

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3RD St.
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 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 via telephone
Hon. Destiny Mitchell, Commissioner
Hon. Merry Jo Fahl, Commissioner
Hon. Ingo Hoeppner, Commissioner

Also Present: Gary Whitehead, City Manager
Jay Rubin, City Attorney
Angela A. Torres, City Clerk-Treasurer
Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer

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

2. SILENT MEDITATION:

Mayor Hechler called for fifteen seconds of silent meditation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Hechler called for Clerk Torres to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Fahl moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Mitchell and Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Fahl: I just wanted to say I hope everybody had a wonderful Thanksgiving, and I'm really looking forward to all the activities that we have this month. The Christmas Lighting, Downtown Christmas, all the fun stuff. I hope to see everybody out there.

Commissioner Mitchell: December 12th is Old Fashioned Christmas downtown T or C. It's a MainStreet event, they will have a parade of lights and there'll be pictures with Santa Clause in the plaza, and all the shops will be open, there will be fire barrels, and there will be lots of shopping to do downtown. It will be followed by the Luminaria beach walk and boat parade the next night out at the lake. There will be a free campfire, chili, and other fun stuff. Then we have the Holiday Sing-along on the 19th downtown in the plaza, it is a community event, and we encourage everyone to come out and sing some Christmas songs and enjoy the Christmas season.

Commissioner Hoepfner: We held Small Business Saturday, and it was a full success. I'm very happy to see so many people coming down to support our local businesses. I wanted to say thank you to everybody for that.

6. STAFF COMMENTS:

City Manager Whitehead: I'd like to remind the public and the staff that we are going to be hosting a full staff training on December 12th from 12pm-3pm, so the city offices will be closed for that time. We have put out notices to have that information handled. That training will also include a lunch provided by our Commission, so we're working on getting that together, excited about that. I want to bring you up to speed on the water leaks. They continue to plague us a little bit but we're working diligently. This morning, we have 36, we're down from 50. We do have a couple of major ones. We have a pretty big leak on Magnolia they're working on this morning. We had a double leak on Riverside, they repaired what they thought was the leak, left, and then it never went away, so they're trying to get to that one today. Veater Street continues to be a problem. We have some pretty big leaks on the East side. We're trying to get those organized, we're getting those callouts and the locates, and we're making progress, but still a little bit behind. Pretty happy with the crew, they're giving it their best effort, but you know, we're still behind. We're communicating pretty much every morning on what the schedule and the plan is with it, but it's hard. It's a tough time, too, it's cold, it takes a little longer to get things done, so thank you to the crew for doing that. Exciting news for us, the USDA and the federal government is back to work. All of our documents for both USDA loans are now moving into loan processing. That's been the holdup, we needed to do a title study. We got that done, and then just about the time we were done, the government shut down, so we finished it but our rep was quick and got on our stuff pretty fast, so hopefully in the next 30 days we will get what they call loan documents, which would then release us to go to bid on both. Both USDA projects are now, with the timing, ready to go to bid. We'll have the Veater Street – one of those projects is a large

service line to wrap around Veater, it'll take care of the biggest problem we're having down on the lower end, we're going to replace that main line. Then, the main USDA project, which is WISPI-1, is our pressure relief valve system, which we are really waiting to get that going. Both of those projects, I just wanted to bring you up to speed that we're back in the hopper and hopefully we'll get that started sooner rather than later. The first contract that you let, we did have our pre-construction bid, our pre-construction conference has happened, we're just waiting for the state to give us our final release so that we can give a notice to proceed. We had some documents that the state needed to do that. We get excited to get these done, but they have a lot of people looking over the work that we're doing. The boat dock has started, we got that project started this week, so that's exciting. Raph Edwards Park is closed off of Ash Street, and it'll remain closed throughout the day while they're working, and they've agreed to leave it open on the weekends and in the evening, they'll move so that the public will have access in and around the park there. The crews are really working to get Christmas up, everyone is out working together, Parks, Facilities, Electric, they're all out there working trying to get that done. We're busy, still have a lot of things going on, and that's a little bit of a fast report.

Mayor Hechler: Could you talk a little bit about the Foch Street project?

City Manager Whitehead: I will, thank you. We were ready to start December 1st, but we had some concerns. The contractors came back in our negotiations and asked if we could close the street completely. We went back to the business owners, brought that up, we had some concerns, there were a few that were really worried about not having access for the whole length of time. We came up with a proposal, submitted that, the contractors agreed, so they accepted what we would call a 95% closure. The contractor received approval for the traffic plan November 24th which includes walk access to the businesses: PureLife, the Art Gallery on Foch has an access point for drive access while they're doing construction, the Money Man down below has a walk path. We met with the contractors, and they've agreed that they'll do their best to keep traffic open where they can when they can, and try to work in the area. If they're not working in the area, they'll leave those access points open the best they can. We've made every effort we can, we think, we've been very active on the street, and today we agreed we will be starting December 29th, the Monday after the Christmas break. That'll be the start of the contract, that will give them that week to really mobilize and set up their traffic, and then really start the Monday after Christmas. Foch Street is really in order, and I will remind the Commission, it's a very, very tight project money-wise. We have exactly \$2.6 million to spend, so we needed to meet the contractor in areas where they felt like they could cut, and they felt like if they could keep the road, get it closed, they could get in and get out in a timely manner. Likewise, they'll be housing here at our water facility, we've provided that, we're doing \$750 a month, and we will do that as an in-kind contribution to the project to help, so we get those dollars into the project. That's where we're at with Foch Street.

Mayor Hechler: I call this a blessing in disguise because we're actually going to get through the holiday season, our shopping season for our businesses, we won't be

disrupting anybody with construction until after Christmas, so I think this is actually a good thing for us to happen.

City Manager Whitehead: I think so, I appreciate that comment. I will add that DOT has indicated that they've got their bids and are in final contracts for the restriping project downtown too, which should start sometime in mid to late January. Knock on wood, by the end of the fiscal year, we should have Foch Street done, Date Street, Main Street done, Broadway, and have that corridor back in order. The Park should be done. We should have some projects done by that time.

C. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 1. Acknowledgment of November 4, 2025, Election Results and Official Canvass.**
- 2. Purchase report of items between \$20,000 and \$60,000.**

C1:

City Clerk Torres: Item C1 is the acknowledgment of the November 4, 2025, Election and Official Canvass. Our two new Commissioners are our current Commissioner Destiny Mitchell, and Mr. Chas Glines. The new terms will start January 1st and the Oath of Office will be at our next meeting, December 17th at 9:00 a.m. and that will be administered by Judge Lee.

C2:

City Manager Whitehead: In your packet, you should have the information on our insurance premium. We moved those in our budget process to one item. If you remember last year, we paid this late. We've made the payment, \$412,602, for our insurance. To break that down, \$58,000 for property coverage, \$65,000 for auto coverage, \$248,000 for liability coverage, and \$41,000 for workman's comp. It covers the entire city. We were authorized to make this payment, so it's not necessarily a purchase order, it's a culmination. We need to pay our insurance. We just wanted to brief the Commission that that's done, Jocelyn got that taken care of, and we are current with our insurance carrier, New Mexico Self Insurer's. So that's in your packet as well for your information.

Mayor Hechler: Thank you for the update.

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

D. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING:

1. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 26 25/26 WPF-6621 Authorizing Execution of a Water Project Fund Loan/Grant Agreement for Reconstruction of Cantrell Dam.

City Manager Whitehead: It's really straightforward, if you remember, a flood happened with Cantrell Dam. You received funding to do a study, the study's been completed, and the city was funded \$8.1 million to build the project. The final contracts are in. The documents are ready. Before you today is the acceptance of the contracts. What we would ask today is that you approve Resolution 26 25/26. The total funding of the project is \$8,899,000. Of that, \$7.281 million is a grant. We have a loan component of \$809,000, and we also have a match component of \$809,000. I'd remind the Commission that the Sierra County Flood Commission has committed \$407,000 to that. We'll find and fund the other portion of our \$400,000. We're working through ideas for in-kind, there's some work that we potentially could do, and we would match that. We would be funding this through our streets program. Again, today before you would be to accept the contract, and allow the mayor or the manager to sign and approve all the necessary documents to get the project started.

Commissioner Fahl: I'm glad to see that this has finally come into fruition, and I'm sure that our partners with the Village of Williamsburg and the county are just as excited as we are and the residents near there. It's nice that the Flood Commission offices have agreed to help us with some of the funding on this, so it'll be a really good thing. I just hope that as we move forward working on dams, that we work them as a collaborative effort with our partners, because they're all affected.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve Resolution No. 26 25/26 WPF-6621 Authorizing Execution of a Water Project Fund Loan/Grant Agreement for Reconstruction of Cantrell Dam and allow the Mayor and City Manager to execute all applicable documents. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 27 25/26 Budget Adjustment Request.

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: This is follow-up for the first approval that has just taken place for the Cantrell Dam. This is through the New Mexico Finance Authority. The loan documents for the project, this BAR is not fully executed until we receive all the signed documents, but in order to move forward once they come in, this includes the loan and the match, which is why we're reaching out for approval today.

Mayor Hechler: Manager Whitehead, how do we go about getting that \$400,000 from flood control?

City Manager Whitehead: I spoke with Commissioner Jones last week, he's requested we start the process to look at a memorandum of understanding, an MOU. Traci was out last week, and unfortunately sick this week, but we'll begin the dialogue between the city and the county to get those done. That's the way he's asked that we proceed, so we will get that going as quickly as possible. Hopefully we can have it on our agenda for either December or the first meeting in January. He and I are in communication, we've brought him in, he's overviewed, he's reviewed the plans, so we feel like we're in good shape and the funding is available, so we just need to put the documents together, but it would be through an MOU.

Commissioner Fahl: I forgot to ask this question earlier Gary, but once we sign the paperwork and it's submitted, what do you think is the timeline for construction to start?

City Manager Whitehead: The nice part is we received the documents. The engineering is completely done. There are a couple of property owners there that were working, we have to get some easements, some crossing, we've started that process. I would think that we've talked about March or April being the bid, you're approving the bid, so this could be a July start possibly. It will be this year. Everything is ready to go. The property owners are receptive, no concerns.

Commissioner Fahl made a motion to approve Resolution No. 27 25/26 Budget Adjustment Request. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hechler: Before we close the meeting, Manager Whitehead, we are going to have a public meeting coming up on the Animal Control Ordinance, can we announce that please?

City Clerk Torres: We will have our final workshop next Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. to receive public input on our Animal Ordinance. We encourage the public to attend if you have any concerns or if you want to make any changes. The proposed ordinance is published online, and you can get a copy at the Clerk's Office. Our final public hearing and final adoption will be held on December 17th.

E. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- 1. Threatened & Pending Litigation (Ron Fenn) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7).**
- 2. Limited Personnel Matters (City Manager) Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2).**

Commissioner Fahl made a motion to go into executive session at 9:22 a.m. to discuss Threatened & Pending Litigation (Ron Fenn) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7) and Limited Personnel Matters (City Manager) Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2). Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hechler reconvened the meeting in open session at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Fahl certified that only matters pertaining to Threatened & Pending Litigation (Ron Fenn) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7) and Limited Personnel Matters (City Manager) Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2) were discussed in Executive Session and no action was taken in executive session.

F. RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION; ACTION (if any)

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

No action was taken.

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

No action was taken.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

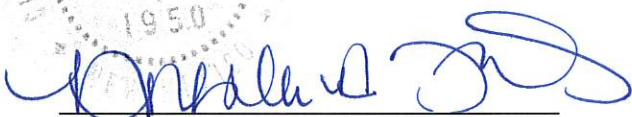
Mayor Hechler adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Passed and Approved this 17th day of December, 2025.



Rolf Hechler, Mayor

ATTEST:



Angela A. Torres, CMC, City Clerk