

**CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3RD St.
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025**

OPENING CEREMONIES:

**A. ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE BY THE HONORABLE
MAGISTRATE JUDGE GEORGE LEE. COMMISSIONER TERMS WILL
BEGIN JANUARY 1, 2026:**

Honorable Magistrate Judge George Lee administered the Oath of Office to newly elected officials Destiny Mitchell and Chaz Glines.

B. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rolf Hechler at 9:10 a.m., who presided and Angela A. Torres, City Clerk-Treasurer, acted as Secretary of the meeting.

C. INTRODUCTION:

1. ROLL CALL:

Upon calling the roll, the following Commissioners were reported present.

Hon. Rolf Hechler, Mayor
Hon. Amanda Forrister, Mayor Pro-Tem
Hon. Destiny Mitchell, Commissioner
Hon. Merry Jo Fahl, Commissioner was absent
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, Chief Financial Officer
Luis Tavizon, Chief of Police

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. Commissioner Mitchell requested for the community to keep in their thoughts & prayers Dave Velzy who passed away in the Cortez explosion last week.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve the agenda with the change of moving item I3 to Executive Session. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Rubin: I just want to mention, for the minutes, there is a legal basis allowed to do what we just did. As long as you have something listed on the agenda, we can move it to closed session, as long as it is within one of the exceptions within the statute.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: Thank you for the clarification.

D. PUBLIC HEARINGS (5 Minute Rule Applies)

- 1. Public Hearing/Discussion/Action: Publication and Final Adoption or Possible Publication of Ordinance No. 771 amending Chapter 3 of the Municipal Code of Ordinances pertaining to animals.**

City Manager Whitehead: Congratulations to our new elected officials. As you know from August, we have started the process to make some amendments and changes to the Animal Ordinance. We've conducted two public meetings and two public hearings. At the last public hearing, we had the draft document ready, that's what we published, which is what I have here in my hand, the document that was presented. During the last public hearing, we received some additional feedback from Commissioners, primarily pertaining to livestock and how the ordinance was to interact with the livestock and the livestock community. So what we've done, Tyler has prepared some changes to the ordinance that would soften the way that we would interact with potential livestock running at large. We also softened the ability for those citizens who wish to rehome animals. We have changed it from selling animals to potential ability to rehome. What you have in front of you today are a couple of options. You could have a public hearing on the document the way it was presented at the last meeting and take action on that today. Our recommendation would be that we republish the ordinance for another 30 days (15 days is the requirement) and we take some time to review the changes. Unfortunately, Tyler is in training this week and couldn't be here to address and have the conversation. We would go take a look at the changes made on those two

provisions, and then add them to the ordinance, if that's what the Commission so chose to do. Your public hearing today could be to hear it on the ordinance we have, take action, or republish for another 30 days and allow us to review these changes. I would also add that Tyler has reached out to the New Mexico Livestock Bureau for clarification on some of those rules, because we're citing state law, and how it interacts with livestock, because it is different. We are waiting for some clarification, so we would have some additional information. So our recommendation is that we look at these changes and we republish.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: I would like to wait, get our updated information, and republish with the new changes that were recommended at our workshop.

Mayor Hechler opened the public hearing.

Opponents:

Patrick Oliver: I've been a resident of Truth or Consequences since 2020. On December 12th, 2025, the Sierra County Sentinel published an article in which they summarized the animal control meeting that you had held. In that article, it is quoted, "Mayor Pro-Tem Amanda Forrister raised concerns about individuals being ticketed for livestock escaping, using the county fair as an example. Knull assured her that all animal control offenses were classified as civil violations." In New Mexico, a civil violation, a code violation, involves breaking local or state rules on property, building, zoning, health, and environmental issues. That includes animal control. Remedies for that are usually a fine, a ticket. Habitual offenders are generally charged with a misdemeanor. That's the way it's supposed to work. I turn your attention to the City of Truth or Consequences vs. Kristen E Littman, case number M-51-MR-202400528. On January 13th, we were in the car on the way to open heart surgery in Albuquerque when we had to go through an arraignment where her rights were read to her over a dog that was in our parking lot. First offense. The offense written on the charge here, City of Truth or Consequences Code Violation 392, first offense, chapters 3-16 all sections. If you want to review the citation, sir, that number is 03052. If I seem a little shaky right now, it's because I'm quite upset about this. There are two rules here, there are the rules for you, Mrs. Forrister, and your friends, and then there are the rules for us, and they're different, and they're enforced differently. What I'd like to see a change on is that you all actually follow the way that it's supposed to be done. First two offenses, you get a fine. Not a criminal record. Have the judge not intervened, my wife, who has never had a ticket in 40 years, would have a criminal record. A misdemeanor. It still comes up on a background check. What I'd like to see with this animal ordinance, sir, is I'd like to see one set of rules. Not two. I'd like to see one community, not two. Thank you for your time.

Proponents:

Alice Hutchins: I was able to sit in on one of the meetings earlier, and I just want to say that this is so well done. The amount of time and energy that has gone into really

formatting this so it meets the needs of our community is quite remarkable, so I just want to commend the Commission and Tyler, in particular. Thank you.

Mayor Hechler closed the public hearing.

City Attorney Rubin: And I will say, the legal advantage to having a public hearing like this is because after publication, if we decide not to adopt the changes, and we come back to what we have, we've already had the public hearing, so you've gotten through that hurdle, so it was good to do that.

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to publish the Version of Exhibit B of Ordinance No. 771 and keep up public comment for the next 30 days at which time we will incorporate any changes and go out for final publication. Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 Minute Rule Applies):

Mayor Hechler: Thank you all for being here, we know you care about our community, or else you wouldn't be here. And we're all passionate about certain things. Some of us are on one side, and some are on the other, I understand that. Let me read my statement here and hopefully it will provide some clarification, and then we will move on to public comment. A friend texted me last evening, and had concerns regarding the resolution cooperating with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. As he stated, "At best, people don't see the need since we already cooperate with these agencies, but others are suspicious of the timing and real intent. I think this needs to be explained." I agree, we owe an explanation. Before we start, though, I want to say that I have worked side by side with Commissioner Fahl for the past four years, and have found her to be professional, dedicated, and always working to better our community. There is no hidden agenda here. I don't believe it has anything to do with ICE or immigration. Personally, I have been in law enforcement myself for over 40 years, have family in law enforcement, and I want to fully support them as they go out and work in this dangerous profession. We'll have some options. The point is, we can pull the item from the agenda knowing that we support all law enforcement in our community, and trusting our chief and officers to act in the best interest of our community, as they always have, we have had no issues to date. Does it appear we don't support this resolution? Does it appear if we don't support this resolution, that we're not supporting law enforcement? I don't want to be perceived as the Commission that does that. We support our law enforcement, who should be measured and fair, empathetic, and cognizant of our community needs. If we support this resolution, please don't read into it. It's not a hidden attempt to call in feds for an ICE raid. There is way too much negativity in the news today which divides our citizens and their perspectives. We trust our chief and our officers, they have given us no reason to think otherwise. I was also going to have Commissioner Fahl explain why she wanted to put this item on the agenda. I had a discussion with her this morning, last night her husband had gallbladder

surgery, he is in recovery, she called me this morning and she's travelling back there. She said she doesn't want to be perceived as being afraid to meet the public for what she stand for or what she wants to do. I said I don't think we'll do that because we know what your history is and what you've done for our community. She also said she doesn't want to be divisive in our community, and she wants us to come together. I know she has family in law enforcement and that she's concerned about that, and she wants to support her family in law enforcement. I don't believe she has any nefarious or hidden agenda here, from what I know about Merry Jo and how long I've known her, and I think the rest of our Commission would agree with that. I wanted to say that to everybody so that you understand. We will be open to your comments, and then when we get down to the actual action item, we will make a decision and our Commission will have to make that decision. Sometimes things are best left alone, and we don't want to be divisive in our community if we can help it, because I don't want to pair people against people. We all have to live, as I said one time, under one big, beautiful sky, and we have to get along. We want to do that as best we can. With that, I hope that when you come up, you can provide your comments, let's be professional in the way we interact, and we'd love to hear what you have to say.

Alice Hutchins addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I'm a resident of Truth or Consequences. One of the challenges in a small, tight-knit community is to disagree without being disagreeable, as Merry Jo and I agreed yesterday in a text exchange. I hope to thread that needle today.
- Resolution 31 25/26 sounds great, lots of positive buzzwords like "justice, safety, security, professionalism" I feel very safe in this community. My sense of justice has never been violated, every encounter with law enforcement has been friendly and professional. Is there some sort of problem I am not aware of that requires a resolution of this type? Is there a breach of trust and cooperation with the state and federal government that local law enforcement is struggling to overcome? Or has national politics raised its ugly head in the divisive debate about ICE, it's validity, constitutionality, and morality, under the current administration, and is being unnecessarily plunked down right here on T or C's doorstep?
- This resolution is vague, it does not define federal law enforcement. If ICE is the focus, let's have an honest discussion about that as a community. I think we can agree that public safety depends on trust. With ICE's documented civil rights concerns, any implied endorsement is concerning. For example, I quote from the resolution itself, "The importance of continued and robust cooperation with our federal, state, and local law enforcement partners," and, "to recognize and support collaborative efforts" what, exactly, is robust cooperation? And what are collaborative efforts? We could assume the best from this language, or we could assume the worst. Room for assumption has no place in a legal document, which is what a resolution is. Assuming the worst, when people fear the detention and/or deportation of friends and family, trust disappears.
- When local law enforcement is seen as complicit in the actions of a federal agency under the cloud of so much documented abuse, trust disappears. When trust disappears, we are all at risk. A safe community becomes less safe. I believe there is no need for this resolution. There is no identified crisis, and if

there is, please let us, as a community, know, so we can work together with local law enforcement for a community-supported solution. I respectfully ask this Commission to delay or suspend a vote on this resolution until the long-term effects of it on our community can be assessed.

- And, to Merry Jo, thank you so much for your service to this community, you are going to be greatly missed.

Ariel Dougherty was not able to be here today, but I have her written comments I will leave here. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

Jenn Clemente addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I'm a resident here in T or C and I came here because it's safe, especially for a woman. Also because I've never felt so included and I see the potential of tourism in this town, welcoming people of all stripes.
- I want to begin by expressing my deep respect for our local law enforcement officers, they know this community, they love here, they work within the law to keep us safe, and this comment is not about them. My concern is with the wording of this resolution, it broadly pledges cooperation with federal law enforcement agencies without defining which agencies are included or what cooperation means. That ambiguity really matters. In practice, this language can be interpreted as support for ICE operations within our city. As we know, they've been present around New Mexico, the Navajo lands, and in Hatch. If that is not the intent, then the resolution should clearly say so, like really clearly say so. If that is the intent, then the public deserves an honest conversation about the consequences. No pun intended.
- ICE has a documented history of civil rights violations, racial profiling, and detentions without due process. Associating our city with that agency risks undermining trust, reducing crime reporting, and making our community less safe, especially for mixed-status families, vulnerable residents, and those who are seeking permanent residency naturalization.
- New Mexico has been deliberate about limiting local involvement in federal immigration enforcement. This resolution risks contradicting that intent without any clear public safety benefits. I respectfully ask the Commission to delay this vote, or amend the resolution to explicitly exclude immigration enforcement agencies. Our community deserves that, and policies that strengthen public trust. Thank you.

Alisha Adams addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I'm a citizen of Truth or Consequences. I stand before you as a concerned citizen. I have great respect for our local law enforcement, I have never had a bad experience with them. They are involved in our community beyond enforcing laws, and I admire and respect that. My concern today involves Resolution 31 25/26 regarding the cooperation of local, state, federal law enforcement agencies. While I do understand the importance of these agencies cooperating to protect our community, I am concerned that if this resolution passes as it is, we

- are opening the door to ICE to come into our community and we don't want that to happen.
- In communities that have chosen to cooperate and work with ICE operations, it has had a devastating impact on families, schools, safety, and the economy. In communities that have had ICE present, they have seen a 22-36% decline in school attendance and enrollment. With a disproportionate impact on the youngest students, K-5, due to parents fearing family separation. 51.7% of students in Truth or Consequences school district are Hispanic or Latino. Do we really want to see such a drop in our schools? All of our students would be negatively impacted by this. These communities have seen an erosion of public safety and trust. ICE's excessive enforcement tactics, violence, and lack of concern for citizens or due process has created an environment of fear. Fear that causes residents, including US citizens, to not call our police or first responders for help, to report crimes, or seek medical care, thereby undermining overall community safety. We have one of the safest communities I have ever lived in, and I do not want that to change, I love living here.
 - There is an economic cost to inviting ICE into our community as well. As ICE targets people based on racial profiling, perceived ethnicity, or language spoken, their actions create further community anxiety that is already proven in other communities to indirectly harm the tourism economy by disrupting labor, deterring customers, and making communities less accessible or appealing to visitors. When people are afraid to leave their homes, send their children to school, go to work, or shop at our businesses, we all will feel the effect of this.
 - In conclusion, Commissioners, I respectfully ask you to delay this vote or amend this resolution to explicitly exclude immigration enforcement agencies. Thank you.

Joseph Lavalley addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I reside here in Truth or Consequences. I wish to address Ms. Merry Jo, I'm sorry for her absence, I hope her husband is feeling better, and I want to thank her for her service. It is unfortunate that she's not here to further explain this resolution. It seems as a veiled invitation to ICE. The previous speakers all mentioned ICE, and that's what everybody is concerned about. We wish not to have ICE in our community, as stated before, it's nothing but a divisive force. We want our police to make sure that police enforcement is done by the book, by the spirit of the law, by the letter of the law, and if not, we want our police here to arrest ICE. We don't want to see unlawful police actions.
- To give you a little bit about my background, I've been in the police family my whole life. My son was a policeman, killed in the line of duty. My brother-in-law is a policeman. My nephew is a policeman. My father was a chief. So I've lived and grown up in a police environment. They don't want ICE here, doing things that we've all seen on television, heard about in newspapers, heard on the internet. This is an unnecessary resolution because the police here will gladly cooperate with legal actions. So there's no need to pass a resolution enforcing it. We want police and law enforcement that follow the rules for police, and it appears that ICE is not following them. They show up with masks on their faces, many

covering any kind of a badge, just grabbing people off the streets, tackling them, anybody that looks Hispanic, they tackle, they detain, and when they find that they're not illegal, that they have every legal right to be here, they're very slow to release them. I encourage the committee not to delay a vote, but to vote against this resolution. Thank you for your time.

Alina Lavalley addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I moved here with my husband Joe from Florida, we live in Truth or Consequences, just barely. Another block away, and we wouldn't be. We moved here because in Florida, my rights were taken away. I'm a transgender woman. I've completely transitioned. Medically, physically, emotionally. My healthcare was taken away from me, I was told I had to use a men's bathroom. Before that law took effect, we camped here, Caballo, and got a home, and moved here because I was protected. I'm afraid ICE is going to come after me because I'm the enemy within, don't you know? What we want for our police is to be arresting ICE agents that are breaking the law. The police are to protect and to serve. We want them to serve the people of Truth or Consequences, not ICE, not the federal government, but us. We pay the taxes, we want the protection from them. I have no problem if they have an actual warrant, to come and collect people and imprison them, but I'm afraid they're going to come for me and put me in a concentration camp.
- My husband's son gave his life for the police, so we respect the police, but we want the police working for the people of Truth or Consequences, not ICE. We don't want a nasty name. Right now, the ICE agents are being called Gestapo. You don't want that nickname associated with your police department because they're helping them, because that nickname will never go away.
- ICE is unlawful, and they need to be held accountable for the crimes that they are committing. I would hope that this council votes no. Thank you.

Gordon Edelheit addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- It's really been a good year for the city. Things are turning well. With MainStreet, with lots of things. You've heard the true facts, what ICE does. It's not about acts of loving kindness, it's not about brotherhood, it's about fear and deception. I just spent five months in Portland, Oregon. I know what it's about with people hiding. Right now, what we have is alternatives. The first thing is, our city needs our tourism. We don't need this, this is not something that's positive whatsoever. The second thing, we need that focus from our mayor and from our Commissioners to look at the focus that you're supposed to be working on. This, we supported our police, they have a brand new facility, the police are doing a wonderful job, the record will show that, we are at a point where this is very harmful from an image standpoint, but more importantly, from your own karma. To think that a town this size has to have a resolution on the books, it's a little bit evil in my estimation. So, you know, yes, I am vehemently opposed to this, but an alternative is what the governor did with the national guard. They went to Espinosa and they picked up garbage, and they did things. They didn't do what most people think, which takes their time, our budgeted police department, off the streets, to do things that

is ridiculous, and I hope that everybody sitting right there feels that yes, a no vote says one thing like you said, as you wrote, as you read, Rolf, but the reality is, we should stand up to this, and we should say, "Not in our town." Thank you very much, happy holidays and happy New Year.

Rick Dumiak addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- 705 Charles, T or C. This resolution, I came from the middle of work, to be honest with you, it's gotten so crazy. We don't need this, we cooperate with police now, the police cooperate with federal agencies, everyone's doing their job, it seems to be. Everything seems to be great. Why put this on the books? There's no need for it, it's simply making more division in our community. Our nation is so divided right now, this is insane. I'm a child of the 60's, I went through the whole Vietnam issue, we've never seen anything like what's going on right now. Please table this thing or vote no on it, don't pass it. We don't need it, we don't need more division, if it's not broke, don't fix it. Thank you.

Colleen Palmer addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I'm a resident of Truth or Consequences. I'm here today to speak against Resolution 31 25/26. Thank you all for your service. I'm familiar with people giving their life to service. My father was a fighter pilot in World War II. My brother, a disabled vet from Vietnam. So I really honor our police force, and everyone that works to protect and hold our community. For me, this resolution is a matter of integrity. Our laws, our constitution, our amendments, are specific. That our town would look to put a resolution into law that is vague, and potentially dangerous, is a matter of integrity for each one of you. If something happens in this town, like we've seen happen with ICE, that's on each of you. I respectfully ask you to vote no on this resolution. Thank you.

Stacy Hay addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I live in Truth or Consequences. I just have a different perspective on this resolution. I don't agree with it, but I actually worked at a state prison in California for 26 years full-time. Part of that time, I was a peace officer for 10 years, and I was on the classification system. I witnessed – we already have policies in process, we already have systems set up, a justice system set up too. If somebody commits a crime, and it's a felony, they get charged, prosecuted, and sent to prison. Well, when this person has finished their time, and their sentence, if they are an immigrant, they get interviewed by ICE. ICE decides whether they're here legally or illegally, and if they're here illegally, then they get sent to an ICE detention center, and they get deported. This is already in process, this is part of our justice system. There is no reason why ICE should be here in our communities doing their illegal, unconstitutional, not following due process, so please, I beg of you, please, vote no on this resolution. Thank you.

Pat Swan addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I live in T or C. I, too, have had great relations with our police department and I feel like we already abide by the laws and the constitution. There are some

situations where we should be leaders and not followers. I feel that ICE has wrongly detained people, wrongly shipped people to countries they have no relation to, and have separated families. They have abused human rights when it comes to medical care and safety in a detention facilities. This is not something I want to be part of, or feel our city should be part of. This is not the American way. Your resolution might be for another reason, but we don't need to give the impression that we support the current mission of what's happening in Washington DC, so I, too, ask you to vote no. Thank you.

Laura Keck addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I live in T or C. I have the utmost respect for local police and first responders. This resolution pledges to support law enforcement agencies, however, it does not define federal law enforcement, so if ICE is not intended to be included, the resolution should explicitly say so. I respectfully ask the Commission to either delay this vote or amend the resolution to explicitly exclude immigration enforcement agencies. Thank you.

David Besag addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I'm a T or C resident. I agree with everything that's been said about this. We're already working with feds, state, local, and we don't need a resolution or a law saying that we have to do that. We're already doing that. This is just like a no-brainer, we don't need to do this at all. I respectfully ask you vote no. Thank you.

Christina Rhoades addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I live here in T or C, I've been a resident of Sierra County for almost nine years with my family. My husband and I grew up in a small town in Northern California, a little smaller than this, and it sounds like I'm in good company, here, because I do come from a law enforcement family, my dad was serving the Sheriff's department for over a decade in our little town, and after 21 years in the army. I've got aunts, uncles, and cousins that also are in law enforcement. I don't take the service lightly, of the people that serve and protect, and keep our community safe. That being said, I won't take up too much time because everybody's very busy and my fellow community members have made some excellent points and spoke very eloquently today. I just want to echo that I feel like this resolution is extremely vague, I think it's an open door to an agency that has had a history of abuse of power. I believe that if our community is in fear of contacting local law enforcement because of some perceived collaboration with an agency that doesn't even identify themselves in the community, I think we would be less safe. I would be more hesitant to call for help if I was in fear of my neighbors being kidnapped. So I just think it's really important that we are clear with our language when we propose resolutions like this. The most important thing is I just want to protect our community, I'm raising my daughter here, and I want to make sure that her, her friends, and their families feel safe. We know somebody personally that lives in our town, a family that has been affected by this, and I don't want to see it happen to anybody else. Thank you very much, I respectfully ask that you vote no on this resolution.

David Brown addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I'm from the suburbs over in Elephant Butte, and I'm heading to work. I wanted to say something really quick, in the swearing in ceremony, it did say something about upholding the constitution, and something in your texting with your friend last night, he said that we already do this, we already cooperate with state and federal forces, so it seems a little redundant. In light of some of the constitutional issues that are being brought up by ICE invading these – I know that's a strong word – invading these communities, I think it's a redundant policy, and it's unnecessary. I'd like to see us upholding the constitution, and if we're already cooperating with state and federal forces, I don't know why this is necessary for the books.

Isaac Montellano addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- The city of truth needs Zia solutions because New Yorker James Prendamano. Why would James Prendamano, a New York executive who's overseeing more than \$1 billion in transactional real estate and spent decades shaping large-scale urban redevelopment projects, turn his attention from the big city to Sierra County with a population of about 11,000 humans and a county seat who's police department cost \$470,000 to annually operate? "We wanted to shift out of the North East in a big way and we wanted to go somewhere that we could see ourselves retiring in. This community needed a heartbeat" Prendamano said, "It needed a place to assemble and socialize and start instilling a sense of pride back in." in PreReal's view, that place is Turtleback Mountain Golf & Resort, formerly Sierra Del Rio. Once a neglected golf course, the property is now the crown jewel of PreReal's New Mexico venture. Recreation wasn't the only draw for PreReal, Prendamano and his company were also betting big on industrial pollution factors after 15 years of permitting, Copper Flats Mine near Hillsboro is nearing operational status, with officials expecting it to open in 2-3 years, according to reporting by the Sierra County Sentinel. PreReal saw the mine as important with quantum computing and artificial intelligence on the rise, amidst a global shift to green energy. Copper is heavily used in renewable energy and infrastructure, which will be tested as AI technology increases strain on data centers and the energy grid. Activity at Spaceport America also played a role. Virgin Galactic, Spaceport America's largest tenant, paused commercial flights out of the launch facility from more than a year ago to work on it's new delta class rocket ships, which will be able to fly 8 times month instead of the usual once a month. The space flight company expects to resume flights in October 2026, but PreReal's investment in Sierra County isn't just for visitors. Prendamano said, "Working with the community to create developments they wanted to see was key as well. We were not interested in coming in and saying here's what we want to do, are you interested?" Prendamano said it was early conversations with local officials. PreReal first purchased houses that needed rehabbing, dilapidated motels, and some of the worst eyesores you can imagine, to show the community he was serious, Prendamano said. This rehabbing

process called rural gentrification may spur investment in new businesses, yet it egregiously destroys and nefariously alters local communities by straining resources, eroding cultural identity, and hampering hometown spirit. With the displacement of long-term residents to the rising costs. \$800 a month for a studio apartment. Beyond Turtleback, PreReal has also purchased the renovated Lakeway shopping center, which is almost fully occupied, pending negotiations with a potential tenant for the 30,000 square foot anchor space. Solving for the brain chain, providing hope, rising the tide, lifting all of the ships. "Me and the community come together and see the real potential realized, it's just fun stuff, and that's what it's all about for us at this point." Prendamano said. Do we, the people of truth, agree?

Wil Troup addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I live in Caballo. I'd like to echo a lot of the sentiment that's been stated here, although, I feel the idea that this is vague is frankly incorrect. It's not vague, we do not exist in a vacuum. These actions take place as the result of things that we've all seen on television, the media, etc. None of this is happening as a random ball thrown into the wilderness. The fourth amendment came to be because of writs of assistance, which is what this is. This is not a new document, nobody came up with this, this isn't clever or interesting. This is something that existed hundreds of years ago, we already did this. As a society, we've done this. The idea that we have to re-facilitate discussions about this at this level is embarrassing at best, and absolutely unacceptable for a civic body, there's no value to this. None. That's all I have to say.

Steven Green addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I've been a resident of T or C for 25 years. I've served on the Commission for 12 years as a Commissioner, a Mayor Pro-Tem, and a mayor. I believe this is the last meeting the way the Commission exists today. What's your legacy going to be? Do you want to look your neighbors in the eye? Of the people here, I have not heard one person speak for this resolution. That should tell you something. People feel so strongly, the people that you represent and serve, to give up their time to express their feelings. I didn't count the number of speakers, but I bet there's twice, thrice, and four/five times as many people who would come and speak. So, you have some choices. Like Mayor Montgomery, Mayor Mulcahy, Mayor Whitehead, Mayor Green. We listened to the public. That is our job. That is your job. Dump this resolution. If, somehow, in your hearts, you cannot vote no, then postpone it, have a public hearing, a town hall meeting, where more of your citizens that you represent will have an opportunity to speak. I don't have a crystal ball, but I bet you're going to have 50, 60, or 70 people speaking against this resolution. It does not serve any purpose at all. What is your legacy going to be? Thank you.

Kathleen Sloan addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I'm afraid if you vote yes or no on this resolution, it will make the position clear. If you vote no, the Tump administration is withholding federal funding to non-

cooperative communities. I would recommend that you somehow make the resolution disappear by forever.

Kamryn Rhoades addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I'm from T or C, New Mexico. I agree with everyone who's already spoken, they covered several things that I was going to say, but I just wanted to come up here and also show my support. A lot of people would probably assume that a 14 year old girl isn't going to care, let alone be educated about what's going on in our country and in our town, but I am and I'm very invested in it. I just wanted to come up and say please vote no on this. I am totally okay with police, I respect and feel safe with our law enforcement, that's why I feel like I can walk around downtown alone with my friends. But this is different. Like my mom said, we know someone who has been affected by ICE and I would like you guys to please vote no on this resolution.

Mark VonFange addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I've been a resident of T or C since 2017. I'd like to commend this young lady, I also was a 14-year old who took a class where we had a mock constitutional convention, and got the political bug from there on out, it never ended. I've been a student of the US constitution ever since. I've done lots of things, student congress in university, things like that, I've always been politically motivated and involved, and educated. So keep it up, keep that passion going, thank you.
- The main issue here I think is really the rule of law, and what we're seeing here in our country right now is kind of a question of violations of that. We're seeing the fifth amendment, where all persons in this country on our soil should receive due process. We've seen that basically ignored a lot of times, and what we're unfortunately seeing with a lot of these officers is they're having a hard time recruiting enough ICE officers to do it, they're throwing out \$50,000 bonuses, so what we're ending up with is untrained people who basically just sign on for the bonus, and they really have no constitutional understanding, or basically how LEO (law enforcement) is actually supposed to operate and treat citizens. I've seen videos of them ramming into people's cars and then dragging a legal assistant that was a US citizen out of their vehicle with no probable cause. I just want to echo everybody's sentiments, if it's not broke, don't fix it. If we're already cooperating with these forces, we should just continue doing that. I think tabling it is probably the least divisive step forward because I don't think we want to give the appearance that we aren't following the law as a community, because we are, but this just seems unnecessary and redundant, and if it's not broke, don't fix it, like somebody else here said today. Thank you.

Jessica Luther submitted her public comment via email. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

John Masterson submitted his public comment via email. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

Mayor Hechler: In closing, I'll just say a couple of things. I've learned a couple things today. One is that our police department has our support, and that they do a good job. Thank you, Chief. The other thing I've learned is that we have a very passionate citizen rink in our community. That's what makes our community what it is. Thank you for coming out this morning and telling us your views, sharing your opinions, and standing up for what you believe in. When we get down to that agenda item, we'll do the best that we can to make the right outcome come out. I can't speak for the Commission, but it's coming up on our agenda down the page a little bit, and we'll take care of it. With that, I want to thank you all for being here. I wish we'd get this crowd here every time. You know, we have a lot of good things going on with the community, a lot of important things are happening. But this was an important thing, too, and I'm glad that you folks were here. We heard from people today from 14-90, and everything in between, and it's gratifying to know you care so much for your community, so thanks again.

F. REPORTS:

City Manager Reports.

City Manager Whitehead reported the following:

- First thing, to our two newly elected officials – and I think our office has already made contact – there's a newly elected officials training provided by the municipal league that will be taking place January 13th and 14th. Newly elected officials will have two days of training provided by the New Mexico Municipal League and our Self-Insurer's Fund. Other Commissioners are welcome to attend, if you feel like you'd like to go do a re-train, please get with Jo in the office so that we can make travel arrangements. We will get Chaz signed up for that soon.
- I want to comment that last Friday, we held a staff training. I want to thank the Commission for providing the meal. We kept the employees through lunch, provided them a nice meal, we did some ethics training and some team building. I think those things are important. We had over 80 of our employees in the room, and I think the training was well-received. We also recognized the employees that have completed a year's worth of service, I think we had 17. We also acknowledged those employees that have been with us for 5 years, I think there were 9. And then there were over 17 that have served the city 10+ years. It was really nice, and we provided them a challenge coin to signify their service to the city. Hopefully we'll continue to do those kinds of programs to keep our employees unified.
- An update on water leaks: I have to keep talking about it, we're still behind. We're down to around 30 water leaks right now. We've identified several of those leaks that are what we would call really minor on water meters and those kinds of things, so I've worked with a contractor who's here today that will look at providing maybe 15 of those leaks and then coming up with a better program where we can deal with what we would call things that are connected to the water meter themselves, and then free up our crews to be able to deal with the main leaks in the road. Hopefully by the end of the year, we'll get organized, we

just keep continuing to strategize on ways to be more efficient, but again, we have one crew, and they can work somewhere between 2-4 leaks a day depending on the size, and more just pop up so we're trying to deal with that. I just want to continue to let you know that it's a focus, we understand that we're behind, and we'll continue to find ways to work through that.

- Today on your agenda, you've got a couple of items that you will vote for, for procurement above \$60,000. They are items that will be coming from our general obligation bond, so we're beginning to organize that work. But we had two other items; one is an \$8,000 investment into our SCADA. For those that don't remember, our SCADA system is how we communicate via the computer for our water and wastewater systems. Currently we have two wells only that are not on the SCADA system. So we will be using the bond money to invest \$8,000 and \$43,000 to get those so that our system will completely be on SCADA. We've talked about this for a while, but we're now ready to start executing the work orders. The other three items we'll go over when we get to it in the agenda, but Assistant City Manager Alvarez and I talked this morning, and we will come up with a better process where even if they're less than \$60,000 or \$20,000, because they go through a little bit of a different process, they're kind of a reimbursement the way the funding comes and our bond dollars, so we'll make sure that we get these on, and you as Commissioners have an opportunity to see that, because we really want to be transparent on how we're spending the bond dollars for the community.
- The last thing is to recognize Jocelyn, our Chief Financial Officer. She and her staff have been working diligently to get the audit. You guys might be aware that the audits are generally due December 15th. We have a change in that, and I'll let Jocelyn brief you on all the work that her and her staff have been doing to get us complete on the audit process.

City Manager Whitehead called on Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer, to review the audit process.

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: Traditionally, the audits are due by December 15th, but the state auditor offered an extension for communities, such as our municipality, that have the dual audit for the single audit for the federal funding, so our auditors opted for the extension date to have the two audits turned in on January 20th. We're almost right there, they're just asking for additional testing items, and then two items that are left on the original list. We're hoping to have a draft to review, and I asked them that if they had any potential items that they considered a possible audit finding, to reach out to me and I would take corrective action before it was considered an audit finding, to prevent it in the beginning stages, versus after. Basically, that's where we're at with our audit. Because of all of our federal USDA funds, we have a single audit, so we're in the extension. I stand for any questions.

City Manager Whitehead: I would just conclude, to remind the staff, this is the first year of our new audit. So you go through an audit for 8 years, you get pretty comfortable, you know what they're going to ask for, you know how to prepare it, and then you get a new

audit group and they're asking for some different things, so we've had some challenges finding those. Both Assistant Manager Alvarez and I will be locking ourselves in Thursday to complete some work that Jocelyn has asked us to support her on, on some items within the audit. So there are some challenges that come with a new audit firm, and we'll get that worked out. Our goal is to have it done timely, and the goal Jocelyn and I have set is to have an audit with zero findings. We know we may have some issues this year that we carried forward, but we're trending always to do that. I think that's why it's important that she's asking for any concerns they have now so we can deal with them straight away.

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: I would also just like to thank the staff because, as Gary mentioned, it is a different process, and they're not familiar with having to provide information, and everybody has been really helpful and provided information very quickly. I'm grateful for having a team like that, that care about its citizens and our reporting.

City Manager Whitehead called on Police Chief Tavizon to give his PD report.

Chief Tavizon: We've been busy, as you're aware, we've had quite a few events within the community. Old Fashioned Christmas, we had some parades, so just working with the community and ensuring that those are getting done. Preparing for the end of the year, making sure that all the mandatory training the state requires for our officers are met. There are monies given to the agencies that are contingent upon us completing those mandates, and we're diligently working to make sure that we get sure we get those fundings that help run the department. With that, I'll stand for any questions you may have.

City Manager Whitehead: Finally, I would just comment that this will be the last meeting where you won't have department heads present. Starting in January, we'll be bringing the department heads back like we did before, where you'll have five reports from each of them, and we'll start that process. We just abbreviated that for the Christmas break that we were having, so we'll be back to full reporting at the beginning of next year. With that, I'll stand for any questions.

City Commission Reports.

Commissioner Hoeppner reported the following:

- We are in the middle of the holiday season. Thank you to everybody who came out to support the small businesses in our community, and a special thank you to all the volunteers. Those events; Old Fashioned Christmas, Sing-A-Long, the Turtle Ascension, everything is based on volunteers and passionate people who want to make something special for the holidays.
- For me, personally, it is a hard time and I'm grateful that this community is coming together, that we are working together, and supporting each other. I'm happy that I can, since I'm here, create new memories in my life that are not negative like they were in the past.

- I'm just thankful this season. I'm very big on building community, and certain things come up that try to divide us. I believe what I see, that every time our community comes together and is standing up for what is right. I'm really hoping that we are working on everything. We are here, as a Commission, to represent you. I'm grateful that you are all here with me in this position to represent you. I will do my due diligence, and I also uphold the constitution and the constitution of New Mexico, as we heard in the swearing in. There are multiple elements, certain things are necessary and some things are not necessary, and can be divisive. I really hope that we can heal from those wounds and come back together to be one community. This community, that is sold on Old-Fashioned Christmas, can come together, and can live together and enjoy the holidays together. Community building is important, and there are many things happening in the near future, a lot of construction. Please understand that it has time delays included, when you are going to work, and adjust accordingly. But it is all to make our community better and more inviting for everyone, and not just a certain group here like some people think here that is the future of a certain group of people, but no, it is for everybody. This community is here for everybody. I'm very proud and glad that I'm part of this community.
- I would also like to say thank you to the Chief, he's doing a great job and dealing with problems, with what is happening in this town. I listen to the community, and I hear positive things. We are here to support him, and everything he does. How I stand, we are one. Thank you and I wish you, all a happy Holiday season. Enjoy your time with family, because you never know how long they will be part of our lives. Take care, so much is happening in this world, so please spend time with your loved ones and enjoy the time. Thank you very much.

Commissioner Mitchell reported the following:

- First of all, supporting our community, we had such a great turnout for Old-Fashioned Christmas, the Luminaria Walk, etc. Kudos to MainStreet for putting that on.
- A reminder for two events happening this Friday, one is First Families Christmas at the Sierra Del Rio Golf Course. They are bringing a semi truck full of food, clothes, toys, household goods, they're offering to feed everyone who shows up there a meal, it's a great way for them to give back to the community. On that same evening is the Holiday Sing-A-Long downtown on the plaza, which is the second annual event. There'll be fun times ahead.
- I also wanted to point out, for miss Kamryn, who came up to the podium and talked to us in a very eloquent and loquacious way. The first time I ever came to a Commission meeting, I was 14 years old, and I stood up there and complained to the city about our swimming pool and our swim team, and how we needed to do that. But it's just that opportunity, and you took it, and I'm very proud of you for that, so I wanted to commend you.
- I also wanted to thank Merry Jo for her service to this Commission for the past four years. It has been amazing serving alongside her again. I know that we're going to give her dedication in January, but I just wanted to say I appreciate her for her dam advocacy throughout the past four years, it is thanks to her that I

know so much about dams, going to the dam ownership conference. That was her passion, and I want to thank her for her attention to details, especially with the budget, her extensive work on our trails and watershed district, and her continued support of law enforcement has always come through true to her. I wanted to thank Merry o for her service, and I'm going to miss serving with her, but I'm glad I had that opportunity. Also, thank you all for re-electing me to the Commission.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister reported the following:

- For those of you that didn't attend the Christmas program last night at the Civic Center for the elementary school, you missed a show. A packed show, I'm pretty sure the fire chief should have come and shut it down because there were a lot of people, it was standing room only, it was really cool, and they didn't expect that many people because it was the first time that they had brought that back in the elementary. It was really cool, our community showed up and showed out. It was amazing to see that many people out there.
- Secondly, we heard some comment this morning about PreReal, and I am going to get on the same band wagon that Commissioner Mitchell just talked about, that the Sierra Community First Foundation is putting on a holiday giveaway on Friday from 12-2 at the golf course. They will have family activities, Santa, facepainting, holiday movies, they will feed anybody that shows up, they are looking for volunteers to help hand out toys, clothes, household essentials, etc. They are bringing a semi load of goods to give out to our community. They are also giving out \$10,000 in cash to needy families. I have a really hard time with the bashing of PreReal, the foundation is funded by PreReal, and they do a lot of good in our community. I just wanted to mention that, and I hope we don't jump on the bandwagon of calling T or C "Truth".
- Thirdly, Shop With A Cop. How many kids were there?

Chief Tavizon: Over 140.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: Yeah. So again, really good things that our police department is doing, so we appreciate that. Merry Christmas, happy holidays. See you in January.

Mayor Hechler reported the following:

- On December 6th, I chaired the Regional Transportation Planning Organization. We met in Williamsburg to evaluate several transportation projects having to do with enhancements, bus routes, and the acquisition of additional vehicles to increase ridership. Incidentally, ridership is up tremendously on all these routes. It's finally catching on, people are using the facilities, and it's great to see. T or C didn't have a specific project, but we supported Socorro and Dona Ana to enhance their abilities, which would also benefit us, so that was a good meeting.
- On December 12th, last Friday night, Old-Fashioned Christmas, tremendous event. If you went to Renfro Park, the lighting was great. It's a great community event, and I think we had about 400 people there. MainStreet has always done a wonderful job, thank you guys for that. I wanted to specifically thank OJ, Cesar,

John, and Phillip with Parks, as well as Bo with the Electric Department, Andy with Sanitation, and Buster with Streets, to make this event a tremendous success. It's an all-hands on deck event, the city did a wonderful job at putting this on, and I really appreciate their support in doing this. Merry Jo's not here, but she kind of said her farewells at that event, she brought her grandson up and he got to count down from 10 to 1 to light the lights, and he did a great job. I'm very proud of her in that respect. Destiny also had her golf cart and was leading the parade.

- I just want to say one more thing about Commissioner Fahl. She called me this morning and she was distressed because she couldn't be here. She and her husband had to postpone his surgery three times last night, he didn't get into the surgery until 8:30 last night, had his gallbladder removed, this is the fourth or fifth major internment that he's had in a hospital over the last year. It was complicated, he's lost over 100 pounds at one point in time, he took a downfall, and it's really been difficult for Merry Jo to adhere to her requirements at the Commission and then take care of her family at the same time, and this morning was no exception. She apologized, she wanted to be here, she wanted to represent for the law enforcement part of it and explain why she wanted this particular resolution presented. I know she had no nefarious reasons, I know she wanted to support law enforcement. We all understand what's going on with the community, and we'll act accordingly when we get an opportunity, but I wanted to recognize her for that. We will have her back sometime in January to give her an award and certificate for having served, and we certainly appreciate her service.
- The last thing I get to do is give some recognition this morning to a couple of ladies with MainStreet. That's Linda DeMarino and Becca Eza. Gary and I attended a MainStreet statewide program in Alamogordo in October, and it wasn't until now that we could all get together in one place, so I've waited until now to do this, but they were recognized for their accomplishments during the 40th anniversary of MainStreet. Linda, for making a significant impact on the MainStreet district, and Becca for your sign project with MainStreet. It's nice to get statewide recognition, all the great people who were there, the powers to be with MainStreet. MainStreet has really gone through a transition for me over the past two or three years. It was challenging when I first came on, we had some concerns, but whether my concerns were warranted or not, you guys listened, and you changed the organization for the betterment of our community, and you serve us well. I'm so proud to have you on board now as a group, you're doing a great job, congratulations on your Levitt Grant, and all the things that you do for our community. We're getting ready to start a project on Foch street, which has been coming for the last six or seven years, but you guys are firing on all cylinders, and doing a wonderful job. With that, I have some awards I'd like to present to you from the dais here, maybe have a little photo op, and thank you publicly for all the efforts that you've done.

Mayor Hechler presented Becca Eza and Linda DeMarino of MainStreet Truth or Consequences with awards of appreciation.

City Attorney Reports.

City Attorney Rubin reported the following:

- I am looking forward to working with everybody next year, and I have no further report.

City Manager Whitehead: I just wanted to add, also, I know you had Dave and his crew listed for Christmas, they take care of all the storage of everything, they get it out and organize it, so thank you to them. There are two projects happening downtown you'll see from our efforts. All the manholes on Date Street are being replaced, that project is set to be completed by the end of this week, we hope. That was a warranty issue, and our Streets Department have been on DOT to get that done. Also, you may or may not have noticed, but the speed limit signs have been changed throughout town, that was an early request by the Mayor and I, that we set the speed limits correctly. We have a 25 mph through the roundabouts, it changes to 35 mph, and as it gets to downtown, it's 25 mph, changes to 35 mph up the hill, and then 40 throughout. So all the speed limit signs have been replaced, and they should be consistent with how the speed should flow through town. We're excited about that, and hopefully that'll help our police department, then, solidify how they can post that. I see them out working in the roundabouts, and we appreciate that. Thank you.

G. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. **City Commission Regular Minutes, November 19, 2025**
2. **City Commission Regular Minutes, December 3, 2025**
3. **November 2025 Accounts Payable**
4. **Take Home Vehicle Forms: Police Department**
5. **Purchase report of items between \$20,000 and \$60,000**

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

H. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING:

1. **Discussion/Action: Resolution 28 25/26 Supporting the City of Elephant Butte's efforts to Annex the City of Elephant Butte's Wastewater Treatment Plant.**

City Manager Whitehead: In front of you today, you have a resolution in support of Elephant Butte. The City of Elephant Butte has requested that they be able to annex

where their wastewater treatment plant is. At some point, when the city proposed an annexation of land, which you could do, that's in the county, the boundaries extend past Cuchillo Creek in that bottom section. We've not surveyed it, so my numbers will be approximate, but there's probably 20 acres down there that would comprise some land that's within the development within the Turtleback Mountain Resort, which is, again, from the zoning perspective, would be under the Elephant Butte zoning rules, so now that particular area is under the City of T or C, but the primary issue is that their wastewater treatment plant is actually inside the city of Truth or Consequences. Attorney Rubin and I have met with staff at Elephant Butte to understand, and I'll paraphrase for the attorney, but we could not find in statute a law that says how you de-annex or how the process could happen if there was anything in law. So it would appear that Elephant Butte has some hurdles to overcome, there are some processes, we think there's a legislative path that would allow them to go forward, but really what we're saying here in this resolution is that we have no reason to think the action would be adverse to the city, there's one home in that area that could potentially could be zoned differently, otherwise there's nothing in the area. So what we would say is that we support their efforts, we'll allow them to develop a map, a strategy, a plan, and then they would be required to go forward to accomplish their annexation of our city in that particular area. With that, I stand for questions.

City Attorney Rubin: I think it's important to not that what's going on is the plant is actually owned by Elephant Butte, it just happens to be within our boundaries, that's the point. It's not like it's our land, they own it, it just happens to be within our boundaries.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: How did that happen that they built that plant in our zone, in our property?

City Attorney Rubin: That I don't know. I guess it happened some time ago, I don't know.

City Manager Whitehead: We didn't research the historical value. Let me also point out, we own a landfill that now is inside the city limits of Elephant Butte. It gets a little confusing because people say it has to follow the city rules, but it doesn't. It's just a piece of property that the City of Truth or Consequences owns within the boundaries of Elephant Butte. In this particular case, the City of Elephant Butte owns property inside the boundaries of the City of T or C.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: So, the building and the property belong to them, it's just inside our city.

City Manager Whitehead: It's within our city limits. So technically, as you read from the resolution, they have to comply with two jurisdictions. Their wastewater plant has to live with the City of T or C's rules, where the distribution system of their wastewater plant deals with the City of Elephant Butte. Likewise, with the development at Turtleback Mountain, they would have to comply within that particular zone, the City of T or C, and then everything else is through the City of Elephant Butte. This would allow them to

organize, get the private property owner in one jurisdiction, and get their plant in one jurisdiction.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: And then, with this letter of support, can we say we will write this letter of support and approve it, but we also want you to take some of our sewer customers?

City Manager Whitehead: Well if you read the resolution, we tried to be ahead of you, we tried to think of that, so in the resolution it says that our efforts are to continue to support and work through those issues because, again, as I've shared with the Commission, I think being able to deal with wastewater issues on the vac station, being able to move them there, is a possible solution to that problem, at a reasonable cost to our citizens, and a benefit to them. So, we included that in there, and then likewise, we also think that there's a possibility of partnering in solid waste where we could do two plants, similar to what we have, versus building one big plant. So, we've asked for that in the resolution, and I believe, Mayor, you might want to comment on your conversations with their mayor on this particular issue.

Mayor Hechler: I just wanted to keep the door open with their mayor, so that we can have discussions down the road, because we know that our transfer station is on the edge of maximizing itself, maximizing out, and there'll have to be some changes down the road, and if that's the case, it's a multimillion dollar situation for us. If we can extend the life of our transfer station because we have another transfer station that's close and able to take some of that refuse, it might be a benefit for both of our communities. We'll continue those discussions and hopefully we'll have something productive down the road in that regard.

City Attorney Rubin: When I was asked to give my opinion about drafting the wording of the resolution, I felt it was important to have the last "whereas" included, which is at the bottom of the first page, because I'm making a point here that the ball is really in Elephant Butte's court to carry the ball through this to do anything. There are some strict statutory requirements when you're trying to do an annexation, and we're not making any representation. This resolution is what's needed, we're just showing our support, but it's up to the City of Elephant Butte to do what's necessary.

Mayor Hechler: Thank you. I guess the last thing I have to say it's kind of a question. It lessens our liability concerns by giving the City of Elephant Butte that property back because I don't want to own the land that their facility is on, and have those liabilities.

City Attorney Rubin: I was thinking the same thing, I think it's in your best interest that we consider this.

City Manager Whitehead: Let me just point out your comment, though, we don't own the land at all. It would just be the liability that would come with it being in our jurisdiction and our governmental responsibility to manage a second wastewater plant within our boundaries. We're not giving away the land, we're not selling anything. Nothing is changing hands, other than the boundaries of jurisdiction.

City Attorney Rubin: That's true.

Mayor Hechler: Okay thank you.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister made a motion to approve Resolution 28 25/26 to support the City of Elephant Butte's efforts and authorize City Manager Gary Whitehead to execute applicable documents as needed. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 29 25/26 authorizing and approving the submission of a completed application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority.

City Manager Whitehead: Before you, items 2 and 3 are similar. Before we start with them, I do owe the Clerk an apology. The resolution, if you read both of them, the resolutions are exactly the same, and the resolutions are for the item that we took action on the last time, which was the street sweeper. I had committed to get this to the Clerk, and I was a little bit late in getting that document so we could change that. Nonetheless, both resolutions' purpose would be to allow us and staff to make another application to the New Mexico Finance Authority. I've been working with the Chief, it's been an interest of his to try and figure out a way to get some police units into the city, we've had some dialogue, and as I've worked through the process for the street sweeper, I made a presentation to the Finance Authority to find out if we would qualify for police cars as well. The same funding would work. So, what we're asking for here, the resolution would allow us to make an application. The Chief's first goal would be to try and get four units, but what I've asked him to do – and he's provided me a list I have with me here – how we could create a rotation of units so that we could potentially pay off a tranche of police vehicles in a short period, three years. We are just about ready to pay off the last loan payment on our police department gross receipts tax, so we'll have no debt, so we would reauthorize that as the payment source, and then how would we be able to pay those cars off, have them have a life, and then buy another tranche of cars in a period of three or four years. So, before you approve the purchase, we would come back to you with a presentation on how many units we have, what the life of those units are, and how we would use this process to create a rotation of cars that we could continue to bring in so that they could keep current. The chief provided me with a list of vehicles, and I'll tell you right now we have four officers driving in units that have 190,000 miles on them. We do have two new units that came in last year from a grant, and then most of the units have somewhere between 40,000 and 60,000 miles. Every officer does seem to be in a unit. We just filled the position of our 16th officer, we are finally at full capacity, so we might be short one vehicle, but I think the Chief would do some changings there, but everyone has a unit, most are good, but four of them that are 194,000 miles. What we ask for is that you authorize the resolution so that we can make

an application to the finance authority for a potential loan using our Police Department gross receipts tax.

Mayor Hechler: Thank you. Just to reiterate, they're getting paid for by the Police Department's GRT funds, so there's no new taxes, no funding from any other source. The Police Department is self-sufficient in that regard.

City Manager Whitehead: That's correct, Mayor, and I would also point out, we have set aside in this year's budget \$200,000 from that tax, which we have as for the Police Department renovation, so those are earmarked for that this year, and these units probably wouldn't come into payment until the new budget cycle. It'll take a little while to get through everything, so we would effectively have \$200,000 in revenues that we are using for a project we don't need, so that's our vision, that we would remove those funds there.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve Resolution 29 25/26 authorizing and approving the submission of a completed application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority and Authorize City Manager to execute applicable documents. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 30 25/26 authorizing and approving the submission of a completed application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority.

City Manager Whitehead: Thank you. This one is a similar process, so in discovery and through the last conference that we were at, Assistant Manager Alvarez was in a presentation by the New Mexico Finance Authority where they indicated they could fund short-term projects as well. Under our USDA grants that we have, what we've identified as WISPI-1 and WISPI-2, the USDA has required that we get two interim loans. A preconstruction loan, which could be used for the planning and the development, and then an interim construction loan that matches the amount of the loan that ultimately the USDA will finance for us. What they've asked us to do is go to a local bank and negotiate with that local bank for terms and rates. The city has done so on both of those loans, and Bank of the Southwest is the provider of those interim loans, and then what I would call the construction loan. With Wispi-2, we have yet to place that loan into production. With using the New Mexico Finance Authority, we have an opportunity to reduce our rate from 5%. Bank of the Southwest gave us a very favorable rate within the current rate term conditions, most people are paying 7-9, but we're going to qualify under the New Mexico Finance Authority for \$150,000 at a 0% rate. That's what makes the street sweeper advantageous, what makes the Police Department cars, and the same thing here. What we're asking is the resolution that would allow us to make an application where we could borrow the construction loan portion of the USDA loan, and instead of working with the Bank of the Southwest, we would work with the New Mexico Finance Authority and effectively save between a point and a half and two points of interest for a short-term. This loan will last about 18 months. The Finance Authority has given us the concurrence,

they like the loan, the structure, the short-term, and there would be no prepayment penalties. Effectively, it could save us a couple hundred thousand dollars, that then goes into the project. USDA funds, we are allowed to use those for repayment of the interest, so anywhere we can save a few dollars, those dollars go right back into the ground. I applaud Traci's efforts to find this particular process, and again, we're asking for concurrence to apply for this loan.

Mayor Hechler: Thank you for that presentation, it makes sense.

City Manager Whitehead: Please also note that if we're successful and they approve the loan, it would all come back to the Commission and you would have to then adopt the documents, sign the loan, and purchase the vehicles if that was the way we went. So there are still a few more steps for you to see.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve Resolution 30 25/26 authorizing and approving the submission of a completed application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority and Authorize City Manager to execute applicable documents. Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 31 25/26 Recognizing the importance of Cooperation with Federal, State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies.

Mayor Hechler: Commissioner Fahl is not here, we heard comments from our public this morning. Do we have any comments or discussions from our Commission?

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: I'd like to hear from the Chief.

Chief Tavizon: When I spoke to Merry Jo when she had talked about wanting to do this, ICE was not brought up. One of the major federal entities that we work with have control over the river, BOR. It's a big entity that we work with, and it's one we will need to continue to work with once recreation opportunities open and enforcement needs to be done on the river. That was one of the things we had spoken about. She was coming from a place where she wanted her legacy to be that she supported law enforcement. Her son works for federal wildlife, so she had spoken about a possible situation where maybe there was an exotic animal unlawfully kept somewhere that we would be able to go and assist them. We currently collaborate with all federal agencies. I was talking to Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister over the weekend, we were on the phone with the forest service rangers who were doing checks on a missing juvenile, checking the campground to see if they could make contact with them. There's always going to be a collaboration, there always is, but we, as the Truth or Consequences Police Department, always operate within the confines of the state constitution and the state laws. We can't go beyond those scopes, we're restricted, we can't ask immigration status, we don't ever get involved in anything like that. Just to make that clear, we do

already work with them and will continue to work with them. I appreciate the community coming out, and their passion about the topic, and I know on the national stage, ICE is prominent, and that's one of the major discussions. This resolution really doesn't change anything in the way we currently do things. I think to please both sides, I think it would be a good idea just to withdraw it altogether, and we'll just continue working business as usual.

City Attorney Rubin: I have a point that might support what you're saying, because you're saying what I was thinking when I was listening to the public comment, I was hearing the phrase "collaborative efforts". I remember when we adopted their policies and procedures several months ago, I remember the big point you and I were raising was that those policies actually were the result of a collaborative effort between us and several law enforcement agencies.

Chief Tavizon: Yes sir.

City Attorney Rubin: And I think in the policies and procedures, even some provisions in there talk about cooperation with other agencies.

Chief Tavizon: Absolutely, yes sir.

City Attorney Rubin: So my statement was, we already addressed the issue.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: I have a question. What does this resolution give you that you don't already have?

Chief Tavizon: It doesn't change anything. We work with the DA for the drug take back, we turn that over to them, I mean, it changes nothing, really, the way things operate now.

Mayor Hechler: As I see it, Attorney Rubin, we have four options. We can approve, we can vote no, we can table it, can we withdraw it?

City Attorney Rubin: Withdraw, I'm trying to think, how is that different than voting it down?

Mayor Hechler: I don't want to kick the can down the road, so that we'd have to reface this down the road because we tabled it, I'd rather just get it over with. I don't think there's an appetite right now to approve or disapprove this thing, I think I just regret having it even on the agenda is what I'm trying to say.

City Manager Whitehead: If I may, the rules of procedure might provide an avenue, too, for it to die. Robert's Rules, if it doesn't get a motion, if you take no action, that is a fifth opportunity that you would have.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: That's a great idea, thank you.

City Attorney Rubin: And we've done that before, take no action.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: And I just want to point out that Commissioner Fahl, in no way, shape, or form, wanted that to go to where we heard it go this morning. No shape or form. Her son, as Chief said, is a federal game warden, and as she was exiting the Commission, she just wanted to show her support for our law enforcement and the rest of – there's what, 85 agencies that we possibly can work with, and when I say we I mean you – and I think she just wanted to show support in that we support our Chief in working with all those agencies and we hope that he would offer support if they needed it in our community. In no way, shape, or form, did she ever want that to go the way it was portrayed this morning. I just wanted to also say that, and voting yes is not going to do anything because he already can work with those agencies, it's not giving him any extra power.

No action was taken on this matter. Item failed to pass due to lack of motion.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion/Action: Variance request for 915 Poplar Street requesting allowance for a 10ft. setback for a carport.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: The applicant is located at 915 Poplar Street, they would like to build a carport. That area is in the R1 district, it does require a 25-foot setback per our municipal code. They're requesting a Variance to set it back 10 feet from their property line. A drive by of the area does show that there has been allowances for that in the past, maybe under a past Commission or a past building inspector. You have, in your packet, the P&Z packet. One of the pictures does show a stone fence within that packet, that carport would be behind that stone fence. So it would still be within their property line. The applicant is here in attendance, we did have the public hearing at the P&Z meeting on December 8th. You've got a copy of the draft minutes highlighted, there were no opponents or proponents, and the board did recommend approval unanimously. With that, I will stand for questions, and the applicant is here if you have questions for them.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: That looks like a very nice house and a carport would be a great addition.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve the Variance Request for 915 Poplar Street requesting allowance for a 10ft. setback for a carport. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Conditional Use Permit and Variance Request for 1901B S. Broadway. Assistant City Manager Alvarez

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: This one's a little bit different, I will separate it into two explanations. The applicant is applying for a Conditional Use Permit to open a business

that would allow for storage of wrecked or dismantled vehicles. The Conditional Use Permit is a requirement through our municipal code in order to operate that type of business in that area. The second part of their request is a Variance Request. The Variance they're requesting is two-fold, one side of it is kind of a temporary Variance, part of our code and that Conditional Use Permit says that type of business has to have a building, they haven't built the building yet, that is planned to do so, so they're asking for kind of a temporary Variance to store vehicles there until they get the building built, and then a permanent Variance to allow more than five vehicles outside that building. Here again, we do have the applicants in attendance, it did go by public hearing, no opponents or proponents at the Planning & Zoning meeting on December 8th, and our board did recommend approval. You've got a copy of the P&Z packet, the draft minutes, and with that, we'll stand for any questions.

Commissioner Hoepfner: Is the plan to fence-in the area?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Yes, that's part of the code, it'll be fenced-in.

Commissioner Hoepfner: That was my only question. You can't see it, then, from the road.

Mayor Hechler: And if you look at your map, it kind of gives you an indication of where this was located. Seems like it's off the beaten path to some degree, and it's in an area that shouldn't affect negatively, anyway.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: And Conditional Use, does it come back every year?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: It's reviewed annually, yes. It doesn't transfer with a new owner or anything, applicable only to the applicant.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve the Conditional Use Permit and Variance Request for 1901B S. Broadway. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: And for my own nosiness, are we going to be working on vehicles or doing a wrecker company?

Kari Fresquez, Applicant: Thanks for the opportunity. I'm here with my partner Nick, who has 25 years experience in auto mechanics, diesel mechanics, power sports, and automotive restoration.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: So the answer's yes?

Kari Fresquez, Applicant: So yes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: Because I saw him shaking his head no.

Kari Fresquez, Applicant: Our dream is to have a specialty restoration business, so it won't be the oil change kind of business, it will be restoring vehicles. It takes a little bit of dismantled vehicles to put one together, so that's the idea. Thank you, appreciate your support.

3. Discussion/Action: Contract Lease Agreement Extension between the City of Truth or Consequences and Talon Septic.

Item was moved to executive session.

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

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: These are on the agenda as items that we are using our GO bonds for, they're to continue the corrective actions with the water/wastewater department, and I have the three different locations listed: Cherry Lane, Well #2, and the vacuum line project. I will defer to Gary if there are any other clarifications you might need for these.

City Manager Whitehead: The three projects in front of you, again, Cherry Lane had been identified when I came on board as an area they've done significant repairs and they want to replace that line, so we've got an estimate to do so. Well #2, as you know we've been talking about Well #2 for a minute, that's the one that had an old pump on the top and then the building was really bad, and we put together a program to move the well underground, get rid of the building and set it up, and when we got into the well, the casing was significantly rusted. It's 75 years old, so we had an analysis done to find out if we could put a liner in that well and save it, and our well contractor has agreed that that's the solution. You did approve us spending \$180,000 on this particular project, but we're back to you to tell you that we're going to spend \$160,000 in a reconfigured plan for that particular well, Well #2. The final one is that we're trying to get some work done on the vac station. The line on Hagen Street has been identified as a major problem in that area, so this would allow us to replace the line on Hagen. We're still waiting for the engineer's approval so that we can then repair the 51 pits, and then complete the work inside the vac station. Hopefully the three will give us a better, more reliable, stable vac system, so we're ready to start that work. Again, these are the GO bonds, this is where we want to be as transparent as we can on how we're spending those dollars. With that, I'll stand for questions with those projects.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister: I guess it would just be, it says on-call SmithCo, so just as needed?

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: There was an RFP done, they're on contract, so these are via task orders, so they're able to follow that process.

a. RFP #23-24-004 On Call Smith Co. GO Bond: Cherry Lane Project

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve Purchase Requisition over \$60,000: RFP #23-24-004 On Call Smith Co. GO Bond: Cherry Lane Project. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

b. RFP#23-24-004 On Call Smith Co/GO Bond: Revised Quote for Well#2.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve Purchase Requisition over \$60,000: RFP#23-24-004 On Call Smith Co/GO Bond: Revised Quote for Well#2. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

c. RFP #23-24-004 On Call Smith Co./GO Bond: Vacuum Line Project

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister made a motion to approve Purchase Requisition over \$60,000: RFP #23-24-004 On Call Smith Co./GO Bond: Vacuum Line Project. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion/Action: MOU between the City of Truth or Consequences and Sierra County Flood Director.

City Manager Whitehead: I am going to defer a little bit to Assistant Manager Alvarez on this particular item, and then we'll both stand for questions.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: As you guys know, in 2020, the City of T or C experienced the large flood, which prompted us to look at what we can do with the Cantrell Dam. We applied for some funding, and in 2021 we were awarded funding for plan and design for the Cantrell Dam. We had multiple meetings pertaining to that, we got with the entities within Sierra County and the Village of Williamsburg. That plan was brought to the Commission by the engineers. A couple of times with some changes as recommended. Ultimately, in the end the Commission had voted to approve the plan, which was to breach the dam and do some down channel improvements. Our next step was to go out for funding for the construction of that. As you recently approved, we were awarded the funding from the Water Trust Board for just over \$8 million which does require both an \$800,000 loan component, as well as an \$800,000 cash match. We expect final loan grant agreements on that project probably by the end of January. In

the meantime, upon City Manager Whitehead coming in, and a little prior to that as well, with our mayor, we'd had some discussions with getting some assistance from our flood director, and I think with that, I will turn it back over to City Manager Whitehead.

City Manager Whitehead: The office of the Flood Commissioner is a county-wide office. The mayor and staff have negotiated with the Flood Commissioner, and he has committed \$400,000 of flood funds to participate in this particular project. He has asked that we develop and request these funds through an MOU, government to government, and it would authorize the process. The two stipulations the Flood Commissioner has asked is that the funds only be used for construction on the project, so we've identified that through item one, where the funds have to specifically be used for that. As opposed to writing us a check for \$400,000 he requested that we submit for reimbursements just like we would with any other grant. So we will submit pay requests on the same pay form, the same pay style. With that, the Flood Director concurs with the MOU and we would request authorization. This'll lock up these funds for this project.

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the MOU between the City of Truth or Consequences and Sierra County Flood Director and authorize City Manager Gary Whitehead to work with the City Attorney and Mayor to finalize and execute applicable documents. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. Threatened & Pending Litigation (*Ron Fenn vs. City of T or C*) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7).**
- 2. Purchase, Acquisition, or disposal of Real Property (Contract Lease Agreement Extension between the City of Truth or Consequences and Talon Septic) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.8). (Item was moved from New Business).**

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister made a motion to go into executive session at 11 a.m. to discuss Threatened & Pending Litigation (Ron Fenn) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7) and Purchase, Acquisition, or disposal of Real Property (Contract Lease Agreement Extension between the City of Truth or Consequences and Talon Septic) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.8). 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 12:15 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister certified that only matters pertaining to T Threatened & Pending Litigation (Ron Fenn) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7) and Purchase, Acquisition, or disposal of Real Property (Contract Lease Agreement Extension between the City of Truth or Consequences and Talon Septic) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.8) was discussed in Executive Session and no action was taken in executive session.

D. 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).**

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister made a motion to allow City Attorney Rubin to comply with the court order. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Purchase, Acquisition, or disposal of Real Property (Contract Lease Agreement Extension between the City of Truth or Consequences and Talon Septic) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.8).**

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister made a motion to extend the contract for 60 days while our City Manager negotiates a contract. Commissioner Hoepfner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

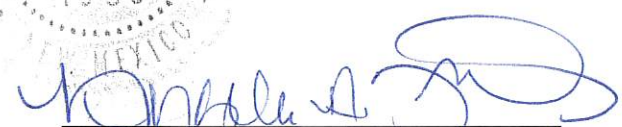
Mayor Hechler adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

Passed and Approved this 16th day of January, 2026.



Rolf Hechler, Mayor


ATTEST:



Angela A. Torres, CMC, City Clerk

Torres, Angela

From: John Masterson <john@torc.beer>
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 9:13 AM
To: Torres, Angela
Subject: Re: Agenda for the December 17, 2025 Regular CC Mtg.

You can add my name to the list of voices urging the commission to table the federal law enforcement resolution. It is needlessly divisive, has no practical effect, and seems to serve only as a signpost in the corrosive culture wars from which our nation is suffering.

John Masterson
Chief Beer Officer
Truth or Consequences Brewing Co.
575-297-0289 / 575-297-9797
<https://www.torc.beer>

On Fri, Dec 12, 2025, 11:22 AM Torres, Angela <aatorres@torcnm.gov> wrote:

Hello Everyone!

Attached is the Final Agenda for the Wednesday, December 17, 2025, Regular Meeting. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

The Electronic Agenda Packet is posted on the website at:

https://www.torcnm.gov/your_government/agendas_and_minutes.php

Here is the link to the home page where you can also find the meeting notice on the Calendar.

<https://www.torcnm.gov/>

The meeting will be streamed through **YouTube Live** at:

<http://www.youtube.com/@CityofTorC>

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Angela A. Torres, CMC

City Clerk-Treasurer

City of Truth or Consequences

505 Sims St.

Truth or Consequences, NM 87901

(575) 894-6675

torcclerk@torcnm.org

aatorres@torcnm.org

I am opposed to passage of RESOLUTION NO. 31 25/26. While it pro-ports to "ensure the safety and well-being of our community" current actions by some elements of the federal government -- by masked, un-uniformed personnel -- have caused fear, apprehension and disruptions to the well-being of communities. As a result of their actions they are a de-stabilizing force threatening both social and economic life. They are operating outside of the constitution, failing to obtain warrants and allow residents their due process rights.

It is disquieting right after a horrible series of killings and persistent gun violence in various corners of the globe and during end of the year cultural and religious celebrations that usually focus on Peace on Earth and Goodwill to Men, that the Commission takes up this controversial Resolution. I tried some months ago to get the Commission to hold a community discussion on questionable legal actions by our current federal administration. None of you wanted that discussion then. But now as a Commissioner exits this body, this seems an ill-timed last ditch blemish.

As the current election processes here show, few, *if any of you*, actually hold majority support from us in the TorC public.

I urge you vote against this resolution.

Hello, my name is Alice Hutchins, and I am a resident of Truth or Consequences.

One of the challenges in a small, tight-knit community is to disagree without being disagreeable. I hope to thread that needle today.

Resolution No. 31 25/26 sounds great, lots of positive buzz words like: justice, safety, security, professionalism. I feel very safe in this community. My sense of justice has never been violated. Every encounter with law enforcement has been friendly and professional. Is there some sort of problem I am not aware of that requires a resolution of this type? Is there a breach in trust and cooperation with the state and federal government that local law enforcement is struggling to overcome?

Or, has national politics raised its ugly head, and the divisive debate about ICE, its validity, constitutionality, and morality under the current administration, is being unnecessarily plunked right down on T or C's doorstep?

This resolution is vague; it does not define "Federal Law Enforcement." If ICE is the focus, let's have an honest discussion about that as a community. I think we can all agree that public safety depends on trust. With ICE's documented civil rights concerns, any implied endorsement is concerning. For example, I quote from the resolution itself, *the importance of continued and robust cooperation with our federal, state, and local law enforcement partners, and to recognize and support the collaborative efforts.*

What exactly is *robust cooperation* and *collaborative efforts*? We could assume the best from this language, or we could assume the worst. Room for assumption has no place in a legal document, which is what a resolution is.

Assuming the worst, when people fear the detention and/or deportation of friends and family, trust disappears. When local law enforcement is seen as complicit in the actions of a federal agency under the cloud of so much documented abuse, trust disappears. When trust disappears, we are all at risk. A safe community becomes less safe.

There is no need for this resolution. There is no identified crisis. If there is, please let us, as a community, know, and we can work together with local law enforcement for a community-supported solution. I respectfully ask this commission to delay or suspend a vote on this resolution until the long-term effects of it on our community can be assessed.

Thank you.

+ Merry Jo thank you for your service to this community. You will be greatly missed —