CITY CONNECT

City Commission Approves Key Step in Loves Project

At the December 3 regular meeting, commissioners unanimously approved a purchase requisition over $60,000 for the Loves project on the west side of the interstate, awarding Allied Electric Inc. the contract to build a three-phase power line under a state price agreement. City Manager Gary Whitehead said the total cost, including bonding and taxes, is about $190,000, covered by a $200,000 contribution from Loves. Construction is expected to finish within 60 days, supporting future growth and infrastructure improvements in the area.

Welcoming Commissioners Mitchell and Glines

At the December 17 regular City Commission meeting, opening ceremonies featured the administration of the Oath of Office by the Honorable Magistrate Judge George Lee. Commissioner terms will officially begin January 1, 2026. Destiny Mitchell will be sworn in following her successful re-election, and Chaz M. Glines will take the oath for his first term as City Commissioner.

Citywide Staff Training Highlights

On Friday, December 12, city employees gathered at the Civic Center for a dynamic training session led by City Manager Gary Whitehead. The focus was on strengthening workplace culture through better communication, building trust between departments, and enhancing customer service for the public. Mayor Rolf Hechler added a special touch by presenting commemorative coins for years of service, a gesture that was a big hit with staff, along with certificates of recognition and heartfelt thanks to employees. A key theme of the day was showcasing the projects, achievements, and ongoing work across all departments, reinforcing the importance of collaboration and the interconnected role each team plays in serving our community.

Foch Street Project Update

Work on the Foch Street project is on schedule. Pluma Construction will move materials to an off-site staging area on December 18. Preconstruction activities, including utility line locating, will take place the weeks of December 22 and 29, with Foch Street remaining open. A full road closure begins January 5, with traffic control set up at 6:30 a.m. and asphalt removal starting at 8:00 a.m. between Main and Broadway.

Trash Pickup: Most downtown addresses will keep their usual pickup day—please have polycarts out by 6:30 a.m. and bag all trash. Routes may run earlier due to closures. Two businesses will coordinate schedule changes with the City, and residents at 201 and 203 S. Foch will receive separate instructions.

Business Access: All businesses along Foch Street will remain open during construction. Walking paths will be provided to ensure safe access for customers and visitors.