CITY CONNECT

NMVIC Veteran Services Presentation Highlights Local Needs

During last week's City Commission meeting, Craig Yazzie of the New Mexico Veterans Integration Center (NMVIC) delivered an in-depth presentation on the range of services available to veterans living in Truth or Consequences and the surrounding county. Yazzie outlined the organization's housing assistance programs, employment and job-readiness support, and guidance for navigating state and federal veteran benefits. He emphasized the importance of connecting veterans with stable resources early, noting that many former service members are unaware of the help available to them. Commissioners thanked Yazzie for bringing forward information that can directly benefit local residents and encouraged the public to share these resources with veterans who may need assistance. You can learn more at **www.nmvic.org**

Capital Outlay Funds Move Local Improvements Forward

The Commission approved two New Mexico Capital Outlay Grant Agreements, authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign and execute the documents. Grant 26-K3068 provides $500,000 for improvements at the Lee Belle Johnson Center, including a $5,000 allocation for art in public spaces. Grant 26-K2066 awards $620,000 for park improvements throughout the city. Staff noted that approval keeps both projects on schedule and ensures compliance with state requirements, opening the door for visible upgrades residents will see in the coming months.

City and NMSU Cooperative Extension Advance Local Programming

Commissioners approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and NMSU Cooperative Extension, an agreement that supports shared programming and resource coordination. The MOU helps strengthens community education efforts, agricultural outreach, and youth development activities across Sierra County. Staff explained that the partnership allows both entities to leverage expertise and expand services without duplicating costs. Commissioners expressed support for continuing the collaboration, noting its value in providing residents with accessible learning opportunities and practical assistance.

Public Access Tools Continue to Support Community Engagement

Residents are reminded that Commission meetings are streamed live and archived on the City's YouTube channel at **youtube.com/@CityofTorC**, making it easier for the public to follow discussions even if they cannot attend in person. Agendas, minutes, and supporting documents are available at **torcnm.gov/agendas**, and the City Clerk's Office continues to expand digital access to meeting materials. Public comment remains open to all attendees for up to three minutes, providing a consistent opportunity for community members to share concerns, ask questions, or offer input on city matters.