CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Regular meeting of the Public Utility Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico to be held in the City Commission Chambers, 405 W. Third, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 3:30 pm.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL:

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

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
   a. Regular meeting of March 16, 2026.

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

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**
   a. Discussion/Action: Consideration of changing board meetings to a quarterly schedule.

5. **REPORTS FROM THE BOARD**

6. **REPORTS FROM STAFF**

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Regular meeting of the Public Utility Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico to be held in the City Commission Chambers, 405 W. Third, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, on Monday, March 16, 2026 at 3:30 pm.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dornbusch.

ROLL CALL:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Gary Whitehead, City Manager
Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager
Katy Martinez, Deputy Clerk
Bo Easly, Electric Department Head
Jamie Foreman, Water/Wastewater Interim Supervisor

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**:
    a. **Regular meeting of January 20, 2026.**

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

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

There were no comments from the public.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**
    a. **Discussion/Update: City Projects.**

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: I would like to highlight a couple of items. If you look at page 2 where the totals are at. Your blue-colored totals of 54 million is what we have received in grants so far. 3.4 million is our cash match. 10.7 million is loan requirement. So far today in funding or in progress whether it be plan, design or actual construction that we are doing we have $68,521,00.00 worth of projects going on. I separated those out for you on the left-hand side. It's going to tell you which department they go to and on the far right it's going to tell you the status they are in. Keep in mind that this was updated mainly in February. I did update a couple of items that you will see highlighted in yellow on the department side. The status updates were February 5th so we might have moved a little bit further on. We have quite a bit of water and wastewater, we have some streets, parks, and animal shelter. The green column the AIPP allocation that is a required Art in Public Places allocation that comes in through our Capital Appropriation. They designate how much of our funding has to go towards art in public places and that is a very specific program that we go through. We don't get to just purchase our local art, it's done down at the state level. We have provided all of our local artist through MainStreet the information on how they could potentially get their art in the state funding. The third page the first section, is recently completed projects. Over the last 2 years we have completed a total of 17 million dollars worth of projects there again they are broken down by department and what the project is. The next section is the pending or future applications. Those are applications that are currently in process or in cycle that we are applying for. I have done a couple of updates on those. The electric department was applying for a secondary electric car charging station for the last cycle. It didn't make the funding cycle. We think its probably because we are in process with the current electric car charging station so they probably want us to get one completed before they fund the next one so I think they are going to reach out in the next cycle. We recently submitted an electric application to Colonias for 12 million dollars. That one bounced back to us. By Colonias they said it was not an applicable application that electrical didn't fall in the infrastructure. But there are some questions about that so I know our local COG Jay Armijo reached out to get some application information. I think he is going to go back to Colonias so it may or may not be considered if not this cycle maybe in the future. Street department the 3 highlighted we just completed those applications last week for various street projects. Those are recently updated that's why they are highlighted. We came up with the scope of work and funding request for the different DOT projects that just came online. The last page is a list of projects that the city is the fiscal agent on so the MainStreet funding they have 4 allocations that are covering the Foch Street project. The last section is for the Senior Center we over see the funding for that and I over all of the grant applications, submissions for reimbursement and purchase. I will let you guys review the document if you have any questions I can answer them today. If you have questions afterwards and you want to reach out about any of the projects I am happy to give you any information as well. It does sound like on the future and pending applications there is some that say 2026 legislative session it does sound like we are getting some funding on the Lee Bell Johnson Center, Clancy lift station, and Marie Street. Jo, Gary and myself where working today on submitting some of our delegation funds that the senators have reached out to. We are submitting some big request on the water and wastewater side of things.

Chairman Dornbush: Is the 8th street water project finished?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: No. They have to go through and they will lay all of the line first. Once they get this line laid, they will go back and do the connections to it.

Chairman Dornbush: I was just curious to where that project was at.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: They are moving fast. This is the first time we have worked with J&H contractors. They are great contractors. They are moving really quick. They send us weekly updates. We have biweekly meetings with them to see where they are at and what their next step is so we can potentially get out and notify all of the residents in the area. Jamie has been working really close with our public information officer and they have done public notices that I believe they hand delivered to make sure anyone that is directly effected and plus of course our public information officer is keeping everything updated. One of the biggest hurdles we had on both the Foch Street and J&H was the public that wanted to go around the barriers and the cones. We had our contractors on both areas put up a little bit of extra barriers, better closures and asked for extra police to patrol the areas. It seems to have slowed down considerably.

Chairman Dornbusch: Do you have a date of completion for Foch Street?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: They seem to be going on schedule. We thought we were going to have a little delay because of some of the gas lines that lay in there. It looks like the gas company has figured out a way to potentially get in and out, I think the week of the 23rd. It shouldn't slow the project down, so we are still hopeful for the end of April and before Fiesta. For the Cantrel Dam, we just had our meeting with the engineering firm today as kind of a project kick-off, so we are going to start getting that schedule of when they will start the construction. First, they will have to go out to bid, but we will get our project schedule and bid documents and then we will go into construction.

Member Avelar: Hopefully they get it done before they turn the water on. If not, that is going to be a mess.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Which project?

Membre Avelar: Foch.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: I think they've got the whole street torn up and pretty well graded, so we were watching that. We did take that into consideration because we had a nightmare there on McAdoo Street. It is something that we put in contingency for some dewatering just in case. But fingers crossed they have not hit anything so far. They are finishing up the sidewalks and then we should be moving into the street portion. I don't know if it will be before they turn water on, but maybe before it gets to that level.

Member Avelar: You have been there long enough you know what happens down there.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Yes, I was here when they were doing the Healing Waters Plaza and the backhoe sunk. They had to get a hold of Bartoo and theirs got stuck so they had to get a hold of a 3rd one out.

Member Avelar: Do we have all the funding in place for the Clancy Street lift station project?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Not all of it, no. That's one where it sounds like we are going to get funding from Vasquez office at this legislative session, but I don't recall the amount. We haven't received anything in writing, it's just information that was provided and discussed with the City Manager, Mayor, and the commissioners when they were up there. It sounds like they are pushing the funding. Hopefully, it will be for the full amount, it's pretty close. Construction costs are going down a little bit also. We just did our bid opening for CDBG, we had quite a few bidders, I want to say we had 12. Bids came in between 470 and 700 and something. We had a really big range for the CBDG water meter. Of course, they start with the lowest because CBDG mandates they go with the lowest bid. So, they are reviewing to make sure everybody has all their documents and they are completely responsive. We should hopefully be awarding that one, possibly at the next commission meeting. If not, it will be the first meeting in April.

Chairman Dornbusch: Is that going to be city-wide?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: It's approximately 900 water meters for that project. Keep in mind that for every one of these water projects, it's written in to replace those meters at the same time. CBDG is just the water meters and appurtenances that go with it, and it's going to be approximately 900 meters that we'll replace. Every water line that's funded that's going in, like WSPI-1 and WSPI-2, any of those that have meters associated will also get meter replacement. We might temporarily put in our old meters while we are waiting to receive meters. If we where to order 3,000 meters right now, we would be looking at about a 52-week delay. It looks like we are working in smaller chunks and we might get them a little bit sooner. We weren't expecting such a long wait time on meters. I just recently submitted an application and we are waiting to hear back for solar panels. Those solar panels would be to put a canopy cover over the area that would be gated for our new police department. Also cover canopy parking with solar panels where the employees and customers would park on the McAdoo side, and a canopy covered parking area from where the electric vehicle charging station will be, towards the annex building.

Member Avelar: I see a request for a million dollars for a sub station transformer. Is that what they cost now?

Bo Easley Electric Department Head: Yes sir.

Member Avelar: Double pricing in 15 years.

Bo Easley Electric Department Head: Everything is going up. I was talking to Chuck the other day and he said lead time for a substation transformer is 3 years. We will probably go with a twin sister of the transformer that we got, if we get the money it's cheaper.

Member Avelar: You can find one?

Bo Easley Electric Department Head: Yes.

5. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD:

No Reports from the Board

6. REPORTS FROM STAFF:

Bo Easly, Electric Department Head: The electric car charging station; they are finalizing the engineering drawings as we speak. It should start groundbreaking in 2 weeks. The charger should be here the first week of April so you should start to see some progress around that area. The substation; we had Asplundh here 2 or 3 weeks ago, they did the testing on the north and south substation transformers. They also updated the high-side relays. The old relays that had the 3 up on top and the one on the bottom, those are all gone. They are just test ports and it has one big relay there now. We got rid of all the old relays. Loves Truck Stop; the phase line is completed, the transformer has been set and we are just waiting on the electrician to run the secondary wire. I talked to them today and it came in today so they should be starting that on Tuesday or Wednesday, and on Thursday or Friday we can start making connections on the secondary side of the transformer. Then we will wait for them to pull their permit and we will fire it up. It's been reconducted to 2 OPP all the way from Johnny B's where it goes across the street to Denny's and then all the way up to Love's Truck Stop 3 phase and then new conductor 2 OPP instead of the number 4. We did some work on Foch Street. We replaced a couple of old poles.

Member Avelar: Are we in good shape with solar system right now?

Bo Easly, Electric Department Head: Everything is running good out there right now. It's still feeding south Broadway and Williamsburg circuit.

Member Avelar: What size the transformer did you wind up putting up there at the new station?

Bo Easly, Electric Department Head: The Love's Truck Stop is 750. It's all electric because there is no gas up there. Talking with the contractor up there today he is shooting for loves to be open around May 17th.

Member Avelar: Is there going to be another business up there?

Bo Easly, Electric Department Head: I have heard of Allsup's coming in but I haven't seen anything more on it.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: They emailed me.

Bo Easly, Electric Department Head: As you cross the bridge and you want to turn left to go to Las Cruces, going south on the right they are possibly going to build an Allsup's right there. When you turn and go into Love's all the dirt that they removed to build loves they leveled out that property for the owner so that is going to be prime time land for something else to come in.

Member Avelar: That's good. You have enough conductor up there for whatever you need to do.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Sewer is all the way through there now. They are increasing our water line. They will also be repaving that road.

Chairman Dornbusch: Which road?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: From the DOT right away to the Love's area. They have to increase the depth and make it heavy enough to handle trucks.

Member Avelar: Are you remotely reading all the electric meters in the city right now?

Bo Easly, Electric Department Head: Yes, there are probably about 8 meters that we have to go out and read because the customer didn't want the AMI meter other than that all the meters are being read from the utility office.

Member Avelar: Do you guys have a lot of re-reads?

Bo Easly, Electric Department Head: No, I think we average 8 a week.

Member Avelar: That's good.

Bo Easly, Electric Department Head: Compared to the old days that's very good.

Jamie Foreman, Water/Wastewater Interim Supervisor: We have about 10 water leaks in town. We have a project on Cherry Lane installing a new main line. All the services will be new as well. We are going to be working on Hagen Street for the wastewater. We are going to install a new vacuum line up there. We are hoping to get some of the pressure issues with the vac station fixed in that area. We have all the water projects going on. Right now, my crew is out today assisting J&H with some valve closures to test to make sure they can do their tie ins starting tomorrow. Wastewater Treatment Plant we got NMED was down in January he had some questions so we have been working through all of his questions that

he has had for us. Nothing significant he is just having questions on the test results. All of our test results for the plant have come back within regulations.

Vice-Chairman Armijo: How are you on personal?

Jamie Foreman, Water/Wastewater Interim Supervisor: I have one opening currently. However, that opening was offered last week I believe he went for his background and stuff today. If he passes all of that I will be fully staffed.

Member Avelar: Do our potable water levels look pretty good in our wells?

Jamie Foreman, Water/Wastewater Interim Supervisor: Yes, I do have 2 wells currently offline. I have well 6 and well 2 offline. Well 2 is being rehabbed fully, during the sanitary survey late last year, we found that it needed rehab of what we have done to it, that one is currently under. The construction on it is scheduled to be finished by the end of the month and then we have to go through the NMED process to get it to come back online. Well 6, we had the failure in November with the pump. We put a new pump in and it was still triggering that it had a pressure failure. What is happening is when the pump turns off, there is essentially a water hammer that is coming back and hitting the mercury switch on the top of the pump. Through the Shovel Ready Project, we are going to put a new VFD in there to help regulate that pressure coming back and triggering that switch. As soon as those are done then all of our wells will be up and running. I do have SCADA going in on well 8. He's finishing that up so at all my wells will be on SCADA so we can monitor them more closely.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Keep an eye out for public announcement. Looks like we are going to be doing kind of like a spring clean up day. Not like we have done before where we open up the collection center for anybody and everybody. There will be a couple of specified days they are just finalizing it. It will be for city residents only. They will need to bring their utility bill in and then we will do a collaboration day with the Sierra County because they are doing one as well. We will have some dumpsters and they will have some roll offs at the fair barn. It's going right around earth day. We will be advertising that here soon. It will be limited to, I think, one trip, or not to exceed a ton.

Chairman Dornbusch: That sounds great. Keep it out of the arroyos.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Yes, and try to keep it manageable for our solid waste department as well.

Member Avelar: Are they going to take tires also?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: I believe so. Not on the day we collaborate with the County. We are still working out all the details, but the county will bring in some roll-offs. I don't know what the County will be taking. The city will just have some dumpsters there and take bag trash only. On the other days that we are opening the collection center, I think it will be a Friday, Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday. There will be 4 days that you can take your trash, one time up to 2,000 pounds, as long as you have your city utility bill showing residence. Then I think you can take anything the collection center normally takes just not to exceed the 2,000. If it's over, you may be paying some of the difference. Then looking at a potential voucher program moving forward to assist with our code enforcement where maybe they go through 1 or 2 violation letter step and if somebody comes back and says that they can't afford it, we could potentially give them a voucher to go for a half ton or a ton where they can empty it free. They are going to have to do their own cleaning or find somebody that will take it to the collection center, but maybe that will help with some clean up as well. Keep an eye out, maybe in your utility bill, you might get something. It will be on the city Facebook page and our city website. I don't know if the dump days will make the utility billing because we are hitting that cycle where we wouldn't get it out to everybody but we definitely will get it out there through social media.

Member Avelar: Will it be in the local paper?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Yes we will definitely put it in the paper.

Chairman Dornbusch: It will be a good turnout.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Hopefully spread over 4 days it won't be quite as horrific as a single day. We won't have people lined up at 6 o'clock in the morning all the way down past the fair barns.

7. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Vice-Chairman Armijo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Avelar seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 15th DAY OF May 2026.

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Jeff Dornbusch, Vice-Chairman