CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3RD St.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 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 present via telephone
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
Luis Tavizon, Chief of Police
Bo Easley, Public Works Director
Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Department
Wes Myers, Sanitation Supervisor
Jamie Forman, Water/Wastewater Manager
Brendan Anglin, Streets Supervisor

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

2. SILENT MEDITATION:

Mayor Hechler: For silent meditation this morning, we honor the victims, survivors, and first responders from the September 11th terrorism attacks. This Friday marks the 25th anniversary of that fateful day. We remember the innocent lives lost in New York City, Arlington, and Shanksville, and we express our enduring gratitude to the brave men and women who risked everything to save us.

Mayor Hechler called for fifteen seconds of silent meditation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Hechler called for Commissioner Hoeppner to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

C. PRESENTATIONS:

1. Presentation of new Sanitation Department Freightliner.

Andy Alvarez, Sanitation Department: As you noticed, outside, there's a brand-new freightliner SD dumpster truck. It is very well-needed. I want to say thank you Mayor, Commissioners, City Manager, and the public, for helping us get that piece of equipment that is really needed. Thank you and I'll stand for any questions.

Mayor Hechler recessed the meeting so they could view the new Sanitation Freightliner.

Mayor Hechler: We just saw a wonderful piece of equipment for our Sanitation Department, hopefully it lasts a long time, and it looks like it's a good machine. I'm glad that we sent it back and made some minor upgrades to fix everything. It's ready to rock and roll, and we're excited to put it to use for our community.

2. Divers for Life 27-Meter Dedication Dive – Sam Hernandez.

City Manager Whitehead: I'd like to introduce you to Sam Hernandez, he has decided to take on an important trek, a project that's potentially going to take him back to something he used to do in his youth, and show that there are opportunities if you keep working. He'd like to present, he is a high diver, and I will let him tell his story. He just wants to make a presentation and make the community aware of this mission he's on.

Sam Hernandez: First of all, I want to thank all of you for having me here. My name is Sam Hernandez, I am most noted for being the only American to ever win the prestigious Acapulco cliff diving championships twice, as featured on ABC's Wide World of Sports. It was quite exciting for me. I'm a poor kid, born in East Los Angelas< California, to a single mom. Out of that, she got a world champion high diver, and she also got a California highway patrolman. So I've been very proud of that. I am here because I was actually retired, and Destiny is the swim coach, and I heard some disturbing news that she may not want to do it next year, but she is a heartbeat of this town. I came here and didn't want anything to do with swimming or diving, maybe get in the pool and swim a couple of laps. Not Destiny, she needed help with the kids, and of course that's my soft spot. We have the greatest kids, we have a 9-year-old national champion, I'm sure she can tell you all about it if she hasn't already. I'm 82 years old,

and I got invited to challenge a 27-meter, which is 88.5 feet, platform at the International Swimming Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. That's quite an honor for me, but I'm sitting here retired, and got excited about it because of our team and our kids, I got sucked back into it all of a sudden. I accepted to go down there and train for a week and challenge the 27 meters, which is approximately a 9-story building, and do a dive. I'm fortunate because I also am a 2-time world record holder at 156 and 158 feet. So I've been up there. Like I tell them, I've been down the shoot, I've been interviewed by the voice to the opening of ABC's Wide World of Sports, Jim McKay, in 1977 when I won my championship. That was quite an honor for me. Anyways, the real purpose of this – I was talking to Mr. Whitehead, and as most athletes, I needed a little financial support, and I was hoping that the city would be willing to do something. I have a mockup of a t-shirt that I'm having made, and as far as I'm concerned, the only thing that's missing is the logo for Truth or Consequences, which obviously I can't use without your permission. But I am flying to Truth or Consequences because I am writing a book, and that's why I was here, I've been here for 3 years. It also inspired me, when I was writing the book, I said to myself, "Wait a minute, you're an athlete, you're 82 years old, sitting here in Truth or Consequences." And that resonated in my mind because just the name of Truth or Consequences has so many things involved with it. My idea was to do the dive, get the publicity, because already it's started, and I'm not ready. I've got 68 days to go before my dive, and I need to get trained a little bit better, I have to go to NMSU, and we all know how long a trip that is, but I have to do that three times a week in order to be prepared to do this. Again, NMSU, I have a meeting with them because they're interested in getting some publicity out of it. I am a senor there, on hiatus, because when I turned 79 years old, I said, "You don't get your book written, you're never going to do it." but when I started writing the book, I wasn't happy with the ending, and that's what I told the coaches, I said, "No, no, no, no." I still have a dive or two left, and I am a film major, and one of my goals is to do this in order to do two things: one is to push a brand new pool into this area, and I have plans for it, they're pretty grandiose, people are saying, "Well who's going to pay for it?" well let's face it, we have – the state of New Mexico, the government, the United States of America, and I can write proposals in order to get this thing funded. That is one of the moving factors, because we need to give our youth the ability to train, to work out, and if I can use my notoriety and get back on the horse, and you know I was ABC's darling from 1974 when I first got on the cliffs of Acapulco, until 1980, so they're very interested. Again, in my mind, I look at the name Truth or Consequences, and I said, "You know what, it takes 2.5 seconds to go 90 feet to the water." so the title of my book is going to be Truth or Consequences in 2.5 seconds. If this doesn't put any charm into our community, nothing will. I'm sure that if Mr. Edwards, Ralph Edwards, were here – I can only marvel at what his pitch might have been to the people living here in 1950. But as you well know, you're on the map and I'm here to say, if you can support me in any way, shape, or form – I'm also a filmmaker, and also the fact that – there are so many things that are running through my head right now, you'll have to forgive me, but again, if I can use my notoriety, use the support, showcase it, and because I cam a film major, eventually I would like to drive from Truth or Consequences to Acapulco, Mexico, and do a documentary, and I think this is just the bottom line of why I'm here. I brought a few things I will leave with Manager Whithead, including my resume. I have a company called Divers for Life, and if

you need a consultant, I can certainly get this pool together for you, from the ground up. Water drainage systems, and the idea I have for the tank, that's what I call the pool, is to set it into a steel tank, basically. Because our weather here is terrible, the UV lighting is the worst in the nation, so if we cover this pool with a tank, then we can ground that tank, and we can make it safe to swim and dive year-round. Also, by having a large structure, you have a lot of room left over, so you can make it into a stadium. I took the liberty of giving Destiny a mockup that I have designed, so being the diver that I am, because that stainless steel tank high enough, you can also put the only indoor 27-meter platform in the world. That's what that can do, and I'm sure that if you can't get any publicity out of that – Anyway, I do want to thank you very much, and I hope you look this over. Really, in my heart, I hope I can help the City of Truth or Consequences and the kids, that's what it's all about. I look at some of these kids, and again, I'm from a single mom, and I became a world champion, and somewhere here, you have potential Olympians, and not just this sport but every other sport, thank you very much.

Mayor Hechler: Do you have a GoFundMe account set up?

Sam Hernandez: No, I don't have a GoFundMe account, and I'll tell you the truth, I've been independent all my life and one of the pet peeves for me, when I watch the Acapulco cliff divers, is that they charge you to see the dive, then after the dive, they put their hands out and they say, "Did you like the dive?" and they're looking for a tip. I'm an artist, I'm there because I was the top elite diver from 1974 to 1980, and to me, being born and raised in these Los Angeles, and having to wait for the welfare check on the 1st and the 15th in order to survive, kind of sticks in my throat a little bit. That's why, as you noticed, Doug Whitehead helped me out with a vehicle, and he's supporting me. AA Auto Service made a small donation, but it's greatly appreciated. It's going to cost me roughly around $7,000 or $8,000. But think again, when I go back, I'm going to see people like Red Bull and other sponsors, and they will be more than interested, I'm sure. So that would alleviate the problem. But I feel that if I have a GoFundMe, it looks like I'm begging for it, and it goes against my grain. I tell people that yes, I grew up poor, yes I grew up in East Los Angeles, but as an American, and I am 50% Native American, as an American, I figure, it can be done. I've done it before and it can be done.

Mayor Hechler: Thank you for that answer.

City Manager Whitehead: Obviously, the city is not in a position to support or fund any of the project. Probably at the next meeting, I will bring forward a request for permission to use the city's logo, to be worn. I think that's the right thing for our citizens to have access, and that's very probable. The last part was just to give Sam a platform to get his message out and tell the community and the public what he's doing, at 82 years old, to be jumping 90 feet is a pretty big feat, I certainly wish him well, and I want the community to get behind him and support his efforts. Thank you for the opportunity to present for him.

Mayor Hechler: And maybe we can strategize a little bit about that.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 Minute Rule Applies):

Becca Eza, MainStreet Truth or Consequences addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I emailed you all yesterday afternoon with the updated MainStreet at a glance document with everything that we're working on, so please refer to that if you have questions about anything, and let me know.
- Some of the bigger things going on; Levitt AMP Truth or Consequences Music Series that kicks off tomorrow. That will take place Thursdays for the next 7 weeks straight at Ralph Edwards Park, 6pm-9pm. I gave you all a schedule, and I brought extra fliers, so if anyone wants to grab any more, please help spread the word. We really hope lots of folks from the community come out and enjoy these free, family-friendly concerts.
- We also have a ribbon cutting for the Foch Street project this coming Saturday. I would love if any of the Commissioners that are around could attend, it's at 5:30pm at Lee Belle Johnson, just before Art Hop kicks off. We wanted to do it at 5:30pm so that the businesses downtown that will take part in Art Hop can still be there, and then get back to their space. If any of the Commissioners would like to give brief comments on behalf of the city, that would also be very much appreciated.
- Other things coming up: MainStreet is hosting our deck of cards sneak peek party on Friday, September 18th. This was a project that started even before I was with MainStreet, we had local artists select at random a card from a deck of cards, create a piece of artwork for that particular card, and it's now been made into a new deck, and it's the third time MainStreet has done this project, so it will be the third unique local deck of cards. On the 18th, we're having a sneak peek party, we will reveal the artwork and the cards, you can purchase the card decks there, we'll also have a silent auction to purchase the original artwork. There are a lot of really cool pieces in it, all done by locals. This will take place at Rio Bravo Fine Art Gallery from 6:30pm-9pm.
- Then we just have all of our other Fall projects coming up including Halloween, Small Business Saturday, Old Fashioned Christmas, and we're also helping support Oktoberfest. Lots of good things are happening in T or C this Fall. You guys all know how to get in touch with me if you ever have any questions about what we have going on. Thank you.

Francis Clark addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- I went to Ruidoso, I like to call it Ruio-disco, but I'm not going to change it's name. They have three of the finest disc golf courses anywhere in the state, probably anywhere in the Midwest. They have cement tee pads, beautiful signage, and I hear the city is going to spend money on pavers, and pavers with rain aren't really level, they don't really keep up. The sidewalk that you walk on is from 1940. We would like cement tee pads that will hold up for 100 years, instead of pavers that are going to be wishy-washy. We would like to start with 3 or 4 of them. Steve Buckley and I are willing to commit financially to the building of them on the lava, which is not where the tools go over. They're going to be quality-

brushed, and we just want the best for what the golf course could be, and we really love the 27-hold layout, I know there's talk about it, but when you play it, you're exhausted, you feel like you've played ultimate frisbee. So if you're going to spend money, let's spend it on quality instead of quantity. Let's spend it on things that are going to last, things that will be level, and we're willing to help out financially, and probably physically, with the building of them. People use cement all the time, at home... I mean, why can't we do the best? If Ruidoso can do it, why can't we do it? That's all I have to say, I really appreciate your time.

E. REPORTS:

City Manager Whitehead reported the following:

- Welcome to September, everyone. We're going to keep things quick today, my report will be pretty simple. What I really want to talk about is the situation we went through last week, kind of talk a little bit about the water, and kind of bring this full-circle.
- Last Monday, I was made aware that our upper tanks were at about 5 feet. Some people might be confused on that, but that's how we measure the water in the tank, by the outside, you look at the gauge, that red dot that's on the gauge moves up and down. Each tank is a little bit different, it's based on the height, and then you can calculate that to determine the number of gallons. We were made aware that we were at about 5 feet of water in the upper tank zone, the team had kind of said, "Let's go ahead and maybe put out some water restrictions in the morning." And then we had set a meeting for the afternoon to figure out what the resolution was for that issue. In the midst of that, we ended up with a water leak. Unfortunately, the contractors doing the work to put new ones had hit a line that was not marked correctly, it was just in the wrong spot, and it was unfortunate. I made the decision to shut down the tank at the Northern part of town so that we could maintain the water level that we had. We were struggling to get the water off in that zone. What I would like to say to everyone listening was that it was a good learning curve. For myself, I was really unsure of what the situation would be. Everybody was notified, we contacted all emergency management personnel, the Fire Chief, to let them know that potentially we would have a water restriction, and we certainly didn't understand how far that would reach. I started calling different areas of town to find out that water, in fact, was available throughout the town, it had really just been turned off in the Northern part of town. Part of the problem led to – we did have a well that went out, we're not sure what day that went out, whether it was Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, but the well certainly was inoperative. What I want to comment on the well, I really want to thank David Mauldin from Mauldin Drilling, they pulled off another commercial job to come to town, recognizing that we needed that support. They worked diligently, once we met with Mr. Mauldin to understand what the well situation was, we were able to quickly determine where replacement parts were, we dispatched crews immediately to go get those parts while Mr. Mauldin continued doing his well work, so he didn't have to pull staff off. While we assessed that, the contractor quickly repaired the water line, it was

repaired in about an hour. About 4:30, so we shut the tank off about 1:30, and by 4:00 we were turning the tank back on. The only concern that I think I knew, and I'll take the responsibility, was not knowing how much pressure we would have on the Northern part of town with the tanks being at a low level. What we learned is that the pressure from Morgan and the ability to pump water from Morgan to the upper tanks solved the problem almost immediately, it immediately backfilled, so by 5:00 that evening, we had pressure throughout the system, and by 7:00 that evening, we had 70 pounds of pressure at the lower end of our fire hydrants, 50 and we were consistent. Today, I'll tell you that I had our Public Works Director, Bo, go out and check, we've been monitoring it all last week, we did pull the contractors off just while we were filling those tanks and getting them back to what we would call "safe levels". This morning in the upper zone, we have 22.5 feet, and at Morgan Street, we have 35 feet. We're moving about 1,400 gallons per minute from the well field, and right now we have everything working automatically, so the system is back in full control, fully automatic, we're able to manage that, and get those items taken care of. I do really want to applaud the team. Everybody responded really well. The crew did a great job, and again, I wanted to thank Mr. Mauldin for his efforts, he stayed 18 hours from the time we identified the problem until we had well #6 back online and pumping water. 18 hours. I think that's really remarkable. I think we learned a little bit about our system and how it functions. In the future, we probably won't make as wide a concern to the public, but again, I was unsure of what that was and I wanted to be prepared. I want to thank the county, emergency management was prepared, I want to thank Carrie, we were trying to put out information, and we'll go back and assess to make sure that in the future, we're a little clearer on the direction that we give so that we don't create -- because it did seem that we created some concern in the public sector, when in fact, where we were working, we felt like we were really in control of the situation. So we'll assess that to make sure in the future that we get that a little bit more in control. With that, I really want to stand for any questions on that particular event, if anybody had any questions.

Commissioner Hoeppner: I want to use this time to say thank you to the team, Bo, and the City Manager for handling this situation professionally. I would have liked to see that any updates to the situation were published as soon as we received them. I got a lot of phone calls asking what was happening and if they still had to boil water after three days. Maybe in the future we can give a follow-up as quickly as possible. I did see a decrease in tourism this weekend, because word got around online that we had no water, and that publicity affects things long after the situation may be resolved. So we have to be counteractive and say, "No, the water is safe to drink and we are up and going again." with the same speed as the other alerts. I'd like us to put effort into that. It is absolutely impressive what you guys all pulled off with the team in that timeframe, especially in New Mexico where the distances we need to travel to get parts are large. I have a lot of respect for that. Thank you also to the Mayor for his updates informing us of the situation, so that I was informed when people called, and then I could reassure them that yes, everything will be fine, the team is working on it, and they're resolving it as quick as possible. That really showed good leadership, and it shows that when

something is happening, the city and the staff is ready to tackle any situation. Thank you very much.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: I want to make a point to Ingo. I actually had a meeting with Carrie, the PIO, last week and I will talk about that in my report, but one of the things is that she's been really active on our city website. Even if you go to our city website right now – immediately, as soon as it was announced, I think Wednesday or Tuesday morning, where you don't have to boil water, that was up on the very first evening, on the city webpage, it's right there, and it says, "No longer need to boil water." so I think a lot of people are kind of lack in their ability to gather information and rely on Facebook and newsfeeds and stuff, but the city website is very well-maintained and updated daily, hourly sometimes. That information was out very quickly and so in the future you can always direct them to our website where we know that Carrie is putting out the information.

Mayor Hechler: Mr. Whitehead, tell us a little bit about the boiled water mandate that came, and how it came about. For me, a boiling water mandate from the Environment Department was almost like a normal reaction, whether we were compromised or not, they're going to come out with an abundance of caution and tell us to go ahead and boil your water. I don't think our system was ever in jeopardy, but we always have to act in accordance with what the Environment Department tells us to do.

City Manager Whitehead: Thank you for the question. I was certainly surprised when I received an email late in the evening that they were recommending that. It's tough, because no matter what you say, it's going to be a boil water notice. Their notice was a recommendation that if you went without water for a period of time, that if you wanted you should boil your water. It was a recommendation. But again, I was concerned because the memo came and said, "We saw on Facebook that you had a total system water outage, and based on that, you should do this." So I immediately responded back to the Environment Department to clarify the point. They never called me, neve reached out to me, never wanted an explanation. So I was certainly very disappointed to end up in a total system outage when we never were without water. As a matter of fact, the contractor repaired the leak, just like we do many times, with water still flowing. All we need to do is get the pressure down enough that the clamp will go around the break, so the system was never really without water. Again, for sure, we did turn the tank off at the top of the hill, and that would have caused water to eventually stop flowing, but our system is looped, we have multiple points that connect, and it moves water. So that was the concern on our part, and we want to be compliant, it's certainly not an issue, but we've had so many water leaks over the last five or six years, and the Environment Department has not come down and said, "You should have a boil water notice all the time based on the conditions that you guys are going through." so the citizens would know that if we have an outage and they're concerned, they should boil their water. Versus, this did happen, and that's the requirement. Those are two totally separate things. I hope to spend some time with the Environment Department and make sure I understand what their obligations are to the citizens, to us, and make sure that we can deal with it. But certainly, I never spoke to anyone from the Environment Department

until Tuesday to get clarity, and to explain our position, that we didn't. And their recommendation was, "Well that makes sense, but why don't you go ahead, and just on the side of caution, post that." So we did. We immediately sent out water tests; for every line, we sent out four tests, and it takes 24 hours until we see the results of that test. I was immediately back on the phone with our water team, making sure – about 11:30 on Wednesday, we received the negative reports, so we were able to do that. Again, one of those items that we just kind of learned through this process. We'll work with the Environment Department to make sure we're getting that information out, but again, back to Commissioner Hoeppner's point, we want to make sure that the city website is the spot for information. We are going through a change, Carrie, our PIO, has changed platforms. Very impressive so far, it does put the information a little better than the last website, before it would just kind of put up a little box in the corner. Now we were able to put a header and you're able to link off of that header so people can click on that and go get information. So again, we'll try to do a better job and make sure we're directing people to the website as the official information site for the city.

Mayor Hechler: Thank you for that explanation. Compliments to those folks post-event. I think once we identified the problem and needed to deal with it, it was dealt with expediently. We had multiple things going on at the same time; you were sending people to El Paso, you had people on-site, you had a well digger there. With everything going, I think you guys handled that problem heroically, I think it was a great job getting the water system right back on board. The events leading up to the outage, I think need to have some discussion.

City Manager Whitehead: Correct.

Mayor Hechler: Ironically, the week before, I gave a report on that, and I'm hoping that there's redundancy built into checking every day, I think that's important, not only relying on SCADA, but also physically checking those tanks every day. I think that's important and that will give us the information we need so we can make those decisions more expediently if we need to. I hope I've got that right, f I don't, please let me know.

City Manager Whitehead: No, that's correct. Obviously, we have SCADA, an electronic system that measures it. One of the issues, besides the well going out, is recognizing that we were getting some false readings on the weekend that gave the crew the idea that we were okay. I think we didn't really get that assessed until Sunday, to now that we were in a little bit of a problem. And we will, I think Bo, through Public Works and the Water Department, has instituted some double checks and some items like that, so that we can pay better attention to that. The system is back to normal, and we should be able to monitor that. I also want to thank the crew, the public doesn't know this, but we did keep a crew on 24 hours from Monday night all the way to Friday, so that we could make sure the pumps were transferring water in the right ways, that it wasn't automatic, we kept it on a manual system as well. We solved the issue, we got it under control, and then we managed it for the four days to make sure we got our levels back safe. I kept the reports going to the Fire Chief just so that he would know, that's a big concern if he pulls up to a structure fire, what does he need to do. And he and I communicated well to

make sure he knew he had backup from other departments, so the team did a great job, everybody supported us well, internally I think we handled it well, and we'll just improve on those items that you've identified, I think those are correct.

a. Department Head Reports.

Wes Meyers, Sanitation Supervisor reported on the following:

- For our update, I'd like to go through some numbers from 2024 – current. This is all tonnage, when it comes to the refuse as well as recycling:
    - In 2024:
        - We sent off 9,869 tons to the Corralitos Landfill
        - We produced 367 tons of recyclables
        - We roughly saves 21 trailers from going to the Corralitos Landfill with the recycling. The average cost per trailer at that time per ton was $61.14. With those 21 trailers, it was $22,445 that we also saved.
    - In 2025:
        - The refuse we sent was 9,106 tons
        - We produced 386 tons of recycling
        - The average cost per ton for the refuse was $66.90, and we saved $25,843 which is roughly 22 trailers.
    - That is a 762 ton decrease of waste from 2024 to 2025, and a 19 ton increase in recycling.
    - In 2026:
        - Currently, we have 5,857 tons that has been sent to Corralitos Landfill.
        - From January to August, 270 tons in recycling
        - We're spending $68.53 per ton of refuse being sent to the Corralitos Landfill
        - So far we've saved $18,561. Roughly, 15.5 trailers.
        - We're seeing an increase in recycling, and a decrease in waste being sent to the Corralitos Landfill, and we're very happy with that.
        - We're projecting about 406 tons of recycling this year, that's going to be 20 more tons than 2025, and we are ecstatic about that. We're projecting 8,785 tons of waste, which would be a 321 ton decrease for 2025, and we're really pleased with those numbers.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: That's great.

Mayor Hechler: Good report, I have a couple quick questions. Certainly the trend is going the right way with recycling, that needs to go up, and solid waste should go down. One thing that caught my ear while you were speaking is our recycling transport costs with Corralitos, it started out at $61, then $66, then $68. Does it go up every year?

Wes Meyers, Sanitation Supervisor: Yes, sir. Every year, it's a percentage, I believe.

Mayor Hechler: So that's $7 a ton over three years, that's significant for us. I hope people understand that there's a reason that sometimes we have to increase out fees also, because our costs of operations go up. I just thought I'd call attention to that. Thank you.

Wes Meyers, Sanitation Supervisor: Thank you, I appreciate that.

Bo Easley, Public Works Director reported the following:

- As I have moved into the new position of the Public Works Director, I have been working pretty hard with Jamie, and actually all the departments on all their projects and everything, helping them out as much as I can. As far as me/myself helping them out, I'm still working on the one project for the electric car charging station, is come along pretty good. We're about 65% complete, we're waiting on the canopy right now. In the meantime, we're waiting on the concrete to cure. Other than that, I'll stand for any questions from you.

Jamie Foreman, Water/Wastewater Supervisor reported on the following:

- For my report today, I wanted to touch base with some of the stuff going on with Water and Wastewater:
    - With Water, statistic-wise, since June 1st, we've completed 127 water leaks, and August being our biggest month where we completed 41, 20 of those being in 1 week. We currently have about 20 water leaks that are active, the crews are working about 5 a day, but as we know, as soon as we fix one, another one picks up.
    - Wastewater; I'm actively working on renewing out discharge permit for the Wastewater plant. We have to renew those every 3 years, this year we have to have it in 120 days before the due date, so it's actually expiring in 2027, but we need to have it in by the end of September.
    - I do have one position open, it's the Field Tester position, that position mainly is going to be testing all of our valves, our hydrants, and then once we know which valves and hydrants are active of need replaced, they will then be able to go in and turn off a series of them, that way we understand what valves do what, essentially, so we know how to more effectively turn off water if it needs to be turned off in an area.
    - For water projects, we have Smithco currently continuing work to install the PRV's. They are actively working on one right now on 6th and Sierra Vista. Police Chief helped us by doing the wide load carry today, to get that over there. They are also finishing up Silver's water line, coming down to 9th, and then starting next week they will be moving over to the East side of Smith and continuing over towards Bosque through the desert. J&H is continuing down Broadway, They have one additional line they need to cap on 9th that wasn't in the drawings, it was not initialed that it needed to be capped, but we met with the engineer about a week and a half ago, and he helped us identify which lines they are going to need to cap to finish off 9th Street. They will then be going down to McAdoo and start potholing McAdoo to identify the utilities in that area, so that way we

can get the McAdoo water line replaced. Then we have WSPI-2 and critical water lines, which are ready to go out to bid here shortly. Within the next couple months, they will be out for bid. We are working internally right now on some better redundancies on getting the rounds done every day. We're having the crews, when they go out, check water tanks, send pictures so that way not only are they verifying it, but I'm also able to verify what they're seeing from anywhere. And then I'm also going out 1-2 times a day and driving those routes to verify what's going on where. I will stand for any questions.

Commissioner Glines: Would you explain to us and the public the process for when a water leak pops up, kind of go over the public's resources or who they notify, and then go through the end step of when it actually gets fixed?

Jamie Foreman, Water/Wastewater Supervisor: When a water leak pops up, if the public is identifying it, we really ask for them to call into our Daupler system, that way we have record of where these are. My administrator goes in every day and looks at which Dauplers have come in, and then assigns them a category of whether they are what we call critical, and if they're critical the guys call in immediately and let us know that we need to fix this one right now, if it's anything below critical, then we assign it a ranking system. If it's on a main road, we try to get to it that week, if it's a service line or a meter leak, that can be pushed out for about two weeks, but as soon as the leak is identified, we then go out, assess it, once it's assessed, we put it up on what we call our leak list, and then after it's been done, the guys go out and fix it. Depending on where it is, they either have to break the asphalt or concrete, we hydrovac it out, which is what w have our vac truck and vac trailer for. Depending on how many times we've been out there, that's when it calls for a line replacement. If we've been out there more than 2 times, we replace that section of line, if it's the first time we've been out there, we put on what they call a single band clamp, and those range anywhere from a 3.4 inch line, up to a 12 inch line. That's when we clamp those. And we try to do as many of that kind of stuff live. If it's too high pressure, and it's going to cause safety issues for the guys, that's when we tend to turn down 1 or 2 valves so that way it lowers the pressure in the line so they can safely get in the hole.

Commissioner Glines: What I would ask is as they're going out for the preliminary inspection after the Daupler notification, if we could get some sort of marking or flag noting that they've already seen that? Then, when I get that phone call, "Do you know of about this, have you seen this?" then I can ask them, "Is there a flag there? Is the marking there?" then I would know it's already updated. Maybe something visual as we go through the city, so that residents would know that you already know about it.

Jamie Foreman, Water/Wastewater Supervisor: They haven't done it in the last few weeks for other reasons, but we do try to mark them as soon as we see them in white paint, but with water, paint tends to wash away, and so do flags. So we do try to keep up to date on locking those in, and whoever went out and seen them put their initials and the date they were out there.

Mayor Hechler: Just a general question; amongst the hundreds of things that you do every day anyway, I have this fear in the back of my mind about fire hydrants, and the Fire Department getting to a house fire and the fire hydrant doesn't work. There's supposed to be a program that we're supposed to check these every year, at least once a year, and flush them and do all that. How's that going? Is it going? What do we need to do? What's the situation?

Jamie Foreman, Water/Wastewater Supervisor: Once we've identified a fire hydrant that's not, we do put a sign on it that t's inoperable. We are trying to get out there as much as possible and flush out fire hydrants. When we turn off water, we flush them, so we know which ones are operable in certain areas. But that is going to be one of the main focuses of this new position for the Field Tester, he or she is supposed to go out there and flush 10-15 fire hydrants per week, and it doesn't take long to flush a hydrant, it take a minute or two. You open it, once you see clean water, you tighten it back down. It doesn't take very long to do those, so we wouldn't lose very much water in that process, but that will be their main focus, to do that maintenance for us, because they need to be maintained. Once they've identified which fire hydrants need to be replaced, then we can start working on getting those replaced as soon as possible.

Mayor Hechler: Have you established a log of that? Do you keep logs and information?

Jamie Foreman, Water/Wastewater Supervisor: We have not established that as of right now. I actually have a meeting with iWorQ, which is what we use to do our maintenance stuff. I have a meeting with them Friday to get that established. It is on my mind.

Mayor Hechler: Okay thank you.

Brenden Anglin, Streets Supervisor reported the following:

- I'll start by going over what we're doing; maintenance completed, and our continued cleaning drainage ditches and everything right now. We're not getting a lot of moisture, but I think we're getting enough so that things grow back quite quickly, and it's hard to keep up. That being said, we're two people short, so we're only running our four-man crew, so handling weeds, potholes, etc. is kind of difficult, we're trying to prioritize which ones need more attention than others. That being said, we try to stay behind Jamie on her water cuts and get those filed in as quickly as possible.
- We interviewed two new possible candidates for our labor position, as we lost one seasonal. They're going through drug and background checks right now, so they should start here soon hopefully.
- On equipment; our equipment is generally good and in operating condition. We only have a backhoe down, and the Service Center is keeping in communication with us and letting us know what's going on. Right now, it's just a hydraulic leak in the boom, and it's quite a pain to take that apart and get it fixed, so it's going to take some time getting that one back on the road. Our new street sweeper, I know that one is kind of a revolving door, we keep talking about it but we haven't

seen it yet. I called Alejandro and he said that the flood down in Texas kind of messed things up, so that's going to take a little while to get it back up here, but he said by the end of this month we will eventually get it.

- Material update; I recently just purchased some new cold mix material and the guys seem to like it a lot. It's all natural and I don't know if any of you guys have ever messed with the cold mix, but it's extremely hard, and this stuff kind of stays malleable and it's quite easy to shovel out of the trailer, so I think we're going to stick with it, it's reasonably priced, it comes out of Texas as well.
- For major projects; we're currently working on Cherry Lane, that is going to come out of our bond, and we're currently peeling up the lower section of the road, getting rid of the asphalt, and we're going to come in and lay a 3-inch overlay over that, because simply putting overlay over the existing was not advisable from other people. We're working on that, it's going to be a slow process, but we're eventually going to get it done. Also, the LGRF map projects; those are moving forward. For 2025 and 2026, we've got those rolling, we took the engineering aspect out of it and that's kind of another one of those revolving doors, we keep talking about it, and it's slowly getting there. I'm learning a lot, trying to get everything going. Traci and Gary have been helping me out with that, so I appreciate that. For 2026 and 2027 map and LGR projects, we're just waiting for the executed agreements to come through, and then we can start moving forward with those. That is my report and I would stand for any questions.

Commissioner Glines: Along the lines of the Marie Street improvements, I would like to see something come up in the future about Kopra itself so we can connect our community and our housing district to the highway through Kopra, as we rebuild Marie Street and those improvements. Some kind of plan for that road to be more accessible to the public so people can actually drive on it without being worried about vehicle damage. It would be nice to connect those to not only the commercial side of town and the housing side of town, but have an alternate route through the city.

Brenden Anglin, Streets Supervisor: Yes, sir. We were actually planning on doing Kopra, but with the other projects that came through and my transition between positions, I don't want to take too much on and end up not giving one project the attention it deserves. So we're going to take our time, redo that, we put some milling son there, but unfortunately, it's fallen apart, we didn't jump on it in time. For Marie Street, we are going to do stuff, I don't have too much knowledge of what's happening with that, as it's part of the Colonias fund, and I can't really speak on that, but those plans are in the works.

Commissioner Glines: I don't mean to single out a single road, I know you have a lot and there are a lot of roads in town that need focus right now.

b. Police Department Update.

Chief Tavizon reported the following:

- I will just recap for August, since it's closed out, the department had:
  - 994 calls for service
  - 151 traffic stops
  - 88 citations issued
  - 11 arrests
  - 25 crashes
  - 52 follow-ups conducted
  - 2 DWI arrests
- For this month, we've placed a requisition in for All Traffic Solutions, they're a Sourcewell company, for a mobile speed trailer. The speed trailer is also a message board as well, so we could also use that device for any kind of event we might have, to get messages out to the motoring public for "caution up ahead" or if we need them to turn in somewhere, or whatever the case may be. This device also receives data. You'll get data, not only traffic volume, but you also get average speed, when the infractions are happening, they'll give you a time frame, and an average on what the speeders are. It'll be nice to have that mobile for any traffic complaints that come in. Through the same company, I'm also working on getting two stationary signs, and plan on working with DOT to see if we can't set those up somewhere on Main Street and Broadway. Broadway, I'd like to put it somewhere close to maybe El Faro, I know we have a traffic sign that's kind of closer to Tractor Supply; that tells you to slow down, but it seems like once they go around that corner, they just seem to take off. If they have a reminder, then I'm getting statistics as well. And we can address that with a directed patrol at the time of day that these are happening. We're also expanding our services, we just did a wide load escort off I-25 for our water project on Morgan Street. They should be offloading that now. We're preparing for the concert series, which starts tomorrow, through October 22nd. So you'll see police presence there for the concert as well, we'll probably set up a booth and try to get some raffle tickets sold for Shop With a Cop, we have a guitar that was donated by David Johnson a little while back, so we'll be working on that, as well as a police presence, possibly on bicycles and whatnot. With that, I'll stand for any questions you may have.

City Manager Whitehead: I want to thank the Chief as well, as you can see; concert series, wide loads for the water projects, it's really nice, the team's working hard and everybody is kind of involved in everything we do. I really appreciate that, we're getting more than just policing. I really enjoy working with Chief Tavizon and I'm appreciative of those efforts today.

2. City Commission Reports.

Commissioner Hoeppner reported the following:

- I would like to say that yes, I know that Carrie is doing an amazing job. My comment was more directed to the big media outlets and not what is done here locally. She is doing amazing, working tirelessly to keep us informed. What we could do here is maybe do more safeguards from our new website to promote it here, and if you have questions look at the website first, and when you don't find the answer, please contact us. Otherwise, it is very good to see that the department heads and the departments are working great together. I'm also getting different phone calls with concerns and when it comes to personnel or departments, I am always deferring them to the City Manager, which is my job as Commissioner, not to try to promise anything or micromanage anything, so I'm not really saying no, that is why we have a City Manager and he's in charge of all that, and they are happy with that answer. Also, before Commission meetings every Monday from 1pm-2pm, at my coffee shop, Ingo's Art Café, I have the door open, when you have comments or ideas, please bring them to me, I am open to listen to it, and take it into consideration. I see a lot of emails popping up like, "I have this great idea, can I have a few minutes of your time?" I want to say to everybody that as a Commissioner, I'm happy to listen but when it is something big that influences not only Sierra County, but other counties as well, that is so big that it deserves to take the time to go to the City Clerk's office and request to be added to the agenda to present their big idea to the public and the Commission at the next meeting, for all of us to hear what your great idea is. Art Hop and the Levitt grant music series are happening, and I encourage everybody to go out. These days, there is not much you can do for free, and enjoying the arts and bringing your family and kids out to enjoy some good music is always amazing, and the same goes for Art Hop. Every gallery is opening up and really want to show the beauty of art, and also with music. I want to encourage everybody to come out and support those efforts that our small businesses are doing. They are taking the time to prepare for it and to put their efforts in to give the public a great experience. On that point, I would also like to promote Oktoberfest October 3rd, that is our first annual Oktoberfest, we are working very hard on it, and I am encouraging everyone to mark your calendars, come out, and support us.

Commissioner Glines reported the following:

- To start, the arts in public places selection process has begun, I'm looking toward a vast gallery of things, and along those lines I did have a thought, to have something behind the dais. As I go through these, these are just staff requests, I'm not trying to add anything to the agenda yet, that will be up to you to add stuff to the agenda as I go through these, Mr. Manager. But my imagination would be something behind the dais, maybe we get the Public Arts Board and have something presented in this room to kind of go alongside the arts in public places idea that we're using for the Police Department itself.

- I attended the 69th annual New Mexico Municipal League conference a few weeks ago. It was really quite amazing, I am proud and thankful to be in this position to be able to attend such an event. Some key notes from it: Christopher Jordan, Data Program Manager for the National League of Cities, and Kate Stoll, the Project Director from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, both gave presentations on data centers. It was a refresher for me, but very much useful and I'd like to ask staff to reach out to an organization to come give a presentation to the Commission for future discussion at a city meeting. This is in parallel to what Commissioner Hoeppner just said, but instead of an actual person presenting for themselves, and not saying don't do that, but this would be along the lines of an actual educational fact from – their recommendation was local colleges, if they're not available, to actually come to the city of Truth or Consequences.
- I attended the leading through disaster workshop, and it was presented by none other than Emergency Manager Eric Queller and Marylin Crawford of the Village of Ruidoso. Scoring our own disaster preparedness given the resources given at the workshop, the City of T or C is doing well in those aspects. With our own dams flooding, utility upgrades, and standing documents in the city and its departments, as well as the agreements between local authorities and county local government. i.e. our work we did with the Sierra County emergency management with the Police Chief. I would like to invite the Sierra County Emergency Manager to come back and give us an update along the lines of everything we've talked about for emergency preparedness including water, and along the website lines, something where we have that emergency click button, that information, it goes to a document that the city can access and the residents can access on the website itself.
- I attended a workshop, AI in local government, that was presented by Henri Hammond. It covered risk levels of staff, elected officials, for using AI for governmental tasks. My main takeaways from this workshop were the usefulness of using AI in local government, the push for local governments to adopt an AI use policy, and provide training on the dos and don'ts, when to use large language models, vision models, and generative AI models. I'm requesting staff to prepare an AI use policy for the city to present to the Commission in a future meeting for adoption. There was a site preparedness workshop which actually the city utilized, the Local Economic Development Act for Love's recently, so we're doing well in that aspect. It was nice to know, especially the questions from the other governing body members across the state, that we seem to have a pretty good handle on it, thank you, Mr. Manager, it was nice to be in a different category of less questions and know that we're actually working towards that effectively. There are a lot more questions around the state on how to actually utilize something like that.
- This is from my meeting notes I said I would report on today; my current Commissioner report I will utilize staff time with Mr. Manager to work through it, because there is some sensitive information in it that I've decided to maybe utilize on future agenda items where we could go into executive session and for

personnel matters and discussion amongst the body, and then come back out to the public with the decisions the Commission has made. Thank you.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell:

- I just have a short report; I attended the Sustainable T or C meeting, which is the first Thursday of every month at the library. They are still working towards education of the public, getting articles in the paper, trying to increase that tonnage that does not go to a landfill, by recycling and recycling smartly. So that's been one of my passions, saving us money. I think that was a good report that Wes and Andy gave, I'm going to include that in the future article coming out.
- I also was called to an emergency response meeting with Ryan Williams last Thursday at the MainStreet office, I invited Carrie, and we also had with us Pat Swan, Heather Rische, June Jewell, and Becca Eza with MainStreet. We met with Ryan Williams, emergency response for the county, and the CEO of Roadrunner Food Bank was there. Starting a discussion about forming a VOAD, which is like a volunteer organization for disaster relief, and it basically came about because of the water emergency we had last week and trying to come up with a group of responders, volunteers, that can proactively help if we have to setup an emergency shelter, or get emergency food and water, knowing to work with our local food co-ops and food banks. It was just initial discussion, we decided we are going to meet again on October 7th at 4:30pm. We don't know where we're going to meet yet, but we were tasked to invite 5 other people, so I'm tagging most people in this room to come with, I think I already tagged Rolf, just to kind of put this into place. Ryan gave a lot of examples such as Socorro, they had a couple wells go down, and then ended up getting backed into, they had E. coli in those wells and they were under a boil water notice. So how do we, as a community, not just city government, not just city officials or staff, but volunteers, who's working with – if we need blankets, where are we going to setup an emergency shelter if we have to? It was just a really great meeting to get the idea rolling, and starting our own kind of VOAD group here. I just wanted too report out on that and invite people to come. We're prong to do it at the Albert Lyons event center, 4:30pm on Wednesday, October 7th. That concludes my report.

Mayor Hechler had no reports.

3. City Attorney Reports:

City Attorney Rubin reported the following:

- It's interesting, I think I mentioned this previously, as I was going to give an update on pending litigation. But I was talking to Gary and he gave me a really good idea, he said, "Jay, why are you limiting yourself to one topic? Why don't you give the city a broad overview of what you do in a typical month or so?" and I think that's a good idea. It occurs to me that you see me twice a month, but between meetings I'm always working closely with Traci, Gary, Jocelyn sometimes, the Chief sometimes, and it might not be a bad idea for me to say

what we do in between the meetings. A lot of the work that we're doing is usually to get ready for the meetings, or maybe they'll give me work to do after the meeting, so I just grabbed my last month's statement to take a look and see what really goes into it. What really jumped out at me when I was looking at this was contracts, agreements, and MOU's fill up my calendar. I'll just give you a quick rundown, and I wasn't even thinking about this when I was pulling the statement out, but if you look at the month of August, we had the revised MOU with the county regarding utility connections, to get ready for the first meeting in August, we looked at the Bartoo contract, the animal shelter contract, there were various promotional contracts I was trying to assure ourselves we were getting benefits for what we were agreeing to pay, there was a Sourcewell navigation contract, we had the Love's lease which is still in negotiations right now, Traci was very helpful this morning pointing out that there are still a couple things we need to look at so we're still in negotiations there, but I'm confident we're going to bring that to a good conclusion, and then coming out of the last meeting, there was some Planning & Zoning work I was doing, there was a vacation of alley you had voted on. And in between, there has been some litigation, we're making good progress resolving some of these cases, but I just wanted to let you know that I'm really proud, I'm working well with staff and just doing things to protect the city or to get ourselves ready for these meetings, and also just to see what we have to do after. That's kind of an overview of what I've been doing, and that's sort of typical for what goes on. Gary, I know you and I have been working on some things, is there anything in your mind you'd like to mention that I forgot?

City Manager Whitehead: No, I think it was important that the public and the Commission know that basis on many different items and topics, and it's more than just litigation, there are a lot of things that require legal review to make sure we're thinking right. We have general good conversations like our meeting yesterday, we talked about different ideas, as I said in thanking the Chief, a lot of his ideas are more than just law enforcement, and Jay is more than just law, we do talk about a lot of items offline. I am appreciative of that and I did want you to be able to share that.

City Attorney Rubin: And it even goes back to – you know, we have the agenda review meeting a week before, and one thing that helps me out with that is then I can actually go through the agenda, we can talk about the Open Meetings Act and make sure we're all happy with the way the agendas are worded, we have the appropriate documents ready to be put into the packet. There are a lot of things that go into it.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. **City Commission Regular Minutes, August 12, 2026**
2. **City Commission Regular Minutes, August 28, 2026**
3. **August 2026 Accounts Payable**

Mayor Hechler made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted. All Commissioners were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Discussion/Action: MOU between the City of Truth or Consequences Public Library and the Geronimo Springs Alternative Pathway Program for the use of the Gardner Learning Center.**

City Clerk Torres: Last year you approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Truth or Consequences Public Library and the Geronimo Springs Alternative Pathway Program for the use of the Gardner Learning Center. The program uses the classroom space to provide GED and HiSET classes. The partnership has benefited the city by supporting students pursuing high school equivalency credentials, helping applicants meet employment qualifications, and creating opportunities to recruit graduating students for potential city employment. The current MOU expired in August 2026 and requested approval is to renew the agreement for an additional year. In addition to the MOU, they will also complete a rental agreement on file with the Clerk's Office so that we have the hours of use on file. They will also provide updates to the schedule to the Clerk's Office.

City Attorney Rubin: That last point is very important. That is in paragraph 2, "There will be a subsequent agreement." Because this agreement is fairly brief, and there will be another agreement that might spell out some more terms such as the class times and that kind of thing.

Mayor Hechler: Do we have any numbers of the success of last year?

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: As far as for city employees, I think only 3.

City Clerk Torres: 3 or 4, yes.

Mayor Hechler: So, it's a very viable program?

City Clerk Torres: It really is, yes. I do recommend approval.

Commissioner Glines made a motion to approve the MOU between the City of Truth or Consequences Public Library and the Geronimo Springs Alternative Pathway Program for the use of the Gardner Learning Center. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion.

Hon. Chaz Glines, Commissioner voted aye
Hon. Rolf Hechler, Mayor voted aye
Hon. Destiny Mitchell, Commissioner abstained from the vote
Hon. Ingo Hoeppner, Commissioner voted aye
Hon. Amanda Forrister, Commissioner voted aye

Motion carried with a 4-0 vote and 1 abstention.

2. **Discussion/Action: Approval of Memorandums of Understanding for the successful completion of a Riverwalk Trail along the Rio Grande, located in Ralph Edwards Park in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.**

City Manager Whitehead: I'm happy to present this on behalf of our Public Services Director, OJ. At the last meeting, you approved a memorandum of understanding between the City and Sierra County. As we're trying to build off the trails off of Rotary Park, it's important that we receive support. The Outdoor Trails grant is looking for how we're partnering with our neighbors and other agencies. The vision here is to build kind of a walking trail, and be able to support those. Within the packet, we have broken down each of those memorandums into the four categories that you see in front of you. We have a memorandum with the Chamber of Commerce, one with MainStreet, one with the Turtleback Trails Network, and one with Jornada RC&D. All of them are government-to-government agencies. Our recommendation is that we approve and accept the memorandum of understanding. These will go into the Trails Plus grant application for this year, as we're looking to build a river walk on the Ralph Edwards Park side, and then doing our study both for a potential river dam, and then Rotary Park's final master plan. That would be the presentation on the four.

City Clerk Torres: I would ask that you please vote on each item individually.

City Attorney Rubin: What I like about this is it spells out that the City is the lead organization, so we're kind of carrying the ball.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell: I just want to make a comment that I probably will be abstaining from at least three of the items, not because I get any financial compensation, but I do serve on some of those boards, and I don't want it to be perceived conflict of interest.

Mayor Hechler: And there's no significant differences between any of these? As far as I can tell, they're all the same except for the name.

City Manager Whitehead: Correct.

Commissioner Forrister: So this MOU, is it just coming into place so that we can apply for funding? It's not saying that we are doing any of these trails at the moment, it's just working together to apply for funding?

City Clerk Torres: Correct.

Commissioner Forrister: Okay thank you.

a. Chamber of Commerce:

Commissioner Glines made a motion to approve the MOU with the Chamber of Commerce for the successful completion of a Riverwalk Trail along the Rio Grande, located in Ralph Edwards Park in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer.

Hon. Destiny Mitchell, Commissioner abstained
Hon. Rolf Hechler, Mayor voted aye
Hon. Ingo Hoeppner, Commissioner voted aye
Hon. Chaz Glines, Commissioner voted aye
Hon. Amanda Forrister, Commissioner voted aye

Motion carried with a 4-0 vote and 1 abstention.

b. MainStreet

Commissioner Glines made a motion to approve the MOU with MainStreet for the successful completion of a Riverwalk Trail along the Rio Grande, located in Ralph Edwards Park in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Turtleback Trails Network

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve the MOU with the Turtleback Trails Network for the successful completion of a Riverwalk Trail along the Rio Grande, located in Ralph Edwards Park in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Jornada RC&D

Commissioner Hoeppner made a motion to approve the MOU with Jornada RC&D for the successful completion of a Riverwalk Trail along the Rio Grande, located in Ralph Edwards Park in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer.

Hon. Rolf Hechler, Mayor voted aye
Hon. Destiny Mitchell, Commissioner abstained
Hon. Ingo Hoeppner, Commissioner voted aye

Hon. Chaz Glines, Commissioner voted aye
Hon. Amanda Forrister, Commissioner voted aye

Motion carried with a 4-0 vote and 1 abstention.

H. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING:

1. Discussion/Action: Approval of Resolution No. 19 26/27 Authorizing NMFA Water Project Fund Loan/Grant Agreement WPF-6947 for Wastewater System Improvements.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: This is just the final step in the water project fund to get through the grant agreement so we can proceed with using the funding. The Commission approved the intent to apply by resolution, as well as approved a resolution to accept their award. We were awarded $2,522,765 through the Water Trust Board for wastewater treatment plant improvements. It is a grant of $2,270,488 with a loan component of $252,277 and a cash match of $252,276. With this, I am requesting to approve the resolution and authorize the execution of all the loan and grant agreements so we can continue to move forward.

Mayor Hechler: Just for the record, would you mind explaining how we're going to deal with the loan and the cash match?

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: I don't think we've totally identified if we're using the bond funds.

City Manager Whitehead: We are. Good question. We have bond 4, which you know is in process to be closed. We're identified that the $256,000 for match will come from bond 4, we did not have a project allocated. Now the loan will be on the books in the Wastewater Department, we're fairly healthy on that side if you look at the studies we've given you. So we'll be able to support the loan as well.

Mayor Hechler: Thank you.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve Resolution No. 19 26/27 Authorizing NMFA Water Project Fund Loan/Grant Agreement WPF-6947 for Wastewater System Improvements. Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 20 26/27 for use of canopy tents by governmental agencies and organizations approved by Lodgers Tax Advisory Board.**

City Clerk Torres: Last year the city approved a resolution authorizing the rental of canopy tents purchased by the Fiesta Board with Lodgers Tax funds. This would allow governmental entities and organizations that receive Lodgers Tax funding that are approved by the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board to use the canopy tents for special events. We are bringing this back to you today because we would like to amend a few things on the resolution. The first proposed change is to remove the specific listing of canopy tents from the resolution, so the resolution does not need to be brought back each time a tent is replaced. The second proposed change is to remove the $1,200 replacement fee. There will be no charge to use the tents; however, if a tent is damaged, the agency or organization using the tent will be responsible for the actual cost to replace it. We would also like to request a change to the proposed resolution when you make your motion. The section on the second to the last paragraph that says "Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City of Truth or Consequences Governing Body that the fees and regulations, are hereby enacted. The portion that says "fees" needs to be removed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mitchell made a motion to approve Resolution No. 20 26/27 for use of canopy tents by governmental agencies and organizations approved by Lodgers Tax Advisory Board, with the changes mentioned by City Clerk Torres. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Hechler adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Passed and **Approved** this **23rd** day of **September, 2026**.

Rolf Hechler, Mayor

ATTEST:

Angela A. Torres, CMC, City Clerk