

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3RD St.
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025

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 via telephone
Hon. Merry Jo Fahl, Commissioner
Hon. Ingo Hoepfner, Commissioner

Also Present: Gary Whitehead, City Manager
Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager
Jay Rubin, City Attorney
Angela A. Torres, City Clerk-Treasurer
Jocelyn Holguin, Finance Director
Jamie Forman, Water/Wastewater Supervisor
Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Manager
Buster Smith, Streets Manager
Brenden Anglin, Streets Supervisor
Deanna Knull, Police Department Administrative Assistant
Wyatt Graves, Service Center Supervisor

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

2. SILENT MEDITATION:

Mayor Hechler called for fifteen seconds of silent meditation, and he asked everyone to keep our Country in their thoughts and prayers.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

C. PRESENTATIONS:

1. Issuance of Certificates to the Hot Springs High School FFA, 4H, Scat Cats, and SkillsUSA teams.

Mayor Hechler presented certificates to the Hot Springs High School Scat Cats, and SkillsUSA team members and coaches.

2. Discussion/Presentation: Truth or Consequences Vision Zero Safety Action Plan.

Paige Wolfrom gave a presentation regarding the Vision Zero Safety Action Plan. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

D. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 Minute Rule Applies):

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

- We are really excited to have received the grant again from the New Mexico Resiliency Alliance, this is one that we apply for every year. Two years ago, we used it to do the Here's Your Sign project which resulted in artists working with business owners to get some new signage downtown like the mural on the Black Cat. Last year we used it for Show of Hands, which was the project where businesses could apply with an expansion idea, then the finalists gave a pitch to compete for funding for their idea. This year, we're using it for a project called T or C Curb Appeal. The most we could apply for was \$5,000. They came back and said that we can have \$6,000 since we've had a really good track record of successful projects in the past, and we've gotten everything finished on time. So, T or C Curb Appeal is going to be a program that provides microgrants to downtown businesses and property owners for exterior street-facing improvements. So that could be lighting, signage, painting, just small things that spruce up the appearance of buildings around town. Businesses will be able to apply for between \$200 and \$1200, and they will have to provide a 50% cash match on top of that. We're looking at having a little bit more than \$10,000 of improvements put into several places downtown. We're excited to put that

together. We will have applications out in August, award funding in September, and try to complete everything by November is the tentative timeline.

- We are also working on applying for a grant for a music series. If we were to receive this grant, it would provide between 7 and 10 free outdoor concerts each year. This would be a 3 year grant program. The idea is that they're family friendly, inclusive of all members of the community, so we would have different types of music that would bring in different segments of the community. Right now I'm working on the narrative and budget part of that and talking with some potential partners in the community about different ways we would need support if we do go through with this grant.
- For my last 30 seconds, I would like to take off my Main Street hat and make a comment as myself as a citizen. Regarding the Love's travel stop, I'm really excited about what it's going to bring to town but I do want to urge you to please encourage them to take measures to protect the environment, and particularly the night sky that we have here. It's amazing to me that I can walk outside in the middle of town and see the Milky Way at night. That's something where we don't always think about how fortunate we are to have that, and we want to do things that can preserve that. Thank you.

George Henson addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I came to say more complaints. I had an artist situation that went to heck because of you people not taking what the petition said was art. The immediate need for change in front of the Family Dollar, as far as the concrete medium, the striping puts it to one lane where that's one of the busiest places to turn left into the Family Dollar. It took them 10 months to sweep up after they chip-sealed Austin Street a few years ago. The idea that this stuff takes forever to make changes is a problem. I saw an accident in front of Family Dollar about 10 days ago, and it's unnecessary. It's caused by the white lines funneling them into that one lane before the turn. Now, I've got condos that are now being lived in. They built a bridge that's going to cause an arroyo to flood through my yard. There's an essay of what happened on that ditch, and apparently, they have it named wrong as far as what it is, as a box culvert, it's actually just a tube that's not nearly big enough.

Alice Hutchins addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- We need to take steps that the new development in Sierra County does not contribute to the heat island effect that exacerbates storm water runoff issues or adds to environmental pollution. It is challenging to "green up" our existing parking lots, roadways, and commercial spaces even though we're making an effort. With the proper codes in place for new projects, we can look forward to a greener future. I am especially concerned about the new Love's truck stop proposal. Every Love's I have ever pumped gas at, is acres of concrete and asphalt, though they have amazing coffee. We must insist that blueprints include trees, shade, xeric landscaping, below-grade bio retention areas for storm water mitigation, and sub-surface infiltration systems. That is a mouthful, but it simply means not creating a scorching black asphalt desert that sends polluted runoff directly into the river system. To keep the asphalt desert from happening, we need to depend on our

current Planning & Zoning team, which is a great group of caring individuals. They need to be given the go-ahead to overhaul our current codes to better reflect what we now know about drought, our vulnerable water shed, and long-term effects of environmental pollution. The DOT, whether you love or hate the roundabouts, did a fantastic job landscaping them. They planted hearty, drought-tolerant plants below grade where they receive the most runoff. They installed irrigation to give them a good start. As the trees grow, they will provide shade, increase bird habitat, and lower the heat index. Something like this can and should be required for the Love's truck stop. The cost to the overall project is minimal, and it will set a positive precedent for future building in Sierra County. Residents in our community really value the natural world and are committed to its protection. Too often, though, it feels like we are asked to choose between economic opportunity and protecting our water and our land and our wildlife. Let's prove that we don't have to make that choice. Let's upgrade Planning & Zoning to include green codes for all new construction. Thank you so much.

Michael Hutchins commented addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- While I know that Love's truck stop proposal is just that, a proposal, I took a few minutes to review Love's February 26th presentation to you all. I hope more analysis will be done from the economics involved, and the impact on local businesses, but it appears to be a solid project. My question is, though, has the issue of light pollution been taken into account in the planning? Light pollution, especially one from a business as large as a truck stop, can disrupt the behavior of wildlife, including mating rituals, navigation, and migration patterns. We are surrounded by the most significant continuous East-West wildlife corridor in all of New Mexico, and I believe we should do everything we can to protect migrating birds and our local bat populations. Implementing dark sky standards helps preserve the natural beauty of night skies, making it easier to see stars and other celestial objects, something I like to do on my app called SkyView Lite. The new improvements to the historic Damsite buildings wisely include dark skies and lighting for this very reason. Dark sky standards prioritize responsible outdoor lighting by limiting uplift of light and reducing glare and using warm-toned light sources. Safety will not be affected in any way. A dark skies lighting plan isn't about no light, it is about appropriate light. These simple, inexpensive methods should be easy to incorporate into existing blueprints for a standard Love's truck stop project. But this is a big but, T or C needs to update its codes to reflect the community's concerns about the environment. Without the proper codes in place, businesses will choose the cheapest way to build. I do not believe this is in the best interest of our wildlife and watersheds. I'll be leaving a flyer with you all that highlights the principles of responsible outdoor lighting, and it is my hope that dark sky standards will soon be part of any building project in T or C.

E. REPORTS:

Assistant City Manager Alvarez:

- I am pleased to announce that we have received an award letter from the New Mexico Finance Authority Water Trust Board, for our flood prevention project for the Cantrell Dam breach and watershed storage. We will be receiving a total funding amount from NMFA for \$8,090,000. Of that, there's a 10% loan in the amount of \$809,000 and a 90% grant in the amount of \$7,281,000. Then we will have the cash match component of \$809,000. So, it'll be a total project fund of almost \$8.9 million for the Cantrell Dam. So, you will see that grant agreement coming down the line, probably around August or September.

City Manager Whitehead reported the following:

- Regarding Traci's announcement, congratulations to all of you, that's a project you've been working on for a few years, so it'll be nice to get that all together. We've met with the flood commissioner as well, we have commitment from some financial support, and then some consulting support, so we will be using the flood commissioner to help us with the planning and implementation of it. We have a lot of work to do, we needed a project and now we have one. We're excited and I was happy for Traci to be able to present that to you.
- We have a meeting set for the pay study, so Jocelyn, Alona, and the staff are going to meet, go through the training, and begin developing those plans so that we can present in the final budget our work forward on that. We're really aggressively on that. Jocelyn has led that charge, and it is moving forward.
- In the last few weeks, I've had some meetings with the folks from Sierra Del Rio, we have been working on the leased land they have with us on our landfill. They had leased that for 99 years and have asked to do a couple of projects. We have cleared some hurdles with the environment department, and we have met with their leadership team. So we will be moving forward to get them permission to execute the plans they want. They leased that land from us, they put their driving range on there, they have some requirements for maintaining drainage testing, and we have an old landfill we are required to take care of. We will finish working that out, but I think that's moving along nicely.
- We did receive a communique from congressman Vasquez's office, it looks like some funding we've asked for, for Clancy live station may be moving forward. We did receive from the core of engineers a questionnaire, so we will be trying to work that out. It's no commitment, but that feels like a positive step to get that project moving.
- We are still in the process of developing a work forward plan on the wastewater treatment plant. We're still waiting on a commitment letter from DFA on the \$1 million from the governor's office, that would give us around \$2 million that we could invest. We're developing a plan which would include improvements to the wastewater plant itself. There are a couple of apparatuses that are broken or not performing properly. We have some electronic issues we are beginning to price out. We are also going to make, what we consider a fair attack, on the VAC

system. We have a complete line and have already received a quote for that. So, we are putting together a \$2 million 5-7 year "band aid", if you will, and we will be taking that to meet with the environment department, Steven Deal, and try to get that put together so that we can get that working forward this year.

- I'll be meeting with Becca, she's working on the music series, but if you remember I asked in the budget if we could get some funding to do some local concerts. I'd really like to do 3-4 concerts this summer on Friday evenings. Kind of a small-scale downtown celebration. Our team is excited about seeing what we can do, and if the grant comes through, we would really have a foundation on how we could potentially move forward. Something by the Healing Waters Plaza, and of course the county wants to help us with that, they have a bus. We will be working on putting that together in the short-term, it may not be full-tilt this season, it seems like it will take a little bit of time, but we will get that going.
- I've started the work on the golf course, it's getting greener. If you've been out there, you may have noticed, it still looks a little shaky, but we're working on it. We have an uphill climb there. We did not complete the application for the liquor license, so I've started that process and will get that finished. I am also going to make an application for a liquor license for the Civic Center. I've spoken with Alcohol gaming, we are eligible, we can have a license at any location that we choose, and I think that's something we should really consider as we move forward. We're working on plans, I'll be trying to get together a group to finish the kitchen idea, we have some ideas to make that catering, and we want to do some lighting. David's got some ideas he's been sitting on, so we will try to, in the next year, continue working on that.
- If we could bring up the website, I don't know how many of you have gone to our website, but I am really proud of the work that Carrie is doing. It's really different, and if you go to the bottom, you can see we've got some different stories, and we're trying to create a better storyboard for the city. Last week, in the newspaper, we're purchasing a quarter page, the newspaper has contributed the rest of the page where we're going to do stories, it's not perfect yet, it's growing and we're going to get it right, but our vision would be that you can go to Facebook and it would drive you to the website, you could go to the newspaper, and it would say something to lead you to the website, and get all the information. This is so that we can start gleaning more public input on our website. Carrie's doing a great job, I know she's here and I want to thank her. She's got a good vision and she's really working hard. If you click where it says WSPI-1, you'll be able to see a story this week in the newspaper that would talk about WSPI-1. Now you can go to this page on the website, and see what it is, how much it is, and if you click on the maps, a citizen could come in and look at all the areas I had the engineers outline and put the verbiage to what the area is, why we're working on it, how much linear feet it is we will be working on, and in the course of the next month, we will get every project up there so that if people are wondering what we're doing, we can tell them to go to our website and they can see the story we're telling. We will put Cantrell in there, and every single project will be listed individually. You'll be able to see it on the website, find a link to it, you'll find a story in the newspaper, you'll find some stories other places,

and we are trying to do a better job communicating what we are working on. I'm really thankful for Carrie, she's done a great job, it was a good step on your part as a commission to decide that we needed a PIO, it's been really beneficial to all of us. The staff has fully embraced it, I see lots of emails back and forth. We've encouraged our department heads that if they're doing something, take a quick photo, send it to Carrie, give her some verbiage, so she can get it out there. If you go back to the main page, for example, you can see that we had an accident on Main Street, up on North Date, there are some light poles out. So a resident can come here and see why those light poles are out. We are doing our best to tell these stories, water leaks, everything is there.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: I also want to add, not just on the website, but on the City of Truth or Consequences PIO website, she has been really active on there, and the things on there, she is also putting them directly on Facebook. Some people don't ever go there, but since she's putting direct links, they can go there. I have said this time and time again that we probably needed to put job postings on the homepage, and I do see it there on one of the tabs now, which is a lot more user-friendly. Before, you had to really search for open positions, but I think it works well how it is now. Again, Carrie has done a great job listening and trying to make it more user-friendly. I think we are on the right track and we will continue to try and improve our ability to communicate, and at least tell our story.

- We are now looking with Landus & Gear, who provided the electric meters for the city when we did that project a few years back. The vision at that time was when we went to water meters, we could use the same network so that both the water and electric meters could feed the information. Somehow that got a little disconnected over the MSD project, there was a challenge. But we have put that back together and we now have a proposal from Landus & Gear to come and finish out the network, which we will do through the Electric department, it's not a big expense, and we are beginning to design, and will have all the water meters going forward, and all the projects that you see will now be a brass master meter with the Landus & Gear technology so that it will be connected on one system, it will work through one process, and we are really excited. Believe it or not, the pricing has come in at a very good level where it looks like we may be able to do more.
- Next week we will be meeting with Williamsburg, we are taking our entire team out there to understand the challenges and nuances of contracts and agreements that we have with Williamsburg. I am anxious to report on how that goes.
- Yesterday we had a meeting with NMDOT. They brought their engineering team, we had the state fire marshal's office here, they both met and walked through the downtown locations to look for areas we can potentially set up some different zones. Through their conversations, they have come to a resolution on how they will potentially make some changes downtown that would create safety for both. That's what came out of the meeting, it is really that fire safety and traffic safety are one and the same, and the goals are for safety. We just had a presentation on safe roads, so the concept was, "Let's find the best way to preserve safety for

both ends." And both those parties came together and came up with a solution, so we will be moving forward with some changes there. There are other things going on in the city besides just safe roads, so they will also be looking at those manholes as you enter downtown, the series of four manholes that are very rough to drive on. Our road department brought those up to DOT so they can look at that. We have agreed on a speed adjustment plan throughout the entire city, so if you go from the roundabouts to Williamsburg, there are different signs. There's a 40 mph sign at one point, there's a 25 mph sign from the post office, so we have asked the DOT to balance that. So, when you exit the roundabouts going south, the speed will return to 35 mph, it will remain 35 mph until it gets to about 3rd street, where it will drop to 30 mph, and then drop into 25 mph in the downtown zone, it will leave at 25 mph, go back to 35 mph at the top of the hill, and 40 mph all the way through. So, we will have a consistent speed all the way throughout town, which is really helpful for the police as well, because I think we are doing some enforcement on one side, it's different. Finally, we've asked for some help on the fairgrounds for the baseball tournament that's coming up, so DOT will help us with some signage and adding a crosswalk there. We can't paint a crosswalk because we don't have ADA access points, but they are going to allow us to mark it with special event signs. We are expecting 600 people here for the tournament and we think they'll be wanting to park at the baseball fields at the fairgrounds just to get across. We have been doing quite a few things here, and I'll stand for any questions.

a. Police Department Update.

Deanna Knull, Police Department Administrative Assistant, reported the following:

- The police department responded to 1,038 calls in May. About 589 of those were general calls. Animal Control got about 122. Right now, we are down 1 animal control officer, but Officer Knull with Code Enforcement is trying to pick some of that up as well.
- There were 15 motor vehicle accidents.
- There were 10 sky reports, and I would love to see that number go down.
- There was 1 SRO, hopefully we won't have any more of those right now with school being out.
- We had 54 case follow ups
- 2 DUI's
- Officer Knull responded to 4 codes
- 241 Traffic Stops, receiving over 150 citations with some warnings
- The officers were working on the NMDOT safer grants, mostly ENDWI and Step. They worked a combined 64 hours of those for May
- Chief Tavizon and I went to the Law Enforcement Coordinators Symposium put on by NMDOT. It is mandatory for those agencies that are receiving those safer grants, and we learned a lot about what's coming in for new law, some briefings, and different things DOT is involved in throughout the year, crashes, to try to put

some perspective on how to move forward with making the streets safer for everybody across the state.

- Background Investigations was attended by Lieutenant Jacques and Detective Jeffers.
- I attended the CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Services) Making the Connection training. Pulling connections is a branch from the FBI where we can find out where different connections are so we can get those blue alerts, amber alerts, silver alerts, NCIC for stolen vehicles, different things like that, so we can try and pull different resources together, it's one area where we can pull all of that information and try to get a comprehensive plan. To try and find missing persons, to find stolen property, and statistics for crimes.
- The events this last month in May were Fiesta, which in my opinion went very well, it was a wonderful weekend. Also, Law Enforcement Appreciation week. We didn't have such a big bash, but it was nice to be able to let the officers know they appreciate them with little things throughout the week. Obviously, I try to do that all the time, but there were people who came in and thanked our officers, and it was a very kind week.

b. Department Head Reports.

Sonya Renfro, Utility Office Supervisor:

- The city now has our own newsletter, which went out this week, thank you to Carrie. I think it will be wonderful to have the newsletter. It will also have important numbers on there.
- We have also been working on switching out all AMI solar meters. Bo had to order numerous meters because we didn't have enough when we first went AMI. We have been trying to come up with the best way to do that, and we have just been doing it as we bill. So I sent them out for the re-reads, then they do the switch, it works out better that way so that we don't miss anyone.
- I have also been involved with City Manager Whitehead and Assistant City Manager Alvarez, and I've been dealing with Chris Clark from LNG, he's our New Mexico representative for the water meter infrastructure, I'm excited for that, it's going to be nice to be able to disconnect or connect from the office, as opposed to waiting for someone to do it.
- Currently, we are down to 3 people in the utility office. It's myself, Chelsea, and Jessica. We do have our collection customer service job description ready. I'm just waiting on Alona to finish that up and get it out. We are hiring one full-time person for the front. I think we only have one application right now. We are a little short-handed, but everything is working out great. We have been working really hard in the utility office, Chelsea and Jess, they are my long timers, they're faithful, and hopefully we can find another person to fill in the void, but we are doing well at the moment.
- Sanitation rates and the scale house are going to go up in July, so that's something else we will have to do.
- We have been working with collections. City Manager Whitehead and I have been working on utility processes and procedures. We have been trying to come

up with solutions for how we can make sure accounts are paid when people leave. We are looking at raising deposits for customers. We haven't raised them in the 13 years I've been here, so it's something that needs to be done anyway. We need the deposits to be able to cover the cost of the meter and perhaps any leftover bills. We have also been sending letters to people who owe us money. Yesterday we actually had two accounts come in that were delinquent and got paid up, so we were able to restore power. One of them was actually a trailer park.

- We are asking people to update their phone numbers when they come into the office. We would like to be able to move forward with text messaging in the future, to let people know about high water usage and other things like that.
- We have had a few issues with tampering with water meters. Jaime and I have worked together on that, we have had to report them to the police department. I would like to give a shout-out to her meter reader, Renee, he is really good about keeping us in the loop.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: Regarding the open position, I know some students that graduated, but they may not be 18 yet, and they are not necessarily college-bound, so they are looking for a job or career, is that something we are willing to work with?

City Clerk Torres: They can go through Alona, and she can refer them to Workforce Solutions. They can go through Workforce Solutions until they turn 18. Once they turn 18, they can possibly get hired full-time with the city.

Sonya Renfro: And that's the direction we want to go in the utility office, we want younger people who may want to work their way up, and maybe 35 years from now leave as city manager. That's the best scenario, so absolutely. Anyone who is looking for work, please send them our way.

City Clerk Torres:

- As you know, we have Abigail in our office, so we are fully staffed. She just received her Notary Certification, so all three of us are notaries.
- Right now, we are working on rental agreements for the Gardner Learning Center. We have 4 rooms we will start offering to the public. We talked about the fees yesterday, and I am working on the rental agreement. At the next meeting, we will bring you a resolution for you to approve and then we can get that started on that.
- We are working on subrecipient agreements. Gary and our staff will be meeting with the applicants on Friday to go over their agreements, then that will be brought to you at the next meeting as well. Our Lodger's Tax board is already looking at applications for this coming fiscal year, some of which will be presented later in the meeting.
- Just to go off of what was said during public comment, the Planning & Zoning board is currently working on amendments. They are taking sections of our Planning & Zoning code that they feel needs to be updated, and they are having

workshops at each meeting. At one meeting, they'll go over one topic, and if they feel they still need more time on it, they will continue to discuss that topic at the next meeting, and they will go over every topic they feel needs changes. Once that's done, we will put it in the form of an ordinance, and we will bring it to the Commission to start the amendment process.

- Since we are on Facebook live, I would like to put this out to the public, as you know, the City Clerk takes care of the cemeteries. Once people order a monument, the Parks Department removes the temporary markers from the lot and they bring them to our office so the families can pick them up if they wish to do so. We have a box full of them, so if there is anyone that bought a monument for their loved ones, and would like the temporary marker, they can go to the Clerk's office to pick it up.

Mayor Hechler: Is Planning & Zoning going to take on the night sky any time soon? The reason I'm asking is with Love's coming in, if we made some changes, would that affect Love's Truck Stop, or do we have to work with them individually?

City Manager Whitehead: We would probably need to work with them individually, it might be difficult within the code, I haven't looked at the night sky provisions, and I would take the input today to say that we probably don't have a very good code in that area. We would probably be working directly with Love's, and I would take them at their word, they've been very forthcoming, and I think if we present the right information and some quality ideas, I think we will be in a good position. As for presenting it, the vision that we've set out for Planning & Zoning, Angela's done a good job describing it, we have challenged them to say, we can't change the code one issue at a time, it's too difficult. So, let's take this year and put items that the Planning & Zoning board thinks needs to be adjusted. Let's talk about it, debate it, and create a position paper to move forward. I think the night skies and those green initiatives should come forward. We absolutely could take the public input from today and present it back to the Planning & Zoning board as another issue that we think deserves the workshop attention. We want to make sure that the Planning & Zoning board is doing more than just showing up for the meeting, they want to do more than just be there, vote on potentially a variance or a change, and then go home. We have business that we're doing, and one meeting at a time, we will take a little bite out of the zoning code to see if we can come, in a year, with 7, 8, or 9, potential improvements to the code that would allow us to make changes. Once we get to that, we would start the process, it is an ordinance, so it would take some legal work, but that's the plan. The goal that I had was to make the time of Planning & Zoning useful, so we have said, let's do this while you have your monthly meeting. It's a public meeting, a posted meeting, the public is welcome, so the Commissioners could attend, they could serve as members of the public. You could have input in that, participate and listen, if there were any items. We are trying to get that meeting posted a little sooner, and this was the first meeting where we had done so. One of the "asks" of Planning & Zoning was, let's say we are going to do a variance,

let's get that to them a week before the meeting, so hopefully you guys can see if they're going to talk about the night sky, or green provision, or whatever it may be, so then you would know if you'd like to attend those meetings.

City Clerk Torres: We will include the Commissioners when we send out the agenda packets so that you're aware of it, and I will put out a quorum notice for each one just in case.

City Attorney Rubin: We might want to talk more about the interplay between the Planning & Zoning Commission and the City Commission. What the Planning & Zoning Commission is doing is serving in an advisory capacity to make recommendations to you, so that doesn't mean you shouldn't show up to the Planning & Zoning meetings, but we want to keep that in mind about how we would want to work that out.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: And whatever changes, it still has to come to us, they're making a recommendation to us, I would just like to maybe be involved in that a little more on the back end, so when it comes to us, we know their thinking and process behind it. Even just posting, maybe in the agenda, so we can see if that's something we're interested in.

City Manager Whitehead: I would say, to support you both, our staff does a great job of posting the minutes, so you can read about the meetings. Not only is it a debate, but I've asked each member of Planning & Zoning to create a position paper, to give it thought and put it in writing so that when we present to you, we have 5 opinions and thoughts that you could read through and see what is consistent or inconsistent. I think that goes a long way. We're really trying to create a better narrative, to try and improve the code.

Mayor Hechler: We've all encountered zoning issues, there's the camping thing, mobile homes being hooked up, those things need to be addressed at some point. I love your idea of methodically going through them one at a time, it doesn't have to be done all at once, we can attack 3, 4, or 5 a year, and that won't overwhelm anybody, but slowly fix our code issues. I think that's a perfect approach so thank you for that.

Jamie Foreman, Water/Wastewater Supervisor:

- Over the last 3 months, we have fixed 66 leaks. We have approximately 10 leaks currently that my crew is working on as we speak. The crews have been moving in a conveyer-like motion, so one guy will go out and start today, the next crew will go out to finish the dig and repair it, then we have another crew member that will cover the hole, so we never lose momentum and no one is ever sitting around.
- We had a water loss of about 42% average over the last 3 months, however, May has been our lowest water loss since I started in 2023, at 28%. We have

fixed some major leaks and have gotten our water loss down to acceptable parameters.

- With Wastewater, we had a subcontractor with NMED, Robert George, come out. He was at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for approximately 6 hours. His goal was to see if there was anything he could recognize that needed to be fixed or improved, and he did do on-site trainings. In his report, he found deficiencies at headworks the clarifiers, and we needed to close our clay drying beds. He has given us some ideas on how to either repair or replace those items, and I am working with Gary on getting those pushed through.
- I have received my Water 2 as of May. I will be going on to train for my Wastewater 2 shortly and then proceed to my Water 3 within the next year.
- I have 3 laborers that are testing within the next couple of months to receive their Water 3.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: So, we are down to 10 active leaks. I think the public needs to understand that the more leaks we fix, the pressure changes and we will continue to have leaks until we are repairing big sections in our lines. It's not ever going to be zero.

Jamie Foreman: It's not ever going to be zero, we are identifying lines that we've been out to fix more than once or twice, and we are replacing those service lines as we identify them. That way, we're not replacing the same line over and over again.

Mayor Hechler: Here's a step for you, in 2022, we had 422 leaks. That's for the entire year of 2022. That is what inspired us to try and get the money to get all these leaks fixed. Having that knocked down to 10 leaks is very good. Good job.

Jamie Foreman: And we ask you and the public to report any leaks you see because we cannot fix it if it hasn't been reported to us. We do drive arounds in the city to see if we can find them, but we are human and we do miss them. Even if you think it's been reported, please report it again so we are aware.

City Manager Whitehead: I would just add, as agreed, we put together a contract with Jamie, when she passed level 2 then we'd move her to Supervisor, so she's actually running the department. We've also been able to get an admin assistant which will go a long way. So there's some stability there. We do have a contractor that's doing our Water/Wastewater level 4, we're still with Jessie Cole, who is technically the operator of our system. He's had some health issues this month, but he has been communicating by text and call with us, but he's really at home. He's had a kidney issue and he's waiting for some things to change so he can have some additional healthcare, but we are all working together. Jamie is the supervisor and we will be working on a couple of foreman spots, but it feels good, stable, the crew works well, they smile a lot and really do get the job done. I think it's a testament to what you guys did, you dealt with the hardest part. Jamie has warned me that we are fixing to get into the busy season where the

number of leaks will probably be higher, as we start using more water, but hopefully we can keep it around the 20 mark. I would encourage, if you see a leak, email it to me or Jamie and ask if that's on the system. There are some small leaks that we may have missed, someone may have not reported.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: And what is the public supposed to do on their reporting?

City Manager Whitehead: There's still a number to call, they can call the doppler system, which we're keeping.

Jamie Foreman: We do have doppler, and with Sonya, we are working on updating phone numbers, we are also working on getting a system called Notify through Doppler. If we do have to shut down water in a certain area, it will send robo-calls and texts to those people that are located in those areas. We are posting it on Facebook and the website but people don't always see it. This way, they will receive an email, text, or a robo-call through that system.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: Through Doppler, can you text or do you have to call?

Jamie Foreman: So you have to call in initially, but then it will send you a link where you can upload pictures of the leaks or text in updates. It's very helpful, especially when their description of the location of the leak is confusing. That way, we can locate landmarks and find the leak.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: The guy that came out to Wastewater, I know the head works is something we knew already, what about the shutting the clay beds?

Jamie Foreman: That was something that had been reported in previous years, and we weren't aware of it. NMED would like to shut down the clay beds because we are so close to the river. It does drain into the ground water, so we are working on closing those out and possibly putting concrete in them to reduce the water shed going into the groundwater.

City Manager Whitehead: Back to the clay beds, the first option would be to destroy them, but we presented the idea to pour concrete to create a flat pad, then we could move our solids from the wastewater plant from the front of the plant to the back, that's probably the worst smell that we get from the plant, when we have solids in there curing. People can have that, it's compost, but it takes about a month to be ready, so we end up with some odor. We are looking at our options for that area to reduce odor pollution.

City Manager Whitehead: Before they start, Amanda, we think you're right on with growing our own, and helping people come to work. Buster has brought Brendan on, and he'll introduce him. This is a young man that's from here, wants to learn more about the admin side of what we do, and we're going to bring him along and you will see Brendan do more on the admin side of the road department.

Buster Smith, Streets Department Manager:

- As Gary said, we are going to bring Brenden on, and start mentoring him and teaching him, as well as letting him do some more here with you guys. With that said, I will let him take over.

Brenden Anglin, Streets Department Supervisor:

- The street department has been awarded grants through the Map and LGRF funds. The Map grant is from Mainstreet to Pershing, Pershing to 2nd avenue, and Pershing to Date. The LGRF grant is from 2nd and Date to Ash Street. The work on these two roads includes asphalt, sidewalk, and meeting ADA requirements.
- We also recently made a request for grant funds for improvements on Silver Street up to Smith Street, and back down to North Date. We are currently waiting to see if we will be awarded that funding.
- Our next project is helping the police department expand their section of the shooting range for training and educational purposes.
- We are also working with OJ on the baseball fields, and we are currently doing that for the All-Star games coming up.
- We are maintaining roadways and handling complaints as they come in.
- We spent a couple weeks cleaning ditches throughout the city for the upcoming monsoon season.
- We installed 4 speed dynamic feedback signs on the school zone roads. The signs collect data on the speeds and the number of vehicles that have passed through. That information is shareable, and people can log into it. It will be a very helpful tool for us.
- Between ditches and potholes, we have also filled 15 water cuts and fixed a couple of dirt intersecting edges with hot mix as well. We run on Bartoo's dime when it comes to hot mix, so it's not as much as we want to do it.
- We have taken out the old, rusted grate on Daniels Street and replaced it with new concrete and a manhole lid for safety purposes for the public. It was time to go.
- We had army court engineers around May 14th to do another dam inspection in Cuchillo. We are still waiting for responses on that.
- We have been working with Paige for the safe roads for all programs and getting things implemented with that and seeing how things work out. Hopefully we get funding in the future for that.

Wyatt Graves, Service Center Supervisor:

- We have been over at the golf course, to get some equipment running. Gary has been wanting to get that taken care of, so we have been over there to get some things running that haven't been for a while.
- We have been helping OJ get another couple mowers ready for their All-Star tournament. We were able to find some vendors to get parts for some of our heavy-duty mowers easier than our normal vendor.
- For the 14 units you approved to go to auction last time, they will be going live online next week. I have been keeping up with EJ from JJ Kane. We will also be posting for another auction to come up soon, I know the police department has some units they'd like to dispose of that are just taking up space.
- We have purchased a new air compressor, at the end of the year, we will be getting that installed. The previous model had been in the back of the building for over 20 years now, so we will have some new air pressure.
- Some folks up in Albuquerque are doing a training for hydraulics, I'd like to send, if not me and one mechanic, maybe both mechanics, I'd just like someone in the shop that is available to fix things. That will be mid-September.
- Other than the field fixes and having a lot of stuff in and out of the shop, that's about all I've got for you unless there are any questions.

2. City Commission Reports.

Commissioner Mitchell reported the following:

- I just wanted to say that I really enjoyed the department head and city manager presentations. It's a really great way to not only inform the commission but also the public. It was much better than reading an email
- Thank you to Gary for getting the golf course up and running. I have heard lots of compliments and I think it will really help our revenue there. I'm excited that we will get the liquor license back, and about the upgrades to the Civic Center.
- I'd like to give a shout out to Carrie, our PIO, she's been amazing. The website looks pristine. It's been really good public relations.
- My report is basically swimming pool, swimming pool, swimming pool. Getting the hours set, getting the programming in, getting staff trained, I've done some 4 lifeguard courses which is the most I've done in a season. I certified over 22 guards between 3 cities, Socorro, Hatch, T or C, and various programs. So when they go out there and say, "There are no lifeguards." There are lifeguards, we just have to go get them.
- Swim team had our first meeting at the YMCA in Albuquerque, it was fantastic. Swim lessons are rolling, we have over 60 swimmers enrolled in our swim lesson program. I'm doing lessons 4 days a week, myself and the swim team.
- Temperature of the pool has been perfect, chemicals are great, it's clear. Everyone's loving it.
- I did attend the Lodger's tax board meeting in May to request funding for a Fall Fiesta. Kind of a re-launch of our 75th anniversary. I would like to talk with the commissioners, especially Mary Jo and Amanda, about doing another gameshow

and making it like a city celebration. We were approved by the Lodger's tax board for about \$10,000 for advertising and promotion. I think we're voting on that today. We would love to be able to wrap this into a trial-run for the Summer music series, and try and get this organized so that if we do get that grant, and partnering with Main Street, to kind of make it to where we do monthly, or at least quarterly, block parties, I think that the community would really be supportive of that and we could make it engaging for everybody.

Commissioner Fahl reported the following:

- The Turtleback Trail Network, we meet every two months. We just met yesterday. We are continuing to work with our goals on footbridges, working with the BLM to develop maybe 2 specific non-motorized trails so they can start putting that in their planning process.
- The education committee is still working on developing the signage for the grant that we got for county Road A-05.
- I should have said this when you were up there, Angela, but what Michael and Alice talked about, there were things that never even occurred to me in our Planning & Zoning. I talked to them about dark skies, but I never thought about the different kind of lighting. I travel a lot alone and I stop at Love's truck stops because they have nice clean bathrooms and it's a safe place to stop. I was concerned about lighting in the parking area when someone travels alone, that you want to make sure the lights keep you safe. Michael has an idea about that that I didn't know about. If Love's comes through, I think that's real potential for other things. Other businesses follow that. The ideas of having shading and stuff like that are good things that we need to have for other potential growth. Since it's not in our codes now, the way that Gary talks, I believe they'd be willing to listen to us, but we certainly need to think about including that for business development, because there's all that area over there that is ripe for more development. Isn't there a new hotel coming over there? Behind Holiday Inn Express?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Nothing's come across my desk.

Mayor Hechler: There's been rumors.

Commissioner Fahl: Well there was a picture in the paper that said they were coming. Anyway, if we don't have those in place now, it's a great time to have that foresight and really start planning for that development. Really good things that they pointed out.

Commissioner Hoepfner reported the following:

- Pretty much everything was said, but I'm happy to see that we are moving forward, especially including the public. Once again, Carrie, thank you for everything you do that is helping us move forward, and to help us inform the public as to what we are doing.

- I am very happy to see the department heads give their report, so that the citizens of our town know what is going on. We are trying to stop rumors with real information. I would like to encourage citizens to take the opportunity, when there are events open to the public, to attend and to inform us of your concerns. When we don't know something, how can we act? It takes a village to move forward.
- I am happy to see the Zoning report, that they are doing those workshops. I hope this idea spreads to other Advisory boards as well, to help us to make the right decisions to move forward in the future.
- I think we are proving that we are listening to the community as well, our new city manager is doing a great job of having an open-door policy as much as he can, and he is bringing all parties together to come to a compromise and make positive solutions to better all of our lives here.
- As a small business owner, I would like to encourage everyone this summer season to go to the lake and support Elephant Butte and their businesses as well. We are also trying, downtown, with future events, with live music, to bring our local community together and provide more things to do in town. I would really love to see more of you guys coming downtown and supporting us so that we can also move forward, and plan more events for you guys. It is important to build the community, so that during hard times we are not split apart, but so that we come together to support each other. What better way to come together than to support local small businesses. As a commission, we try to do as much as we can for the citizens, to provide a nice clean, safe town to live in.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister reported the following:

- I just wanted to mention that the summer feeding program for kids through the school has begun. You can get breakfast 8:00am-9:00am and lunch from 11:00am-12:00pm. It will go until July 11th. I believe it will be held at the school, but there may be one at the park as well, I'm sorry the text I got didn't mention that.
- I would also like to give Carrie a shout-out. For her to be able to send a link to what is actually happening, where those leaks are, and just kind of staying on top of that, it helps a lot. Facebook generally is where people are badmouthing and saying untrue things, so it's nice that she can go and set the record straight. On the other end, I came across a post, I believe it was at the end of May, around May 30th, on the square, and it was somebody trying to find the man that drove the white cop car because he was very nice and helpful, and just stopped to talk to her while she was walking her dog. It was sergeant Mike Vega, so I sent it to the chief just to get him that shout out. It has been really nice to see those positive things in the community, so I wanted to give that shout out to Officer Vega for that.
- Next weekend, the 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, and into the 23rd, is our All-Stars that is going to be happening. If you get some time, there is lots of baseball that will be played out there, go support our youth, it's really a cool thing that All-Stars is being held here in our backyard.

Mayor Hechler reported the following:

- I attended a Colonias meeting at the Sierra County Commission on May 15th. This was a meeting after Gary & I had gone to the Las Cruces meeting asking for \$191,000 for an end-to-end wastewater engineering report. It looks like we will get funded for \$191,000, but we won't get the award letter until September. A lot of municipalities did not get funded because they didn't get their audit reports in, or they weren't finished and ours always is, so good job.
- On May 22nd, I chaired the South-Central Regional Transportation & Planning Organization Meeting. There's about \$15 million available for our area for transportation needs. We did have a presentation by Brendan to request funding for Smith Street sidewalks near the school and road improvements there, nice job. This is our 2nd year, which means we have a better shot at getting that funding, but we will keep at it until we do, I think it's important that we do.
- I was going to talk about the hospital, but I think I will save that until the next meeting because I have a meeting with the JPC next week and I will have a better update then.
- We do have two representatives now that will be working with the South-Central Solid Waste Authority, they are doing a 30-year plan. We have a representative, Wesley Meyers, from the sanitation department, who will serve on that committee. From the city of Elephant Butte, we recruited Smith, who is the maintenance supervisor. He will serve on that committee so that we have some representation in our area to address our sanitation needs and look ahead for the next 30 years. That will be important.
- On the fun side, if you will check out the Smithsonian magazine online, smithsonianmag.com, it reads, "City of Truth or Consequences, one of the best 15 small towns to visit in 2025" I think that's pretty cool and very positive for us. Let's post that link everywhere. The article is entitled, "Soothing Small-Town T or C". It talks about all the great things that we've done, our Fiesta, our Healing Waters, the Brewery is mentioned, as well as our downtown and that area. One of the best 15 towns in the nation to visit is pretty great.
- The trailer for Eddington is out, it will debut on July 17th, what do you think about renaming our town to Eddington for the weekend? Just for one weekend. Maybe we can get some of the cast and crew here and do some Eddington tours. We gave our town up for 3 months for goodness sake, let's see if we can really put this town on the map and maybe get some national attention in that regard. We will work on that down the road and see what happens.

2. City Attorney Reports:

City Attorney Rubin reported the following:

- One topic I've never brought up is the New Mexico Self Insurer's Fund. It is our general liability carrier for the city. I'm frequently dealing with it, and I guess since I deal with it so frequently, I take it for granted, but I would like to mention a couple of things. They had a turnover in personnel in the last year and a half, they have a new attorney, their general council, a fella by the name of Clinton Nicley, and I want to say that they've been very helpful. I've had success in

getting information from them that helps me do my job and give advice to the city commission, for example. I have a case that I've been working on that actually wasn't involving them providing coverage, but their general council helped me out anyway. That was a good thing, and I'm having success in getting information from them, that way I can share it with the city commission, and it's been pretty good lately. It's one of those things where you are dealing with this organization and it's routine, but you look back and see that you've had a good relationship with them. I just thought I'd mention it because Clinton Nicley has been very helpful.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. **City Commission Regular Minutes, May 14, 2025**
2. **City Commission Regular Minutes, May 28, 2025**
3. **Acknowledge Regular Lodgers Tax Advisory Board Minutes, March 24, 2025**
4. **Acknowledge Regular Recreation/Golf Course Advisory Board Minutes, March 3, 2025**
5. **May 2025 Accounts Payable**
6. **Purchase report of items between \$20,000 and \$60,000**

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

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. **Public input: ICIP Public Input.**

Assistant City Manager Alvarez:

Yvette Bayless, SCCOG gave an ICIP presentation. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

Commissioner Fahl: It seems like you had some good input from folks, so that's good.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrester: And not that I want to point that out, but like you said, you didn't get very much involvement, and then we get to the process of making a decision, and next meeting, we will have everybody in here wanting to voice their opinion and not be proactive. So again, if you have something you would like, you need to be forthcoming before it gets to that point.

Yvette Bayless: So, we had 30 days of notice of an opportunity to provide public input. We provided phone, email, mail, social media, and in-person meetings and opportunities. There was a lot of effort put into engaging the public. Unfortunately, only 9 people attended the public input meetings. Although, we had 4 of them. 2 in the day, and 2 in the evening after hours, and just not a lot of participation.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: And today, they can come and voice their opinions.

Mayor Hechler: How many comments did you get overall?

Yvette Bayless: We got 19 comments. That includes the input form in-person and all the other avenues.

Commissioner Fahl: There's just so much apathy.

Commissioner Hoepfner: I just want to say thank you. I just wanted to take the opportunity to say, when you see it here, there's nobody who can say I didn't hear about it, or I didn't see it. I call it ignorance when you say that. We are doing our part in that regard, and we want to listen to you. We are offering multiple opportunities where you, as a member of the public, can speak to us and voice your opinions. Public meetings like that are very important. The more engagement, the more information we get from you all, the better we can do our job. So please, in the future, when you see a public meeting, we have professionals here who do an amazing job presenting and explaining how it works, take the opportunity to get more involved.

Public Input:

Bruce Swingle: I appreciate the opportunity to speak in support of a project that I hope you'll consider including in your ICIP. That is a Spaceport Visitor's Center. When this community imposed the two eighths gross receipt tax, at a county-wide level, the state committed to building a Spaceport Visitor's Center for T or C at that time. Unfortunately, the kids didn't play well in the sandbox together over the years, and it never materialized where the community could come together and move forward with a visitor's center. I'd like to add that this visitor's center, when it was being designed, it was more of a bus depot type thing, a waiting area for people to go out and do tours at Spaceport. I think the community has evolved. This visitor's center needs to be much more than just a Spaceport visitor's center. It needs to really be the staging point for the Camino Royale, Jornada, for the ghost town, we could start some business, and tourism, taking tours from this site. We will also need to put some artifacts and some additional space that's needed. There was \$12 million dedicated to the construction of the Visitor's Center. That was pulled and used to build the southern road, when we chose as a community, not to move forward back in the day. Unbelievably, tourism is the number one draw to this community. Just throwing some numbers at you, last year in 2024 in sales tax alone, the total sales receipts in retail trade was \$120 million just for last year. County wide was \$161 million. What that means, basically, is in retail trade, the city received well over \$195,000, and in accommodations and food services was \$865,000. We're going to show their attendance; their revenue is going to be reflected in a number of different ways. One is retail trade, two, the accommodations and food services. Food services actually accounted for \$29 million last year. That's a significant revenue stream for this community, and we need to take advantage of that. Working on creating the visitor's center is probably the best mechanism to have the biggest impact on this community. I hope that you'll consider that,

we do have the plans for this visitor's center, I think it needs to be modified a bit, so you'd probably want to request or identify around \$200,000 for revising the existing plans, should you wish to go forward, and then from there you can get your construction costs established for future plans.

Commissioner Hoeppner: Where would be the location?

Bruce Swingle: I think that's the issue, and maybe what stopped it from being built many years ago. It needs to be located at a place that is best suited for the city and for this community. I don't think it really matters, I don't think we should try to identify where it goes, it is a large property and I will be straight up since you asked, it didn't happen because the downtown folks wanted a downtown. This structure is huge and will not fit downtown. We can scale it down and put it in a tuff shed, should the community want to do that. But that is such a disservice. I don't think we need to select a site, but let the design select the location. It is very likely it will be near an interstate or close to it, in an area that will be able to house the structure and parking. The parking was over 300 spaces, through the feasibility study that was done back in the day. Well, things change because the economics have changed. But that needs to be ironed out in the new plan.

Kathleen Sloan: On page 417 of the city packet, you've got well #8 for \$850,000, this is last year's ICIP. I think the public should be given a report on all the 6 wells that are operating within the city and what condition they are in. Over the last 6 years, I think well #8 was worked on twice at about \$150,000 each time, and well #7. It's hard for the public to participate if they don't know something is in crisis until later. We were just finding out about the wastewater treatment plant, and the claybeds having an issue, that's the first we have heard about that. Maybe that should be moved up on the list. If the public doesn't participate, a lot of times, it's because they don't have the information. If I was just asked, "what do you want?" I'm going to say I want a covered swimming pool or rec center, as so many people have. If there's something in crisis, maybe they would change their priorities, but they don't know. The other thing that you have is the Rio Grande bridge. You split it into two projects. One is a vehicle bridge, and one is a foot bridge. I've seen this auditorium fill up two times with people from the business community, the tourism community, the individuals that live outdoors, and Main Street. Everybody said "Do not put a vehicular bridge across the Rio Grande.", we need to concentrate on consolidating gains downtown before you do that, but it's on here for \$4.4 million, and the pedestrian bridge is on there for \$1.265 thousand. Splitting the project does not solve the issue. If you're going to go against the public will and build a bridge across the Rio Grande, you should combine the pedestrian and vehicular. But the other thing that should be made clear is, what is the legal responsibility to the developer across the river? I know that that land was annexed in the 1990's, 1995 or 1996. Does that come with an obligation to get that developer water, wastewater, and electric over there? Is the city on the hook for that? I mean, why not charge the developer? Other towns that I've covered as a reporter, they charge the developer for those sorts of things, but I haven't looked at the code well enough to understand.

Alice Hutchins: I wanted to say, personally, I spent a lot of time getting people to fill out the Wilson surveys, and I carried them around in my purse, and every social gathering I went to, I had people fill them out. I was completely confused between the Wilson study and the ICIP. In fact, I dragged Michael to the ICIP information gathering, thinking that it was the Wilson survey, and I'm no good with acronyms, obviously, so thank you for including me and sorting me out on that. I think the Turtleback Trails. It includes so many things that our community wants. Michael and I also attended a DRE drought resilience meeting that was down at the Albert Lyons, and there is so much money to use for the Turtleback trails network, in terms of stormwater mitigation and riparian area improvement, and wildlife improvement. I would just really like to see money and resources put into Turtleback trails, because I feel like it ticks off the environment, it ticks off tourism, it ticks off things for families and kids to do, and it's all around really fabulous. I think it's almost shovel-ready. At least, a lot of work has been done on it, and I would hate to see that just fade away. Thank you so much.

H. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING:

1. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 50 24/25 Budget Adjustment Request.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve Resolution No. 50 24/25 Budget Adjustment Request. Commissioner Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 51 24/25 English & Spanish Election Proclamation.

City Clerk Torres: In your packet, we have the English and Spanish resolution for our upcoming November election. It is due to our County Clerk by July 7th, so I wanted to get that done. If you look at the resolution, it will show you that we have two open positions. The terms will be from January 1st to December 31st for both of them. They no longer vote by positions, as you know, so the two highest votes will get voted into office.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: And everybody gets to vote for two, is that correct?

City Clerk Torres: Yes, correct. So, the declaration of candidacy will be through the County Clerk's office on August 26th from 9am-5pm. The write-in, if anyone wants to do a write-in, it will be on September 2nd from 9am-5pm at the Sierra County Clerk's Office. I'll stand for any questions.

Mayor Hechler: We have two seats opening. August 26th is when you will submit your candidacy. If anyone out there wants to recruit somebody, let's get out there and do that. Any groups out there that want to recruit a person can.

Commissioner Fahl: My term is coming up and I am not running again, my health won't let me.

City Clerk Torres: I will get with Carrie too because I want to put some information on the website and maybe on Facebook to let people know where they can vote, I know people still get confused and they think it's still through the City Clerk's Office, so we will have information out for the public.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: And now we have one meeting during the day, and one in the evening so that will make it easier for people.

City Clerk Torres: Please, people, go out there and vote. We need a good turnout.

Commissioner Fahl moved to approve Resolution No. 51 24/25 English & Spanish Election Proclamation. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 54 24/25 Authorizing the City of Truth or Consequences to formally adopt the Vision Zero Safety Action Plan funded by the "Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant".

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Earlier in the meeting, you saw the presentation from Wilson & Company, Paige Wilfred stated we did work closely with the stakeholders that were identified to put this plan together. If the commission is on board with the plan, it does have to be adopted by a resolution. Once it is adopted by a resolution, it opens us up the opportunity to start applying for the implementation funding. This round of funding, the application cycle is currently open, and it closes on June 26th. We are hoping the commission would consider the adoption of this plan so we can proceed forward. With that, I stand for any questions, and will turn it over to the City manager if he has any comments.

Commissioner Fahl: If it's open now, do you have an idea of one you wanted to apply for? Like you want to get it submitted? Which one were you thinking?

City Manager Whitehead: Well, two weeks ago, we made an application at the state for the road through the schools, so if you look through the list, there's really a lot of roads that we identified. We would probably attempt to apply for something to improve the sidewalk and the safety road that goes around the schools, both schools. That seems like a priority that the community would really enjoy. We would then just go through those lists and begin to find others. It will come up at the ICIP and I'm hoping some of you have it

on yours, we think Marie Street is definitely a street we need to focus on. We would probably want to add that to the ICIP. It's also within the safety study corridor, so I was thinking that both the ICIP and this structure are made to help us think about what's in front of us, not really to say, "That's the project that we're going to do tomorrow." It's really, "What are we thinking about?", so that's probably what we would do. We're really prepared, the crew, the staff, has done a great job, we have the data for the roads around the Elementary school, in particular, and we know that the application we made at the state level was for a shorter project. We were only able to apply for less than \$1 million in funding. So if we were to add this on, that's probably where we would go. I would add that one of the projects we'd like to start immediately, we're looking at Silver Street, at the top, within the Safety Action Plan. I don't know if you've driven up there, but the school zone starts about in the middle of Silver Street, and it's really confusing. We've got the nice signs to show the speed, we've moved them so they're both on the side of the school where the school bus picks up, where students are active. But on that side, we're not as active, so we would like to change that corridor to make it a safety corridor, where it's a hospital, nursing home zone, and move the speed for the schools down to the stop sign so that once you enter that stop sign on Silver, now you know you're in the school zone. That's where the Safety Action Plan is going to work, and it's part of the stuff we would begin to do. So, it's a long answer to say that we have some projects that Traci and the crew have identified.

Commissioner Fahl: That's good because you don't have very many days to get one submitted if you're in this cycle. It's good you already had the data together.

City Attorney Rubin: I know we discussed yesterday that we are going to revise the language in the first whereas.

City Clerk Torres: I did it on the original, it would be "whereas, there's been loss of life and serious injury within the city boundaries between 2018 and 2022, is that the correct wording you guys would want?

City Manager Whitehead: Softened it up a little.

City Attorney Rubin: Yeah. Very good.

Mayor Hechler: So, this is a 90+ page plan, and I was a little worried we wouldn't get to review it as much as we wanted to, and I was considering delaying it and letting us all review it for the next meeting, but we kind of had some time constraints, and I think the plan is broad enough so it covers what it needs to cover. So, I feel better about it.

Mayor Pro-Tem: And I think she did a really good job with presenting it in a nutshell.

City Manager Whitehead: And mayor, just to give you some confidence, I think from federal funds, which, we have to depend on federal transportation funds, if this is what our partners at the top are thinking, that they want to get to a zero, where nobody dies on a street, and this is the way they have put this into their funding, then we have to have

looked at it within that funding, to apply for that funding, it's really hard to not say we took the time, we've really been diligent. We recognize that we would like streets that are safe, that's really what our goal here is. We're getting better and people are thinking forward. I've read through it twice, it's a good document, it's thorough, it's thoughtful. It doesn't have everything in it, but it does address a vision that would say, if we start doing good planning and ask for funds to do things, we will potentially have zero fatalities on our streets. I give you that encouragement to say, it's a good document, it's well done.

Commissioner Fahl moved to approve Resolution No. 54 24/25 Authorizing the City of Truth or Consequences to formally adopt the Vision Zero Safety Action Plan funded by the "Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant". Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion/Action: FY 2026 Tourism Marketing Proposed Plan/New Mexico True Cooperative Advertising Agreement.

City Manager Whitehead: This is part of our budget process. In the budget process, we did set up the same contract this year again for Sunny 505. The total grant is \$132,000 after gross receipts tax. A large portion, \$60,000 of the funds that we're getting from lodger's tax are just transferring through Sunny 505, and they go onto the state to be Co-Op's. We will get about \$190,000 worth of advertising. The funds have to follow that New Mexico True program, so Sunny 505 is our advisor within that, along with the Sierra County Tourism Board, Kim Skinner. What we're going to do with Sunny 505 this year, Angela has taken on the Lodger's tax administration for us, and we will hope to get into the front where the programs that are coming through Sunny 505 are at least being presented and reviewed by the Lodger's tax board. So, Angela will get feedback on what they're doing, what their plan is. Whenever she makes a presentation, it comes down pretty fast, so we'd have to make a decision. So that's our initial change. We recommend approval of the contract under procurement, marketing does not require a solicitations bid, we can do business with any one provider that we choose. Angela and I have together made a decision that next year we will go out to a formal RFP and request anew. We've worked with Sunny 505, they've done a great job, don't want to say that they haven't, so it's hard when you say, "Let's go to an RFP." But we think it's probably time to revisit that, there has been questions. We like the agreement, we feel like we're in a good spot, we have a good set of eyes, we're changing up the process, so we would recommend the adopting of this agreement.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: I do want to point out, I was in the airport in Dallas, Texas, and there was a huge marquee up, and New Mexico True was one of the things on there, so that was nice. I recalled that they said if you're seeing it in our home, they're not hitting the right people. We know about New Mexico True, so it was cool to see that it was there.

City Attorney Rubin: Like we talked about, it's basically the same contract we already had approved, and it seems like it's worked well as far as the scope of work, so I really don't have any recommendations on that.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister made a motion to approve FY 2026 Tourism Marketing Proposed Plan/New Mexico True Cooperative Advertising Agreement. Commissioner Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Re-appointment of Bruce Swingle to serve as a City Representative on the Sierra Vista Hospital Governing Board.

City Clerk Torres: Bruce Swingle is currently a member on our Sierra Vista Hospital Governing Board. His term will expire on June 30th, so he has submitted a letter for your recommendation of the re-appointment. If you do consider that, it will be a 2-year term.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: Mr. Swingle did a good job.

Commissioner Fahl: Did anybody else turn in any applications?

City Clerk Torres: No.

Commissioner Fahl: He's served for a long time.

City Clerk Torres: It wasn't, I believe they advertised it through the hospital.

Mayor Hechler: I had a couple other inquiries, but once they heard that Bruce was interested in running again, they backed out.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: I had a call and was making sure Bruce was running again and if he was, then they were on track so that's good.

Mayor Hechler: As far as I'm concerned, he's done a good job for the hospital board. He is well-versed in it, he is a former chairman of the board himself, and he's been around for about 11 years working on that board in one capacity or another. I think he's done a solid job, and I would recommend that we re-appoint him.

Mayor Hechler made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Bruce Swingle to serve as a City Representative on the Sierra Vista Hospital Governing Board. Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Jocelyn Holguin, Finance Director: This is for the shade structure at Ralph Edwards Park. OJ and I worked with other contractors, we discussed different materials, and it's been a long project to get this going. We were trying to get it before the Summer, based on having to look at different methods and contractors. We finally decided on utilizing the state price agreement to get Pluma, who initially did the shades at the park that are there now, and we talked about getting the material type of shading, but we wanted something that was going to be long term and long lasting, so we went with the aluminum metal roof. We were initially going to make it all solid, but then we thought about the kids getting some sunlight, so we added the fiberglass windows so that the sun and weather can land on the kids without them being out in the weather, they can still see it. We wanted to have a design plan built into it. One of the contractors got us in touch with Bill Buckley, he's the one that did the architect design for us, we submitted it to Pluma, and they'll be working as a team to get this project completed. So, I'm asking for approval to go through the state procurement process to utilize Pluma to get the shade structure done at Ralph Edwards Park.

Commissioner Fahl: Jocelyn, now that we're going to do the purchase order, we will probably get a lot this fiscal year, but it won't be installed until sometime after this Summer, or what is OJ thinking?

Jocelyn Holguin, Finance Director: As soon as this gets approved, we will flip it into the PO, then we will have a pre-construction meeting, and then we will know more, because basically it's ordering the materials that would be the delay of anything. We will go from there.

Commissioner Hoepfner: It is interesting to see, when you drive around, you mostly see shade structures for playgrounds, and not entire steel buildings with steel roofing above a kids' playground. So, I'm a little surprised about that, and concerned, maybe about how it will look in the entire scheme of what we've created, that it may not be natural-looking at Ralph Edwards Park. It's a pretty big structure, and if I was driving by, I would think it was a skate rink or something, if that makes sense. But when it comes to shade for a playground, I'm definitely for shade structure of any kind for playgrounds here, to protect the children. I just wonder if it has to be a steel building. Because, like Alamogordo, and every other town I have driven through, it doesn't have a physical steel building besides the fairgrounds because they have different animals and things.

Mayor Hechler: I think the structure is just a roof, it's not a building. The other thing is, if you use cloth, you might have a lifespan of 4 or 5 years, then you'd have to replace it. I think that was the thinking behind it. I'm in support of something like this, mainly, because we want that playground used all year long, so we have to have shade of some sort there.

Commissioner Fahl: Won't steel conduct heat, though and make it hotter?

Jocelyn Holguin, Finance Director: That's what I was about to mention. So, when we were designing this, we thought about the color scheme of the roof and the poles. We want it to match the current park, with the greens and tans. When we were discussing it with the architect, we talked about the lighter color on the roof instead of a darker one, so it doesn't absorb the heat. So, we looked at everything when we were considering this roof.

City Manager Whitehead: Let me say, this is a great example of what we will be doing in the future. We did the work, the crew did the work here, our staff sat, designed it, talked about it, this isn't done by an engineering firm that we're paying thousands of dollars for to come. They would have given us a cloth structure, and I think the crew, in their discussions, discussed how we can make it permanent, and how we want it to look. I just really want to say that this is a great way we will be building out more processes. We're looking at the animal shelter with a similar idea, we're going to sit down and come up with our plan. So, the idea for steel was our vision to have it last long-term, versus something short-term. I also saw and took pictures of some cloth examples, and as a group, they told me they'd really like something that will last. I really support Jocelyn and the effort here. I would ask that you take this into consideration. I hear you, I think it will be aesthetically pleasing and will match really well. I think we will have this structure for 25 years versus being back here in 4 or 5 years and just replacing the cloth. The dollar amounts were very similar as well. It wasn't an excessive amount to move to metal from the cloth. The crew brought those numbers, Jocelyn did a good job finding those numbers. We're utilizing our tools, and we're utilizing our staff to say, "This is what we thought we should get." And I think you're going to see a good project here. I do hear you, I shared the same thoughts, but I think we will get something that's a step better.

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

4. Discussion/Action: Contract Approval of RFP #2025-04-001 Annual Audit Services/Finance.

Jocelyn Holguin, Finance Director: I had mentioned, prior to the time of our last meeting, that we were going to get a new auditor because it was time. We had done our RFP, and we had two submittals; they were both good companies. We had the evaluating team, and based on the findings of the evaluation, the city decided to go with Jag, that's Jaramillo, and it's an all-women company organization that started up, so I liked that part of it myself, personally, and I've seen some reviews on Jag on my other life, and they almost were ours at the county before, but they were slightly beat out, so I'm comfortable with this company as well. I just present the contract for approval. I put the total amount for 4 years, and the breakdown amounts for each fiscal year. I also already got the approval from the OSA to use them for our next fiscal year audit as well.

Mayor Hechler: So, we finished the 4 year term with our last auditors, that's why we're going back to the RFP, and this will be for a 4 year term, but one year at a time.

Jocelyn Holguin, Finance Director: Yes sir.

Commissioner Fahl: I think if Jocelyn is comfortable with them, and they're a reputable company, then we should go with what she thinks.

City Attorney Rubin: Let me just mention, in the packet you'll see there are actually two contracts. The 2025-04-001 and the state of New Mexico Auditor Contract, but what Gary and I talked about yesterday, is that by approving the 2025-04-001, that necessarily would include the state Auditor Contract. So, I think you can just make one motion.

Jocelyn Holguin, Finance Director: Right, and this won't have to come back every year, but the one from the OSA is an annual, and it falls under the threshold, but we'll present it.

Commissioner Fahl made a motion to approve the contract approval of RFP #2025-04-001 Annual Audit Services/Finance. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion/Action: Review, Approve and/or Allocate Funds to the Geronimo Trail Scenic Byway for the Website Hosting & Maintenance.

City Clerk Torres: This application was submitted to our Lodgers Tax Board by the Geronimo Trail Scenic Byway for Website Hosting & Maintenance. The applicant requested \$600, and the board approved the entire amount.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister made a motion to approve the Geronimo Trail Scenic Byway agreement for Website Hosting & Maintenance in the amount of \$600. Commissioner Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion/Action: Review, Approve and/or Allocate Funds to MainStreet T or C for the 2025 Desert Ultra Event.

City Clerk Torres: This application was submitted to our Lodgers Tax Board by MainStreet T or C for the 2025 Desert Ultra Event. The applicant requested \$6,965, and the board approved the entire amount.

Mayor Hechler made a motion to approve the MainStreet T or C agreement for the 2025 Desert Ultra Event in the amount of \$6,965. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion/Action: Review, Approve and/or Allocate Funds to MainStreet T or C and Fiesta TorC for the Annual Fiesta 75 Year Reboot.

City Clerk Torres: This application was submitted to our Lodgers Tax Board by MainStreet T or C and Fiesta TorC for the Annual Fiesta 75 Year Reboot. The applicant requested \$10,500, and the board approved the entire amount.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister made a motion to approve the MainStreet T or C and Fiesta TorC agreement for the Annual Fiesta 75 Year Reboot in the amount of \$10,500. Commissioner Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer.

Hon. Rolf Hechler, Mayor voted aye
Hon. Destiny Mitchell, Commissioner recused herself
Hon. Merry Jo Fahl, Commissioner voted aye
Hon. Ingo Hoepfner, Commissioner voted aye
Hon. Amanda Forrister, Mayor Pro-Tem voted aye

Motion carried with 4-0 vote and 1 recusal.

8. Discussion/Action: Review, Approve and/or Allocate Funds to the Sierra County Arts Council for Ongoing Marketing to Promote Sierra County and T or C as an Arts Destination.

City Clerk Torres: This application was submitted to our Lodgers Tax Board by the Sierra County Arts Council for Ongoing Marketing to Promote Sierra County and T or C as an Arts Destination. The applicant requested \$10,095. The board was only able to approve \$30 for website hosting which will cover July 2025 - February 20, 2026. The board recommended adding \$900 for photography so the applicant has an improved photo library.

Commissioner Fahl made a motion to approve the Sierra County Arts Council agreement for Ongoing Marketing to Promote Sierra County and T or C as an Arts Destination in the amount of \$10,725. Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Discussion/Action: Review, Approve and/or Allocate Funds to the Sierra County Arts Council for Artists of Sierra County Studio Tour Nov 1 & 2, 2025.

City Clerk Torres: This application was submitted to our Lodgers Tax Board by the Sierra County Arts Council for Artists of Sierra County Studio Tour Nov 1 & 2, 2025. The applicant requested \$6,910, and the board only approved \$5,710. The board did not approve the \$1,200 request for a passport book as it will be handed out at the event, and it was determined to not put heads in beds.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister made a motion to approve the Sierra County Arts Council for Artists of Sierra County Studio Tour Nov 1 & 2, 2025 agreement in the amount of \$5,710. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Discussion/Action: State of NM Dept. of Economic Development Capital Appropriation Grant Agreement MainStreet Foch Street Project.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: This actually came before you back in April. You guys did the resolution to support for MainStreet to submit their application. The application was approved and granted for the additional \$910,000 that will hopefully get us to completion on this project. This is just the grant agreement they have sent out for execution. We are requesting approval, the project has gone to bid, and we are currently in the negotiation phase right now. So we are seeing a little bit of the light at the end of the tunnel.

Commissioner Fahl made a motion to approve the State of NM Dept. of Economic Development Capital Appropriation Grant Agreement MainStreet Foch Street Project. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Discussion/Action: 2027-2031 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan Project Recommendation and Ranking.

City Manager Whitehead: Let me start by thanking Yvette, from the South-Central Council of Government, who you got to meet today. We are members of the council and pay a fee. So, it's really wonderful to have Jay and Yvette in the room, they are also working with us on SJOA, we're just bringing this along and it's very helpful for Traci to be able to hand this off. So thank you, Yvette, nicely done. The ICIP, over the last few

years, has gotten very lengthy. The process to add projects is time-consuming, so what I wanted to do was simplify the issue. The primary function for us on the ICIP is, when we request capital outlay from the state of New Mexico, our legislators, the governor, want to see that the items are in a top 5 priority. That is the most important part. If we're going there and asking for funds, they just want to see our top 5. They really don't want to see a list of 40 items. We have an obligation at home to listen to the citizens and understand. So, everything that was presented today needs to become part of the ICIP. We can add all of those items, that's important. The second part, I think one of the presenters today said, "What's happening with this particular project?", well that's part of the ICIP. Once you receive funding, Traci and the staff now has an obligation to tell the state that "we've spent this much, this is what's going on.", and once it takes a position we have to keep it alive, that's the living part of the document. What we're looking for today, is from each of you, your individual top 5, and then potentially for you to settle in on the top 5 priorities to focus on, as we go to capital outlay and request from the governor. That doesn't mean that they won't also be on the Safe Streets 4 All, they could be part of that or another federal program, we would need to be able to say that they were included, even if there are 6, 7, 8, 9, or 30. It doesn't matter, but for what we do with the state, we definitely need your top 5. That's really what's left in the presentation today is for you guys to settle on what you want us to put in. Once we have it, then Yvette will clean up the rest of the document and bring us forward a final ICIP to adopt and submit to DFA. Then we will know what we are doing going forward. I will stand for questions and certainly help with your discussion.

Mayor Hechler: Here's how I'd like to try to approach this. I think what we should do is pick the low hanging fruit first. Those items on our capital improvements plan that we know we all want. We should talk about it first. For instance, for me it's wastewater and the treatment plant. We've dealt with water issues for the last few years, and we received \$50 - \$60 million to deal with that. The next logical turn for me is wastewater because whatever comes in has to go out. So, I'd like to see wastewater issues, and the preliminary report falls into that, I'd like to see wastewater as one of our top 5, and probably our number 1, as far as the next step where we'd like to go. If we agree on that, that would knock out one of the 5, then we can listen to one of your pet projects, and figure that one out.

Commissioner Fahl: We'll let you pick one. There's four of us here, so we all get to pick one.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: I just want to go back before we start that. Gary laid that out, and unfortunately, I think you might be a little wrong; because I went through this process a little bit and what happens is yes, we might pick our top 5, what we think are very important and what our city needs, but they are these big huge projects. Every time I have gone to our legislators for a presentation, the feedback I get from there time and time again is, "Don't come to us with something that costs \$10 million, because we don't have that money.", our legislators want to fund something entirely, is what I've been told time and time again, that is shovel-ready and ready to go. So, yes, our top 5 needs to be our top 5 priority, but when we go to our legislators, they don't want us to come with

something that is a huge project, they like the projects that are maybe \$1.5 million that they can fund entirely. So, I want to keep that in mind, because they have told us time and time again not to come to them with those big projects. Just another thing to think about, that maybe our top 5 is not what we are presenting to them.

Commissioner Fahl: Because the top 5, is maybe where we'd need legislative. The wastewater wasn't through our legislators. They supported us, but they can't get legislative a whole special thing, it wasn't out of their pocket.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: Correct.

Mayor Hechler: I think both are true, and I will let Gary chime in, but I think our top 5, if they're going to be the top dollar ones, that's what opens the door to Colonias, the Water Trust Board, and some of these big operations. That's how we got \$20 million, because we weren't one of the top 5. So, I think we have to be very aware of that, but you're right. The rest of the ICIP, we should have those other projects on there because our senator might be able to give us \$1 million, our representatives might be able to give us \$500,000, and we have to have those little projects on the side ready to talk about. But those things aren't going to be one of our top 5, right, Gary?

City Manager Whitehead: The way DFA and the way the legislative body has asked, like it or not, they've said that if we come to them, walk into their room and say, "I want funding for this...", they will say, "Was it on your top 5?" and we say, "No, we just thought of it.", they will say, "We're not going to look at that.". So, that's the challenge with this, is that we kind of have to think about what we really want to work on, and how we can go ask. Last year, we asked the governor's office for \$4 million for the wastewater treatment plant, we asked the legislators for 4 different projects that weren't that same project, and we ended up with \$1 million; because you are right, they really don't want to fund a project and have it be on the books for many years. It is definitely a balancing act, so we have to be thoughtful and say, if we're going to do wastewater, we may not get the whole \$5 million. But we might get \$500 from the legislators, we might get \$1 million, so it is a balancing act. It's hard to pick, but if it's outside the top 5 and we didn't ask DFA, and they only allow us to put 5 submissions in, you're not going to get another project added later. Or if you do get it, you will get a lecture, and I was in on one of those lectures.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: I think when we go to our senator and our representative, we can pick something that maybe is not in our top 5 to present to them that they would like to fund in a whole. Then again, our representative and our senators were very instrumental in helping us get more money funded in our big projects, because they knew how dire our water system was. So, it is a balancing act. Just to keep that in mind when we go present to them.

Mayor Hechler: Well, let's just knock that one out. Are we okay with the water/wastewater issues as one of the top 5?

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Unanimous: Yes.

Mayor Hechler: I'll open up the floor now for discussion.

Commissioner Fahl: I think that yes, we all need infrastructure, but we also need to think about quality-of-life things for our community too.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: And they're different pots of money; everybody needs to understand that.

Commissioner Fahl: So maybe we do 3 big infrastructures, and 2 quality-of-life. The one I am passionate about the Lee Belle Johnson Center being on the top 5. Actually, last year, we found sources of money, we were too late to tie into that, but if we have that, it is a quality-of-life, and it is important to our Main Street development. So, if we get it in there, and I don't care what number it is, but if we can move it from 10 up to the top 5. And maybe there are others, as Traci said, you can't get money for swimming pools, so we can call it another name. You can be pretty creative about what you call things.

Mayor Hechler: What is the vision for that?

Commissioner Fahl: I want to fix it.

Mayor Hechler: But what is it going to be after it's fixed?

Commissioner Fahl: Well Geronimo Scenic Byway needs to go back there, it's right in downtown. They get so much business, and they promote everybody so it's not just about them. Maybe if we don't do the spaceport there, if we actually do a spaceport, we need to promote that through here.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: We need infrastructure, we need quality-of-life, and we need tourism on our top 5.

Mayor Hechler: I agree with you with Lee Belle. That's one of my top 5. I have a different vision, the vision I have is the community theater, reinventing that. We have a huge underground group of musicians in this community, and I can see us having concerts downtown.

Commissioner Fahl: Well it has a stage.

Mayor Hechler: Yeah, that's a stage.

Commissioner Fahl: So, you could have part of it for that, and still part of it for the visitor's center. That's another way to bring them back together.

Mayor Hechler: So, if it's going to cost between \$5 - \$7 million. I understand that Gina Kelley applied for a grant, that's what the grant was going to cost was 5-7, it had a 20%

match. So, we will have to ask for a substantial amount of money. It'll be funded somewhere else for the most part, but then a 20% match might be \$1 million. But we can either go with our legislature with that, or we can go to our Lodger's tax, we could even do a bond on that if we need to.

Commissioner Fahl: I think that building means so much to our history of our community, and we need to save it. The longer those old buildings sit empty, the worse they're going to get. So, the longer we keep putting off doing work there, the more it will cost us to fix it.

Mayor Hechler: Do we all agree that the Lee Belle Johnson should be on the list?

Unanimous: Yes.

Commissioner Hoeppner: I know there's still a lot of work to be done, but I'm here for the Rio Grande, because when we are putting everything in place, and when we are ready to start the project like the earlier comment that was about the driving and walking bridge. We are talking about multiple bridges along the Rio Grande to get over, but I think a walking bridge at Rotary Park should be a priority for the town, to get foot traffic over safely to the other side first, and then we can go on while we are developing. So, I would like to put the Rio Grande Foot Bridge in the top 5, and it is not the more expensive option.

Commissioner Fahl: Well and actually, Carl Colonias implied to us that he can help us fund that.

Commissioner Hoeppner: So, we have multiple funding sources already.

Commissioner Fahl: So, just to talk about the foot bridge, there's been a lot of back and forth about UTV's. When that was originally designed, the planning group said, "Well maybe we would have it for UTV's for emergency access because it takes so long to get around." And that was the only reason we were going to do that, because UTV's have all kinds of access. When the river's not on, they can get across it, they can get everywhere over there. This was just more for a different group of people, but when we first said that, that was the recommendation of the police chief at the time. That would have been a lot more expensive to have it that big, because then you'll have to have those security barriers in front of it, so that not everybody is going across. Since then, we've had a change in the Sheriff and the police chief, who both say that "If there was an incident over there, they would have to go back to wherever their vehicles were housed, load the 4-wheeler on the trailer, and drive it over there, and by the time they get there, you could already have driven around anyways." So, there's no sense in doing that. We, as the group and the committee that put that all together. We wanted to stay on just a foot bridge, and I know that we all know we need a vehicular bridge. I don't know where you'd put a vehicular bridge, but we need it for emergency response, if nothing else. It's not about the developer or anybody. I have friends and people that I dearly love that died over there from a heart attack because emergency services

couldn't get over there. So, I know we all need one, and that's going to need a lot of time to develop that. When we're talking about tourism, with the trends of what's going on out there, that's what people want, and what it would cost to install it, will come back to us, just like what Bruce was saying about what tourism can do. If it's on the top 5, that's another quality-of-life item, but I think there are funding sources, rather than us having it on the top 5 because I think we can get grants for that. We've talked about that we wouldn't even have to go out for design, but we could partner with the forest services, the BLM, national parks service, they all have foot bridges already designed. So, we could just partner with them and all we'd have to do for engineering, because that would be half of the cost, is modify that pre-existing design. So then maybe it wouldn't be as expensive as what we initially thought.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: And where is the Bureau of Reclamation in all of this?

Commissioner Fahl: We had talked about putting the foot bridge where they put the dirt dam, but they said no because they intend to put a permanent structure there, which is a big change forward for them. But they didn't have the money for that, so they said, "No, we don't want the bridge over that because we're just going to put it over there." We've located where we want it to be, John Masterson has mapped that all out, and after we secure the property, we will talk to Mitch and figure out how we're going to get over there, but it would still be in that same area. Then, you can really turn Rotary Park into this wildlife jewel. I mean, the birding industry is billions of dollars, so that area has lots of recreation and tourism opportunities. I think it's going to be a great thing for the community, whether it's in the top 5 and it's a capital outlay, or we get it from these other funding sources, I don't know. So, I don't know where you would place that.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: So, I'm probably one of the big pushers, I would like to see it be combined into one, a vehicle bridge and a walking bridge, but I am hearing what you're saying, that it doesn't necessarily need to be in our top 5?

Commissioner Fahl: I don't know, because where would Capital Outlay go, it's in Williamsburg's top 10.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: They don't have to put infrastructure in there.

Commissioner Fahl: Well yeah they are going to build one.

City Manager Whitehead: If I can, let me add a twist to this conversation. I will be traveling with the Parks Department to Farmington at the end of the month, on an invitation from Carl Colonias. Farmington has installed a thing called a Surf Generator on their river. I've seen a picture of it, don't know what it is, but it has the ability to close the river, to change the flow of the river, they are considering it the biggest tourism event on a New Mexico river ever, they're the first ones to do it. Carl Colonius, through the trails grant, is really instrumental and feels like it could be something that would help the BLR, so we're going to go look at it. Adding river improvements, or river crossing, if that becomes one of our top 5 to focus on, that's the concept, it could be part of it.

There could be other items, it doesn't mean that we're not going to apply, that's a grant program. I just want to reiterate that it doesn't mean you won't work on those projects, I don't know if the Bureau of Reclamation will look at a project like this.

Commissioner Fahl: I don't know if it should be in the top 5, Ingo. I don't think we're ready for that yet.

Mayor Hechler: I think it needs to be on the ICIP. I want to identify more projects that affect more people most of the time. That will have an effect on some people some of the time; tourism, some business, but it won't affect most of the people most of the time. What's going to affect most of the people most of the time are city-wide drainage improvements, or city-wide road improvements. I think those items need to be in the top 5 first. That doesn't mean we don't have a place for them. That's one of those items you talk to the center and say, "Hey, can I have \$750,000 to put a foot bridge in?", I think that's where that would fit in.

Commissioner Hoepfner: Then I want to change mine. I am always pushing for an indoor pool, and we all know, over and over, there's no money, there's no grants, there is nothing. So, when we are asking the legislator for money to start planning and developing a covered indoor pool, then I would like to see that added to the list.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrester: I thought a recreation facility was on our ICIP. Isn't it?

Commissioner Fahl: We don't have any planning. Can't it just be planning? Is that something we can put on there, is, planning for that?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: And when we identify the funding within the ICIP, you have to break down environmental funds, planning, design, construction, and equipment. So, the short answer is yes, we can have it broken down like that and you can apply for just planning, or plan & design and combine those, which is what we kind of did with the wastewater treatment plant upgrades that were on here. That being said, we all hear from different legislators, and they don't necessarily like to fund a planning document, that's not a visual thing.

Commissioner Fahl: They can't stand in front of it and get a picture.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: I think there's two sides to that, you could keep the recreational facility, the multi-generational facility on there somewhere, because that is very eligible for potential planning funds through the grant system, so it has to be identified. The potential of just a swimming pool alone receiving money from our legislators is a possibility, the only aspect of that is we don't know is where we would put it. I think where our pool is located was an issue, trying to build. I think it's possible.

Mayor Hechler: It's possible. It's a little more convoluted than that because, with the hospital's first teaching plan, they have identified in 2029 a multipurpose center with a swimming pool that would have public access. That doesn't mean it will happen, but it's

identified in their strategic plan. So, it sounds to me like we need to get together with the hospital or other folks. This doesn't just affect our community, it affects the region, so it's going to be a regional center, if there's going to be one, not just a swimming pool. It needs to have a weight room in it, it needs to have exercise equipment and things like that, it needs to be a multi-generational center. We've got to sell this thing to the county, the city of Williamsburg, and the City of Elephant Butte, and we all need to participate in it. Something on a grand scale. I don't mind that idea either, but that's the way I would look at it. I actually have it written here as a community multipurpose center, which we have later on in the list, so that's important.

Commissioner Fahl: What about the Vacuum System?

Mayor Hechler: That's going to identify all that stuff. I'd like to propose that we deal with, well, city-wide drainage improvement, is that still going to be an issue?

City Manager Whitehead: Mayor, I think if we're discussing the drainage plan that we just had that would change those, what I think, are small water events that cause the pooling in the middle of downtown, that's probably the biggest focus. I still think those are smaller projects that we need to deal with internally, we need to find ways to move that water out and solve it. So, it's a good one, it's fine to put on the list, but I do think some of that is internal, but it could be that we ask for half a million dollars to fund a project like that, that could definitely be a capital outlay request.

Mayor Hechler: City-wide road improvements, did we deal with that today with that safety plan or do we need to do something else?

City Manager Whitehead: Again, we could add an individual road as I brought up, I still think Marie Street really needs to be fixed. And it could be a road that we applied for, you know, we do the safety study, we try that as a secondary corridor, and certainly through capital outlay, we could pick up some funding to do.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: So I'm hearing that you would like Marie Street to be in our top 5?

City Manager Whitehead: I think Marie Street definitely, as a main feeder, a main collector for our community, you know, it accesses so many roads, I don't think it has received the attention it needs, it has a dam that goes across it, I think it is time to start thinking about how we can get that road improved as a priority.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: I think that's a good idea. I would like to entertain, and maybe not in our top 5, what Bruce presented today on trying to start our Spaceport Visitor's Center. I think we don't have to identify where it goes, but if we could put \$200,000 in to figure out a plan and start that ball rolling. Spaceport is such a big draw and Cruces gets it, but if we had something off the freeway that's bringing people into our community, that would filter through this community, not just right there, they could go

downtown. I think tourism, quality-of-life, and infrastructure are all three big things we need to be going after.

Mayor Hechler: So, a couple thoughts, I've always thought that T or C should be the southern of Spaceport and Las Cruces should be the northern area. We don't get our fair share of what they generate. We are on with Spaceport with our taxes until 2029. We can make a decision then of whether or not we are going to continue to support spaceport with our tax dollars, but we can't make a decision before then, but we need to start thinking about putting the Spaceport Center here because we're so close to it. A couple of other things have to happen too, Virgin Galactic is thinking about putting a training center at Champagne Hills, with the success of their Delta rockets this year, if they're getting those things built, and they get them started moving at the Spaceport, that's going to happen and that will give us a lot more clout that we need to try and get that Spaceport Center here. I think because we have a lot more happening. So, I think it definitely could be on the list, I just don't know if it's great timing for it or not, but we should move forward. Do we want it as one of our top 5?

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: It can be a phased plan where our first year, we are just going after planning and talking about it. Again, if we're not in agreement that it needs to be in the top 5, I'm fine with that. I do want to add it to one of our things and kind of get that ball rolling.

Commissioner Fahl: Yeah, we need to get the ball rolling.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: And maybe get ahead of it if that training center does take off.

Mayor Hechler: What are we giving up if we put it as one of our top 5? What would you recommend?

Commissioner Fahl: I wanted to ask, somebody brought up Well #8, which isn't on here, it's Well #2. I think in our infrastructure process we need to talk about our water availability. So, we have 3 or 4 wells that pump less than 400 gallons per minute, and he wanted to retrofit one of those, well why if you only get 200 gallons per minute, we need to get a new well. We have the water rights with those wells, we could transfer over because we know we can't get new water rights, and I don't know if that's where you would put that on our ICIP list, or not? If we start thinking about expanding, so we will get this Love's, and maybe we're getting other things, we don't have enough water when we're looking down the road, so we need a better more reliable source of water that pumps more than 400 gallons per minute. I think two of them pump 600-800 gallons per minute.

Mayor Hechler: We're getting one on Cook Street.

City Manager Whitehead: Currently under any of the projects, there's no rehabbing to the particular wells. We're getting into the storage tank, but we've not examined any

deficiencies, it feels like we are moving enough water through the system with the 5 wells we have active at this point.

Mayor Hechler: What's going to change a little bit too, is when we start replacing all these water lines, and reducing all the loss that we have, that's going to allow us to recover a little better, but it doesn't solve the problem.

Commissioner Fahl: We have projected growth, and those wells do not pump enough water for when we start growing. We need to get a new well that pumps at least 600 gallons per minute. He has Water Well #2 improvements, she said 8 but it's 2. I don't know if that's in the top 5, because if you're saying we're good for now, it better be on the list for long-term.

City Manager Whitehead: Certainly.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: What are some of the admin's ideas.

City Manager Whitehead: I'll let Traci talk about Her's, and I would also like to have you guys talk about and consider the third transformer. Bo has presented that, and we think it's a project we should consider. We have one transformer that's new, and we have one that's old but working well. The vision would be to put a third one online, and then we can take the second one offline, rehab it, then we'd have redundancy, we'd have backup, so that's a project on the infrastructure side, we really haven't talked about on the electrical side. We are doing well enough with electric that we could potentially match, but we could start working on some grants too. That's about a \$2 million project to bring that on board.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: We really did give Bo that push, that we want to make sure our electric system stays up to par and we are doing what we need to do. So, if he's coming to us saying we need that, then maybe that's something we should look at.

City Manager Whitehead: Traci's got some ideas on effluent. I'll let her talk about that.

Commissioner Mitchell: We need to have it split; infrastructure, tourism, recreation, quality-of-life, I think if we don't maintain the infrastructure for the city, for our roads and so forth, then we won't have any quality-of-life ones. I don't have anything specific, I am all for Lee Belle Johnson, the recreational facility, and dam maintenance, whether it's Marie Street or Cantrell or whatnot. I don't have an agenda to push anything forward, I'm in agreement with you all.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: A couple years ago, that's all we had on there, was water. We weren't even looking at anything. I think we are in a good place where we can put a few more things on the list. I think Traci had something to add.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Thank you. I really support the electric transformer because, as you know, it's very difficult to find grant funds for our electric department.

It's a municipal electric department and there's just not a lot out there. I think that would definitely be a really good source of request for funding for electric. The other thing I'd really like the commission to consider are affluent water reuse. Like you said, servicing the water, if we could extend our affluent water from the golf course, all the way up to our cemetery, we could be watering our cemetery with affluent water instead of fresh water. It doesn't necessarily have to be in the top 5 priority, but I definitely think we need to consider improvements to our affluent, at the Armijo Parks side, which would then improve the affluent that's going to the golf course. We definitely need some assistance with the golf course, and then a potential extension for affluent. I do get a lot of calls from residents that would potentially be interested in affluent water use. Something to think about. The other item I had noted on here I'd like to make sure is added into the ICIP somewhere is the recycling and solid waste collection center expansion. That's something we will have to think about doing if they go from a collection center to a transfer station, that facility is going to have to grow. It's not necessarily a top 5 but it's something we need to add somewhere within the ICIP. Other than that, my priority was the wastewater and the Lee Belle Johnson. The last thing I want is for Lee Belle to turn out like the armory, it's sitting and it's a great building in the downtown area. That was my thought process.

Mayor Hechler: I think #5 was Armijo Park and wastewater. That was on mine. So, we have Wastewater, Lee Belle, Marie Street, Electric Transformer, which one do we want to make #5?

Commissioner Hoepfner: I would maybe put the recycling center, like you said, we have to start. By putting it in the top 5, it would show that we know what is coming.

Commissioner Fahl: Didn't you say that there's a permitting process we have to start first? You don't need capital improvement money for that.

City Manager Whitehead: With the recycling center, we are really in a good spot because we are going to pay off the loan this year. We have agreed that we have some time, we are starting to get close to the tipping point. We have started moving that money based on the Park Hill Study, so over the next 5 years, we will put away about \$1.2 million, and in 5 years, we will be ready to apply for the next loan to borrow \$5 million. So, I think that one's not necessarily a capital outlay, but it definitely will require some planning. We might have to pay for it, but it is one that if we went to the legislature with it, they're not crazy about planning, it's not what they really want to do, so I don't think it would need to be in the top 5. It is on the list and it's important, but it's in a good spot, we should be able to have 5 years of no payments and put some money away, then planning and looking at what we need to do there.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: What would be your recommendation?

City Manager Whitehead: I am torn between the affluent and the rec center. I think it might be time to consider the recreation center. It's been a long time coming.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: Mine's one of those, the multi-generational family center, whatever we called it.

City Manager Whitehead: We are trying really hard to spend the bond money efficiently and tell a good story. That will come back up in a couple of years, and maybe we are in the driver's seat to say, "Let us have that money back one more cycle, for \$3 million and build something like that.", that's been what Traci & I & the crew have been talking about a bit. The rec center could be a good one for us to start trying to raise some capital to do something in the next couple of years.

Mayor Hechler: Make a Spaceport Rec Center?

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: Yeah, let's do it all in one, one ginormous thing. I do want to make sure that we get Spaceport on our ICIP, like I said, I don't know if it necessarily needs to be in our top 5, but it would be nice to go and get some of that planning money.

Mayor Hechler: As we knock off one of these others, it will make it up to the top 5. I think that's how it will work, so let's make sure the Spaceport Center is in the top 10, at least, or higher. As we cycle through, once we knock off some of these other ones, it'll move up. Once we get Lee Belle Johnson done, maybe we can get something to take the spot next year.

Commissioner Fahl: Then we have 5, right?

City Manager Whitehead: Water/Wastewater, Lee Belle Johnson, Marie Street, Transformers, and Rec Center.

Commissioner Fahl: Sounds good. Are you good with that, Destiny?

Commissioner Mitchell: I'm good with that.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: When we come back to you guys, it'll be the next commission meeting, where we will have the final draft, you will notice a good portion of the projects that are on the 2026-2030, may not be, or probably won't be, on the next one. We will try and shorten it by some of these priorities, but you will still see water on there. It may be the last one in 2031, but I need to leave it on there so I can tell a story of where our funding is currently. I have to continue to report on that. You'll see a couple of items on there that I know there is potential funding for, like the expansion for the solid waste facility. We're in a great spot financially, but there is some great money out there that I could apply for, for grants, but if it's not listed somewhere on the ICIP, I can't. So, you'll see some things on there and hopefully we will bring you back a good list, we will have your top 5, your mentions within the top 10, and some projects in there that if you have questions about, definitely just check with us.



Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve the following top 5 ICIP items.

- 1. Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades**
- 2. Lee Belle Johnson Facility Improvements**
- 3. Marie Street**
- 4. Electric Transformers**
- 5. Recreational Center**

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

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

Mayor Hechler recused himself from Threatened & Pending Litigation (Sean Barnes vs. City of T or C) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7).

Commissioner Fahl made a motion to go into executive session at 12:53 p.m. to discuss Threatened & Pending Litigation (Sean Barnes vs. City of T or C) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7) and Threatened & Pending Litigation (Rachel Higgins vs. City of T or C) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7). Commissioner Hoeppe seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister reconvened the meeting in open session at 1:21 p.m.

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

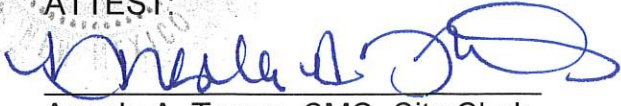
K. ADJOURNMENT:

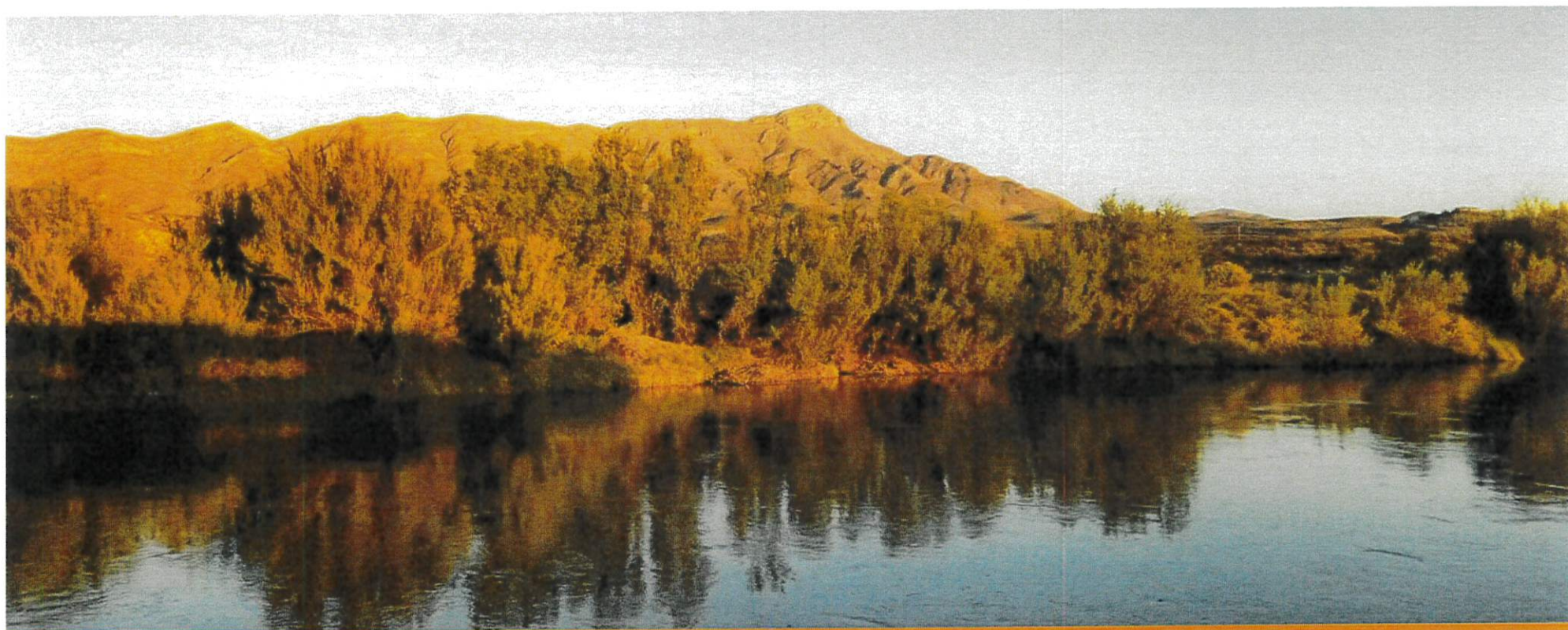
Mayor Hechler adjourned the meeting at 1:22 p.m.

Passed and Approved this 9th day of July, 2025.


Rolf Hechler, Mayor


ATTEST:


Angela A. Torres, CMC, City Clerk



City of Truth or Consequences

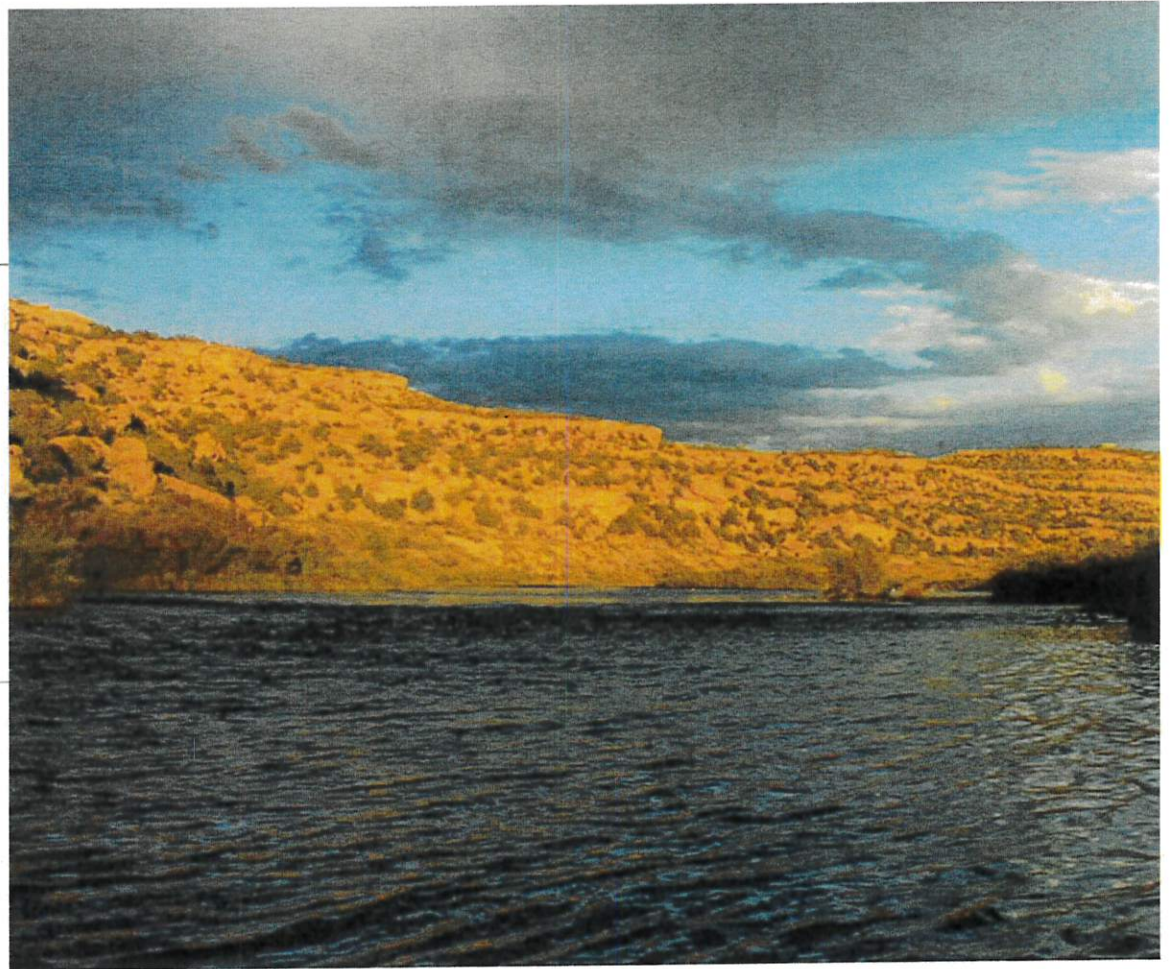
2027-2031 ICIP Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan Public Input and Preparation

6/10/2025

An overview of outreach and
input

Present what we've heard from
the public

Request your review and ranking
of proposed projects



The **Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP)** is a **5-year planning tool** used by New Mexico communities to plan and prioritize infrastructure projects — such as roads, water systems, buildings, parks, and emergency services.



Not a grant application
— it's a prioritization
tool that helps us plan
and prepare



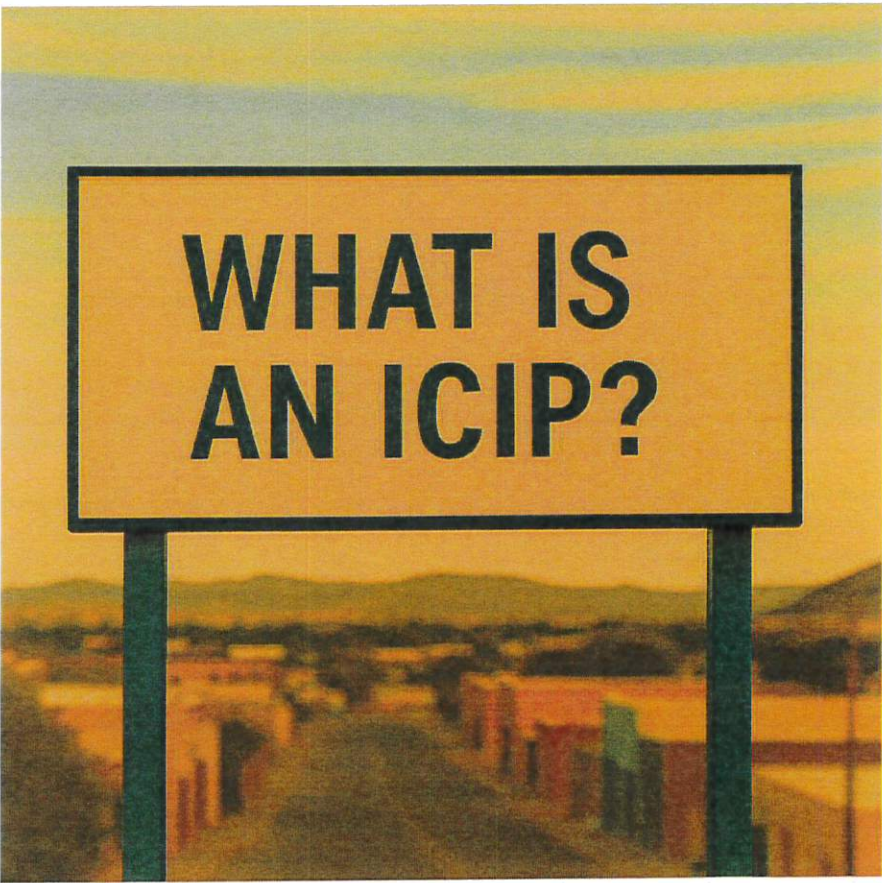
Reviewed and updated
every year to reflect
changing needs



Required by the DFA
(Dept. Finance and
Administration) and
the Governor's Office
to be eligible for capital
outlay funding



Projects must be
“shovel ready” —
meaning they have
clear cost estimates,
planning, and can start
if funded



**WHAT IS
AN ICIP?**

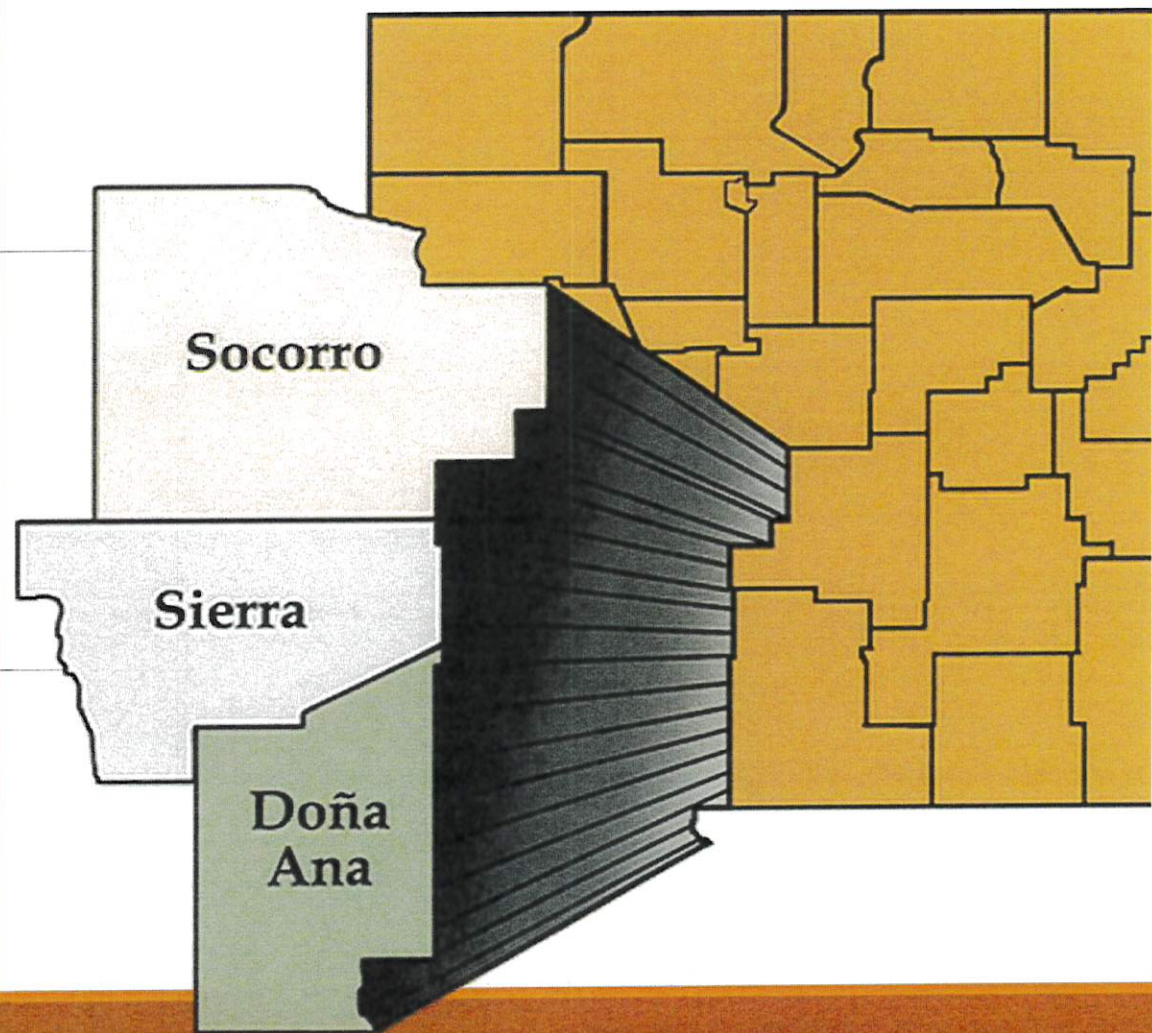
South Central Council of Governments – Technical Assistance

Facilitate public input sessions to gather community priorities

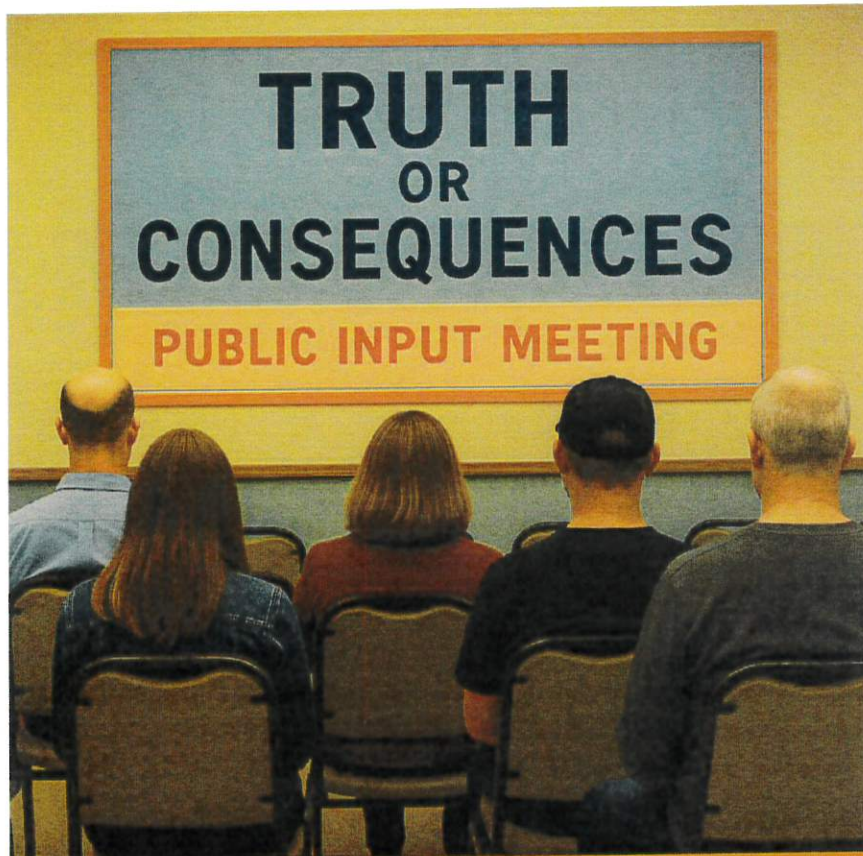
Summarize feedback for your review to support informed decision-making

Enter and refine project details in the ICIP system—I do not decide which projects are included.

Provided neutral support to help align local priorities with available resources

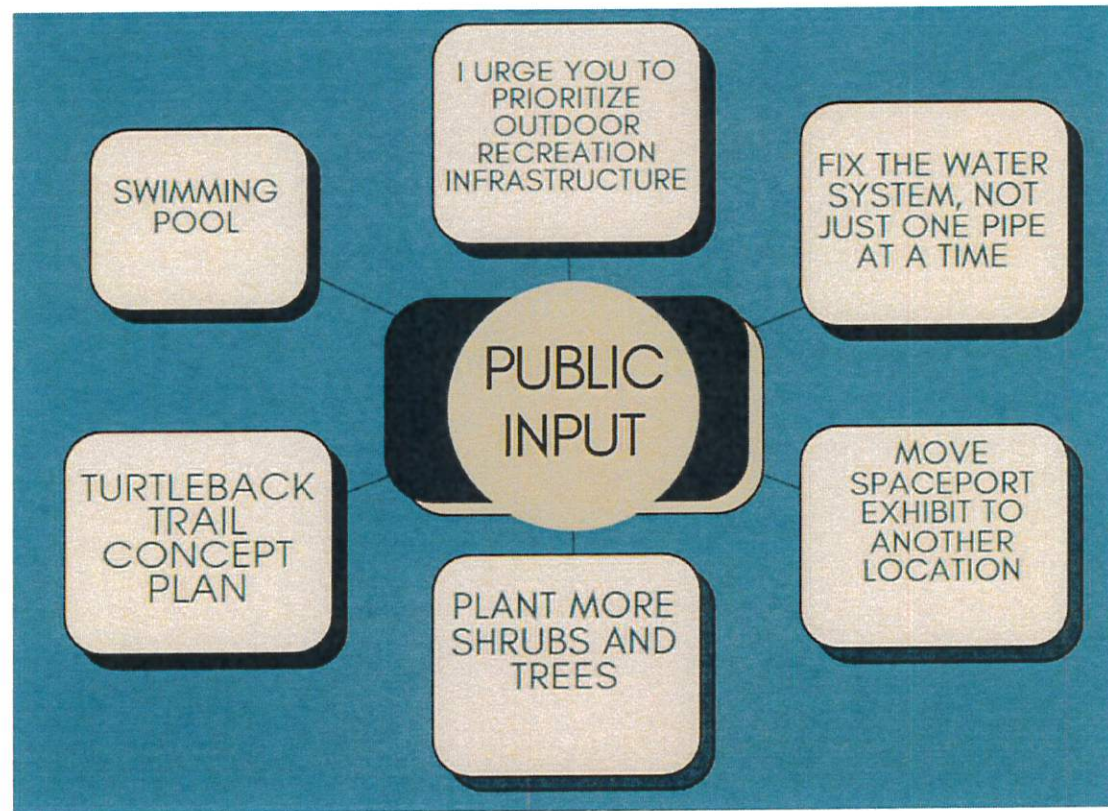


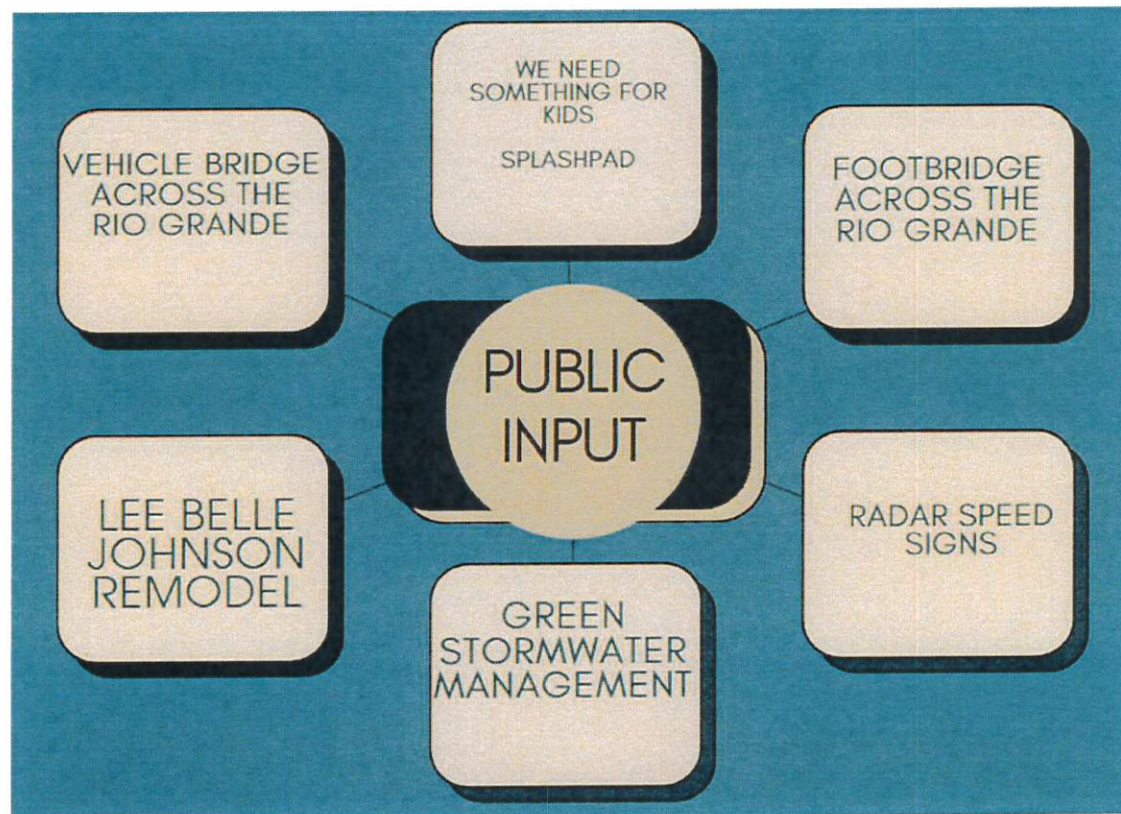
Public Input Process

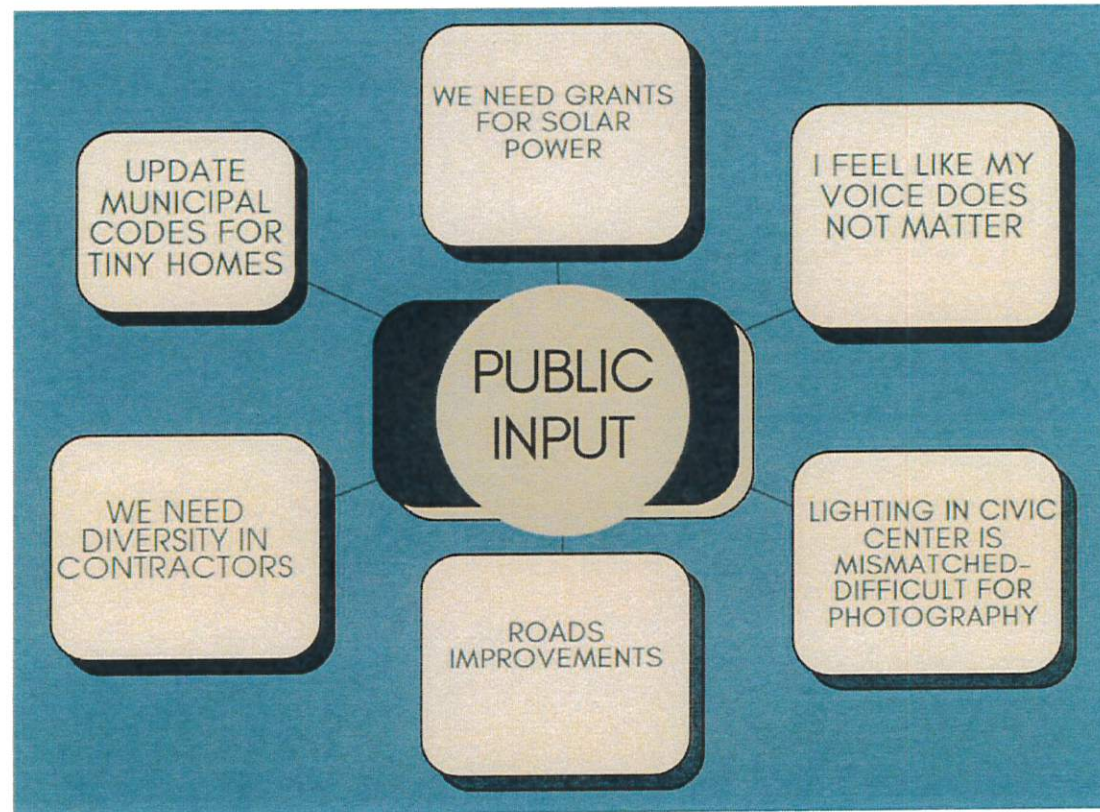


- Public Input Meetings
 - To promote broad community participation, we strategically hosted four public input meetings on May 8 and May 22, 2025, offering both noon and evening sessions. These times were chosen to maximize accessibility and provide residents with ample opportunity to engage in the decision-making process.
- Dates: May 8 & May 22, 2025
- Times: Noon & 5 PM (both days)
- Location: City Commission Chambers
- Print Media: Notices published in Sierra County Sentinel (May 1, 8, 15, 22).
- Public information officer, Carrie Gaston did in person outreach while promoting the comprehensive plan and put up flyers.
- Social Media: Posted on TorC Public Information Page & shared across local community pages.

To ensure inclusive and accessible participation, we provided multiple avenues for public input—including phone, mail, and email. Contact information was prominently displayed across all outreach platforms for a total of 26 days, allowing residents ample time and flexibility to share their perspectives.







Sign-In Sheets

Transcribed
Comments from
Meetings

Emails

Phone Calls

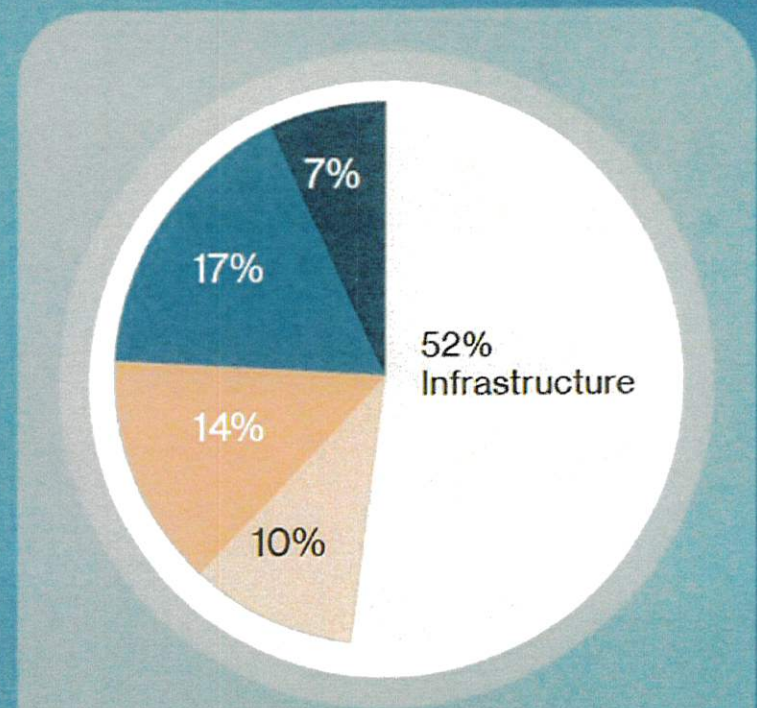
Social Media
Feedback

All responses were
compiled and
categorized

Key themes are
visualized in the pie
chart

Public Input

Community Priority Breakdown



Last year's ICIP- Top 5

Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan FY 2026-2030

Truth or Consequences Project Summary

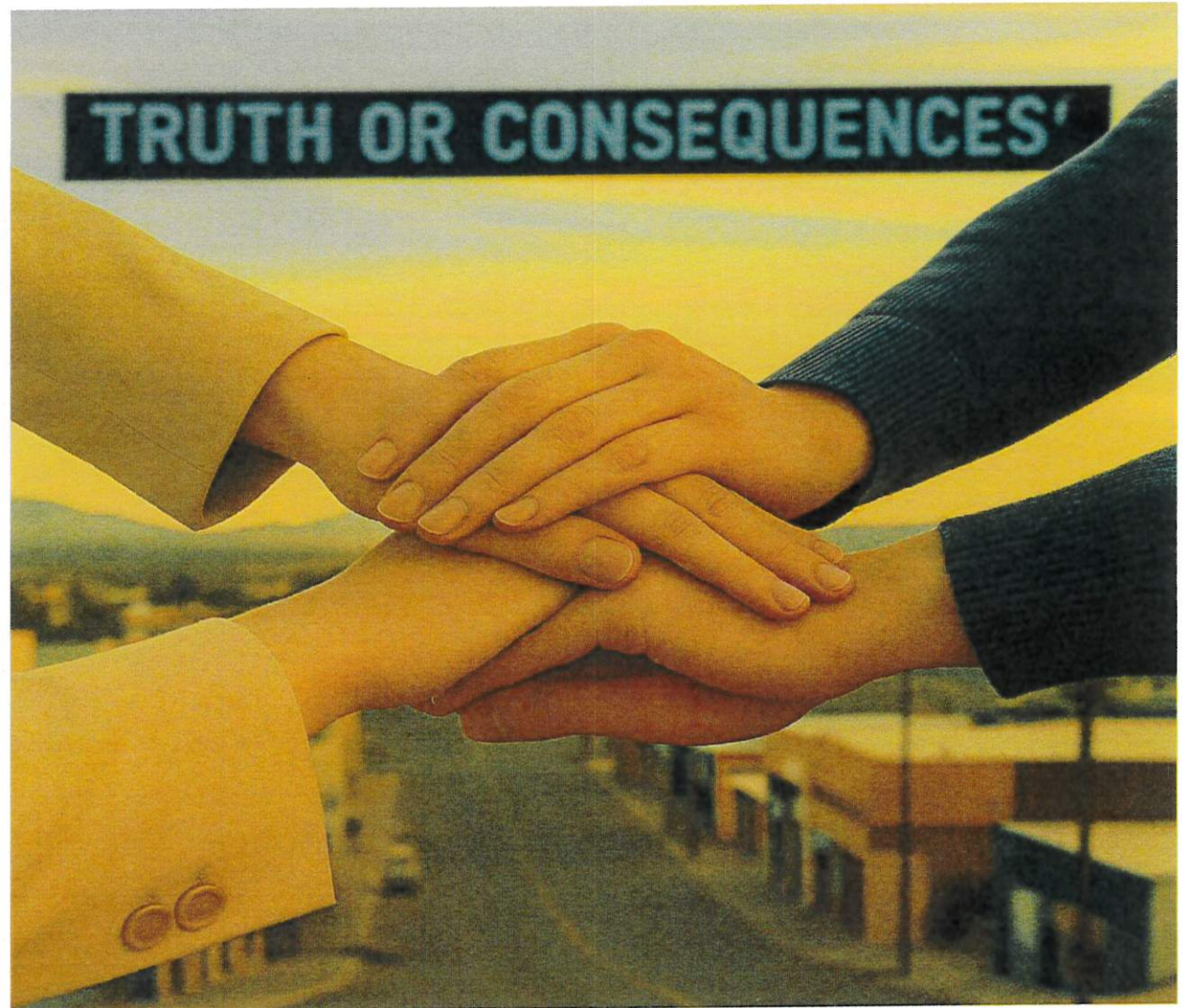
ID	Year	Rank	Project Title	Category	Funded to date	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total Project Cost	Amount Not Yet Funded	Phases?
38614	2026	001	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades	Water - Wastewater	0	1,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	0	10,000,000	10,000,000	Yes
40367	2026	002	Clancy Lift Station Force Main Improvements	Water - Wastewater	0	1,500,000	0	0	0	0	1,500,000	1,500,000	No
42977	2026	003	Sewer Vacuum System Replacement	Water - Wastewater	0	100,000	300,000	2,300,000	2,300,000	0	5,000,000	5,000,000	Yes
33002	2026	004	Water Infrastructure and Fire Hydrant Replacement	Water - Water Supply	12,607,079	7,225,000	0	0	0	0	19,832,080	7,225,000	Yes
36714	2026	005	Substation Primary Underground Feeder	Other - Utilities (publicly owned)	0	1,000,000	0	0	0	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	Yes

Final Review & Ranking – Commissioners finalize project rankings.

Ongoing Community Engagement – Infrastructure needs continue to evolve, and public input remains valuable.

Thank You! – Appreciation for the commission and community's participation in the process.

6/10/2025



CITY CONNECT

JUNE 2025

Welcome to City Connect

Truth or Consequences residents now have a new way to stay informed! City Connect, our official city newsletter, brings essential updates on infrastructure, public services, community programs, and local initiatives—straight to your inbox.

Each edition features important announcements, service improvements, conservation efforts, and ways to get involved in shaping our city's future. Whether it's utility updates, road projects, public safety initiatives, or upcoming events, City Connect ensures residents have the latest information.

We welcome residents, businesses, and community groups to share their insights and updates! Help shape the conversation and stay engaged with what's happening in Truth or Consequences. Send your contributions to cgaston@torcnm.org.



Street Crew repairs a leak

City Blueprint: From Plans to Progress

City Blueprint is your go-to page for updates on city improvement projects, providing timelines, contractor introductions, and milestone updates—all in one place. Committed to transparency, we keep the community informed as we build a stronger, more vibrant city. Whether it's road enhancements, public spaces, or essential service upgrades, City Blueprint ensures you're always in the loop. Stay engaged, stay informed and watch our shared vision come to life at in the *Sierra County Sentinel* back page and at torcnm.org/government/city_blueprint/index.php



SMART TIP - Want to read the newsletter online? Subscribe to the digital version from our website at torcnm.org/contact/index.php.

OUR CITY WORKS STATS FOR MAY

ELECTRIC

14 electric poles replaced

STREETS

Installed 2 speed radar signs at the high school and 2 at the elementary school

WATER SERVICES

-30 Pipe Leaks Repaired

-13 Active Leaks

-Recycled 5,163,470 gallons of water

OUR COMMISSION

MAYOR

Rolf Hechler

MAYOR PRO-TEM

Amanda Forrister

COMMISSIONERS

Merry Jo Fahl

Ingo Hoepfner

Destiny Mitchell

JUNE CALENDAR

9 - Planning & Zoning

11 - City Commission @ 9AM

16 - Public Utility Board

18- Hazard Mitigation Meeting

19 - Juneteenth

25 - City Commission @ 4PM



CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES



TORCNM.ORG

P.S. Photos

only house (3 empty)
Two empty & does

Possible
a joke 30 houses 2027
Next year

OUR Involvement at
City Council has shown a
hope that a Petition is
coming across as democracy
working.

at early speeches I had told
my ~~speech~~ speech needs as
the Eloy Easement isn't maintainable
and is now worse

a Lot of hurt came from
T Alvarez Sweeney at that Date
I have Been Changing Very much
after a Court made a Golt
That I can see works and
doesn't degrade or damage my
Plans and savings,

Conclusion that. I've Been
on top of most of Reasonable

Compliances, The Idea that
Litter or refuse is a
term that has worked to
Strip people of Civil Rights
we have had and continue
get support as maker's of
Restored things

Movie will be speaking
3 dead (Grand father)

We need to take steps to ensure new development in Sierra County does not contribute to the Heat Island Effect, exacerbate stormwater runoff issues, or add to environmental pollution. It is challenging to "green up" existing parking lots, roadways, or commercial spaces, although we are making an effort. With the proper codes in place for new projects, we can look forward to a greener future.

I am especially concerned with the new Love's Truck Stop proposal. Every Love's I have ever pumped gas at is acres of asphalt and concrete, though they do have great coffee.

We must insist that the blueprint includes trees, shade, xeric landscaping, below-grade bio-retention areas for stormwater mitigation, and subsurface infiltration systems. That's a mouthful, but it simply means not creating a scorching black asphalt desert that sends polluted runoff directly into our river system.

To keep the asphalt desert from happening, we depend on our current planning and zoning team, a great group of caring citizens. They must be given the freedom to overhaul our current codes to better reflect what we now know about drought, our vulnerable watershed, and the long-term effects of environmental pollution.

The DOT did a fantastic job landscaping the three roundabouts on Date Street. They planted hardy, drought-tolerant plants below grade where they will receive the most runoff possible. They installed irrigation to give them a good start. As the trees grow, they will provide shade, increase bird habitat, and lower the heat index. Something like this can and should be required at the Love's Truck Stop. The cost to the overall project will be minimal, and it will set a positive precedent for future projects.

Residents in our community value the natural world and are committed to its protection. Too often, it feels as though we must choose between economic opportunity and protecting our water, land, and wildlife. Let's prove we don't have to make that choice.

Let's up-grade planning & zoning to include green codes for all new ~~builds~~ construction.

6/11/25

Alice Hutchins

While I know the Love's Truck Stop proposal is still that, a proposal, I took a few minutes to review Love's February 26 presentation to you all. I hope more analysis will be done about the economics involved and the impact on local businesses, but it appears to be a solid project. My question is, has the issue of light pollution been taken into account in the planning?

Light pollution, especially one from a business as large as a truck stop, can disrupt the behavior of wildlife, including mating rituals, navigation, and migration patterns. We are surrounded by the most significant continuous east-west wildlife corridor in all of New Mexico and I believe we should do everything we can to protect migrating birds and our local bat populations.

Implementing Dark Sky Standards help preserve the natural beauty of night skies, making it easier to view stars and other celestial objects, something I like to do using the Skyview Lite app. The new improvements to the Historic Dam Site buildings wisely include Dark Sky lighting for this very reason.

Dark Sky Standards prioritize responsible outdoor lighting by limiting uplight, reducing glare, and using warm-toned light sources. Safety will not be affected in any way. A Dark Skies lighting plan is not about no light; it is about appropriate light.

These simple, inexpensive methods should be easy to incorporate into existing blueprints for a standard Love's truck stop project. BUT, and this is a big BUT, TorC needs to update its codes to reflect the community's concerns about the environment. Without the proper codes in place, business will choose the easiest, cheapest way to build. I do not believe this is in the best interest of our wildlife and watersheds.

Here is a flyer highlighting the Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting. It is my hope that Dark Sky Standards will soon be part of any building project in TorC.

Support George Henson IV's Found Object Installation

** Please put your name, location, and your occupation / connection to T or C **

1. **Hannah Jayanti** - NY & CA, Director of the documentary *Truth or Consequences* and collaborator on the 2019 Meteoric Festival.
2. **Alexander Porter** - NY & CA, Co-writer of the documentary *Truth or Consequences* and collaborator on the 2019 Meteoric Festival.
3. **Lauren Lee McCarthy** - CA, Contributing Artist 2019 Meteoric Festival
4. **Bethany Tabor** - NM, Program Officer for the New Mexico Humanities Council
5. **Samara Chadwick** - NY, Executive Director, International Film Seminars, Inc. and collaborator on the 2019 Meteoric Festival.
6. **Jae Minard** - NY, Documentary filmmaker and film programmer 2019 Meteoric Festival
7. **Claire Hentschker** - NY, attended the 2019 Meteoric Festival and contributed additional visual effects to the documentary *Truth or Consequences*.
8. **Brian Matthew Hart** - MN, Artist
9. **Peter Mottler** - Canada & Switzerland, Filmmaker and Contributing Artist 2019 Meteoric Festival
10. **Chris Simon** - Utah, Documentary Filmmaker & Folklorist, owner of Sageland Media. Recently visited Truth and Consequences and am deeply impressed by the art featured all around town. George's Installation is part of what makes T or C unique!
11. **Tara Autovino** NY, Documentary filmmaker. Have spent months at a time in T or C, and seek out George's work whenever we're there.
12. **Jasón Sebastián Russo** - NY, Documentary writer. Have spent months at a time in T or C, and seek out George's work whenever we're there.
13. **Ilya Szilak, MD** Brooklyn, NY physician at Rikers Island and artist, know this work through the film. Art is integral to health and well being of communities. George's work is a big part of this for T or C.
14. **Jeannie Ortiz**. Truth or Consequences, NM. Artist, resident of T or C since 2011.
15. **Kate Amend, ACE**, Los Angeles, CA. Filmmaker, Professor and Art Historian and advisor on the documentary *Truth or Consequences*
16. **Kate K. Hall**. Truth or Consequences, NM. Artist, business owner, resident of TorC since 2018.
17. **Kyle Parker Cunningham**. Truth or Consequences, NM. Artist, Gallerist and Curator2020. at Desert Archaic in TorC who represents George's work which sells regularly. Collaborator for MeTeORIC.

18. Melissa McKinstry, twelve year resident of TorC currently in Chicago area. Marketing professional, experience creator, Yoga Instructor, MeTeORICer.
19. Maida Lynn. CA, Founder of Genuine Article Pictures, Executive Producer of the documentary *Truth or Consequences*.
20. Sara Archambault. Providence, RI. Filmmaker, Producer of the documentary *Truth or Consequences*.
21. Keisha Knight. Bennington, VT/Los Angeles, CA, Executive Director Sentient Art Film distributor of *Truth or Consequences*
22. Jordyn Jackson. Truth or Consequences, NM. Artist, Singer/Songwriter in the alt-folk duo Flagship Romance, resident of TorC since 2018.
23. Shawn Fisher. Truth or Consequences, NM. Singer/Guitarist/Songwriter in the alt-folk duo Flagship Romance, Photographer, Resident of TorC since 2018.
24. Kimberly Rae Jewell Truth or Consequences, NM. Baker of The Guesthouse Kitchen and Astrologer. Resident of TorC since 2007.
25. Mina Kim Fitzpatrick, Los Angeles/New York, Filmmaker, Visiting Professor; California Institute of the Arts
26. Anne Yao, New York, Film editor, Assistant editor on the documentary *Truth or Consequences*
27. June Russett, Truth or Consequences, NM, artist, resident & neighbor since 2020.
28. Lisa Huntley, NY and TorC homeowner since 2013.
29. Linda Armstrong, Truth or Consequences, NM, resident since 2012
30. Tega Brain, NY, Contributing Artist 2019 Meteoric Festival
31. Sam Lavigne, NY, Assistant Professor of Design, University of Texas at Austin, and Contributing Artist 2019 Meteoric Festival
32. Caroline Mort, NC, Archival Producer of the documentary *Truth Or Consequences*
33. Jan Thedford, Truth or Consequences resident since 2004.
34. Eugina Shelton wandering nomad who now finds herself a resident of T or C. Just a regular gal who respects the unusual.
35. MaryAlice Holmes, Milton, MA/TorC homeowner since 2018, Writer
36. Susan Skinner, Abq NM. As an artist and fellow collector of roadside detritus, I whole heartedly support the continuation of George's environmental space. T or C is a unique place. Don't let the developers take control.

Name	Address
Name: Mary Carvett	721 Wyoma St Torc
Name: Michael Schrey	Colorado
Name: ART KURNER	815 Post
Name: Isalah Monroe	
Name: Ianya Becker	125 Wyoma St 87901 Torc
Name: Jason Monroe	725 Wyoma St 87901 Torc
Name: Allison Norton	407 Broadway Torc
Name: Don Hallock	400 V. Cedar, Torc NM
Name: John Johannek	415 Broadway Torc NM
Name: Alex Talavera	103 E. 1st Ave Torc, NM
Name: LAEL LLAVERIA	120 N. PERSHING "
Name: Karina Angeles	120 N. Pershing St Torc, NM
Name: Sylvia Norris	
Name: David Angeles	Out of state
Name: Fritz Nunez	Gruperia Bistr
Name: Bruce Adams	out of state
Name: Tom Gedgudas	2nd St, Pecos Arts, NM
Name: Charles Schild JA	705 S Broadway Torc
Name: Edith Harrison	840 Higgins 181 Unit 6
Name: Melissa Hutton	303 ANIMOS CREEK RD
Name: Kyle Smith	721 Charles St.
Name: Mary Kunningham	602 Wyoma Torc
Name: Silas Montoya	521 Wyoma St.
Name: Nidala Phirelle	501 9th St.
Name: Jeannie Ortiz	708 Charles St.
Name: Kyle Cunningham	708 Charles St.
Colly Cunningham	710 Charles St.
Depe Hansen	731 WYOMA.

Five Lighting Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting

DarkSky



International Dark Sky Association

Responsible outdoor lighting is

1 Useful

Use light only if it is needed

All light should have a clear purpose. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and their habitats.



2 Targeted

Direct light so it falls only where it is needed

Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.



3 Low Level

Light should be no brighter than necessary

Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions, as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.



4 Controlled

Use light only when it is needed

Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.



5 Warm-colored

Use warmer color lights where possible

Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.



Dark Sky