" over going for Exhibit B.

Commissioner Forrister: No I hated Exhibit B.

City Attorney Rubin: In other words, Exhibit A, totally the way it is, except adding the word "willfully" in that one place.

Tyler Knull, Code Enforcement Officer: Yeah, so I would almost say, "Exhibit A with 'willfully'" or "Exhibit A without 'willfully'" would be where I would stand.

Commissioner Forrister: Yeah, I don't like B either.

Mayor Hechler: I would think that if you wrote a citation, and a judge determined that it wasn't a willful act, the second time you write a citation, it will probably become a willful act because you've had that court experience, right?

Tyler Knull, Code Enforcement Officer: Theoretically, unless the judge determined that they're not guilty, and then it could be a new guilty occurrence, that's very possible. It could go either way, it's really up to the judge to determine that.

Mayor Hechler: It's up to the judge's discretion, but it would make sense to me that if I were unable, one time, to keep my cows off somebody's property, and it happened again, there might be a little more tendency there to say, "That was a willful act because you didn't take care of it." I think I'm comfortable with that.

Commissioner Forrister: And I know our nuisance problem, and I am not advocating, in any way, for that. I am advocating for things that happen unwilfully, like at the fair, where we've had cows get out, pigs get out, etc. Again, I'm fully aware that you guys, at this

point, will not do anything, but I would like to put "willfully" in there so that we have those people protected.

City Attorney Rubin: And it's only in respect to Section 3-90, that's all we're talking about.

Mayor Hechler: So here's what we can do. In a motion, we can request that, knowing that we're still going to go 30 more days of publication, so we can hear back one more time. With that in mind, if we want to move to that point, we can make that motion to include "willfully", then we'll hear back from the public for the next 30 days, and then we'll include that in our final discussion when we do the final publication.

City Manager Whitehead: Our intent today would be for the Commission to direct us on primarily which way, left or right, do you agree with the language that we put in for that? And if you do, we would then re-publish the clean ordinance now for the 30 days, and then at the next meeting 30 days from now, we would have a public hearing on that ordinance, the language wouldn't change, and then potential adoption. I think we're saying the same thing.

Mayor Hechler: We're saying the same thing, so if that's clear, may I have a motion?

City Manager Whitehead: There's one more issue, with the intent on sale versus –

Tyler Knull, Code Enforcement Officer: So we do already have this adjustment published. Sale of Animals, 3-95.

Commissioner Forrister: Page 28.

Tyler Knull, Code Enforcement Officer: After listening to former Commissioner Fahl and Commissioner Forrister's comments from the meeting regarding sale of animals, as well as everybody else's comments on that, I did go ahead and adjust the language for Sale of Animals in Public. Now this clearly states that you can, in a public place, solicit information and basically tell people, "Hey I have these animals that I'm trying to rehome, adopt out, etc." but it clarifies that no actual rehoming or sale of animals can take place on anything but private property or a properly licensed property. Nothing can happen in public other than solicitation of the interest for it.

Commissioner Forrister: I think that's a good meet in the middle between, we don't want people –

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: And someone in the future's not going to come in and determine that this means we can't have a fair.

Commissioner Forrister: Right.

Mayor Hechler: "I saw money changing hands in the park."

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: Exactly.

City Manager Whitehead: And I think the intent from administration was, we're not looking to say you can't rehome animals if that's what you want to do. Just, there's a box of puppies at the fair or at those places, they have the ability to say, "You need to take the animals back home and then you can set up a booth and do that." I agree, I think Tyler made a nice compromise here to solve that particular issue. Did we leave the language in for our animal shelter being able to do it?

Tyler Knull, Code Enforcement Officer: Yes, we did leave the language in, the animal shelter does have the exemption, as well as other properly licensed –

Commissioner Forrister: If they're properly licensed, like Desert Haven.

Tyler Knull, Code Enforcement Officer: Exactly, Desert Haven, the animal shelter. If we, in the future, were to get another animal welfare nonprofit, something like that.

Commissioner Forrister: Animal adoption events.

Tyler Knull, Code Enforcement Officer: Right, they're still able to conduct their business as usual, but they're also still going to be subject to any other city license, things like that, it doesn't excuse them from that. This is simply for animal welfare nonprofits, things of that nature, they have their exemption, and then policy-wide, throughout the city, how we want to adjust that, we can do.

City Manager Whitehead: We talked about, leave the language in, and it would really be based on the City Manager's feeling. If I don't think it's proper for the animal's sender to take animals to an event because the public can't do it, that's going to be just a policy provision that each City Manager could do. Otherwise, it is permitted by the code without exception.

Commissioner Forrister: Sounds good.

City Manager Whitehead: Those are the three items that we are asking that you either accept, move on, and then authorize republication with it in its final format with those changes.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to publish Exhibit A of Ordinance No. 771 amending Chapter 3 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances pertaining to animals with the addition of the word "willfully" under section 3-90 (A). Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion/Action: Discussion regarding possible revision of Municipal Golf Course Fees.

Ron Pacourek, Recreation/Golf Course Advisory Board Member: Thank you for the board's support. Thank you for letting us address this today, when Resolution 31 21/22 was adopted, there were 45 members on roll at the Golf Course. Today, as far as I know, there are only 5 members on roll. That was because the fees were increased by 40-60% with that resolution; and, of course, the Golf Course has been neglected for many years. There were a lot of items left out of Resolution 31 21/22, no concern for snowbirds, they eliminated the 1-month and 3-month fees. The other things, like "high school golf teams play free" as well as "annual cart storage for private carts" just to mention a few. The removal of the \$1 golf improvement fund, GIF, also known as "sign-in fee for members" was a big revenue loss, which the course never got to utilize because it disappeared with this resolution. Last Tuesday, Bob gave me a tour of the work that has been done at the Golf Course, and I was impressed with what they have accomplished, and I am looking forward to playing. With the lower fees, and the course getting back in shape thanks to Bob's work, his crew, and Gary's support, we might increase play, bring back memberships, and maybe even get some Elephant Butte players. Our board recommends using Resolution 8 18/19 as a reference, from when the Golf Course was somewhat prosperous, or just use that resolution. In summary, the board feels unanimously that the course getting playable again, lowering the fees thanks to Bob and Gary, we feel it would bring back more revenue and income, and it would take some of the burden off the Municipal Golf Course. I'll stand for any questions, and I have copies of Resolution 8 18/19 if you'd like to see them. I also have one copy of Resolution 21/22, which is very scant compared to that one.

Commissioner Forrister: We have Resolution 2 21/22

City Clerk Torres: Is that the one you're referring to, our current one?

Ron Pacourek, Recreation/Golf Course Advisory Board Member: Yes, the current one.

Commissioner Forrister: The resolution we have in our packet doesn't say what our current fees are, though. It just has rental of the Club House.

City Clerk Torres: I might have put the wrong one.

City Manager Whitehead: I can tell you. The daily fees are currently:

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Monday – Friday		Weekends & Holidays		Juniors 14-18 yrs.	
Walking	W/Cart	Walking	W/Cart	Walking	Drive
9 Holes \$14	9 Holes \$21	9 Holes \$16	9 Holes \$23	9 Holes \$10	9 Holes \$15
18 Holes \$20	18 Holes \$31	18 Holes \$22	18 Holes \$33	18 Holes \$10	18 Holes \$15
Twilight \$12	Twilight \$20	Twilight \$14	Twilight \$22		

NOTE:

Weekend rates are applied on Saturday and Sunday.

Twilight (3:00 pm non-daylight savings time and 4:00 pm during daylight savings time).

Juniors 13 yrs. and under are free for 9 or 18 holes. Juniors must have valid Driver's License to drive.

Commissioner Forrister: For the golf team, are we still free?

City Manager Whitehead: It's not on here, but yes. We currently allow the kids to participate for free. So if we're doing anything with the high school, even to the extent, the football team did a team building day, Bob made arrangements so they could all walk and play, and be on the facility.

Commissioner Forrister: And do we offer the men's and women's leagues still?

City Manager Whitehead: We have a men's league that's participating.

Commissioner Forrister: And what do we charge them?

City Manager Whitehead: We don't charge them anything, they just pay regular fees.

Commissioner Forrister: We gave them a league rate before. And for weekends, we didn't used to charge anybody any different for weekends according to this ordinance.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: Okay, so we are suggesting to go back to these other fees?

Ron Pacourek, Recreation/Golf Course Advisory Board Member: Yes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: I don't see how we used to charge \$10.45, and we bumped it up to \$20?

Commissioner Forrister: It was \$12, he's giving it with the tax and the GIF (Golf Improvement Fund) so it was \$12 for walking and now it's \$14.

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Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: So it's still, that doesn't look like a 40% increase, are we talking about member fees? That's where we went up, we went up a lot. Is that where the 40%-60% increase was?

Ron Pacourek, Recreation/Golf Course Advisory Board Member: Yes, that was some of it.

Commissioner Forrister: Okay, so maybe we need to look at that then. So we did away with single month membership? Or we still have those memberships?

City Manager Whitehead: I understand it's not on the list, there's no one-month membership only.

Commissioner Forrister: So what do we offer?

City Manager Whitehead: We offer an annual and bi-annual. 6 months, or a year.

Commissioner Forrister: Okay and our annual, do we have those rates?

City Manager Whitehead: The annual rate is \$1,040 for the whole year for a single person, without a cart.

Commissioner Forrister: So those jumped up significantly, correct? Because one month for a single was –

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: \$100?

Commissioner Forrister: No, \$592.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: Oh down here, that was one month single. So we're talking an annual fee?

Commissioner Forrister: Yes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: Annual single, \$592, so yeah we doubled it.

Commissioner Forrister: And we don't offer one month, or three months, so that's hurting our snowbird membership, okay. Can we not decide on anything today, and get something drafted that is maybe a recommendation on, "We would like to have a 1-month, this is what we would like to charge for it. We'd like to have a 3-month, this is what we'd like to charge for it. We'd like to have an annual, this is what we'd like to charge for it."

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: I would like to suggest that maybe we do a workshop with the golf staff, the board, Gary, and any Commissioners that want to give input, and maybe come up with a new resolution instead of reverting back to the old.

City Clerk Torres: Today you wouldn't be approving any kind of resolution, your motion would be to either do a workshop, recommend working with staff on changes, or just leaving it the way it is.

Commissioner Forrister: I think if we just directed staff to work with them and come up with one that's maybe in the middle – we don't need to revert back to fees of 2018 – but maybe we meet in the middle somewhere. I think Gary can handle that, and if you wanted to go, you could.

City Manager Whitehead: Coming on board when I was hired, you effectively told me to fix the Golf Course. Working on the fees that we charge has not been a priority, there are many other things, let me be clear with you, to date, we've brought in \$9,900 this year. I don't think – I've been doing this a long time and this will be contrary to the public comment here – but I don't think the fees are why people don't play there. People don't play there because it was just not in good shape. I have a lot of friends that I talk to all over the southwest that would love to come back and play golf here, but when they drive by on the freeway and see it's dirt, they won't stop. I also think there are a lot of people that play at Sierra Del Rio that would love to play there some days and then come over. So I don't want to lose focus here, that the most important thing is for us to get the Golf Course green, get nine greens that we can play on, get it looking better so that it's playable. That's my focus. I was asked, when I got here, to look at the one month and the three month. That used to be a really solid thing, and I agree with that, I think that should be an option for somebody. I, myself, I don't like to play in the winter, so it's silly that I would spend six months worth of money to be wasteful if I wanted to do that. I think that's a reasonable position, we should go back and look at that. For looking at something to reduce the fees, I'm just not going to be in favor of that, because my proposal during the budget process is really going to be, so this year we've put \$300,000 from the general fund into the Golf Course, we've put \$50,000 from Lodger's Tax, my ask in the budget is going to be, "Let's lock ourselves into those investments into the Golf Course, because we have to keep it open, we know how to work it, but let's take the revenue that we generate off sales in golf, and use that as an additional dollar." So instead of bringing that dollar back, if we raise \$25,000 this year off all of our fees, our memberships, and our play, then next year the budget would be \$375,000. That gives the golfer, Bob or whomever is managing the course, and incentive to keep it going; let's get people playing. But I definitely agree, we need more opportunities for people to play, and I think the one month and the three month, I agree that those should be added. I don't think we need to reduce the fees.

Commissioner Forrister: Well, I don't think they're outrageous.

City Manager Whitehead: We are the cheapest, and if we get it nice and stay at those rates, and I think we should stay at those rates for a couple years, as we invite people back to our community to see what we've done when we get it going, that should probably stay for three or four years at that rate, just so that we bring people back and they enjoy the course. It's %75 to play golf at the Sierra Del Rio per week.

Commissioner Forrister: I love that, Gary, I don't think we should revert back to 2018 prices. But I think we definitely need to look at those memberships. What does Sierra Del Rio charge for an annual fee?

City Manager Whitehead: I think they're offering the fee at about \$4,000. I'd have to go look, and I'll reach out to them, we'll look at that, I don't think we should compare ourselves. And I do think there could be some discounts in those annual fees, I'd really like to go look at it based on the perspective of, "How many times would an annual golfer play during the week?" and evaluate it against what our daily structure is, and maybe there would be a way to reduce the annual and biannual, three months, so that we do get more members – because we do need that, we need people to say, "Here's my \$1,200 guys keep working." – so I think that's the area where we could do it. I'm a huge fan of making sure that kids can play, that's a great teaching facility, we're not interference with folks, so we need to make sure that kids can play at the right rate. And as a sidenote, if I want to do something at the swimming pool, we're not making any more revenue at the swimming pool, so we just need to make it so kids can enjoy the dollars that we're putting into these areas.

Commissioner Forrister: I like those ideas.

City Manager Whitehead: I'll sit down with Ron, we can sit down with the board and come up with something, but again, reducing fees, I want to be really firm, I'm not a fan of saying we should drop the prices to something that we shouldn't, but we can find a balance here.

Mayor Hechler: You know, we didn't do ourselves any favors when we increased our fees, and then let the Golf Course deteriorate. It sent totally the wrong messages, and now that we've got the reverse attitude, that we're going to fix that Golf Course, it's going to take more money. So we're never going to be self-sufficient, we're never going to make money, but we've got to mitigate the cost as much as we can.

City Manager Whitehead: Let me just point out to you, on that point, we've ran the numbers, just to get back to the \$350,000 we'd have to run 40 rounds of golf every day, six days a week, if we stayed with the current calendar, with someone paying the full rate with just walking, we didn't add the cart because it's separate. But right now we get four or five right now, some days none. So we're a long ways out, and 40 every day, that's a lot of people that have to go through there for us to get back to pay, to even break even.

Mayor Hechler: I agree with you, I think playability is the most important thing we can do for that Golf Course right now.

Ron Pacourek, Recreation/Golf Course Advisory Board Member: What about the GIF? The Golf Improvement Fund? That was a dollar sign in fee for members. Some courses call it a green fee. I think that should be put back in there to help the revenue.

City Manager Whitehead: I was the creator of that when that happened. The only reason I would say I don't want to put that back in is, it was a bit of an accounting problem because you've got to keep it separate, and what I'm proposing –

Commissioner Forrister: Is that they all go, every dollar.

City Manager Whitehead: Every single dollar that comes in is added to the base of \$350,000. As Commissioners, you know that every year, no matter what, we're going to invest \$350,000 and then we're going to up it based on how much revenue the Golf Course brings in. All the dollars that are generated aren't going to be trying to offset and pay back the general fund, they're going to say, "We raised \$18,000 this year." I'm going to say, "The budget for next year is going to be \$368,000 based on that."

Ron Pacourek, Recreation/Golf Course Advisory Board Member: As a member, or when I was a member, and you didn't have a sign-in fee, I could just go out on the Golf Course and go play without signing in. That's why I put in here, an AKA sign-in fee for the members.

City Manager Whitehead: It's not normal, Anyone who's coming on the Golf Course and just going out there violating what they should be doing. Our ordinance, our rules, should require that you come in, and same with disc golf which we're getting a bit of too. There's a process in golf, anyone that plays golf knows that when you come to the Golf Course, go into the pro shop, you sign in, you pay your fees, you do everything, because you can't just walk out. If we're busy, you can't just go get in the way of another set of golfers that are teeing off.

Ron Pacourek, Recreation/Golf Course Advisory Board Member: But I'm a member.

City Manager Whitehead: Member or not, the rules have always been that you have an obligation to come into the pro shop and sign in, that's a standard.

Mayor Hechler: I think we need to know who's on our Golf Course and when they're on our Golf Course.

City Manager Whitehead: Absolutely.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: We have the same restrictions at the swimming pool, even if you're not swimming, you can't go into the facility if you don't sign in because, for safety reasons, we have to know the capacity and where everybody's at, or that they're in there.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to allow City Manager Whitehead to work with the Recreation/Golf Course Board to adjust the golf course fee resolution and bring it back to us for review. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: This one was based on a sole source I initially did for the meters that we're using in our water projects. The company is Landis+Gyr, and I will defer to Traci for any other questions you have.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Thank you, as you know we are doing the CDBG water meter project. That's actually set to go to bid at the end of this month, and we will hopefully get a contractor and start replacing some of the approximately 900 water meters, and put them on an AMI system similar to our electric. On the front side of that, we have to have the system implemented at the utility billing office, so that those reads go into the utility billing, and they're able to process their monthly bills based on the AMI. With that, this agreement with Landis+Gyr, which as Jocelyn said is the same one that's doing the electric, this is the payment for them to come in and implement, as well as do the training for the billing side. This is not being paid for out of CDBG funds, we're paying for this out of our Colonias funds for our shovel-ready project because, as noted, any of our water projects we have in the various funds, any meters within that project will also be updated to AMI. With that, we'll stand for any questions.

City Manager Whitehead: Just for full transparency, the electric meters are Landis+Gyr, that's the process, and at the time those were done, the vision was that water meters would eventually be changed using the same network. So that's the reason and allowance for the sole source, we're using a provider that we're already paying and under contract with, so we've got this back in order and we're really excited to get this done.

Mayor Hechler: It's the most seamless operation we can do.

City Manager Whitehead: It's the most seamless. It's costing us \$60,000 to get the computer module, it cost us \$1,800 to get the last transmitters to be in space, we're using the same network, so really cost-effective.

Mayor Hechler: I think that's important.

City Attorney Rubin: I wonder if I could just clarify something. For this item, G-2, I'm looking at the agenda request form, the recommendation was "Please see the attached purchase item list." Is that just the next page, is that the list? I wasn't sure what exactly that I was looking at.

City Clerk Torres: It's where it shows what the purchase order is.

City Manager Whitehead: It's on the requisition (page 211 in the [packet](#)), the two items, the AMI project delivery service meter at \$64,808.25 and the implementation of training for the two-way water meters for \$4,876.88

City Attorney Rubin: The total is \$69,685.13. Okay thank you, I just wanted to make sure I knew what the list was.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve the Purchase Requisition over \$60,000 as presented. Commissioner Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion/Update: 2026 Colonias Infrastructure Fund Application Cycle.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: It's that time of year again, the Colonias application cycle is open. We currently have three Colonias awards that we are working on, and we're getting ready to apply for a fourth. Our intent is to put in two application intents, one of them would be for Marie Street at approximately \$1.5 million, with the secondary application going in for our Electric Department, which would be replacement of poles and a conductor, that would be right around \$5 million. Through the Colonias process, we submit a notice of intent telling Colonias what we're interested in applying for, and then if we make the next round, we come back to you guys with the application, you'd have to approve a resolution allowing us to submit the application, and then it comes back to you at least one, if not two more times if we do get awarded. We're just giving you an update, the notice of intents are due today, it was a very short opening cycle, and with that I'll turn it over to the City Manager and stand for questions.

City Manager Whitehead: Right now, these applications are coming in quickly and have to be responded to. We came in last week and they wanted the information today, so we've been trying, in the office, to work off the ICIP list, are the areas we're working in. The other two problems we have, we could apply for water, but with Colonias, it's going to come with a loan component, so we felt like streets would be our best endeavor to try to go with, Marie Street is in our top five ICIP list, so we felt like we should try and see if we can get some money for that, it is eligible. Bo, who works a lot with the South Central Council of Governments has been working with Gwen as a grant writer, so they feel like there's an opportunity to get some money for electric. Electric is hard to find grant dollars for. When we met, we agreed that we would divide it, put two. We could put three applications in, but we'd just end up competing against ourselves, so that's the reason we settled on applying for two, allowing electric to apply for \$5 million, it's eligible for up to that amount. The Electric Department could match that, we could afford a loan from them, and Bo's vision for the project would be just a pole and conductor, new lines, new poles throughout the system. \$5 million would make a nice dent in what we're doing.

Mayor Hechler: I know we're also asking for improvements for Marie Street through the ICIP, so I guess whichever one we get first, we'll go with it.

City Manager Whitehead: Exactly. That's where we came up with the \$1.5 million, if we can get the \$500 from the legislature for plan, design, construct, we can add it to this, and potentially get the whole road. With Colonias, we could even improve the water lines, like we want to do, as well, so that's the way we'll write the Colonias', for new water lines. The main water lines we have on Marie Street are on the West end, we have an effluent line

that comes down Marie Street, the main trump line that fills the two tanks on Cemetery Road, that come down, and it only comes down from the end of Marie to Kopra. We don't have a lot of connections there, it's just main lines, so it would be an easy installation as well.

Mayor Hechler: This is a discussion item only, if there is no further discussion, we'll move on.

4. Discussion/Action: SJOA Emergency Funding Appropriation Grant Agreement.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: The SJOA has been experiencing problems with both of their walk-in fridge/freezer units, they reached out to aging and long-term, sounded like there was some additional funding available for emergency requests, so we had to act on that quickly. We had to submit in the request, the mayor signed off on that application to get it in, we actually received a turnaround quite quickly for the grant, which also had to be executed and turned back in as quick as possible, so the grant agreement was executed by the mayor as well, with city management approval, and what we're bringing to you is just to accept and approve that executed grant agreement so we can proceed forward as quickly as possible with procuring services to get at least one of their units repaired. They did receive funding in the last capital outlay process to go towards a secondary unit, we just may have to combine a couple of their funding sources to equal. This grant amount was \$36,710. They received quotes and submitted their lowest quote in to get this funding, and then there was actually a reduction again, so I think it came in with a couple hundred dollars in savings underneath, we should be able to get those repaired.

Mayor Hechler: Okay, good. So we're just acting as the fiscal agent, basically?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Correct. We're working with the Council of Governments, as well with the SJOA, trying to give them some support in obtaining quotes and taking a little bit of that burden off, but yes, we're the fiscal agents for those.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve the SJOA Emergency Funding Appropriation Grant Agreement. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion/Action: Acceptance of the Water & Wastewater Cost of Service & Rate Design Study.

City Manager Whitehead: I think around November, we had a presentation from NewGen Solutions presenting their water/wastewater study analysis that they did on our system. The city had asked that they look at our costs to make sure that our costs were in line with our ability to pay the debt load that we have. They came forth, provided the presentation, we put the presentation back in your packet. On the particular day that they were here, their final document was not in the packet. Commissioner Fahl had asked that we get the final document before the Commission moved to either accept or deny. Acceptance of the report is necessary to close out the grant agreement. Before you move, our intent here would be that we conduct a couple of public hearings on the rate study, and if the Commission chooses to move to this particular strategy, that it be implemented in our new budget cycle, so that it would become active July 1st, 2026. After some discussion with some of you, I know that rate increases is a very difficult situation, so we'll take the time to look, to see what we can do, somewhere in between this. The consultant did provide us with multiple looks at different styles, we just settled on what the most reasonable was that got us to a baseline to cover our debt, so you can see that. Currently, the rates do go up at a rate of 3 CPI on an annual basis. So, you can't look at this rate and say, "We're going to go up a total of 3%." We're already going to go up 3% every year, so we'll work to present something that might be softer than this, more necessary, and certainly this, but we'll conduct some public hearings to allow the public to come in and look through this, break this down, and give us some feedback on this as well.

Commissioner Forrister: So, is our action accepting this?

City Manager Whitehead: Accepting the report from the consultants.

City Attorney Rubin: You're approving the study, but you're not obligated to do anything beyond that.

Commissioner Forrister: Okay, we're just approving the study, not saying we're doing any of this.

Mayor Hechler: That's important, because those numbers scare me.

City Manager Whitehead: I would also add, we're also under an administrative order from the federal environment department, and they want to see an updated rate study, so the acceptance of this would then allow us to send this off to the administrative order as, "We've done our study, here's what the potential rates would be." We have until February 2nd to get that report in.

Mayor Hechler: If you'll remember, our discussion at the New Mexico Municipal League, we were pretty much told that enterprise funds should be self-sufficient, you shouldn't be borrowing from one to pay off another, so we're going to have to make this thing work

one way or the other, we need to figure that out. Hopefully we'll come up with some strategy over the next while to mitigate some of these costs, and, again, all we're going now is accepting the study, but we're not acting on the study.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to accept the Water & Wastewater Cost of Service & Rate Design Study. Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion/Action: Art in Public Places Selection Committee.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: With our recent Capital Outlay that we received for our Wastewater Treatment Plant, as well as for our Police Department, the state allocated some funds within that to go towards art in public places. I think you guys are familiar with this from the previous Animal Shelter fund, we had art in public places. New Mexico state, that oversees the art in public places, deems that we have to come up with a selection committee, so I'm coming to the Commission today so that you could maybe give me some directive on how we'd like to pursue making the selection of that committee. I did give some possible structures within my agenda request form, noting that the main thing is that one of the key members has to be a signatory authority, which would be either the mayor, the city manager, or myself. I would be attending the selection committee meetings on the grant side of things, so we would need to designate at least the mayor or city manager as one of the committee members. My request would be for the Commission to maybe decide who else they'd like to have, whether it be additional Commission members, looking at our arts council, arts boards, or members of the public, and then how you would like that selection process to go. Do you want them to submit letters of interest? We would solicit letters of interest, and then accept those to a certain date, then we bring those to the Commission. Do you want to do interviews when they solicit, or you want to read the letters of interest? Just sort of the overall process, how you would like to do that. A couple of little things to keep in mind: anybody on the selection committee will have to sign a conflict of interest form. They really need to have access to a computer or tablet that's large enough to see the pieces of art, and also be able to access very heavy PowerPoint presentations that come in – it doesn't access well on a telephone, I think we had that issue last time with one of our members. – and then everything that would be reviewed and discussed within that committee is not public information until we go through the final selection process with the state, and the selection committee submits to the, and once they approve that that art is available, then it would come back to the Commission. Within your packet, you also have the art that was selected in the very first round. With that, I'll let you guys discuss how you'd like to proceed.

Commissioner Forrister: I have a couple questions. Do we have \$15,000 to be used, is that what I'm reading?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: We have \$15,000 with the two new ones, we've already selected the art out of the other ones, so we have an additional \$10,000 out of our \$1 million of Wastewater.

CITY COMMISSION JANUARY 16, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Forrister: And those are going to be in the new Police Department?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Correct.

Commissioner Forrister: How many – and I've looked on this website, I've seen the PowerPoint, \$15,000 goes really, really quickly, it's like three pieces – but how many members have to be appointed to the board?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: There's no set amount, the state doesn't designate how many.

Commissioner Forrister: Just the signatory authority?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: I will just caution, too many cooks in the kitchen takes for longer decision making, but you also want to have a good group to make some selections.

Commissioner Forrister: So obviously our number one has to be either the mayor or city manager, you'll already be there, correct?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Yeah, I would like to be on the grant side of things, and not somebody selecting the art, just overseeing the committee.

Commissioner Forrister: And then one or two Commissioners? I don't mind doing that if nobody else wants to. The Public Art Board, is that where we would want to –

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: So, these are only my recommendations, it's really how you guys want to do it. You could designate that they can only be members of the Public Arts Advisory Board, you could designate that you only want Commissioners, or only members of the public. Those are just some breakdowns.

Commissioner Forrister: I like what you presented.

Mayor Hechler: As mayor, certainly I will be the signatory authority, I'd be glad to serve. Are there any Commissioners that would like to serve?

Commissioner Forrister: I would.

Commissioner Glines: I would also.

Mayor Hechler: Okay, so there's three. At the beginning, when we had public comment, we had Stacy Blum-Hay and Shennoa Bree from the Sierra County Arts Council. Maybe we could reach out to them and that might fill it out, unless we want to open it up to the public and let them submit letters.

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Commissioner Forrister: I think coming from the Public Arts Board is plenty.

Mayor Hechler: I think that's fine, I think that if there's good representation, I'm happy with it.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: And I think that the Chief of Police should have – him or a designated officer and just ask him which one he would want.

Commissioner Forrister: I'm sure he probably would.

Mayor Hechler: Yeah, we'll get him involved, so does that give you enough?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Sure, you're looking at three Commissioners, two from the Arts Council, and then the Chief of Police?

Mayor Hechler: Yes, ma'am.

City Manager Whitehead: Or designee, let's let him decide what he wants.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: I think the only thing I would maybe consider that is, that's kind of an even number, if we could potentially add the city manager as an additional member?

Commissioner Forrister: Sounds great.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: That gives us an odd number, just so that if we need to go into a majority selection, we can.

City Manager Whitehead: 4-3.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: I also want to say that 1-2 members of the public, could include local artists, both Shennuah and Stacy are artists, so they would count for both.

Commissioner Forrister: Yeah, we're just going to just have those two. And I guess, should we have them submit a letter of support from their board, or are we accepting them in right now? Or does their board need to –

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: It's not Public Arts, it's the Council, so I don't know what their structure or rules are.

Commissioner Forrister: I would just like to see if their board is in support, so they're not coming in here without their board's support.

City Manager Whitehead: I think the right thing would be to reach out to those two, have them come into the Clerk's office and have them fill out any form that we would have for

CITY COMMISSION JANUARY 16, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

being on any board service. We'll bring them in, and we'll formally accept them. That's the right thing, we have all their contact information.

Commissioner Forrister: Could we also ask them for a letter of support from their board?

City Manager Whitehead: Sure.

Commissioner Forrister: That their board wanted them to do this, not that they're jumping the gun or overstepping any other members.

Mayor Hechler: A recommendation from the board that those two serve? I think that's a good catch.

City Attorney Rubin: If we have three Commissioners, do I have to worry about the Open Meetings Act? The quorum? We should probably think about how we would address this.

Commissioner Forrister: We just have to put up a notice.

City Attorney Rubin: Proper notice, like any regular meeting, I guess.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: They'll be reviewing and looking at art separately, and realistically, we'd probably only be holding two meetings where everybody would be together. That would be, 1) the internal discussion over everybody's selection, and then 2) The state meeting where they officially select the art. So, I can make sure Angela has the potential quorum if that's required.

Commissioner Forrister: And if it's going to be a big deal, Chaz can just do it, I don't have to.

Commissioner Glines: What I'm also thinking now is, I wouldn't mind having a member of the public, because I do know a lot of local artists, and I know they have a great grasp on art, itself, art in public places, I think they could be a great asset. I wouldn't mind keeping a member of the public and us taking letters from people coming onto this board.

City Manager Whitehead: If I could comment, something else to remember is the art gallery inside the Police Department will be specific, we've worked through that, we know what we want, we want to share that with the committee, that the intent is to use this art as permanent art, and then it's going to have a way to rotate art and do other things in there. Part two is, the art that has to be selected is coming from a specific set of inventory, so it's not necessarily that you need a variety, you'd need someone that's going to be able to look through that specific set of inventory, and match it up to the vision that the Chief has come up with and that we've talked through, to make that center of the Police Department and art gallery. We do need some looks, but it could also be too much. It's going to be kind of disappointing because if you're not in that, if you've not applied to have your art included in the art in public places, we don't have the ability to say, "We really

want that person's art and we want to pay for it with this fund." You've got to be in the system, you have to be part of that organization.

Commissioner Forrister: It's a very lengthy PowerPoint, and you just pick which one.

City Manager Whitehead: I like more of the public than administration, for sure, I definitely think we need somebody with an eye for that. I support Commissioner Glines on that, I would be happy to sit aside and have a member of the public, so we don't have a quorum and we have more members of the public.

Commissioner Forrister: Well, you're not part of the quorum, it's me that's part of it, us three. So, I am fine to step away, you two can have at it, and then we don't have to worry about quorum notices.

City Clerk Torres: Thank you. So, we'll have Commissioner Glines, Mayor Hechler, Stacy and Shennoah from the Sierra Arts Council with a letter of support from their board, the Chief of Police (or designee), and City Manager Whitehead?

Deputy Clerk Martinez: Stacy and Shennoah are not part of the Public Arts Advisory Board.

City Manager Whitehead: Katy's comments were that we have a Public Arts Board, and those two are not representatives of the five members of *that* committee. They are members of the Sierra County Arts Council, which is a separate organization.

Commissioner Forrister: And that's fine, as long as they get a recommendation from their council that is in support of them serving on this advisory board, that would be great.

Mayor Hechler: I think that would be a good thing, so we don't skirt around the board itself.

City Manager Whitehead: In thinking about it, we could add, in your motion, that it would either be those two with that recommendation, and if it didn't happen, then potentially we could go back to *our* arts board and pick up two members of that board to replace, something like that.

Mayor Hechler: Angela, would you go over the motion again for us please?

City Clerk Torres: We have:

- Commissioner Glines
- Mayor Hechler
- Stacy Blum-Hay from the Sierra County Arts Council, with a letter of support from their council (Or a representative from the Public Arts Advisory Board if she is not recommended)

- Shennuah Bree from the Sierra County Arts Council, with a letter of support from their council (Or a representative from the Public Arts Advisory Board if she is not recommended)
- Chief of Police (or designee)
- City Manager Whitehead

Mayor Hechler: Okay, so we know the motion, if anyone wants to make that motion.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to select the following to serve on the Art in Public Places Selection Committee:

- **Commissioner Glines**
- **Mayor Hechler**
- **Stacy & Shennuah from the Sierra County Arts Board (with a letter of support from their board). Or**
- **Chief of Police or designee**
- **City Manager Whitehead**

Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion/Action: Appointment of 2 Governing Body Board Members and 1 Alternate Member to serve on the Sierra Vista Hospital Joint Powers Commission (JPC).

Mayor Hechler: Seems like we already did this not too long ago, but since we have a new governing body per se, we can go through this process again. As the mayor, I would love to continue serving on that board, and I'm sure that Commissioner Hoepfner would want to as well. Who wants to serve as an alternate, if anyone does?

Commissioner Forrister: I can be the alternate.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: Well we need to get Chaz on some too.

Mayor Hechler: We will, there are opportunities.

Commissioner Forrister: There are a lot, Destiny, did you read your agenda?

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to appoint Mayor Hechler, and Commissioner Hoepfner to serve as members on the Sierra Vista Hospital Joint Powers Commission (JPC), and she (Commissioner Forrister) will serve as an alternate. Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Discussion/Action: Appointment of a Governing Body Board Member and 2 Alternate Board Member to serve on the South-Central Council of Governments Board (SCCOG).

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: Rolf, do you still want to stay on that one?

Mayor Hechler: I'll stay on that board if you're okay with it. I've been to every board meeting, passed on the information to us, I think it's an important connection, networking type thing, and I don't mind taking an alternate with me from time to time.

Commissioner Forrister: Our alternates right now are Hoeppepner and myself.

Mayor Hechler: If we can have representation. We end up going different places, but the meetings are only quarterly, so I think we're okay, and if you guys are okay with me continuing to serve, I'd be glad to. Commissioner Hoeppepner, if you'd like to be the alternate, that would be the alternate –

Commissioner Forrister: Do we have to have two alternates?

City Clerk Torres: You don't.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to appoint Mayor Hechler as a member and Commissioner Hoeppepner as an alternate on the South-Central Council of Governments Board (SCCOG). Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Discussion/Action: Appointment of a Governing Body Board Member and an Alternate Board Member to serve on the Regional Planning Organization (RPO).

Mayor Hechler: I'd like to continue serving on the Regional Planning Organization since I'm the Chairman.

Commissioner Forrister: And one alternate, let's do that.

Commissioner Glines: I'll be the alternate on it.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to appoint Mayor Hechler as a member and Commissioner Glines as an alternate on the Regional Planning Organization (RPO). Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Discussion/Action: Appointment of a Governing Body Board Member to serve on the Sierra County Recreation & Tourism Advisory Board.

Commissioner Forrister: Here's your time to shine, Chaz.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: And I just want to chime in that Kim Skinner actually called Rolf and myself and asked me if I would step in, but I would like to see if Chaz would be the alternate for that.

Commissioner Glines: I would like to be the alternate.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: And you can still attend.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to appoint Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell as a member and Commissioner Glines as an alternate on the Sierra County Recreation & Tourism Advisory Board. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Discussion/Action: Appointment of a Governing Body Board Member to serve on the Jornada Resource Conservation & Development Council.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: I am currently the representative for that, they also meet quarterly. Merry Jo is the secretary of it, so I don't mind continuing in that role, but if someone else wants to take it on, I'm more than willing to step down.

Mayro Hechler: I don't know if anybody else knows any more about it than you do, but I'll entertain any discussion.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to appoint Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell to serve on the Jornada Resource Conservation & Development Council. Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Discussion/Action: Request to advertise for a City Representative to serve a 2-year term on the Sierra Vista Hospital Governing Board.

Mayor Hechler: As you know, Cookie Johnson passed, this will be the position she was in. She did text me about ten days ago and told me she had some health concerns, and that she wanted to step down from the board. I would like to open up to the community to allow anyone that is interested in serving on the hospital board to submit a letter, we will put it on the agenda for the next meeting, and we'll make our selection at that time.

Commissioner Forrister: Did the people that submitted the letters to us last time, did they get picked up from everybody, all entities?

Mayor Hechler: Yes, I did the research, everyone got picked up that wanted to, by one of the other entities. I did reach out to a couple other folks that may not have been picked up, they're going to submit letters, and then we will make our selection based upon what we receive.

Commissioner Forrister: Perfect.

City Clerk Torres: We can put it in next week's newspaper too, on Thursday, and then I'll have Carrie post it, too.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to allow staff to advertise for a member to serve a 2-year term on the Sierra Vista Hospital Governing Board. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to go into executive session at 11:44 a.m. to discuss Limited Personnel Matters (City Manager) Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2). Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hechler reconvened the meeting in open session at 12:12 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell certified that only matters pertaining to Limited Personnel Matters (City Manager) Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2) was discussed in Executive Session and no action was taken in executive session.

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

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

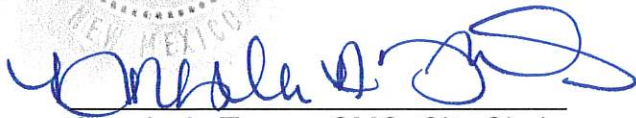
Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to accept the satisfactory evaluation for City Manager Whitehead, and pursuant to his contract Section III (B), approve a 5% annual increase to his salary to go into effect February 1, 2026. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Hechler adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

Passed and Approved this 11th day of February 2026.



Rolf Hechler, Mayor

Angela A. Torres, CMC, City Clerk

ATTEST:

Angela A. Torres, CMC, City Clerk

WAYFINDING

Connecting People with Places



lm.

populus
DESIGN-PLANNING



PREVIOUSLY...

Let's catch you up!

ON-SITE INVENTORY
PUBLIC MEETING
PUBLIC SURVEY
SIGN DESIGN
PUBLIC MEETING
PUBLIC SURVEY
COMMISSIONER MEETINGS
FINALIZED SIGN DESIGN
SIGN PLACEMENT PLAN
PUBLIC MEETING
DESIGN INTENT
CONTENT MAPPING
WAYFINDING PLAN



A SUCCESSFUL WAYFINDING SYSTEM:

- Connects people to places
- Simple
- Celebrates identity
- Supports park once/active transportation
- Accessible/equitable

Why We Need Wayfinding:

Wayfinding improves and **better distributes traffic.**

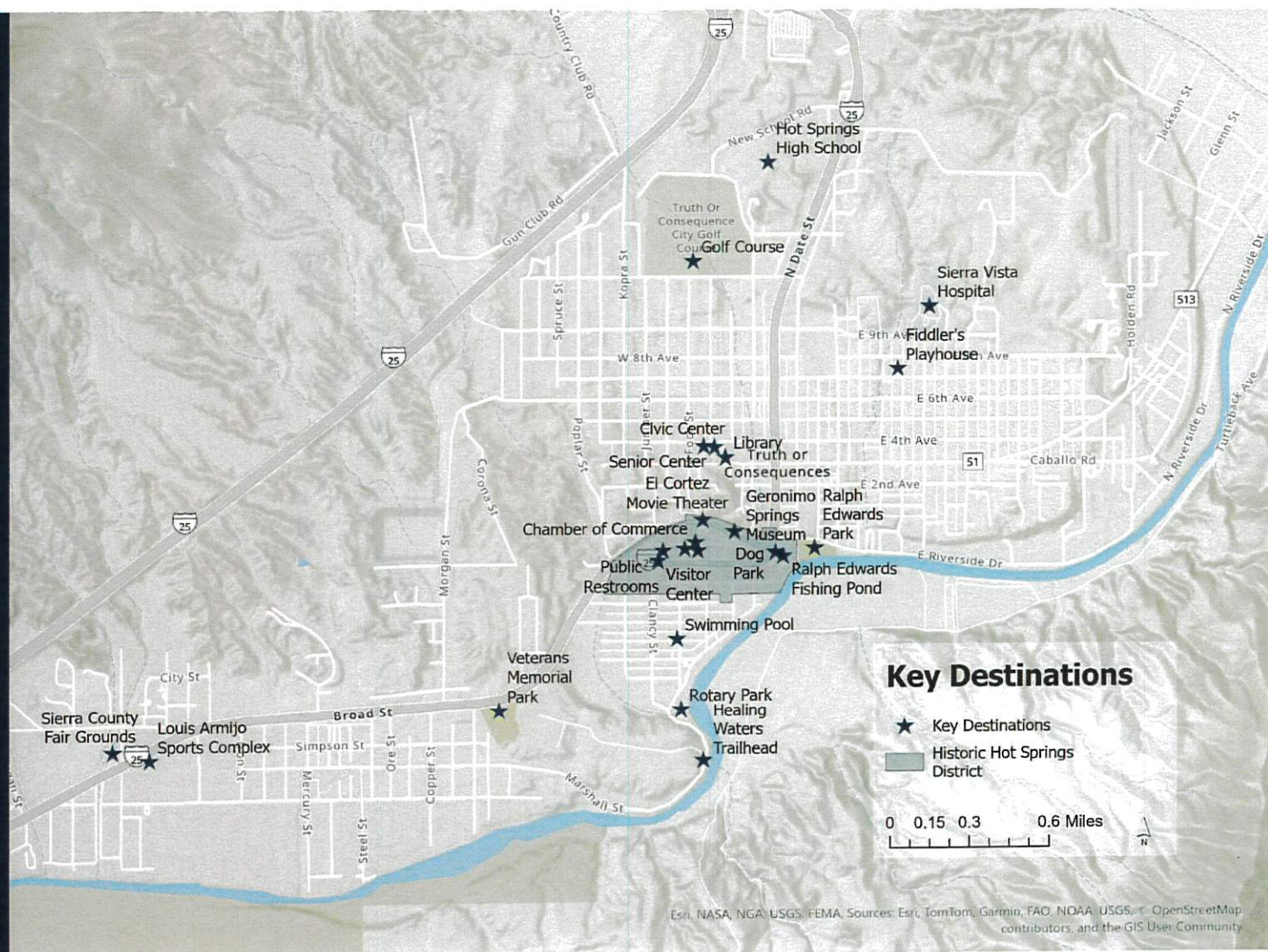
Wayfinding helps facilitate **multi-modal transportation.**

Wayfinding helps provide a **sense of place.**

Wayfinding helps creates **unifying branding.**

Wayfinding improves **CONNECTIVITY.**

KEY DESTINATIONS



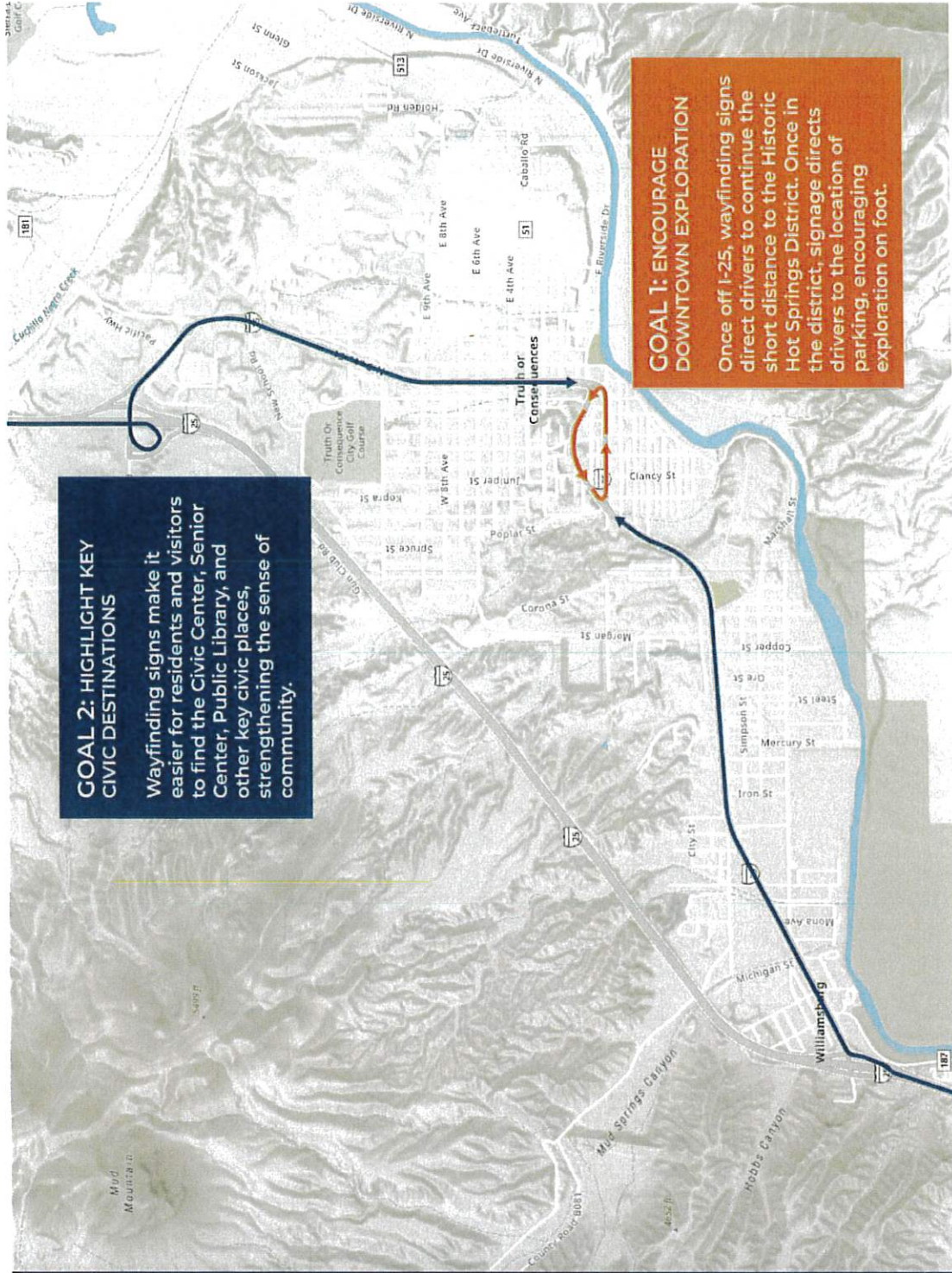
WAYFINDING ROUTE GOALS

GOAL 2: HIGHLIGHT KEY CIVIC DESTINATIONS

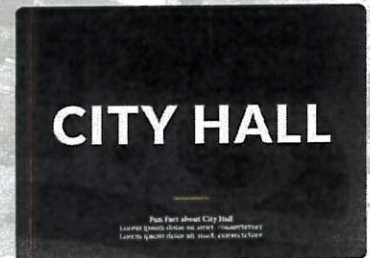
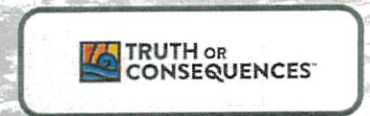
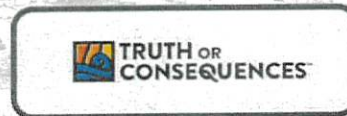
Wayfinding signs make it easier for residents and visitors to find the Civic Center, Senior Center, Public Library, and other key civic places, strengthening the sense of community.

GOAL 1: ENCOURAGE DOWNTOWN EXPLORATION

Once off I-25, wayfinding signs direct drivers to continue the short distance to the Historic Hot Springs District. Once in the district, signage directs drivers to the location of parking, encouraging exploration on foot.



SIGN
DESIGNS
VEHICULAR



SIGN
DESIGNS
MONUMENT

HISTORIC
HOT SPRINGS
DISTRICT

 TRUTH or
CONSEQUENCES
NEW MEXICO

WAYFINDING
SYSTEM
EXPLORATORY



Design Intent Drawings



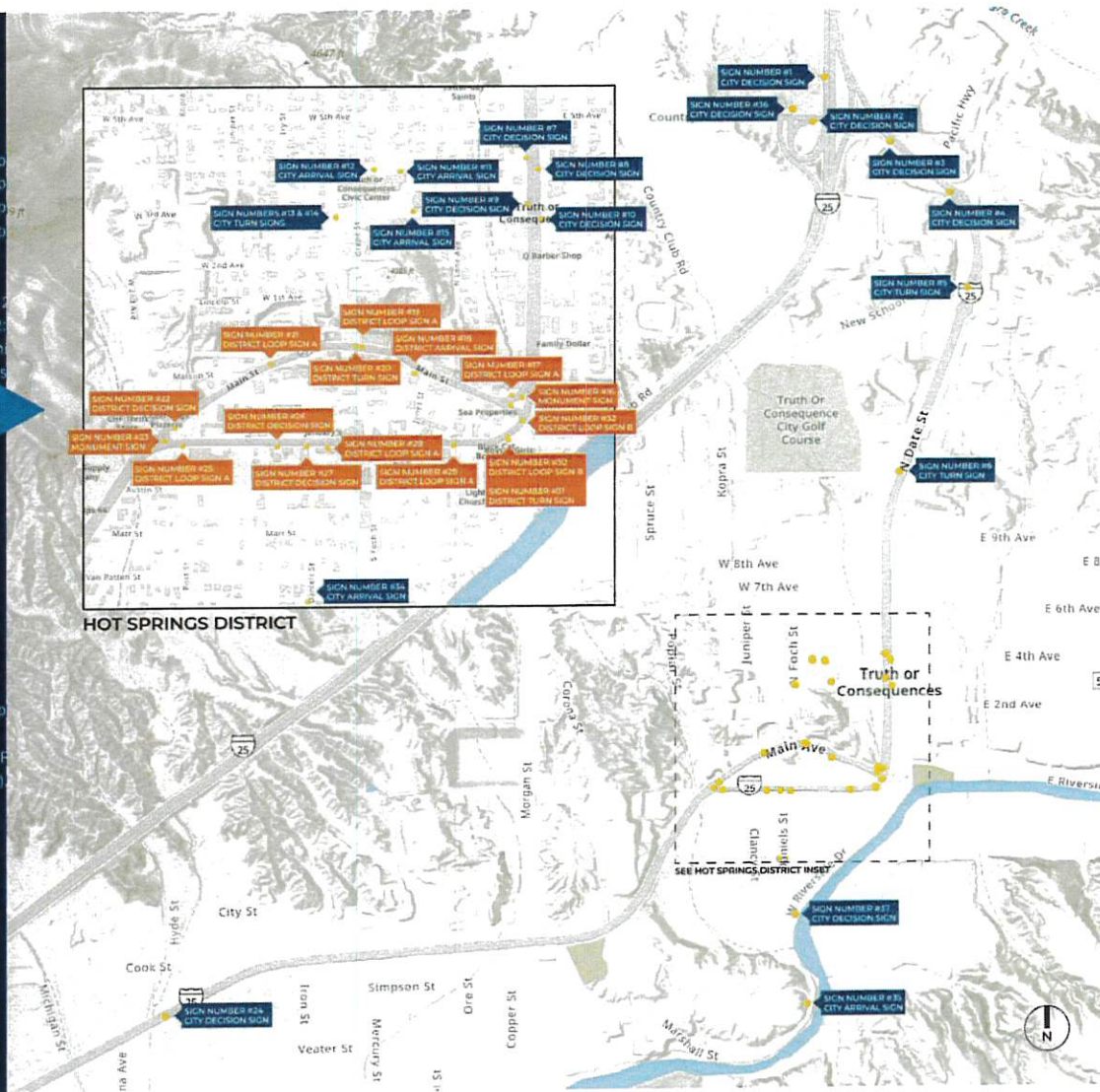
- NOTES**
Details illustrate possible mounting and/or mounting hardware details and are for reference only. All hardware to be sized by fabricator. Shop drawing submittals shall detail the actual hardware and connections. All connections must be designed for all applicable loads. Shop drawings shall not compromise the visual appearance of the sign shown.

[illegible]

Sign Scheduling + Content Mapping

- new post
- existing light post
- existing light post
- existing light post
- existing sign on post in median
- existing sign and install new sign on nearby light post
- existing signs on light post
- new sign on existing light post
- new sign on existing light post
- new post on left side of senior center perpendicular
- new post on left side of civic center perpendicular
- existing north-facing sign on post
- existing south-facing sign on post
- new post
- gabion structure
- existing light post
- existing light post
- new post in gravel mulch area west of post office entrance
- existing light post above pedestrian crossing signs
- existing sign on square post
- existing light post
- existing light pole before turn
- gabion structure
- new post
- existing light post above pedestrian crossing signs
- new post
- existing light post above pedestrian crossing signs
- existing light post
- existing light post
- new post
- new post
- existing light post
- new post

Rider: 7 mins / Main Sign - Line 1: Hot Sp
Rider: 6 mins / Main Sign - Line 1: Hot Sp
Rider: 5 mins / Main Sign - Line 1: Hot Sp
Rider: 4 mins / Main Sign - Line 1: Hot Sp
Schools
Municipal Golf Course
Line 1: Senior Center (right arrow), Line 2
Line 1: Senior Center (left arrow), Line 2:
Line 1: Library (right arrow), Line 2: Com
Line 1: Library (left arrow), Line 2: Am
Kennel Club Senior Center
Civic Center
Library
Library
Library
As shown in design intent drawings
As shown on design intent drawings
Post Office
As shown on design intent drawings
Library
As shown on design intent drawings
As shown on design intent drawings
As shown on design intent drawings
Rider: 5 mins / Main Sign - Line 1: Hot Sp
As shown on design intent drawings
Line 1: Free Parking (left arrow), Line 2: F
Line 1: Healing Waters Plaza (left arrow)
As shown on design intent drawings
As shown on design intent drawings
As shown on design intent drawings
Ralph Edward's Park
As shown on design intent drawings
As shown on design intent drawings



37 SIGNS

- 5 City Decision Signs
- 4 City Decision Signs with No Top Rider
- 3 City Arrival Signs
- 4 City Turn Signs
- 7 District Loop Sign A – Signs
- 3 District Loop Sign B – Signs
- 3 District Decision Signs
- 2 District Arrival Signs
- 2 District Turn Signs
- 2 Monuments

COMPLETED STEPS

- ☒ Sign Inventory
- ☒ Surveys
- ☒ Steering Committee Meetings
- ☒ Initial Community Meetings
- ☒ Sign Design
- ☒ Ongoing Public Engagement & Transparency
- ☒ Finalize Routes
- ☒ Design Intent Drawings
- ☒ Signage Placement Plan

WHAT'S NEXT?

- ☐ Wayfinding Plan Adoption
- ☐ Fabrication & Installation
- ☐ Ongoing Public Engagement & Transparency



Wayfinding Story Map
bit.ly/TorCStoryMap

Thank You!

Amy Bell + Maren Neldam
+ Daniel Lim
[Anthropopulus](#)
amy@anthropop.com

Julia + Cam Wilde
[Lm.](#)
hello@leighton-moon.com

Becca Eza
[MainStreet Truth or Consequences](#)
director@torcmainstreet.org



nmmainstreet.org



TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES WAYFINDING PLAN

PUBLISHED 2026

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES WAYFINDING PLAN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The planning process was guided by a Steering Committee made up of elected officials, City staff, local partners, landscape architects, planners, and graphic designers. The Steering Committee included:

Elected Official: Destiny Mitchell, *City Commissioner*

City of Truth or Consequences: Buster Smith, *Streets Manager*; O.J. Hechler, *Community Services Director*

MainStreet Truth or Consequences: Becca Eza, *Executive Director*;
Linda DeMarino, *Board President*

Sierra County Arts Council: Rebecca Speakes

New Mexico MainStreet Revitalization Specialists: Amy Bell, Maren Neldam, and Daniel Lim, *Anthropopolus Design + Planning*; Cam and Julia Wilde, *Leighton Moon*

**Thank you to the Truth or Consequences community
for participating in public surveys, open houses, and
City Commission meetings to help guide the wayfinding
system development.**



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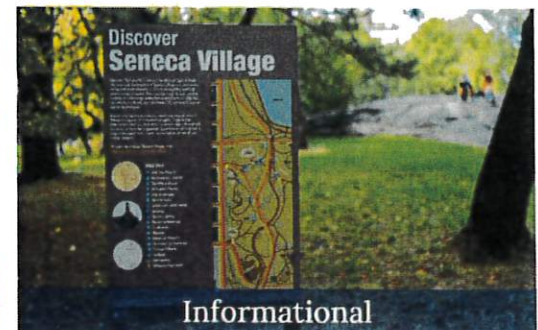
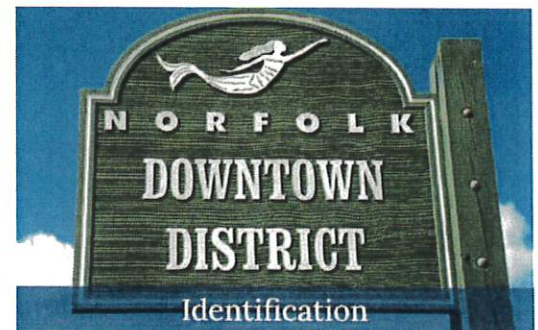
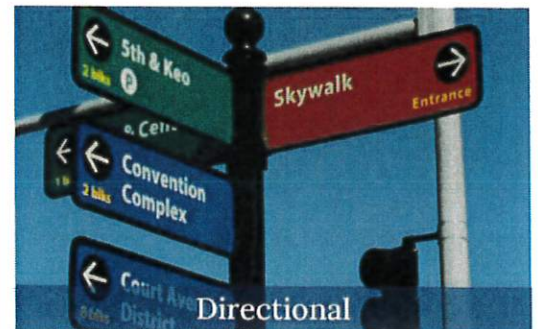
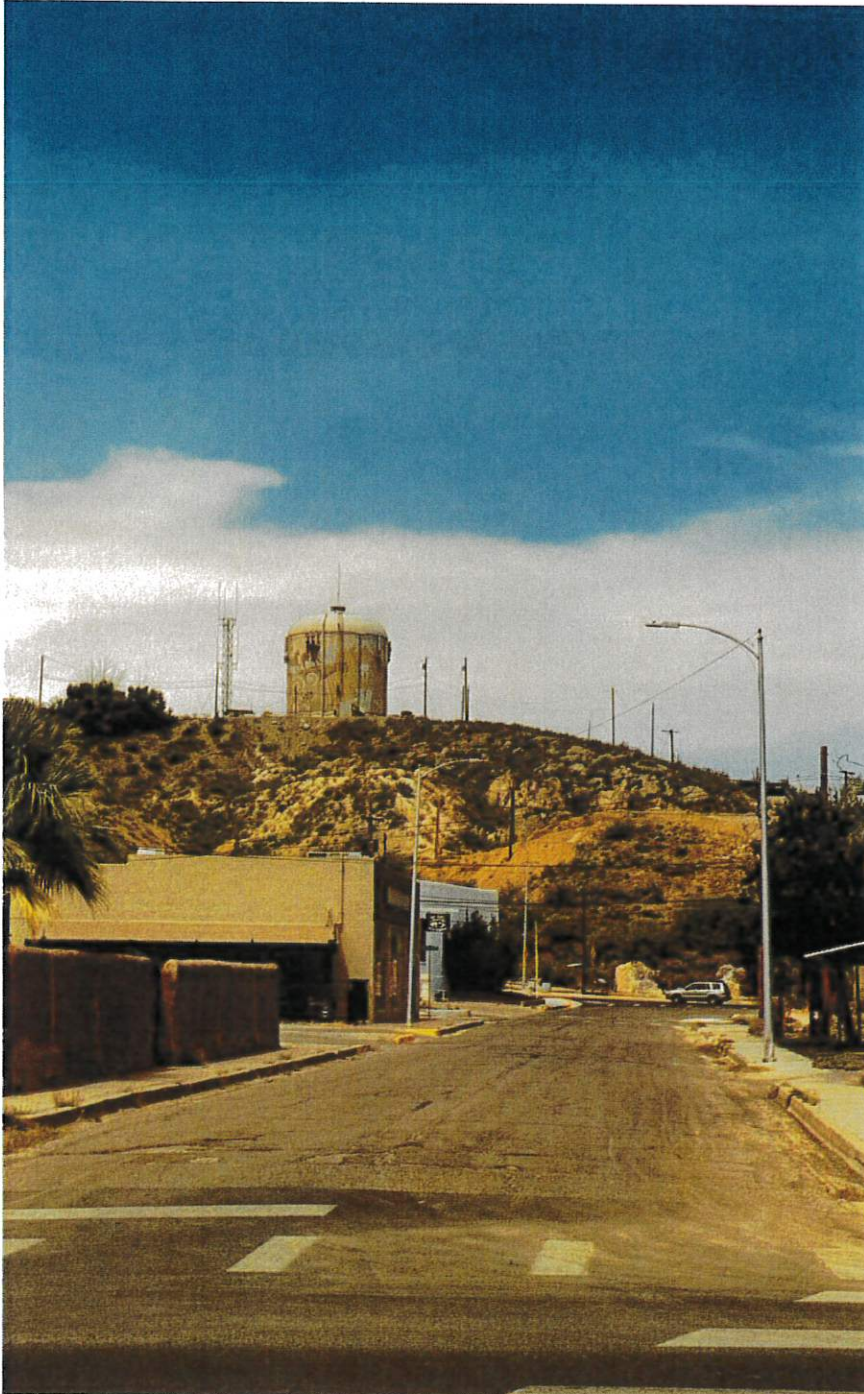
5. IMPLEMENTATION

- Sign Location Plans
- Phasing/Prioritization

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- Design Intent Drawings
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1. INTRODUCTION



About Wayfinding

Wayfinding helps people to navigate from one place to another by providing information through a system of signs, symbols, color-coding, and other environmental cues. A wayfinding system can be customized for a community to reflect its unique local identity and create a cohesive sense of place. A successful wayfinding system makes connections between key destinations, encourages walking and biking, and is simple, predictable, and inclusive.

Wayfinding Sign Types

There are four main types of wayfinding signage:

Directional — supports navigation, guiding people to different destinations, and often features arrows to show the correct path. (*Example: Library to the left, Park to the right*)

Identification — confirms a person is heading in the right direction or has arrived at their intended destination. (*Example: sign with destination distances, landmark/destination sign*)

Informational — provides general information on navigation, locations, public amenities, and essential facilities (*Example: Downtown map, Public Restrooms*)

Regulatory — dictates the rules and safety standards (*Example: One Way, Pedestrians Only, No Parking*)

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

History & Context

This plan provides a vision and strategy for creating cohesive vehicular and pedestrian signage across the City of Truth or Consequences (TorC) to guide residents and travelers to key public destinations. A wayfinding plan was initially recommended in the Truth or Consequences Downtown Master Plan in 2014. The City of TorC has also already undertaken significant effort in rebranding; this project is key to making the most out of that previous investment. Funding for this plan comes from technical assistance through New Mexico MainStreet.

TorC has many unique and engaging resources and destinations, and this plan will better connect residents and visitors to everything the City has to offer. The Wayfinding Plan will establish universal and cohesive design standards for wayfinding while celebrating the City's rich history and identity.

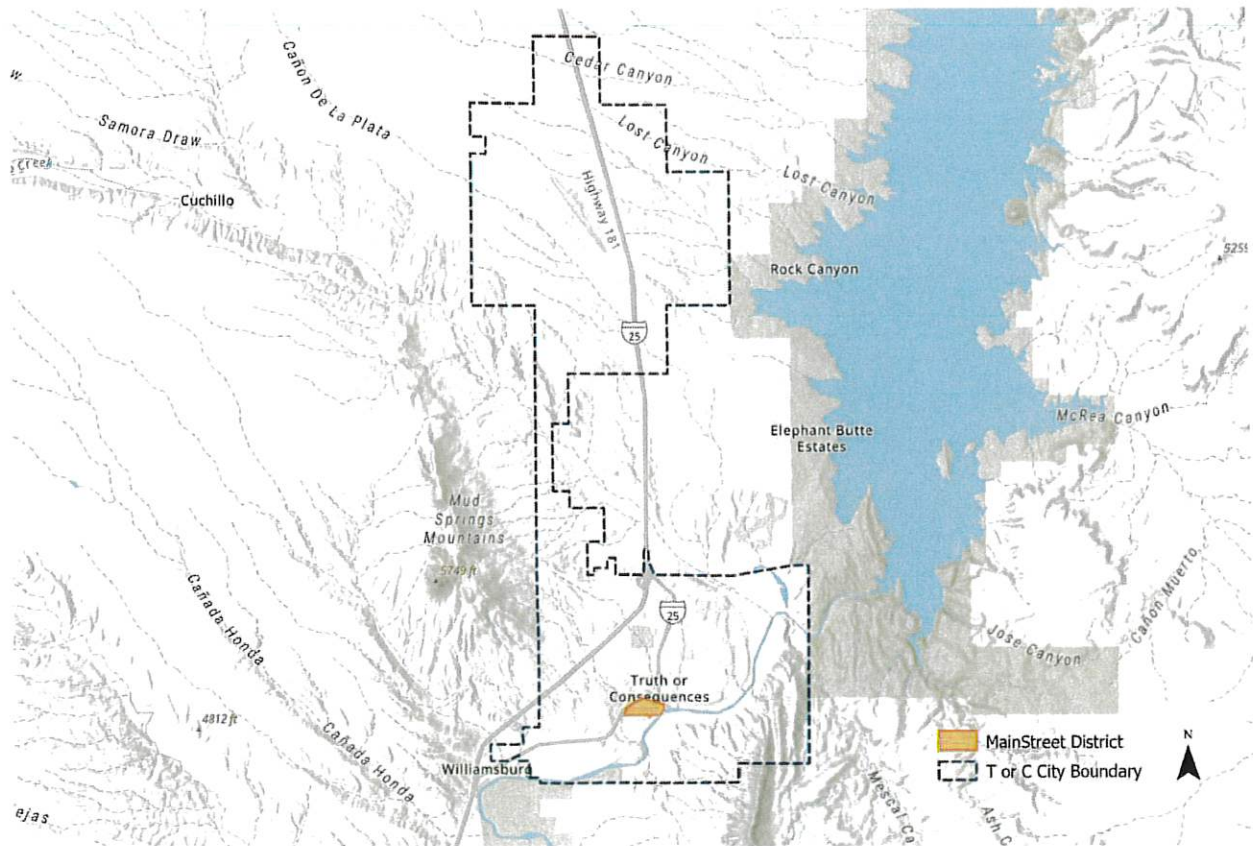
Project Sequence

The project began in the fall of 2024 after MainStreet Truth or Consequences requested technical assistance through New Mexico MainStreet (NMMS). Revitalization Specialists Anthropolulus and Leighton Moon were contracted through NMMS to assist with planning and graphic design for a citywide wayfinding system. The project team met regularly on Zoom and during in-person site visits to conduct an existing conditions study, facilitate Steering Committee meetings, present at City Commission meetings, and engage with the public.

The existing conditions study and preliminary outreach helped to identify the goals for the wayfinding system, identify key destinations and priority routes, and document an inventory of existing signage. From there, the project team identified proposed sign locations and developed three sign design options which were presented to the public and City Commission. Feedback was integrated into the final sign designs and supported the development of a phased implementation plan, prioritizing signs in the most important locations first. This plan documents this process and a plan for implementation.

Plan Area

This wayfinding plan provides guidance for a wayfinding system for the entire City of TorC and provides two “sign families”, one for the TorC Historic Hot Springs district, and one for the rest of the City.



3. PLANNING APPROACH

Existing Sign Inventory

The existing sign inventory was conducted using online mapping and verification in the field. The type of signs inventoried included directional, identification, informational, and gateway signs. Regulatory signs and privately-owned signs were not inventoried. The majority of existing signs were installed by the NM Department of Transportation or by the City of TorC. The sign inventory used the mobile GIS Field Maps app to record the location of each existing sign and document additional details such as sign content, signpost type, and sign condition. The project team traveled between various key destinations and evaluated the effectiveness of the existing signs in directing vehicles and pedestrians around the City.





Existing Sign Challenges & Issues

The current sign and wayfinding landscape within Truth or Consequences presents several challenges and potential confusion for visitors and community members.

Overall Navigation and Connectivity Issues

Existing wayfinding signs direct drivers to specific destinations such as the hospital, but don't operate as a cohesive wayfinding system. The signs don't provide an overall sense of the types of destinations available in TorC and are insufficient to guide traffic from the freeway to the downtown Historic Hot Springs district, limiting visitor exploration.

Lack of Consistency

There are multiple different/conflicting styles of wayfinding signage throughout the City, including many different sign formats, sign sizes, color palettes, and signposts. The lack of consistency limits familiarity and predictability, requiring visitors to constantly re-evaluate the signage clues. This creates confusion and limits a cohesive sense of place.

Lack of Distinctive Placemaking

Existing signage lacks cohesive branding and doesn't reflect the design elements unique to the City of TorC. Many of the current identification and monument signs feature jumbled iconography, colors, styles, and don't use the established TorC logo which represents very important pillars of the community and the lifestyle of its residents. The current state of signage and the lack of a placemaking-minded system misses out on the opportunity to symbolically represent TorC and the Historic Hot Springs District.

Legibility Problems

Many existing signs are showing age and overall wear including significant sun damage that is impeding legibility. Several of the existing wayfinding signs include long lists of destinations, small font size, and lack optimal legibility for vehicular traffic.

Public Engagement

Truth or Consequences residents were engaged through two online surveys, three public meetings, and two City Commission presentations. Information was also shared with the public on the TorC Wayfinding website (bit.ly/TorCStoryMap) which was updated regularly.

Community and Commission Meetings:

November 19th, 2024: Community Meeting #1

December 18th, 2024: City Commission Presentation #1

April 14th, 2024: Community Meeting #2

August 12th, 2025: Community Meeting #3

August 13th, 2025: City Commission Presentation #2

December 9th, 2025: Community Meeting #4

Public Survey:

There were two public surveys conducted for the TorC Wayfinding plan. The survey links were shared on the project website, on the TorC MainStreet website and social media accounts, and through various email lists.

Public Survey #1: October 1–November 31, 2024

The survey contained 8 questions to help guide the key destinations and sign design. A total of 72 responses were received.

Public Survey #2: March 20–April 30, 2025

The survey contained 7 questions to help identify which of the design options best represents the TorC brand and is most effective at rapidly communicating information. A total of 71 responses were received.

Community Input Summary:

Survey input as well as input from the first open house meeting helped to identify key destinations, goals for community wayfinding, and how the Wayfinding project will fit into the TorC of today. Based on community input and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) requirements for wayfinding design, three design options were

developed and presented in the 2nd Community Survey and 2nd Open House. Community input from the 2nd survey and open house helped to refine the wayfinding sign design.

The following graphics summarize the community input that informed this plan:



Describe the feeling you would like T or C to promote.

Relaxing • Serene
Historic
Quirky • Eclectic
Artsy • Creative
Inviting • Welcoming

Name the top community destinations that are the most difficult to find in T or C.

Rotary Park
Trail Head
Ralph Edwards Park
Healing Waters Trail
Visitor's Center

What elements of the T or C experience do you think wayfinding should most contribute to?

Recreational Access
Family Fun
History & Culture

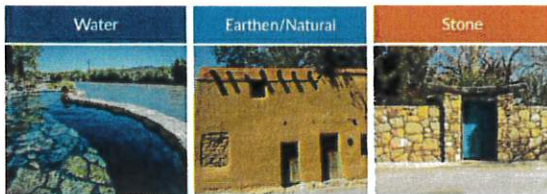
Who should you try to reach with an improved wayfinding system?

Out of town visitors
Recreational Users <i>(bikers, joggers, walkers, etc.)</i>
Families with kids

What style of art best represents your vision for T or C?

Street Art/Mural	Landscape	Abstract

What is T or C made of? What materials are beloved and meaningful to the community?



If the wayfinding system was a chair, what kind of chair would it be?



What about the design option you selected best represents the brand?



Successful wayfinding signage should be simple, clear, and effective at rapidly communicating information.

Which of the following design options would be easiest to read while driving through T or C in a car?

OPTION B - 80%



What about this design option is effective at clearly and rapidly communicating information?



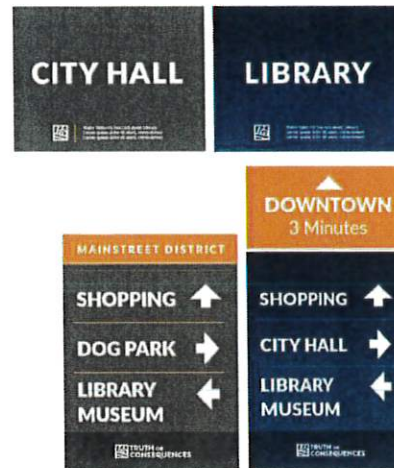
Additional Survey Input:

- appreciation/thanks
- combination designs
- keep it simple! adding art may distract from effectiveness and purpose of signage; we have murals for art
- hot springs district call out vs. symbolism
- addressing one-way streets
- prominently featuring art

Which of the following sign design options best represents the Truth or Consequences brand?

OPTION B - 58%

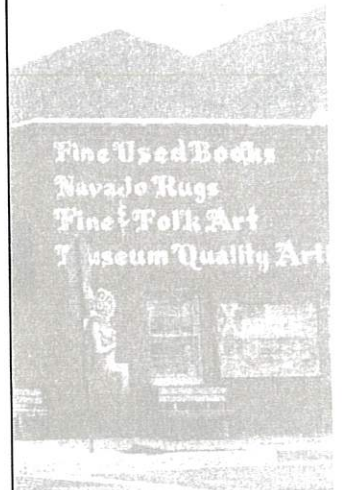
OPTION A - 38%

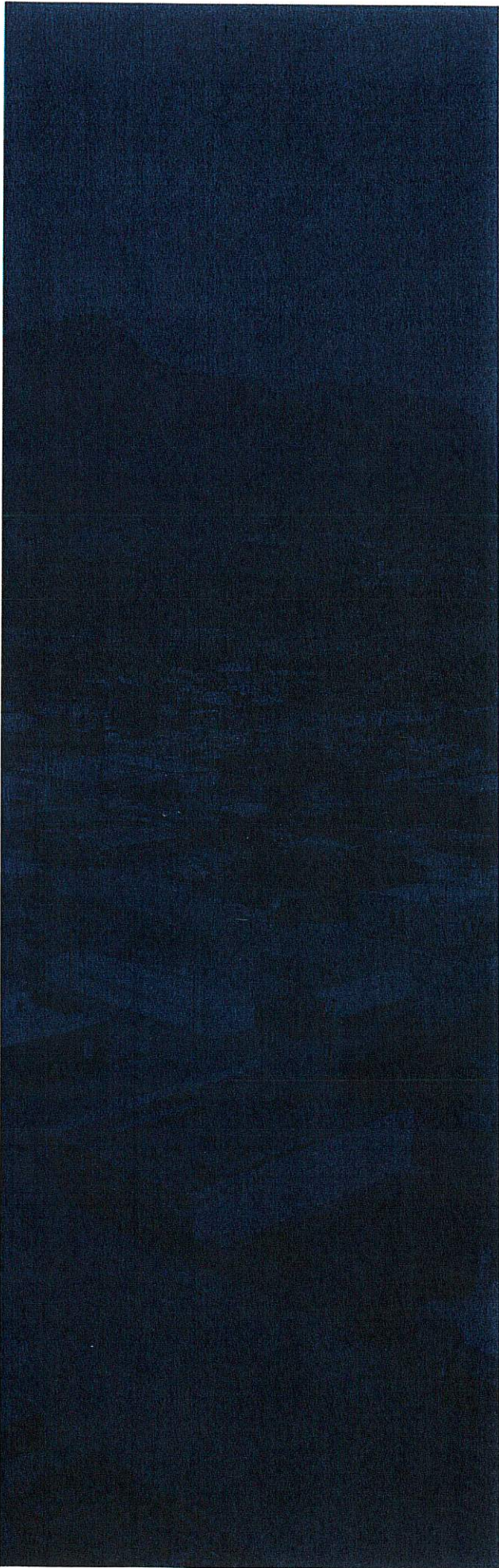


OPTION B - 58%



OPTION A - 38%





Important Destinations

Initial destinations in the City of TorC were identified by the Steering Committee and based on findings from the existing signage inventory. Priority destinations and routes were refined based on results from the public survey and input from community meetings. Over 20 key destinations were identified in the City of TorC.

Destinations:

Museums and Visitor Centers

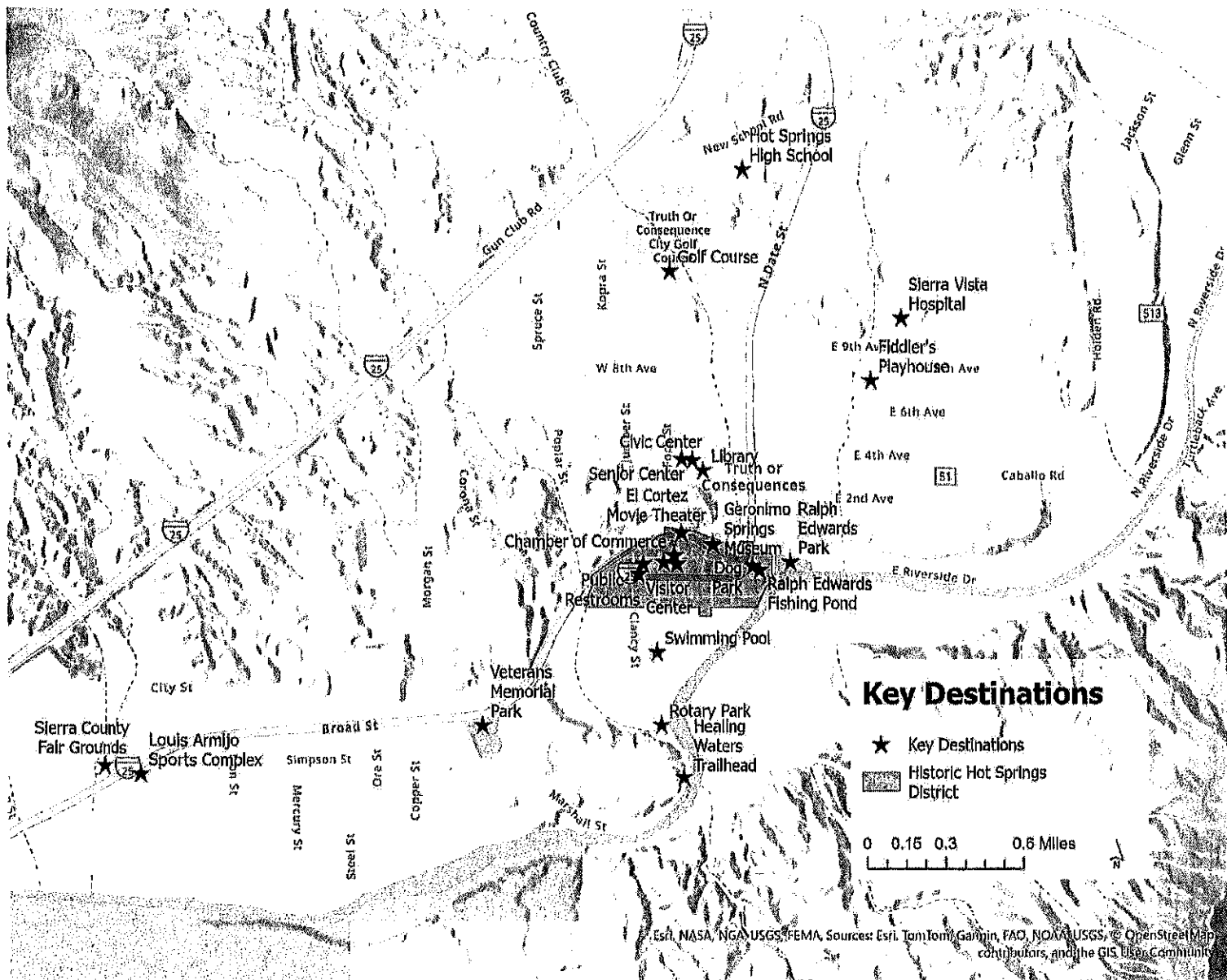
- Geronimo Springs Museum
- Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway Visitor Center

Recreation and Entertainment

- Historic Hot Springs District
- Healing Waters Plaza
- Ralph Edwards Park
- Ralph Edwards Fishing Pond
- Dog Park
- Swimming Pool
- Rotary Park
- Municipal Golf Course
- Louis Armijo Sports Complex
- Healing Waters Trailhead
- Sierra County Fair Grounds

Civic/Institutional

- Truth or Consequences Civic Center
- Senior Center
- Public Library
- Chamber of Commerce
- Truth or Consequences Elementary School
- Sierra Vista Hospital
- City Pool
- Veteran's Memorial Park



Truth or Consequences Wayfinding Key Destinations Map

4. IMPROVED WAYFINDING SYSTEM

“ ... well-designed signage and environmental graphic programs not only fulfill their communication function of informing, directing, and identifying but also serve to enhance the aesthetic and psychological qualities of an environment.”

— Chris Calori, *Signage and Wayfinding Design*

Wayfinding Priorities

The new wayfinding system aims to connect people to places through the use of signage and other environmental cues that are cohesive, intuitive, and that celebrate local identity. Together, the signs work to orient, educate, and inspire—anchoring people in the landscape and identity of Truth or Consequences while making navigation simple and welcoming.

Cohesive and Predictable

Recognizable and easily understood signage is created through consistent design, which should extend to all aspects of the wayfinding system (sign materials, dimensions, colors, etc.) The TorC wayfinding system will use consistent and predictable sign design to boost users' confidence when navigating through the community.

Celebrate Local Identity

Branded wayfinding celebrates a location's unique identity through the use of color, materials, and local art. The TorC wayfinding system focuses on supporting placemaking, using the TorC brand to provide additional opportunities to symbolically represent the Truth or Consequences community and the MainStreet District.

Intuitive and Easy to Navigate

An intuitive wayfinding system should be clear, simple, legible, and located in the right place. TorC wayfinding signage will include the use of large fonts and bold text styles, color contrast and visual hierarchy, and symbols or icons. The signs will be placed along important vehicular and pedestrian corridors, at important intersections, and at destinations to support navigation, decision-making, and confirmation of arrival.

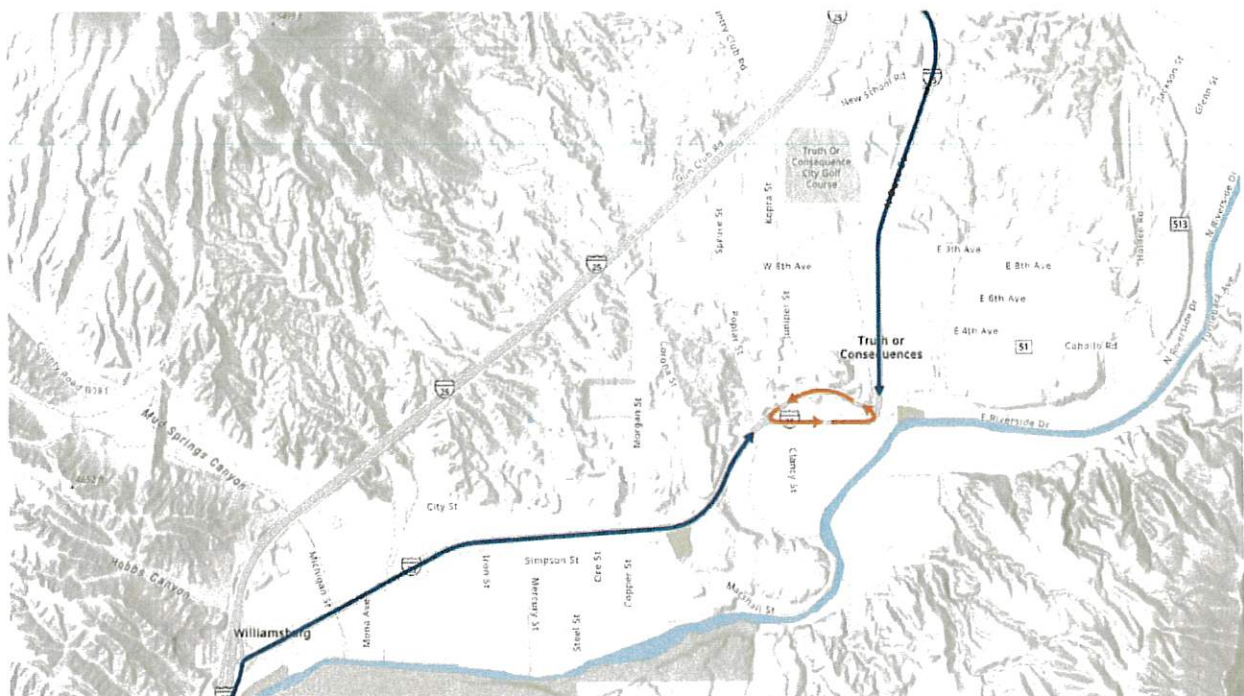
Wayfinding Goals

Encourage Downtown Exploration

The TorC Wayfinding system is designed to encourage exploration. Once cars get off the highway, directional signage directs drivers to continue the short distance to the Historic Hot Springs District. Once in the District, signage directs drivers to the location of parking, encouraging exploration on foot.

Highlight Key Civic Destinations

The TorC Wayfinding system will highlight key civic destinations such as the Civic Center and Public Library making it easier for residents and visitors to access government services and public facilities, strengthening a sense of community.



Wayfinding Audience

The wayfinding system is designed to support navigation to key destinations around Truth or Consequences by out-of-town visitors, recreational users (bikers, joggers, walkers, etc.), and families with kids. While many wayfinding systems are intended to support first-time visitors who need guidance to navigate the city and discover its attractions, in TorC, the community stressed the importance of also providing support to new and unfamiliar residents to reach key civic destinations such as the senior center or the public pool. The wayfinding system was designed to balance these different wayfinding priorities.

Wayfinding System Summary

The TorC Wayfinding System includes gateway, directional, identification, and informational signage designed to encourage travel from both I-25 offramps into and around the heart of TorC.

Directional:

- **Decision** – Signs located at an intersection or other location where route options need to be clarified
- **Turn** – Signs that indicate the route to a particular destination changes direction, typically placed just before the intersection where the route turns to the left or the right.

Identification:

- **Gateway** – Gateway signs mark the entrance to a community or district
- **Confirmation** – A sign that confirms a person is heading in the right direction, often indicated by a destination name and a straight arrow.
- **Arrival** – A sign that indicates that a person has arrived at their intended destination.

Informational:

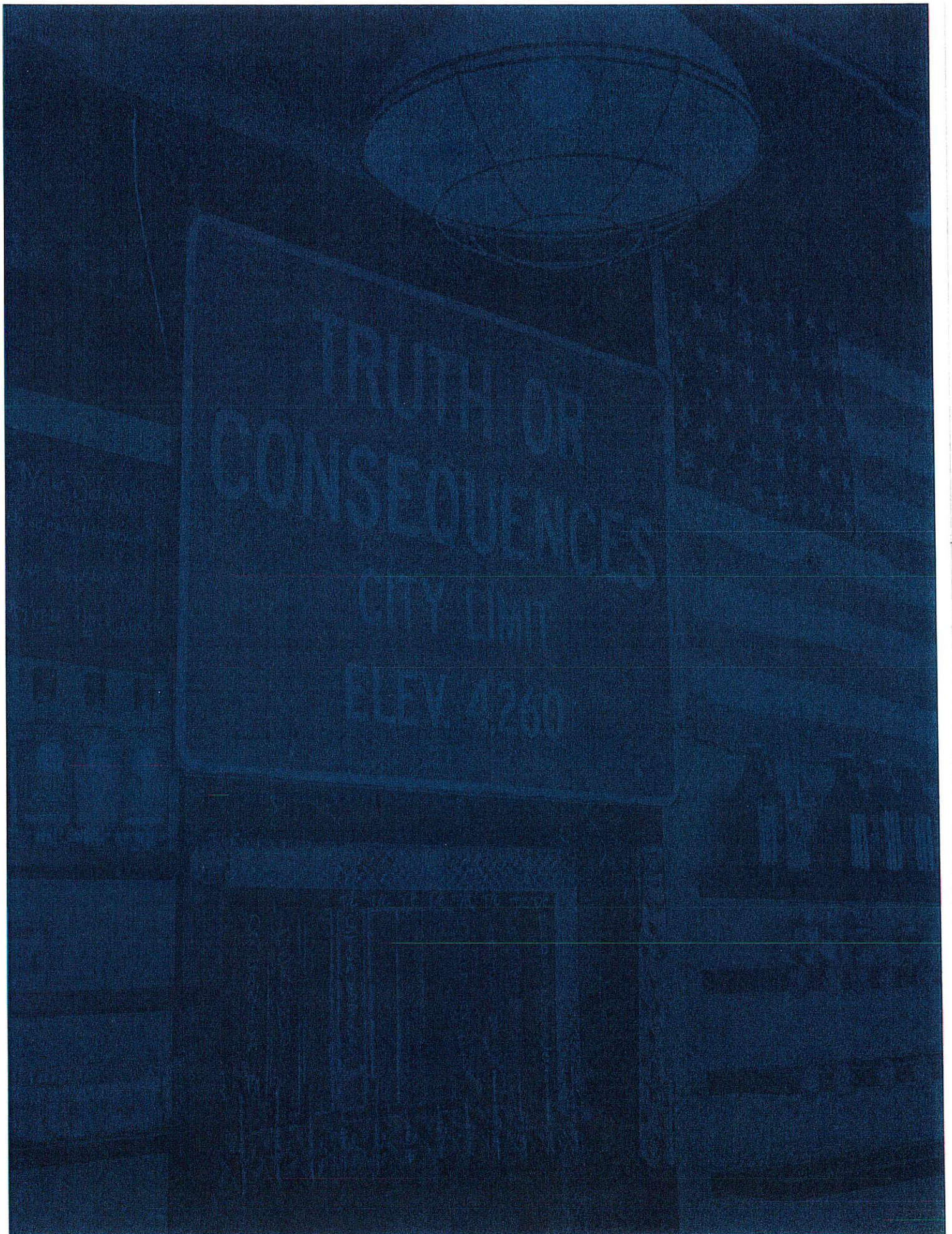
- **Maps** – Maps located in key areas help provide a visual overview of an area that enables pedestrians to plan a route to their chosen destination. (Example: Healing Waters Trail Maps)
- **Facility & Amenity Signs** – These signs provide an overview of the types of facilities and amenities available in an area. (Example: Public restrooms)
- **Interpretive Signage** – Interpretive signs tell a story, providing information about the unique history, culture, and ecology of a place. (Example: Hot Springs Historic District interpretive signage)

Exploratory:

- **Pavement markings** – paint or stamps on sidewalk that indicate a specific area
- **Murals** – murals can help serve as landmarks, creating a unique visual cue that a person has arrived



Examples of potential pavement markings for exploratory wayfinding



Visual Brand/Style Design

In 2020-2021, an extensive Truth or Consequences visual branding project took place which resulted in the current City of Truth or Consequences visual branding.

The Process:

Once information from city stakeholders and the New Mexico MainStreet Revitalization Specialist in Promotion were gathered, the Leighton Moon team (Lm.) met with the appointed community and professional team to learn more about the residents, amenities, and future goals of Truth or Consequences and what they felt was important to market to travelers. From there, Lm. developed a digital moodboard based on previous discussions to spark conversation (and provide visual insight) on what looks and feels like Truth or Consequences.

What It Means:

The Truth or Consequences brand identity draws inspiration from the town's rich blend of cultures, natural elements, and unique rhythm of life. The primary graphic element—featuring overlapping, abstracted forms—represents the fusion of rancher grit and artist spirit, a community grounded in both hard work and creative energy. This duality is essential to the character of TorC, where tradition meets transformation.

The movement within the logo reflects the natural forces that have shaped this place: the flow of wind across the desert, the ripple of water from the iconic hot

springs, and the sense of rejuvenation that defines the town's healing heritage. These waves and curves are not just decorative, they symbolize the journey of wellness that draws visitors to TorC year after year.

Color plays a central role in expressing this story. The warm color palette—Desert Rose, Oasis Orange, and Fresh Brew—evokes the golden-hour glow of the New Mexico landscape and the warmth of community. In contrast, the cool palette—Spa Blue, Medicinal Blue, and Space Blue—represents the serene, soothing experience of the town's natural springs and the quiet magic of its desert nights. The grounding neutrals—Espresso, Charcoal, and TorC Black—provide visual balance while nodding to the earthy tones of the surrounding terrain.

Together, these elements highlight the contrast and coexistence that make TorC special: rural yet vibrant, historic yet progressive, tranquil yet surprising. The identity system supports a wayfinding experience that helps visitors feel not only oriented but also connected—anchored in a place where nature, wellness, and creativity converge.



TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

NEW MEXICO

Desert Rose

Oasis Orange

Fresh Brew

Spa Blue

Medicinal Blue

Space Blue

Espresso

Charcoal

TorC Black

LATO

LORA

Brand Essence Statement:

Truth or Consequences is an eclectic hot springs town. A hidden gem—a cultural melting pot—where we blend the serene pace and community-forward values of small town life with big city vibes. Located directly off of a major interstate, Truth or Consequences is surrounded by indescribable natural beauty. Tucked against the backdrop of Turtleback Mountain, hugged by the winding Rio Grande, and nestled between two of New Mexico's largest lakes, Truth or Consequences sits atop a hot springs aquifer rooted in historic healing.

Our world-class, odorless hot springs offer a ph-balanced blend of mineral rich healing waters. Accessible with spas and lodging to fit a wide range of styles, personalities, and budgets for residents and visitors alike, our historic hot springs district continues to be a place where people come to rejuvenate. Medicinal waters are not the only thing bubbling in this frontier of wellness and culture. Experience everything from ancient artifacts to the cutting edge technology of Spaceport America - all in one day. Discover backcountry adventures and then relax in incomparable spas. Truth or Consequences is an arts-forward locale bursting with creativity from both emerging and well-known resident artists and musicians. Fusing together the pastoral and innovational, Truth or Consequences is a place where ranchers/cowboys and artists come together to enjoy a meal at one of the many distinctive restaurants or a pint at our award-winning brewery.

Slow down and soak in all that Truth or Consequences has to offer. Experience a place that encourages you to be yourself. You may end up discovering why so many visitors never leave.



Sign Design

The wayfinding signage system is intentionally designed in the established visual brand language of the City of Truth or Consequences. By aligning with the city's broader identity system, the signs reinforce brand recognition, civic trust, and a unified sense of place throughout the visitor journey.

Each sign integrates subtle background graphics directly utilizing the Truth or Consequences logomark. This choice gives subtle visual texture while remaining understated to maintain optimal legibility and keep navigation clear and intuitive.

Arrival signs are designed to do more than direct—they help tell the story of Truth or Consequences. A dedicated area of the signs provide space for short local facts or stories, tapping into the rich well of community oral history. These can be sourced from local historians, writers, or long-time residents, offering a personal connection to place.

In addition, there's room within the system for artistic expression. Local artists may contribute custom decorative enhancements to designated signs—either through surface treatments, sculptural toppers, or color accents—bringing localized flavor without compromising the wayfinding system's core functionality.

Sign Families

The system is designed as flexible families of signs, with thoughtful variations that respond to context. There are two sign families, one for the broader TorC community, and another for the Historic Hot Springs District. Within the Historic Hot Springs district, for example, signage color shifts to a distinctive palette to subtly communicate that visitors have entered a unique and concentrated zone—a “place within a place.” This design choice supports orientation while also expressing the layered identity of TorC as both a tranquil small town and a vibrant creative hub.

TorC City Signage

The primary TorC sign family is designed to orient visitors who have just exited the highway as well as unfamiliar residents to find civic destinations such as the public library. These signs are primarily designed to orient drivers and will be located primarily along N. Date St. and S. Broadway St. and at key destinations throughout the community.

Consistently using Space Blue, Medicinal Blue, and Spa Blue from the color palette for these signs is representative of the open skies and healing waters. The Oasis orange riders signal the short distance to the downtown district where local businesses and galleries can be found.



Arrival Sign



Turn Sign



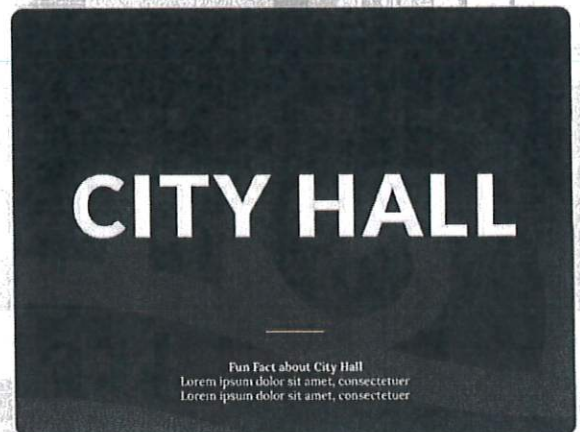
Decision Sign
with Downtown Driving Time Rider



Loop Sign



Decision Sign



Arrival Sign
with Artistic
Add-On Rider (no
artwork)

Historic Hot Springs District Signage

Within the downtown, signs change to highlight MainStreet Truth or Consequences as a vibrant destination within Truth or Consequences. The signs also communicate that this area is the historic Hot Springs district. The design emphasizes the local loop—a one-way

route lined with shops, dining, and art galleries—helping visitors understand that there's more to discover just around the corner. Directional cues and iconography guide foot traffic while reinforcing the area's identity as both a historic and creative core of the city.



Turn Sign



Loop Sign



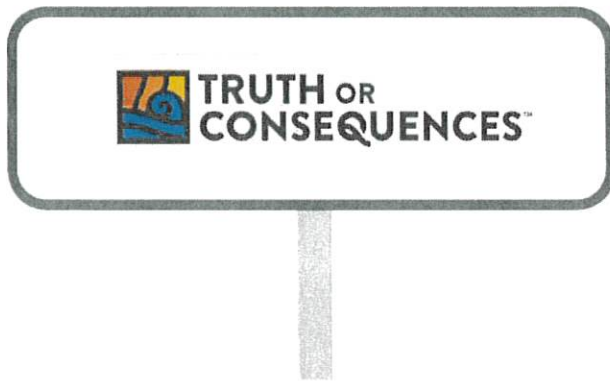
Monument Sign

Artistic Add-Ons

Artistic Add-Ons allow local artists to enhance wayfinding signs with creative elements like riders, printed back panels, or sculptural toppers. These additions bring community character and artistic expression into the public realm.

Strongly supported in the community survey, this program celebrates the voices of TorC's creative community while keeping signage functional and on-brand. Potentially managed

by MainStreet Truth or Consequences with technical support from New Mexico MainStreet, the program would include artist guidelines, specs, and a selection process to ensure quality and cohesion.



Rider (when no artwork is on display)



Sign Back Print w. example artwork



Rider w. example artwork



Sculptural Slip w. example artwork

5. IMPLEMENTATION

After the approval of the Truth or Consequences Wayfinding Plan by City Commission, signs to be fabricated will be detailed with Design Intent Drawings. These will go to the sign manufacturer who create shop drawings, which are approved by designers before fabrication. Once signs are approved and fabricated, they will be delivered to and installed by a City-approved contractor at designated locations, according to the Sign Removal & Replacement Plan.

Sign Location Plans

5 City Decision Signs

4 City Decision Signs with No Top Rider

3 City Arrival Signs

4 City Turn Signs

7 District Loop Sign A – Signs

3 District Loop Sign B – Signs

3 District Decision Signs

2 District Arrival Signs

2 District Turn Signs

2 Monuments

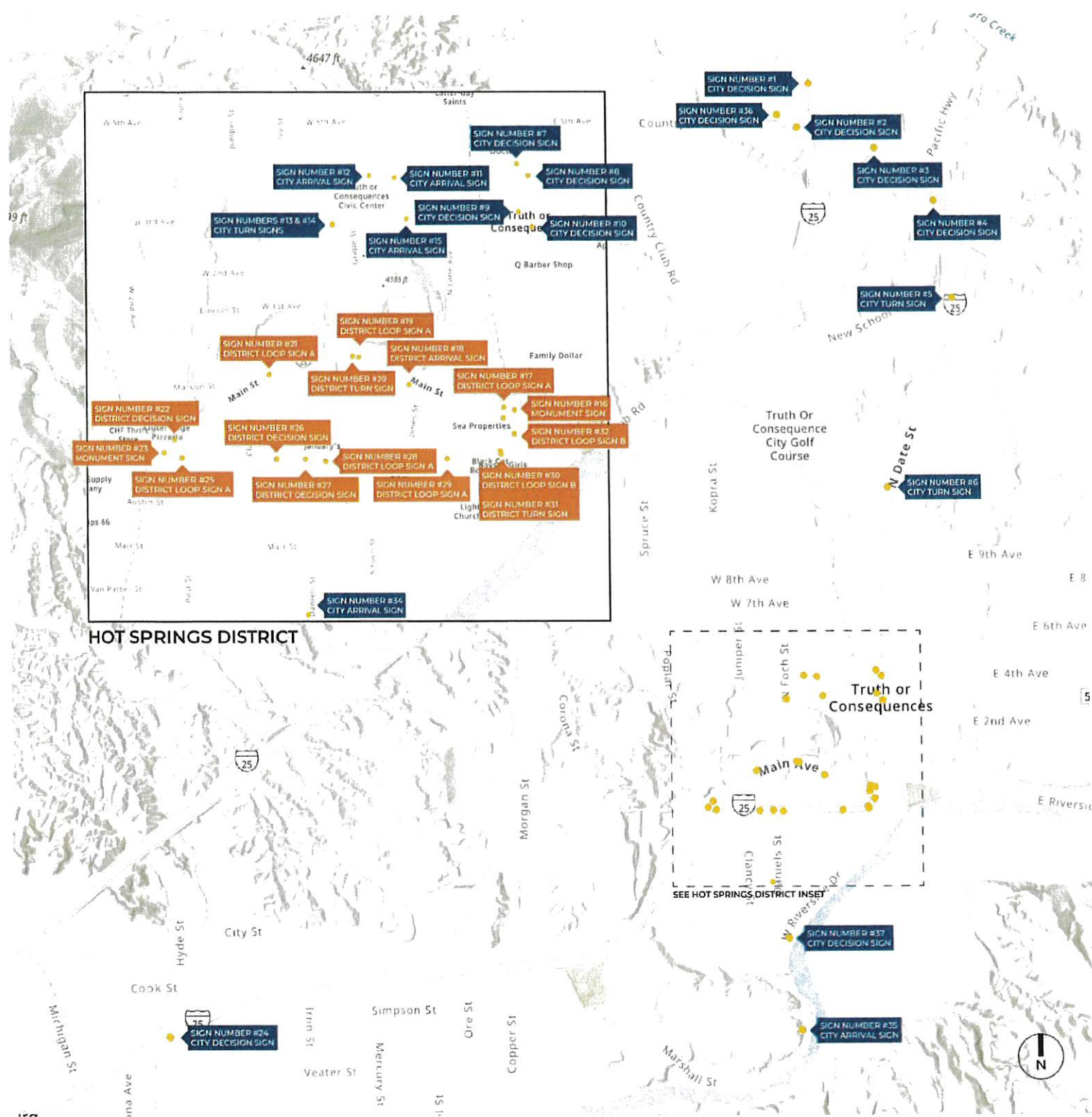
37 Total Proposed Signs

Phasing/Prioritization

Priority 1 – Directional & Confirmation Signage: Signage that directs vehicles from the freeway to the Historic Hot Springs District and other key destinations

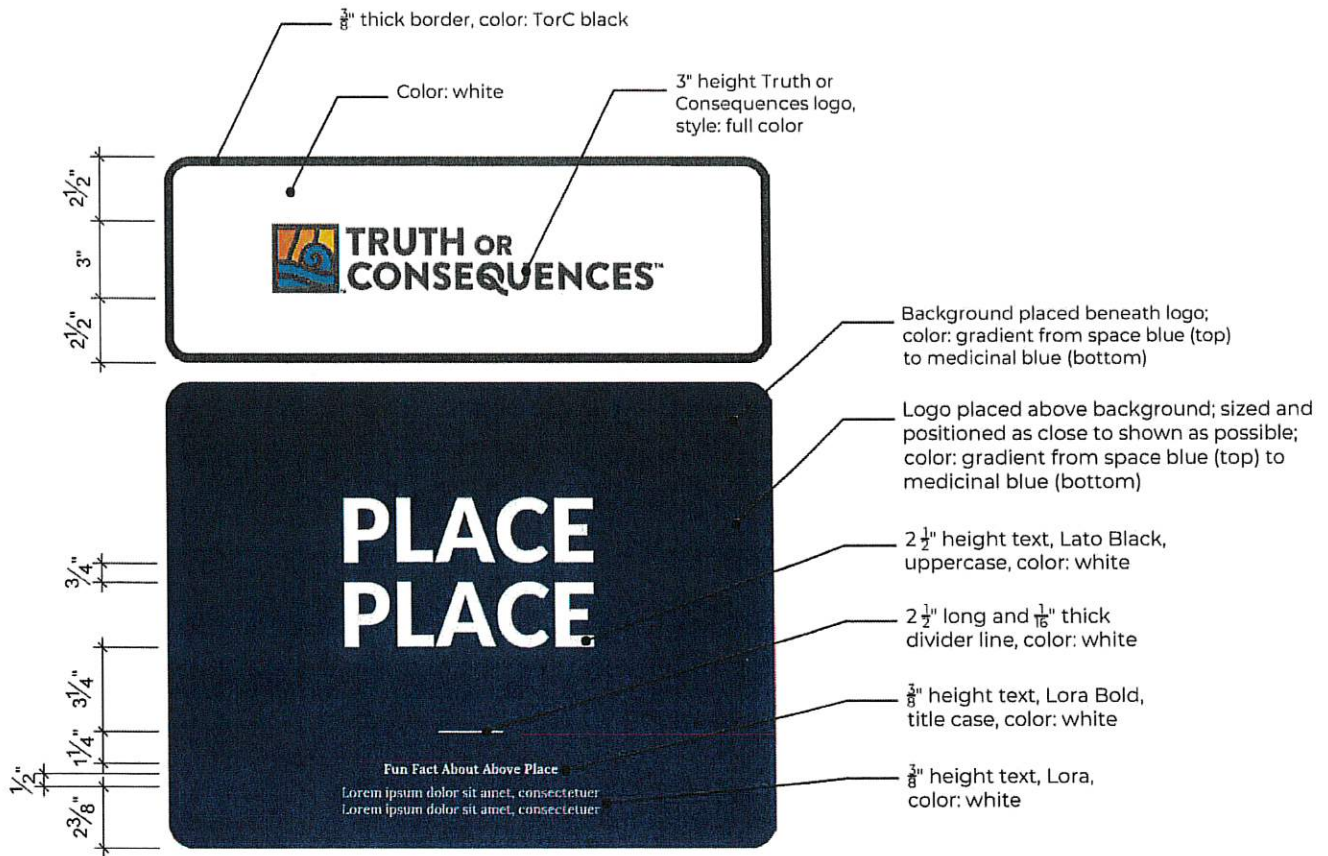
Priority 2 – Arrival Signage

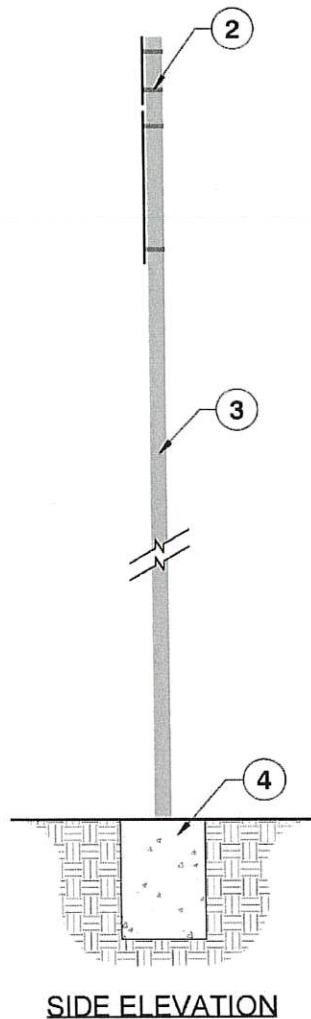
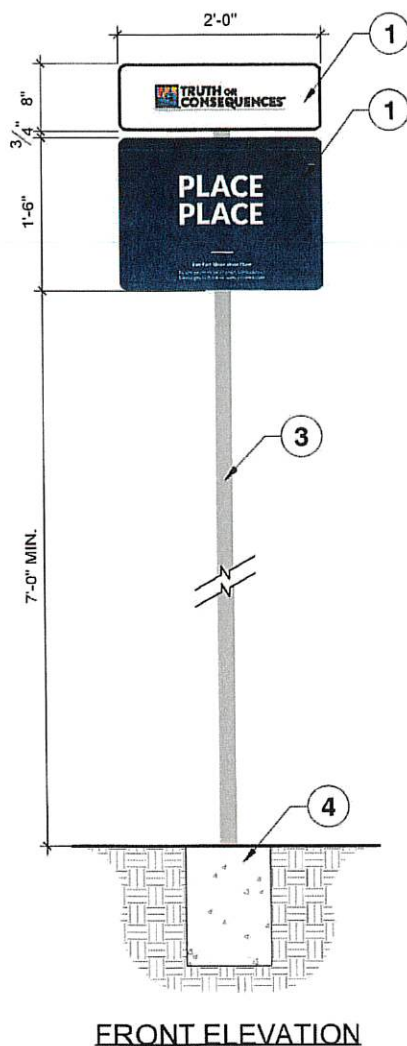
Priority 3 – Gateway & Monument Signage



6. APPENDIX

Design Intent Drawings





- ① **PANEL**
 MATERIAL: 1/4" thick anodized aluminum
 FABRICATION PROCESS: Router-cut
 EDGES: Routed; finished smooth
 GRAPHICS: Screen-printed
 COATING: Anti-graffiti; UV protection
 MOUNTING: Bolted to square tube post or bracketed to light pole

- ② **MOUNTING HARDWARE**
 If mounting on new or existing square tube post, use tamper-proof bolts. Bolt through square with carriage bolt.

FINISH: Bolt tops to be painted color of sign or match finish
 MATERIAL: Anodized aluminum
 EDGES: Bolt, washer, nut

If mounting on existing light pole, use sign mounting brackets, 4" to 12" round, strap-on, stainless steel, unfinished, silver. Use tamper-proof bolts. Field verify pole diameter.

- ③ **POST**
 Field verify if there is existing post or light pole. For all new posts:
 SIZE: 2" x 2" square tube with welded cap
 MATERIAL: Anodized aluminum
 EDGES: Bolt, washer, nut

- ④ **POST FOOTING**
 Footings shall be sized to meet local design standards.

NOTES

Details illustrate possible mounting and/or mounting hardware details and are for reference only. All hardware to be sized by fabricator. Shop drawing submittals shall detail the actual hardware and connections. All connections must be designed for all applicable loads. Shop drawings shall not compromise the visual appearance of the sign shown.

Sign Schedule

Sign Number	Location Description	Sign Type	Post/Mount	Content	OBJECTID	Latitude	Longitude
1	West side of I-25 South about 50 feet before Exit 79	City Decision Sign	Install on new post	Rider: 7 mins / Main Sign - Line 1: Hot Springs (right arrow), Line 2: Shopping (right arrow), Line 3: Dining (right arrow)	36	-107.253601	33.15878608
2	Exit 79 off-ramp before overpass above I-25	City Decision Sign	Install on existing light post	Rider: 6 mins / Main Sign - Line 1: Hot Springs (up arrow), Line 2: Shopping (up arrow), Line 3: Dining (up arrow)	37	-107.2542018	33.15694571
3	I-25 near Holiday Inn Express	City Decision Sign	Install on existing light post	Rider: 5 mins / Main Sign - Line 1: Hot Springs (up arrow), Line 2: Shopping (up arrow), Line 3: Dining (up arrow)	6	-107.2503474	33.15608879
4	I-25 near Walmart	City Decision Sign	Install on existing light post	Rider: 4 mins / Main Sign - Line 1: Hot Springs (up arrow), Line 2: Shopping (up arrow), Line 3: Dining (up arrow)	7	-107.2473573	33.15386617
5	Median on New School Rd north of Shell gas station	City Turn Sign with Right Arrow	Replace existing sign on post in median	Schools	33	-107.2464769	33.14981255
6	Date St and Marie St, NW corner	City Turn Sign with Right Arrow	Remove existing sign and install new sign on nearby light post	Municipal Golf Course	9	-107.2499095	33.14192516
7	Date St and 4th Ave, NW corner	City Decision Sign with No Top Rider	Replace existing signs on light post	Line 1: Senior Center (right arrow), Line 2: Civic Center (right arrow), Line 3: NM Public Health (left arrow)	10	-107.2506226	33.13429172
8	Date St and 4th Ave, SE corner	City Decision Sign with No Top Rider	Replace existing signs on light post	Line 1: Senior Center (left arrow), Line 2: Civic Center (left arrow), Line 3: NM Public Health (right arrow)	12	-107.2503478	33.13406319
9	Date St and 3rd Ave, NW corner	City Decision Sign with No Top Rider	Install new sign on existing light post	Line 1: Library (right arrow), Line 2: Comission Chambers (right arrow)	11	-107.2505896	33.13334955
10	Date St and 3rd Ave, SE corner	City Decision Sign with No Top Rider	Install new sign on existing light post	Line 1: Library (left arrow), Line 2: Comission Chambers (left arrow)	34	-107.2502783	33.13304859
11	4th Ave and Grape St	City Arrival Sign	Install on new post on lawn on east side of senior center entrance perpendicular to road	Kenneth W. James Senior Center	13	-107.2535752	33.13402546
12	4th Ave and Grape St	City Arrival Sign	Install on new post on lawn on east side of civic center entrance perpendicular to road	Civic Center	14	-107.2542015	33.13406765
13	Foch St and 3rd Ave, SE corner	City Turn Sign with Left Arrow	Replace existing north-facing sign on post	Library	15	-107.2550947	33.13311888
14	Foch St and 3rd Ave, SE corner	City Turn Sign with Right Arrow	Replace existing south-facing sign on post	Library	38	-107.2550949	33.13309683
15	3rd Ave and Library Lane, NE corner	City Arrival Sign	Install on new post	Library	16	-107.2532847	33.13321662
16	Date St median facing north	Monument	Install on gabion structure	As shown in design intent drawings	17	-107.2507285	33.12943944
17	Date St near Serenity Clothing Store	District Loop Sign A	Install on existing light post	As shown on design intent drawings	18	-107.2509751	33.12949228
18	Main St at Post Office	District Arrival Sign	Install on new post in gravel mulch area west of post office entrance	Post Office	19	-107.2532454	33.12994593
19	Main St and Foch St, NE corner	District Loop Sign A	Install on existing light post above pedestrian crossing signs	As shown on design intent drawings	20	-107.2544888	33.13048634
20	Main St and Foch St, NW corner	District Turn Sign with Right Arrow	Replace existing sign on square post	Library	21	-107.2546339	33.13050088
21	Main St and Garst St, NE corner	District Loop Sign A	Install on existing light post	As shown on design intent drawings	22	-107.2566388	33.13014427
22	Main St across the road from Outer Edge Pizza	District Decision Sign	Install on existing light pole before turn	Line 1: More Shops (left arrow), Line 2: Veterans Memorial Park (up arrow), Line 3: County Fairgrounds (up arrow)	24	-107.258876	33.12886326

Sign Number	Location Description	Sign Type	Post/Mount	Content	OBJECTID	Latitude	Longitude
23	Median between Main St and Broadway St facing southwest	Monument	Install on gabion structure	As shown on design intent drawings	23	-107.2591345	33.12860456
24	Widest part of S Broadway St median between E Val Verde Ave and Hyde Ave	City Decision Sign	Install on new post	Rider: 5 mins / Main Sign - Line 1: Hot Springs (up arrow), Line 2: Shopping (up arrow), Line 3: Dining (up arrow)	39	-107.2864326	33.11911976
25	Broadway St and Post St, SW corner	District Loop Sign A	Install on existing light post above pedestrian crossing signs	As shown on design intent drawings	25	-107.258715	33.12850146
26	South side of Broadway St between Clancy St and Daniels St	District Decision Sign	Install on new post	Line 1: Free Parking (left arrow), Line 2: Restrooms (left arrow)	26	-107.2564905	33.12847016
27	Broadway St and Daniels St, SW corner	District Decision Sign	Install on existing light post above pedestrian crossing signs	Line 1: Healing Waters Plaza (left arrow), Line 2: Pool (right arrow), Line 3: Rotary Park (right arrow), Line 4: (Hiking icon) Healing Waters (right arrow)	27	-107.2557895	33.12847486
28	Broadway St outside of Ingo's Art Cafe	District Loop Sign A	Install on existing light post	As shown on design intent drawings	28	-107.2553049	33.12843977
29	Broadway St outside of First Baptist Church	District Loop Sign A	Install on existing light post	As shown on design intent drawings	29	-107.2523466	33.12847619
30	Median between N Broadway St and S Broadway St, behind and to the left of existing I-25 sign	District Loop Sign B	Install on new post	As shown on design intent drawings	30	-107.2510733	33.12862937
31	Median between N Broadway St and S Broadway St, behind and to the right of existing I-25 sign	District Turn Sign with Right Arrow	Install on new post	Ralph Edwards Park	35	-107.2510408	33.12856243
32	Date St and Main St, SW corner	District Loop Sign B	Install on existing light post	As shown on design intent drawings	31	-107.2507423	33.12898933
33	Main St at southern end of Date St median	District Loop Sign A	Install on new post	As shown on design intent drawings	32	-107.2509948	33.12927742
34	Daniels St about 2 feet to the left of one-way alley	City Arrival Sign	Install on new post	Public Pool	40	-107.2556066	33.12840499
35	Entrance to parking area for Healing Waters trailhead	City Arrival Sign	Install on new post	Healing Waters Trailhead	41	-107.2542865	33.11946336
36	North side of Country Club Rd. across from Exit 79 offramp	City Decision Sign	Install on new post	Rider: 5 mins / Main Sign - Line 1: Hot Springs (right arrow), Line 2: Shopping (right arrow), Line 3: Dining (right arrow)	42	-107.285279	33.15721787
37	About 5 feet before left turn into Rotary Park	City Decision Sign with No Top Rider	Install on new post	Line 1: Rotary Park (left arrow), Line 2: (Hiking icon) Healing Waters (up arrow)	43	-107.2552494	33.12306208

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES WAYFINDING PLAN

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