CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3RD St.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rolf Hechler at 9:00 a.m., who presided and Angela A. Torres, City Clerk-Treasurer, acted as Secretary of the meeting.

B. INTRODUCTION:

1. ROLL CALL:

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

Hon. Rolf Hechler, Mayor
Hon. Destiny Mitchell, Mayor Pro-Tem
Hon. Amanda Forrister, Commissioner was absent
Hon. Ingo Hoeppner, Commissioner
Hon. Chaz Glines, 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

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

2. SILENT MEDITATION:

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: I just wanted to say that we have lost a wonderful member of our community, Mr. Cary "Jagger" Gustin. I would just like to commend him for being such an amazing model in our community, and all he served. I would like to keep him and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Mayor Hechler called for fifteen seconds of silent meditation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Hechler called for City Attorney Rubin to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of item E6. And the amendment of item F2 to change the Municipal Arterial Project Fund to Transportation Project Fund. Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Glines: I just wanted to mention Oktoberfest on October 3rd, at the Healing Waters Plaza. It's a free community event, come out for it, we're working really hard on it to make sure that everyone in the community has something to do, and try to bring some tourists in from out of town for it, we're going to have a good time, pretty stacked up right now. I've also been working with a lot of small businesses to try to get vendors for this event, and I've actually started some other community projects I'm excited to share at the start of next month to try and get some cohesion amongst some local businesses any way I can. Other than that, that's all from me.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: I just want to give a shoutout for the Spaceport open house this weekend, Saturday the 26th –

City Manager Whitehead: It was cancelled.

City Clerk Torres: It was cancelled due to weather.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: Oh, I did not know that, it was still on my calendar. Then I'll channel Amanda Forrister and say, don't forget the fairs coming up next week, get the kids out there for that. That's all.

City Manager Whitehead: That happened yesterday right?

Mayor Hechler: Just really quickly, I was able to attend the New Mexico Open this last week. It was four or five days of golf, there were some notable folks there, a course record was broken by an amateur with a score of 61, which I think the previous was 62, so it was close, but that was unbelievable. I thought a pro might break it, I didn't think a young kid would break it as an amateur, but they did.

City Manager Whitehead: Those young kids play a different game.

Mayor Hechler: It was well-attended, and well-publicized. T or C had a 30-second commercial that they played over and over again, so we got a lot of free publicity out of it. Great event, and congratulations to Turtleback and the folks that put on this tournament, good event. Mr. Whitehead, do you have anything to add?

6. STAFF COMMENTS:

City Manager Whitehead: I'll just add, obviously we're dealing with the rains, kind of this week's event. I just want to thank the crew, they're working really hard. We took a pretty good hit again early this week, but we've kind of patched that back together. The crew is out this morning trying to sweep up. We hope that we're going to have the new street sweeper in the next week or so, which will add to our ability to clean up. The crews are working hard and we've got a lot of good things going on. I'll leave it at that.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 Minute Rule Applies):

Tara Manning addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- Last week I attended the New Mexico Humane conference, and I had the pleasure of speaking. I talked about five different tips I wish someone had told me when I started sooner such as leadership, how to talk to Commissioners – because you guys are a little scary when you first start, no offense – how to use social media, how to work with your community, and how to tell an animal's story. It was very well-received from what I could tell, it sounds like there will be four people that will be contacting me for a mentorship, which is really exciting. On my second day at the conference, I had the pleasure of receiving an award for "Animal Advocate of the Year", apparently there were over ten people that voted across New Mexico. And that's all I've got.

Mayor Hechler: Congratulations, you're making quite a name for yourself. Glad we have you in our community.

Tara Manning: Thank you, me too.

D. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. **City Commission Regular Minutes, September 9, 2026**
2. **Acknowledge Purchase Report of items under $60,000**
3. **Take Home Vehicle Forms: Police Department**

Mayor Hechler called for approval of the consent calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Discussion/Action: Summary Plat Amendment 310-316 E Third.**

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: This item is for a summary plat amendment to adjust the property lines between 310 and 316 East 3rd Avenue. The public hearing was held at the Planning & Zoning meeting on August 11th, and the board recommended approval unanimously. Both property owners are agreeable to the lot split, it was actually part of a purchase agreement that just hadn't been finalized by the actual survey and summary plat. With that, I'll stand for any questions.

City Attorney Rubin: If you'll look at the Planning & Zoning minutes, you'll see that they're very brief, there wasn't any oppositions pointed out by Ms. Alvarez, and I think the key here is that both property owners agree to this procedure, so I don't see an legal issues here.

Commissioner Glines made a motion to approve the Summary Plat Amendment 310-316 E Third. Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Discussion/Action: Approval and Acceptance of FAA Airport Infrastructure Grant No. 3-35-0042-030-2026 – Airport Layout Plan Update.**

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: You may remember at a previous meeting where we brought in the state grant agreement that had been executed, that was for the state funding, this is the federal funding. Both the federal and state funding will complete the total project cost for the Airport Layout Plan Update. The federal grant is for $274,000 and the state grant is was for $301,190 with a local match of $6,810 which gives us a total project cost of $582,000. Due to the deadline and time constraints, this grant agreement did come through Docusign, and as previously authorized by the Commission, both the City Manager and the Mayor have already signed this, so we're requesting your acceptance and approval.

City Attorney Rubin: What I got a kick out of is if you look at the letter inside your packet, number 14, they have it highlighted and underlined, "You may not make any modification to the text, terms or conditions of the grant offer." That kind of shut me down, didn't it? I don't see any issues, but I just thought, wow okay, they're pretty emphatic about that.

Mayor Hechler: They think they got it right. Ms. Alvarez, what doors does this open for us? It seemed like a pretty extensive plan for $500,000+. What will that do for us?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: That's going to give us a full review of our airport, the layout, the potential of any runways we could possibly close that would open up areas for more economic development, as well as identify the overall airport layover, which could affect areas adjacent to the highway on the other side. What can be built there and still meet the federal regulations for flights. The potential of hangar buildings, and I'm trying to remember.

Mayor Hechler: I remember those things. Will it increase our opportunities for additional funding?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: It could, yes, 100%. As long as those are identified within that layout plan.

City Manager Whitehead: I would add, just to support Traci, remember that the FAA kind of guides what we do there, and they've kind of laid out a strategy for us. The one document they want in place is kind of like the preliminary engineering report, the new layout plan, which ours is 20 years old and it's time to update it. Once we do that, we're going to have all those opportunities that Traci spoke of; plus the next project is to fix the taxiways, so once this is complete, it will open the door to that funding, and then once the taxiways are done, it'll open the door for funding for the runway reconstruction. So the FAA has kind of laid out our strategy and plan over the next 6 years of how they want to fund us, so we're really receiving a fund based on their plan. That's what this door will open for us as well.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve and accept the FAA Airport Infrastructure Grant No. 3-35-0042-030-2026 – Airport Layout Plan Update. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Discussion/Action: November and December 2026 City Commission Meeting Schedule.**

City Clerk Torres: This is our annual request to have one meeting in November and one meeting in December due to the holiday season. My proposed meeting date for November would be Wednesday, November 18, 2026, and the proposed meeting date for December would be Wednesday, December 16, 2026.

Mayor Hechler: So the agenda reviews will be the week before, on the 11th and the 9th?

City Clerk Torres: The one on the 11th may need to be changed, I will have to see what your schedule it, we could hopefully schedule for the Tuesday prior. The one for December would be the 9th for agenda review.

Commissioner Hoeppner: Would that be the 18th?

City Clerk Torres: Yes, November 18th and then December 16th. And if we need to call a special meeting for any reason, we could always do that.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve the November 2026 meeting to be held on November 18, 2026, and the December 2026 meeting to be held on December 16, 2026. Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion/Action: Approval of the 2027 City Holiday Schedule.

City Clerk Torres: In your packet is our 2027 City Holiday Schedule. The schedule is pretty much the same as last year except we have one less day off during the Christmas holiday due to Christmas Eve falling on a Friday next year.

Commissioner Glines made a motion to approve the 2027 City Holiday Schedule. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion/Action: Appointment of Daymeon Rembert to serve as a member on the Recreation/Golf Course Advisory Board.

City Clerk Torres: Our Recreation Advisory Board has 2 vacant positions, we advertised and received one application. The application was sent to the board, and they recommended approval for a 2-year term. We do have Mr. Rembert in the audience if you would like to ask him any questions.

Mayor Hechler: Good morning Mr. Rembert, please tell us a little bit about yourself and what brings you to our community.

Daymeon Rembert, Applicant: I've been here for 6 years now, there are people on the board who know that. Definitely hit the ground running, I would say. I came here as an artist, participated that and am still doing it. I became more involved in the community by opening my bike shop with my wife (pretty much) Rhonda. We're thriving in the community, doing that. I am also a BMX rider in my young 50-something years of age. Definitely want to get involved with safety, with the skatepark, and other recreational aspects, especially bicycle safety advocacy. Promoting that, and the wonderful lanes that are going on here, having people pay attention to those things.

Mayor Hechler: Thank you for choosing to live here, and thank you for your service.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to appoint Damian Rembart to serve a 2 year term on the Recreation/Golf Course Advisory Board. Commissioner Glines and Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion/Action: Approval of Employee Pay Policy.

Item was removed from the agenda.

F. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING:

1. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 21 26/27 Participation in Capital Outlay Program Administered by New Mexico Department of Transportation.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: We have been awarded capital outlay in the amount of $375,000. This is for the plan and design for the construction improvements to Marie Street, from North Date Street to Palo Verde. If the resolution is approved, then the grant agreement will be executed as well, that's part of the actual grant agreement. I'd like to thank the City Manager, as well as the Commission; this is one of the projects you guys took up to the legislative session last year that we received money for. With that, I'll stand for any questions.

Mayor Hechler: That was our trip to Ruidoso, wasn't it?

City Manager Whitehead: No, this was our work in Santa Fe, one of the two capital outlays; Marie Street and Lee Belle. We're still waiting for the Lee Belle agreements to come through like this.

Mayor Hechler: Alright thank you.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: I did have a question about Lee Belle, but I guess I can wait and ask it later.

City Manager Whitehead: And I will just add, the second part of that is the work we did in Ruidoso to get the $1.3 million for Marie Street as well, so combined for the total amount. You're remembering it correctly.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve Resolution No. 21 26/27 Participation in Capital Outlay Program Administered by New Mexico Department of Transportation. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 22 26/27 Participation in Local Government Road Fund Program Administered by New Mexico Department of Transportation for the Transportation Project Funds (TPF) and Execute Grant Agreement Award.

Brenden Anglin, Streets Supervisor: We entered the item request for a grant agreement TPF. The city has been awarded $100,000 in TPF funding, and the total estimated project amount is $105,263.16 which includes a required local match of $5,263.16. This funding is for the Smith Street roadway route construction project extending from Date Street for approximately 2,000 linear feet along Smith Street, all the way up to Ace

Hardware. This is not the total project amount, but this is what we're breaking down into phases. The total for state share is $961,000 and for a local match is $50,580.13 with a total project cost of $1,110,602.61. The initial award is intended to begin the project's planning and design work and prepare for permitting and eventual construction. The $100,000 award is not expected to cover the entire cost of the construction project. The transportation project fund has an annual application cycle as the project advances and additional funding is needed. The city intends to submit future applications for later phases, which is around May every year. Including construction, any future funding will be dependent on availability of funds through the state, submission of additional applications and approval by the state's transportation commission. Approval of this agenda will authorize the city to accept the award, provide the required local match, participate in the TPF program, and execute the associated grant agreements so that the project can move forward. With that, I'll stand for any questions.

City Attorney Rubin: I would just note that when we started the meeting, we reworded the agenda items which reflects from the transportation fund, and I think that's fine. We note that the money is still coming from the State of New Mexico Department of Transportation, it's just basically coming from a different lot inside that from DOT, so I don't see an issue with that. The agenda request form itself is accurate, so I think we can proceed.

Brenden Anglin, Streets Supervisor: I apologize for that slip up, that was on me. I reviewed it three times, but I submitted the old one instead of the new one.

City Attorney Rubin: I don't see it as a problem though, really.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: We're blaming it on Angela.

City Attorney Rubin: The source is still the same, it's still coming from the State of New Mexico DOT, so I think that's really the important aspect here.

Mayor Hechler: This is kind of why projects take so long, right? You have to apply for money to get planning, and if you get awarded, then you do the plan, go for RFP and go through that entire process, and then when we get that done, then you apply for the money for the actual project, so sometimes the projects can take two or three years.

Brenden Anglin, Streets Supervisor: Yes.

Mayor Hechler: But that's why you have to get way ahead of things to identify what you want to get done, and we'll get there eventually.

Brenden Anglin, Streets Supervisor: I believe since I've been here, this is the first time we actually were awarded TPF funds. I believe prior to my being here, through Don, that they were awarded, but it's been a long time since they didn't let people know about that.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: Good job.

Commissioner Hoeppner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 22 26/27 Participation in Local Government Road Fund Program Administered by New Mexico Department of Transportation Municipal Arterial Project Funds and Execute Grant Agreement Award. Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

G. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. **Purchase, Acquisition, or Disposal of Real Property (Cantrell Dam Review) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.8).**

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to go into executive session at 9:25 a.m. to discuss T 1. Purchase, Acquisition, or Disposal of Real Property (Cantrell Dam Review) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.8). Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hechler reconvened the meeting in open session at 9:43 a.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell certified that only matters pertaining to Purchase, Acquisition, or Disposal of Real Property (Cantrell Dam Review) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.8) were discussed in Executive Session and no action was taken in executive session.

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

1. **Purchase, Acquisition, or Disposal of Real Property (Cantrell Dam Review) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.8).**

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to direct staff to continue developing the purchase agreement, using the terms presented, for further review by the Commission and the seller. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Hechler adjourned the meeting at 9:44 a.m.

Passed and **Approved** this **14th** day of **October, 2026.**

Rolf Hechler, Mayor

ATTEST:

Angela A. Torres, CMC, City Clerk