CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3RD St.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 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 was absent
Hon. Amanda Forrister, Commissioner
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
Carlos Miyagishima, CPO
Pat O'Hanlon, Librarian
OJ Hechler, Community Services Director
Tara Manning, Animal Shelter Supervisor
Jamie Foreman, Water/Wastewater Supervisor
Cesar Galacia, Parks Supervisor
Bob Messina, Golf Course Supervisor
Thomas Cool, Facilities Management Supervisor

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

2. SILENT MEDITATION:

Mayor Hechler called for fifteen seconds of silent meditation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Hechler moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 Minute Rule Applies):

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

- I'm here with a few updates on what we have going on, it's a lot right now. Tomorrow is the final walkthrough of Foch, we are thrilled to finally have this project wrapping up. There are a few last punch-list things that need to be finished, and then it will hopefully open soon, we're planning a tentative ribbon-cutting ceremony and celebration on Second Saturday Art Hop in September. Even though the street will have been open for a while at that point, we figure that's a good time to get people downtown and probably close the street off, celebrate, have people walk it and really check it out, it's looking really nice. There are new lights with speakers, there are no cameras on the street, for the record, but there are speakers playing music, and I know the city is working on the timing and type of music being played, that's a work in progress, but we're excited to have all of those things there.
- We had our final Dancing in the Streetlights concert on Friday, it was great despite the dust storm that blew in, there was still a great turnout, people enjoyed coming out, dancing, and being downtown.
- Or Levitt music series kicks off next month, September 10th, and that will be 7 weeks in a row. It's a lot, but it's going to be really fun, we've got some great artists coming to play. It will be a different genre of music every week, so I have been telling people that you're not necessarily going to love every one, but it's going to be different types of music and every show will be different. That's Thursday evenings in Ralph Edwards Park from 6pm-9pm. It's family-friendly, it's free, we really want to get as many folks in the community out as possible, we're working on getting thousands of small fliers with the schedule printed so we can get those distributed to everyone.
- We have a grant-funded program starting up, it's called Socially Savvy T or C. It's basically a best practices in social media marketing for businesses, so how to post, how often to post, how to get a following. The first part of it is a free seminar open to anyone in the community, taking place on August 24th at the Geronimo Springs Museum. We're having a seminar at 10:00am and one at 5:30pm, identical sessions, just to fit different people's schedules. After that, MainStreet District businesses can apply to be part of a small cohort that will have some more intensive training. The goal of this is to get those businesses in particular to put out a lot of really good social media content going into the Fall and Winter tourism

season, and just have downtown T or C represented well on social media with interesting things.

- We've got a bunch of other partnerships and projects going on this Fall, we're working with Tree or C on a tree inventory and some tree training, we are helping support the Oktoberfest, we are working on funding for our wayfinding signage project, Halloween, Christmas, all of that good stuff. Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

D. PUBLIC HEARINGS (5 Minute Rule Applies)

1. Discussion/Action: Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Ordinance No. 774 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2026.

Chris Muirhead, Modrall, Sperling: This is an ordinance you're familiar with, this will be the fourth and final installment of your general obligation bonds that were approved in November of 2022. At that point, $3 million of bonds were approved, $1 million related to public road improvements, and $2 million related to the city's water and wastewater system. To date, there have been 3 prior issues that have used up a little over 75% of that, the bond issue in front of you now is the remaining $630,000 with $190,000 going toward streets and $440,000 going toward the water/wastewater system. The NMFA, as in the prior issuances, is the lender, and they've approved this with 10% of it being a disadvantage 0% interest rate, the other 90% at market rates, and they are a AAA-rated entity that gets AAA rates on their borrowing. The ordinance sets forth the same structure that you've seen, which is property taxes that pay back these bonds, so there's ad valorem taxes in place that have been producing enough revenues to pay the existing debt, plus this debt, without an increase provides for the form of the bonds, and notably delegates to the City Manager and the Mayor to accept the pricing terms with the finance authority when this prices in a couple of weeks, it will close the end of September, and those monies will be available for your projects at that time. Mr. Valenzuela is also here if you have questions.

Mark Valenzuela, Bosque Advisors, LLC: I would just simply echo what Chris has said, everything is in line, and we would certainly recommend your approval of this ordinance today, to keep moving forward on the transaction. One other thing I would say is, as Chris mentioned, this is the last piece of the election from 2022, and under state law, we have to get this sold by November 2026, so November of this year, so we will make that time frame and it will all come together very nicely. I'm happy to answer any questions that the Commission may have.

Mayor Hechler: I think we've heard this several times now, and we're pretty much up to speed.

Mayor Hechler opened the public hearing.

Opponents:

There were no opponents.

Proponents:

There were no proponents.

Mayor Hechler closed the public hearing.

City Manager Whitehead: I will just make a couple of comments on the practical useful side. Again, one of the requirements is that 5% of the bond proceeds get either allocated or spent within the first 6 months to meet that obligation. At the last meeting, you were made aware that we did receive a water trust boar grant for $2.3 million for our wastewater plant, so we will be obligating $270,000 of these funds to be the match portion for that particular project. At this point, once the ordinance is in place and the bonds are sold, we've met the beginning obligation for those funds. I'll give you more on my report about other spendings with the bond funds that we currently have.

Mayor Hechler: I just have one comment, I want to thank the community of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, for this bond initiative. This has allowed us to leverage that money to receive tens of millions of dollars for our community, to make the needed improvements that we are in the process of doing right now. It's resulted in a boom for this community, it will make it better, stronger, more ready for the future, and I want to thank the citizens of our community for having given us the faith to follow this through.

Commissioner Glines made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 774 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2026. Commissioner Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Rubin: The one I'm seeing in the packet says 772.

Chris Muirhead, Modrall, Sperling: that's just a mistake on there, we will change it to reflect 774.

E. REPORTS:

City Manager Whitehead reported the following:

- We received the notice of obligation for the Police Department this week, Finance will finish working on the contract and get that in place. We should be starting that project here within the next 30 days or so, so we're excited about that.
- Both of our water projects, as you just spoke about with the bonds, both shovel-ready and WSPI-1 are moving along nicely, you can see some nice activity going on down on South Broadway. Kudos to that construction team, they're working in a really tight corridor, moving in a methodical way, and working with the business owners to make sure everybody has access. They're cleaning up behind properties, so I really want to thank that group. Likewise, WSPI-1's primary focus is to provide us 8 pressure-relief valves, but we had some water lines that had to

be started around the schools. They did get those lines put in, we still have to make a connection at the elementary school, but we're working diligently with the schools, we'll perform that operation like we did at the high school where we'll do it in the middle of the night so that we're not disrupting the school and having to shut that down. We've done our best to keep that, and I want to thank that construction crew for being willing to make those accommodations, it's tough to have to come in and work at midnight until 4am, but we're doing everything we can to make sure we're as least disruptive as possible.

- Currently, we still struggle with water leaks. Last night, when I checked the inventory, and I hate to call it that, but we have about 20+ work orders in our system. Not all those work orders are necessarily leaks, we are keeping track of all the work and we do have some meter cans and sewer taps and those things, but we do have 20 active projects going. The water leaks off of Third street continue to plague us, every time we shut water off, we turn it back on, and we pop another water line in those areas. Most of them are service lines, but we are struggling with that. We did get back to a full crew, we have a full compliment of employees. Again, we're in training and trying to get that done. We are working with our contractor to help us pass and get some of those done.
- I'll talk a little bit about streets; we've been trying to get as nimble as we can on streets. First of all, this morning, we're trying to finish Deniels Street. The subcontractor that was doing the Foch paving, we went ahead and did a purchase order with them, since they were right in the area, to go ahead and take care of that little strip at Daniels by Bank of the Southwest and Morningstar. That was a small patch of road that was just really bad, so we're going to get that fixed, they will get it done by Friday, that's all set, they're shaping it today, so we'll have Foch and Daniels done. The only two streets in downtown that will need repair are the rest of McAdoo and Clancy, and then Jones Street. Both of those are scheduled for water lines in the next two projects, and we do have the funding in place to do the roadwork on both those projects. So we'll get the water lines put in on both of those roads, and then we'll come back in and do a mill and fill and repair some sidewalks where we can on both of those roads. So if you drive through downtown, effectively within the next year, all the roads in downtown will have a re-surface on them from end to end. We're excited about that.
- Assistant Manager Alvarez and I met with an engineering firm to start the work on Marie Street. We've actually met with two engineering firms, and we've asked them both to give us a proposal for the Marie Street project. Again, we have about $1.7 million that we'll spend there. We're definitely going to work on the dam part on Marie Street right off the golf course, we need to get some design work there, and then see how far we could stretch repaving Marie Street, so we're excited about that.
- Friday morning, we'll meet with the contractors, we have a contract on our agenda today to approve with Bartoo for materials. We hope to get that active pretty fast, and we'll start on Cherry Lane. We did replace the water line on Cherry Lane, so we will now be going and using the bond funds we have to do an overlay on Cherry Lane, we're trying to get that done as quickly as we can.

- We do have statewide price agreement quotes on Arrowhead, as well as a few other streets in T or C. We're going to do a fog seal on Foch Street, protect what we have there, so we've got those items going.
- At the end of the month, the municipal league will be having their annual meeting in Las Cruces, which is really nice. We're taking a few extra members of staff, since it's so close. But as you'll notice, we did have to amend our meeting schedule, so we will be meeting on Friday of that week, as Wednesday is the main day of the municipal league conference. So we'll be having our business meeting on 9:00am on Friday, and I thank the Clerk for setting that up for us.
- Finally, I did receive an email regarding cybersecurity at our water/wastewater infrastructure, many of you may have seen that on the news. We have convened a meeting with our water team, we're going to bring in our engineer, I've met with our engineer to talk about our vulnerabilities. Again, our system is really pretty manual, with the exception of our SCADA system, so somebody could actually get into our SCADA system and shut off one of our pumps, they could shut off some mechanism at the wastewater plant, but they're all manually controlled as well, so it would be something that would be seen quickly and we could return to full operations. But we are going to convene a meeting with the team, with the engineer, and make sure we're aware of any other vulnerabilities we might have in that space, and we're going to get that done next week. With that, I will stand for any questions I could potentially answer. I was going to talk about Foch Street, but Becca took my thunder.

Mayor Hechler: When is the final walkthrough again?

City Manager Whitehead: Tomorrow morning we will have our final walkthrough. I plan to be on the street, the project manager will be there this afternoon, so he and I and potentially Traci will walk and just look at anything we think needs to be fixed before tomorrow, we'll do the final walkthrough, and then it's up to the contractor and the engineer to determine when they turn the road over to us. Our hope is that Friday morning, we'll be able to open the road for drive traffic, but we won't know that until – the contractor has to release it to us before we can do so.

Mayor Hechler: Just in general terms, one of the discussions with local folks has been about the music on Foch Street.

City Manager Whitehead: How much they all love country music?

Mayor Hechler: Yeah, what are the plans and regulations for that, and how are we going to make sure that it's played at appropriate times, and not too loud, and all that?

City Manager Whitehead: Well I appreciate that. Obviously, it's been on for about a month, and we just have it really on a manual control, they turned it on for us. It's an application on your phone, just like you would run any Bluetooth application. We're hoping to get some training this week on the full functioning of this app, it's been a little challenge to figure it out, but we think what we'd do is probably set a schedule Sunday

through Thursday where it would be 9am-5pm or 9am-6pm, get the tone set right, and then maybe Friday and Saturday's a little different, we've also talked about holiday schedules like during the Christmas season. If you look at the application, it's a static set of radio stations that are available, you can't sit there and pick and choose music and make a playlist, it's a wide variety, so it'd kind of hard to find one channel that plays a little bit of everything. But as soon as we get a little more training and understand the app, we're going to get it dialed in to be something like that. And it does reset, the problem we've had with the volume is it seems that when it goes off at night, the next morning it resets at the highest volume, so that's where we've received some challenges where no one's there and then you go down the street and it's pretty loud. But we will work that out.

Mayor Hechler: Alright thank you. I think this community is classic, so we should do a lot of classic rock.

City Manager Whitehead: I hear that a lot. It would be nice if we could play the local radio station, I think that would be a nice flair, just to have that, but it doesn't give us that option yet, so we'll work through that. We'll let Becca figure that one out for us, Becca and OJ.

a. Department Head Reports.

OJ Hechler, Community Services Director:

- I appreciate our Public Services department leaders for being her with us this morning. They will each provide a brief report on the work they are currently undertaking and the services they provide to our community. I want to thank them for their continued work. We have everyone here this morning in the Public Services departments, with the exception of our pool supervisor, he couldn't be here this morning, but he did prepare a report for the Commission.
- On behalf of Stephen Glines: "A brief update on how the pool season is progressing and how current operations are going; it goes without saying that we are an outdoor pool that is very weather-dependent. Currently, with our $1 entry fee per session, we see anywhere from 25 patrons a day, to over 100 when we have our pool parties. We have a new computer system that enables us to track customers and our busiest usage hours. We continue to service our lap swimmers, aerobic participants, therapeutic swimmers, private programs, state programs, federal programs, and of course our general public. We continue to book and manage pool parties on a weekly basis. The $1 fee has let us continue to see very high levels of usage every day. We currently have adequate staffing, although we have lost several lifeguards to high school and college. Keeping the chemicals correct continues to be a daily task, and we are constantly checking and adjusting the system to keep our swimmers safe. State of the art center pumps were installed that are connected to the computer system. These constantly adjust the chemical levels and are very easy to use. Operations continue to run well at the pool and we are always open to comments and

suggestions." With that, are there any questions on the swimming pool? If none, I will open it up to the Public Services leaders.

Tara Manning, Animal Shelter Supervisor:

- From January to July, we've had a very successful year. We've had 398 animals come into our building. Out of those, 89 have been adopted and 16 of those adoptions were done in one day, which we're very excited about, it actually broke our busiest record for adoptions. We've had 116 return to owners, which is the highest it has been for this time of year. We've also had 103 go to rescues, so it's been really successful. We have a current 93% save rate, so we have maintained our no-kill shelter status for over a year, and we're still growing from there. As you know, we do have a medical grant that we have from Best Friends, it does expire next month. There is still funding in there, and I have talked to them, they are working on an amendment that we will bring to you next month probably so that we can continue to use it before it expires.
- Next month, on September 10th, will be our fourth time doing Dog Is My Copilot just this year, our fifth time overall. We're really excited, we've gotten a lot of dogs out because of that, and a lot of long-term dogs out, which makes it even better.
- We are currently in the process of the building plans for our expansion, and I can't wait for that to happen. Hopefully it's completed tomorrow. I can dream, right?
- As you know, every year, there is the New Mexico Humane Conference that's in Albuquerque, and I get the honor of going every year. This year is a little different, I get the honor of actually presenting a course for the first time, so I'm super excited, and I will be filming it for anybody who wants to laugh and cry with me, because I'll probably be crying up there. That's all I have for the shelter.

Pat O'Hanlon, Librarian:

- As of June 30th, 2026, the end of the fiscal year, the public library has approximately 57,472 circulating items in our collection. During fiscal year 2026, the total number of people who visited our library was 20,235. We checked out 14,718 books and other library items, issued 123 new library cards, and added 565 new items to our circulating collection. Our story time summer reading and other programs welcomed 1,504 children and adults for crafts and story reading hours during the year. We have now added a Friday afternoon reading and discussion program at the branch for participants of any age who would like to participate. Our public computers were used in 3,029 individual sessions, averaging 30 minutes to several hours per session. We no longer limit the length of our public computer sessions, since so many of our patrons now use their own devices: laptops, tablets, etc. and they use our wireless system even more that our wired network. The New Mexico State Libraries annual report, which also serves as our application for continued state funding, opened on July 1st, 2026. It consists of thirteen sections of questions, both state and federal, detailing the library's services to the community. This year's report is required to be completed and returned on or before August 17th, and just as a footnote, it has been returned already. Its

acceptance will determine our continued eligibility for the state grants and aid, as well as for our participation in the state's GO bond program, and other government grants and assistance. That's all I have today, if you have any questions.

Mayor Hechler: Pat, could you talk a little bit about your online services?

Pat O'Hanlon, Librarian: What would you like to know?

Mayor Hechler: How can people access them?

Pat O'Hanlon, Librarian: The state library has set us up so we do have access to online classes. It goes through our library to their library, you log on, you can log on using one of the library's computers, your own home computer, or even your phone if you want to. There are hundreds of classes on just about any subject you want. The ones we are the most successful with are actual online education. You want to know how to use your computer? You can get online and it will teach you. Does that answer your question?

Mayor Hechler: That's part of it, and how about checking out books and things of that nature? How does that work?

Pat O'Hanlon, Librarian: We can't check out books online, we can put them on hold online, and they'll be in the library waiting for you when you get there. Or, if you have some physical reason you can't get to the library, we can check them out and bring them to you.

Mayor Hechler: Oh, so we have a delivery service? Wow that is cool.

Pat O'Hanlon, Librarian: Yes, it's called library outreach and yes, we can do that.

Mayor Hechler: Alright, thank you.

City Manager Whitehead: I would also point out, there's something I hadn't thought of with the online or the computers, the other day when we were there doing our interview and talking, there was a business owner in there using the computers to print the estimate that he needed to take to a customer because his printer at home was not functioning. I think we lose sight of the fact that the library can be a hub for business as well, I thought that was really good. And I would also just like to thank the library, we had a cooling center twice this year, and the library was gracious enough to host us, we kept it open for another hour, we had water, and we had various staff man it, the library was gracious to keep the doors open. Again, the library is more than a place to just get books. We're really using it and they do a lot of things for the community, so thank you for that.

Pat O'Hanlon, Librarian: Thank you for that, we do try.

Cesar Galacia, Parks Supervisor:

- We're staying busy. They told me it was only going to stay busy in the summer, no it's all year long, but it's been fun. Right now we're busy with mowing and weeding.

We also have soccer going on right now, we have more players this year, a couple more teams for the youth 12, and we're just keeping up with the fields there.

- Other projects we have include fixing water leaks in our parks, they're always busting.
- Things on our to-do list this winter or during off-time include:
    - Fixing a water line that always seems to bust at least 10 times during the summer, we're going to replace that whole line. My plan is also to redo the sprinkler system at the ballfields at C Field, because I don't always get full water pressure on all the grass, so there are some dry spots and I end up having to over-water just to get it watered, and it floods the other parts of the field.
    - Another plan is to rototill A Field, not the whole field, just the very end of it by the outfield where we don't grow any grass. We have water there, we just don't grow grass there right now. So the plan is to rototill it, get some compost on it, and hopefully by Spring next year, we'll have grass there.
    - We're also working with Tree or C on the tree farm. We will hopefully be doing it next month. That's about it for us, if you have any questions.

Mayor Hechler: A Field, is that the one closest to the road?

Cesar Galacia, Parks Supervisor: Yes, sir.

Mayor Hechler: And you're talking about the outside edge?

Cesar Galacia, Parks Supervisor: Yes.

Mayor Hechler: You know, I was thinking about that the other day. I was thinking that it's always hard to grow grass there, but you might consider rototilling that and making kind of an apron on the back like a warning track because when people are shagging flies, they've got their eye up there, and in their peripheral vision, they can see that, "Oh I'm getting on the ribbon close to the fence." As a warning that they're going to hit the fence if they don't slow down or change directions.

Cesar Galacia, Parks Supervisor: Yes, sir.

Mayor Hechler: It would solve two things: One is that you wouldn't necessarily have to grow grass there, and the other thing is it would protect some of your outfielders so they wouldn't run into the fence.

Cesar Galacia, Parks Supervisor: Yes, I completely agree. That was on the plans last season for the All Stars Tournament, but we ran short on the red dirt. But there's definitely a better possibility of going that direction when we get some more red dirt.

Mayor Hechler; Yeah, just keep that in mind. It's your show, I was just thinking about that the other day, I used to shag a few flies in the outfield and I stumbled over a fence once or twice.

Cesar Galacia, Parks Supervisor: Yes, sir. I've done that as well.

Commissioner Forrister: I feel like we should have him demonstrate that so that we know exactly where we should be working.

Cesar Galacia, Parks Supervisor: I agree. Thank you.

Mayor Hechler: Thank you.

City Manager Whitehead: Just to add on, I do receive a lot of compliments from people driving through town, when you see the baseball fields, they really do look great, and the problem is that field looks so nice now when it's mowed that those dry spots that aren't growing really show up a little more. We've got it in our vision, but all the way through town we do receive a lot of nice compliments that the city, at least on the main streets, is looking sharp. Part of it is that the baseball field area looks really great. Thank you to the Parks crew.

Bob Messina, Golf Course Supervisor:

- I've been at the Golf Course for 17 months now, and I want to circle back just for a second, because there are five people in the room that came to our work party last June in 100 degree temperature, and we did an experiment which was digging up all the sprinklers on fairway 1 and 2, which totaled 35 sprinklers. That work day changed the progress of the golf course because we got control of it that day when we put valves on all the sprinklers, and we can now actually water what we want with the pumps that we need in the space that we need, and that progress was just unbelievable. Today, we have 6 new greens that we can reliably water because we got that right. It was an experiment, we didn't know, it's a lot of work, digging up sprinklers, for example, we had 1 hole 5, which is a par 5, 500 and some yards long, we found 30 sprinklers over the winter that were buried 3 feet deep, it's been really tough, a difficult task.
- But I want to thank you for approving the pricing that we changed on the Golf Course, there were some changes that were made and the intent was for those changes to go directly to the people who come down for the winter, but what's happened as the Golf Course continues to improve is the residents here who are coming out saying, "I'm going to take a chance on this and buy one month membership." Then they come back and buy three, and so that change in pricing has done two things: One, now parents can come out with their kids under 17 and play for free, so we have more kids on the Golf Course, we have more parents that are happy, and in addition to that, a lot of people don't realize that at 7am we have 15-20 walkers on the Golf Course walking there because there's grass, the trails are nice, and they're walking their dogs, so there's a lot more going on there than just golf.
- Currently the benefits to the Golf Course today are the daily 7am people. They're there, they're happy to be there, they feel like it's theirs. They'll drive in, walk in, and in addition to that, all the grass that we've grown – the wildlife on the Golf

Course is amazing, you should come see. If any of you want to come see the Golf Course, just come one down, I will ride you around and show you the whole thing, because you can't really get a grip on it from where you're sitting, but you can see it if you come out there. But we have deer on the Golf Course, lots of bunnies, quail, roadrunners, etc. Because of all the growth in the grass, all the wildlife has come in from the desert and is on the Golf Course, especially since we're watering, we are watering those same animals.

- Today, we have a Golf Course that's playable. When I took over with Gary, that Golf Course had no grass. Today we have good reviews, if you look online, the reviews are positive, people are happy to be there, and we're moving forward. My goal was by the end of July to have grass on all the fairways, and in sprite of both our pumps not working, we have grass on all the fairways. So I believe we are on our way, the reviews are positive, people are happy. On Saturdays, when I started, we would maybe get two people. Then once we put the new greens in, then it was ten. Now, it's about twenty-five on Saturdays, plus the kids. So we're growing, and this is what I'm hearing, "I would much rather come here and pay $16 than to go to the other Golf Course and do the same thing for $80." So it's working. As a community service project, it's working, and the people are happy and so am I. I want you to know, I love my job. Do you have any questions?

Mayor Hechler: Justa comment. It's interesting that you say there are a lot of walkers out at the Golf Course. You know, you can't apply for funds for a Golf Course generally, but you can apply for trails money. And if you want to consider that sometime – I'm not putting the pressure eon you now – but if you want to consider sometime applying for some trails money and do maybe a perimeter trail, that wouldn't interfere with the golfers, and you could improve that Golf Course with additional sprinklers and roadways for your carts and things of that nature, but make a perimeter trail of some sort out there.

Bob Messina, Golf Course Supervisor: Well we do have a trail around the perimeter, it would just be a matter of doing that because the disc golf was restructured to follow that outside trail, so that there was no conflict between the golfers and the disc golfers, and not really conflict, it was more of a safety issue, because the disc golfers weren't really watching what the golfers were doing, and they put themselves in danger, so that is already there, and at 7am when I get to work, there are people all over that Golf Course, it's impressive. Thank you.

Thomas Cool, Facilities Management Supervisor:

- First, I'd like to talk about he A/C units at the Animal Shelter, it's been down for a while but we do have it up and running for a short period of time. We do have a couple contractors to get a quote on actually getting it fixed and running. I've got to call him and get back with him and find out about the quotes.
- For the Civic Center, I'd like to have some of those A/C's checked out, I know we have got one that's running overtime and the others seem to be running a little warm, so I want to see about getting those checked out.

- We've been busy moving and setting up the offices for the new City Manager's office at the court, getting them setup and taken care of. Also in the Finance office, doing some furniture for them also, getting them squared away.
- We've also been trying to keep up with the weeds and mowing, trying to keep that going.
- We're also working on a water heater, I'm trying to get that fixed for the Veteran's Museum so they can have some hot water to wash with.
- We're also busy with other calls that come in, so we have to take time out to take care of some of the other calls that need to be done.
- For staffing positions, I have two open positions, I have one guy that came in today, but he'll be here for a couple weeks because he was already setup to go on vacation, but I figure maybe give him a chance to figure out if he's really like the position. I'm not sure when the other guy's going to start, I haven't heard anything back yet, but I will check on that and see what's happening. I think that's pretty much it.

City Manager Whitehead: As we conclude, I would just like to say, public speaking is not everybody's best issue, and I really appreciate the crew coming out, we try to give you guys some information so you feel like you can at least see that we're working. The crews are really working hard. What I'm most proud of at this point is that this team is really working together, Facilities and Parks, they're solving problems together, and that's a good thing, they're really connected and helping each other. I'm really appreciative of that.

b. Police Department Update.

Chief Tavizon reported the following:

- We've been extremely busy at the Police Department, I've had the opportunity to attach myself to a patrol shift schedule and interact with our community members, which has been extremely exciting, just getting a different perspective from the patrol aspect of it.
- For the month of July, we had:
    - 1,067 calls for service; to break it down a little bit, patrol had 709 of those, Animal Control took 163 calls for service
    - 26 motor vehicle accidents for the month
    - 11 sky referrals
    - 57 follow-ups
    - 1 DWI
    - 10 different properties being worked by Code Enforcement
    - 90 traffic stops
    - 25 citations issued
    - 10 arrests
- We are currently still working the SAFER grants, which are specific to traffic enforcement. To reiterate to the public, a lot of people have a misconception that we get some kind of money from citations, we really don't, no agency in New Mexico does anymore. Any penalty assessment goes to the general fund, when

we're out there conducting traffic enforcement, it's strictly for the public safety aspect of it. We're trying to get those 26 motor vehicle accidents down to a much lower number. As you know, the motor vehicle accidents affect us all with our insurance rates and everything, so that's important for us, and then public safety, of course, on top of that. We continue our training, we've launched a public service aid program, some of you may have heard about it or seen it in some of the bigger cities; Las Cruces, Albuquerque, Deming, and some other areas are running it already. We have individuals who have training, have gone through basic academy and academically passed it, but for physical, maybe they had injuries and didn't complete the academy, so we have that training, and we will utilize that training and put that public service aid program into effect. What they'll do is take care of some of the lesser reports that the officers are having to take. They will take any kind of crash on private property under $600, they'll also take reports of found property and stuff like that, which will fill up officers to take the more important, high-priority calls for service, and also be available to run traffic enforcement on regular shift as well as the grant.

- We're working with City Manager Whitehead on the process for the new Police Department, we've got the notice of obligation so we're moving forward with that. Continuing to fill positions, we're working on our fleet, and you will see a presentation later on in this meeting going over our fleet, numbers, and what we're requesting, as well as a possible promotion if approved for one of the individuals inside. With that, I'll stand for any questions you may have.

2. City Commission Reports.

Commissioner Glines reported the following:

- Summer is still in full swing, including some interesting weather we've had lately, haboobs coming into town are really interesting to see. At least we didn't lose any roofs this time with that dust storm. National Night Out and Dancing in the Streetlights had some good turnouts, it was fun to see. People were still out there in the literal haboob dancing in the street. It will continue growing, and it seems like it has a really solid base right now, so something to check out if you haven't already.
- Foch Street is coming along nicely, I look at it pretty much every day, because I'm downtown on the 400 block of Broadway and Foch every day.
- I just want to reiterate, I also think the parks are looking great right now also. It's nice because I'm out there for soccer season right now, the season has started for the kids.
- Current resident priorities with people are still reaching out to me, and when I went to talk to constituents are: water reliability, road repairs, traffic safety, fixing leaks, potholes, dealing with gravel roads that need repaving, slowing down traffic in neighborhoods, and Kopra right now is a pretty relevant topic that people are approaching me about. The actual asphalt is degrading faster than we can keep up with it, compared to just grading it over and over again. I don't know if we have a process for that going forward.

- I just want to again say I appreciate the everyday work from our boards, committees, volunteers, and city staff that keep everything moving forward. That is all I have.

City Manager Whitehead: Apologies, Which street did you say?

Commissioner Glines: Kopra wrapping around from Love's itself.

Mayor Hechler: It suffered quite a bit with the construction of Love's and the heavy trucks, especially on the lower end.

City Manager Whitehead: Okay.

Commissioner Hoeppner reported the following:

- Most everything was said, but I would like to mention that Art Hop was a big success, I saw people out and having fun. Throughout the Summer season, everybody is a little bit slow, and I wanted to say thank you to all the locals who come out to support the local businesses, even when it is hard with the economy right now. When we do events, they are part of community building, and I'd like to encourage everybody to come out, have fun, and support your local businesses.
- Other than that, yes Foch looks great. I am looking forward to it being opened. I'm hoping that during the holiday season, we don't have to listen to too much Christmas music from the street speakers.
- Thank you for everybody's hard work.

Commissioner Forrister reported the following:

- Time and time again, our community just comes out full force helping with whatever's needed. Right now there are 100 kids selling football gear, shirts for the Alex Carter memorial that's happening September 18th and 19th, popcorn sales for national history class day, etc. So dig in your pockets real deep, help these kiddos out, it goes to a good cause. But like I said, I've seen them all over Facebook, and people don't hesitate to jump and support our community. Very thankful for where we live.
- Secondly, the calendar that is posted on our city website, I don't see it reflecting any of MainStreet's activities, I don't know, does MainStreet have a separate calendar that's public?

Becca Eza, T or C MainStreet: We don't have a very well maintained one at this point, that is on my to-do list.

Commissioner Forrister: Is that something that we think maybe we could put on our city calendar? I know, like going to Ruidoso this weekend, the first thing I do is pull up their city calendar to see what events are happening there when I go. I think we are having so many cool events happening through MainStreet that it would be nice to maybe have those on our calendars.

Becca Eza, T or C MainStreet: The tourism board does maintain a good Sierra County Tourism website, and they pull events from other things that they see, so that is a good one, but yeah, I should get the MainStreet ones to the city calendar.

Commissioner Forrister: Okay. I think that would just be a really neat thing to have on there. And then, with the Foch Street update, if you guys want me to have access to the speakers and play music, I can do that, so just let me know. I'll be the keeper of the music, and play all the country for Ingo.

City Manager Whitehead: Sounds like a competition between the two of you.

Commissioner Forrister: Let Ingo and I have control of the music.

Mayor Hechler reported the following:

- Toward the end of July, I had the opportunity to present the Destination Forward grant. The grant was prepared by Gina Kelley, who does a wonderful job for our community and the Lee Belle Johnson center. For the actual slideshow, I got a lot of help from Carrie Gaston, our PIO, to put that together. I was able to present the overall presentation, and it was very well received, in fact we were complimented on the presentation so that was nice. We basically asked for funding of $500,000 for stucco, HVAC, roof repairs, water remediation, and additional foundation stabilization if it's needed, because we already have $500,000 that we're going to use for that. The grant itself has $16 million available, of course there are many more requests than money available, as usual, but I think we're very competitive and we should get some money for this project. I'm looking forward to hearing back from them.
- Toward the middle of last month, I presented to the Legislative Finance Committee in charge of transportation, revenue, and infrastructure. It's a subcommittee comprised of senators and representatives from around the state. I co-presented with Sierra County Chairman Jim Paxton and Mayor Richard Holcomb. For the T or C area, I talked about our roadways after our waterlines are repaired, and needing $4 to $6 million down the road to repair those roadways after water lines are put in. Overall, our water line project is a $100 million project, that's 43 miles of roadway. Presently, over the five projects we have upcoming, there is about 15 miles of roadway we're going to be dealing with. We're going to need $4 to $6 million to repair those roads afterwards. When folks come in to replace water lines, they do some spot fixing, but they don't fix the road. We'll figure out a constructive way to get those things done, either from Colonias or otherwise, but I did present to the Legislative Finance Committee, at least we've got people listening to us, and hopefully down the road we'll have some luck in that regard.
- I have been working on the possibility of a disaster declaration with Representative Dow and my counterparts in Elephant Butte and Sierra County. We're in the process of holding polling some of our businesses to determine if lake elevations have been affecting their businesses, and by how much. I know some of our businesses are suffering in Truth or Consequences, but especially

Elephant Butte, because of their proximity to the lake. I've asked MainStreet to assist with some of that polling, also the Chamber of Commerce. Hopefully, we'll have some feedback from those folks and from our businesses to see where we are, and if there's an opportunity for a declaration, which I'm hoping results in some funding for our businesses, we'll try to get that done. So we're working on that. Perhaps by the meeting on the 28th, we'll have something put together. That will be our target date.

Commissioner Forrister: Do we need to follow in a declaration of disaster as Elephant Butte and the county are doing? Would it be a supportive thing to do that as well?

Mayor Hechler: Yes, I know the county has done one already, I think the City of Elephant Butte is considering it, they're polling their businesses right now, and we're going through that process as well. I've met regularly with the Mayor of Elephant Butte and the Chairman of Sierra County, and we're kind of working in concert on those things, we'll get that done.

Commissioner Forrister: Okay, thank you.

Mayor Hechler: I've had several discussions about the possibility of opening up some roadways to OHV use, at least travel or pass-on to get to other trails around the county. Talks include the Council of Governments, the national state parks, as well as my counterparts at Elephant Butte and Sierra County. They may give some information down the road that we're working on right now, I can't lay that out yet because we're in the process of it and I don't want to spoil anything, but hopefully we'll have some additional access and it can stimulate some economy in our area with OHV use. That's what I've been working on.

3. City Attorney Reports:

City Attorney Rubin reported the following:

- I don't have a report today, but I will let you know that I am planning, maybe at the next meeting, to give an update to the public about some of the cases we worked on, some of the progress we've made in resolving these matters. So I'll probably get together with the City Manager and we'll coordinate that, and I'll plan on bringing something to you at the next meeting.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. **City Commission Regular Minutes, July 8, 2026**
2. **City Commission Regular Minutes, July 22, 2026**
3. **City Commission Special Minutes, July 29, 2026**
4. **Acknowledge Regular Recreation Advisory Board Minutes, June 1, 2026**
5. **July 2026 Accounts Payable**
6. **Take Home Vehicle Form: Police Department**

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion/Action: Approval of a Private Street Name – H. Bartoo Street.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: This private road access came to my attention with potential development of some parcels adjacent in access by the private road. In working with the county for the addressing of those parcels, the county advised to potentially assign a name to that private road so we can assign them correct addressing and meet the 911 requirements. Neither of these parcels are accessible off of Broadway, so we can't give them a Broadway address. I reached out to the property owner of the private road, and he's agreed to submit the application to name that private road, it's owned by Bartoo Sand & Gravel, it's up there where their gravel pit area is, and you guys recently approved a Special Use Permit for one of the vehicle restoration yards up there, and we've recently had a Conditional Use Permit and Variance request that went through our P & Z board and will be coming to you guys at the next meeting that is also off of that roadway. In your packet, you have the request to identify that as H. Bartoo Street. The purpose of the street name is only going to be used for the purpose of 911 addressing, emergency response, utility services, etc. It doesn't dedicate the roadway to the public's use, nor obligate the city to maintain it in any way. It will remain a private road, and be maintained by the property owner themselves. The adjacent property owners are in agreement with having that process. With that, I stand for any questions.

Commissioner Forrister: Is this happening throughout the county, for the use of 911? I know a lot of other people are having to change names to fit what is matching in the 911 directory.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Potentially, yes. We have a couple we are discussing with the county, a couple roadways that we may have to look at renaming. But in this particular case, it was simply to address these parcels for development, they've just been undeveloped for so long.

Commissioner Forrister: That's good.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to approve request to recognize a private roadway identified on Parcel No. 3023079317059 as H. Bartoo Street, as presented. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: ITB #2026-06-012 Road Materials Contract Award- Bartoo Sand & Gravel, Inc.

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: The city went out for bid for a road materials contract. I would like to have Carlos come up to present it so that he can have more practice, and because he played a big role in getting this packet together for the Commission.

Carlos Miyagishima, Chief Procurement Officer: As Jocelyn said, that is correct, we went out to bid for the road materials ITB #2026-06-012. We want to award Bartoo, as they were the only ones that submitted a bid. They submitted their bid, we received their pricing agreement, I believe I attached it, and I know the one I sent is not the best, but I also put in a cleaner copy this morning, hopefully you have it in front of you. You should be able to see all the details there.

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: So basically, it's a sole entry. Historically, it's been Bartoo because they're not a single sole-source because there are other companies surrounding us that allow for competition, so we issue the bid based on that concept. But historically, Bartoo is the local, and we've continued the procurement process to stay legitimate.

Mayor Hechler: How does that bid process work? Do you contact other potential bidders, or do you do it as a shotgun approach, how does that get done? I know we have a sole source here, but –

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: So that's why they're not a sole source, because we can get other materials outside of this area. We publicize in the local paper, that's the first step in the procurement process, but we also reach out to the Albuquerque Journal and the Las Cruces paper, and then we send out email invitations to both Google search vendors with similar aspects of the request we're making, and then we give them the opportunity and open it up. At that point, with the opening bid is whoever shows up.

Commissioner Forrister: And it's just for road materials, so it makes sense to use them because they're here instead of paying somebody to haul it in from somewhere else.

Jocelyn Holguin, Chief Financial Officer: Yeah, because it costs more to haul it in. And they didn't have some items, but then we would go through poly-asphalt or somewhere else.

Carlos Miyagishima, Chief Procurement Officer: I'd also like to point out that this is an 8-year services agreement with a 3% and also 2% increases for the multi-years. As Jocelyn mentioned, it is single-source award.

Mayor Hechler: So those 2% and 3%, those are automatic increments every year?

Carlos Miyagishima, Chief Procurement Officer: Yes.

Commissioner Glines made a motion to approve ITB #2026-06-012 Road Materials Contract Award to Bartoo Sand & Gravel, Inc. Commissioner Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion/Action: Approval of Purchases $60,000 and over.

a. RJ Border International LP:

Carlos Miyagishima, CPO: We are requesting approval for this item with RJ Border international, totaling $93,674.70 through a Sourcewell contract, if it is approved. The contract number is 032824. The requisition they're requesting approval for is a CV truck for the back trailer, and I will defer to Jamie Foreman for any details on this purchase.

Jamie Foreman, Water/Wastewater Supervisor: We are interested in purchasing a new vehicle for the sole purpose of towing the vac trailer. Right now we have the 250 that's doing it, but it's not weighted for the weight capacity of that trailer, so it's causing problems with the transmission and brakes. Currently at the Water Department, we have a total of seven vehicles. Two of those are being used solely for meter-reading. Then we have the 250 that is currently pulling the vac trailer, the 350 which is a supply truck, a 150 that we've named the rack truck, that one is for hauling pipe, and we have our admin little kicks that's just for in-town use, and then we have a backup meter truck for our third meter reader. When we get behind on meter-reading, that's the vehicle he uses, it's one of our older vehicles, so it doesn't get around very much. For Wastewater, we have a total of four. We have an older F-150 that's a plant truck, we have the 2019 F-150 that has the diesel transfer tank in the back, and then we have our Water/Wastewater production vehicle that gets used to do all of our rounds for Water and Wastewater productions. We also have the 2024 Silverado, which is the supervisor vehicle, and that's the one I currently drive.

Mayor Hechler: And I'd just like to state for the record that five of the seven vehicles are from 2003 to 2020, and two of the newer vehicles are 2024. Sometimes we get accused of driving around new vehicles all the time, and I know that we take care of our vehicles and generally they're clean and look nice, but we have an aging fleet, and we do need to replace things from time to time or acquire other vehicles. If you'll notice (on slide 3 of the Water/Wastewater Vehicle Presentation), the newest vehicle is a 2024, the other three are 2014 and 2019. So again, it's an aging fleet, but it's a testament that we try to take care of our vehicles, we try to keep them running the best we can, and we try to get as much use out of them as we can before we replace them.

Jamie Foreman, Water/Wastewater Supervisor: Yes, sir. If you look on the previous slide, you can see that our oldest vehicle at the moment has almost 165,000 miles on it. So we do take care of them. The reason we're looking at this new vehicle is, like I said before, the 250 we are currently using to haul this vehicle is not weight-rated for the size

of the trailer, it's currently causing problems with the transmission and we're going through brakes probably every three months, just because of the pressure on the brakes, they're needing to be repaired constantly. It has trouble going uphill because of the transmission, so we can't get to some of the steeper leaks, it makes it a little more difficult. The 250 is rates for a tow capacity of about 15,000 pounds, with the trailer being a about 17,000 pounds. And that's just loaded with water, if you add dirt and gravel, that weight goes up significantly. The new truck we're looking at is rated for 23,000 pounds, so it's a big jump, and it is rated to tow this vac trailer. We are also having toolboxes and such attached to the flatbed, so that way it's a one unit, so we can have the new truck with the vac trailer, and then the 250 which is our current supply truck, go with our vac truck. That way, we can split into two teams and hopefully get leaks done more efficiently and effectively. This last slide is an approximation of what that new truck will look like. I will stand for any questions.

Commissioner Forrister: You kind of answered my question already, I asked, well why don't we turn the F-350 that you are using as a supply truck, why don't you haul that and then make the 250 be the supply truck? But you kind of answered that question.

Jamie Foreman, Water/Wastewater Supervisor: And with the toolboxes and the wight, the 350 doesn't have enough power to also pull that trailer.

Commissioner Forrister: And then was this a previously approved purchase during the budget?

Jamie Foreman, Water/Wastewater Supervisor: Yes. It will be split 50/50 between Water and Wastewater.

City Attorney Rubin: I just want to verify one thing, just to make sure I completely understand what's happening, in the packet there is a lengthy contract between Sourcewell and Navistar. We're not being asked to approve that, that's already been done. I guess somehow, and maybe you can elaborate on this, but all we're approving is the purchase order with RJ Border, and I guess they're playing into using this other contract that I'm referencing?

City Manager Whitehead: That's correct.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to approve purchase requisition for RJ Border International LP in the amount of $93,674.70 as presented. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Phil Long Ford of Raton, LLC:

Carlos Miyagishima, CPO: This is a 2026 Expedition XL 4x4, which is a vehicle for the police station. Total cost is $72,886.50 and it's not just the vehicle itself, but it's also going to be an expedition upfit with sound off lighting and everything fully-equipped.

This is going to be procured through a statewide price agreement, I don't believe I included that, my apologies, it's only on the actual quote where you can see that. It has a number there, it's 40-00000-24-00068 which is specific to automotive vehicles. For any other specific questions, I will defer to Chief Tavizon.

Mayor Hechler: So is this an extra vehicle for your fleet?

Police Chief Tavizon: This is going to be a brand new vehicle, yes sir.

Ayor Hechler: And will it be retiring any other vehicles?

Police Chief Tavizon: Yes, sir. I'll give a breakdown. Currently on the books, what we have is 30 vehicles on the books. 15 of those vehicles should be retired because of mileage and high usage. When you look at a police vehicle versus a Streets Department vehicle, our vehicles are ran hard, they're idled for long hours, so if you look at the hours, they're super high on there. Just for an example, the 30 vehicles is for the entire department, so if you were to retire the 15 that we have, that would leave us 15 vehicles, and then you subtract the 3 that are with Codes and Animal Control, that leaves us with 12 that are within safe mileage. Something to consider when we're responding to calls for service, we have vehicles with high mileage, it's not just the motor an the hours we're looking at, it's also the suspension, the brakes, and everything that is associated with it. So if we're responding in an emergency, we could actually become a safety situation for the public as well, the motoring public. We currently have two vehicles on the street, one of the cadets up at the academy is driving a 2017 Explorer, and it's got about 220,000 miles. The last vehicles we officially purchased as a city was in 2024, we bought two Durango's. In that same year, Dona Ana County graciously donated four Tahoe's to us, but these Tahoe's were also retired from their fleet, so they have anywhere from 162,000 miles to 204,000 miles. The majority of those, the transmissions are out on them. We have one that is semi-operable right now from that donation given to us. In 2025, we received a donation of two vehicles from Santa Fe Police Department, one was a Chevy Tahoe, and the other was a Ford Expedition. The Chevy Tahoe has 120,000 miles and it's starting to get some transmission slippage. The Expedition has 77,000 miles and that thing is still running fairly decent, so that's still out there. It's currently assigned to the detective, so we would like to purchase this vehicle for the detective. He's a local, and then he'd have a reliable vehicle that he can use to respond to any kind of call for service if a 4-wheel drive is needed to get there. The Expedition will be pushed out, the way it's upfitted currently, it would probably be upfitted to our crime scene/PSA. Later on in the agenda today there is an item for some additional vehicles, so we'll look at replacing some of the other fleet then. But there should be 15 vehicles that are no longer operable, going up for auction. City Manager Whitehead and I have spoken with the auctioneer to help with taking some of the equipment down, because we can't sell them as police vehicles, so we have to take the lights and some of the other stuff out, so we're in discussions with that, we're supposed to have a meeting here about that, so those should be off the books here hopefully soon.

Mayor Hechler: Is any of that equipment you take off, is that reusable or is it antiquated?

Police Chief Tavizon: It's pretty antiquated, the design of the vehicles is a little different, we were trying to see if we could put the equipment from the Tahoe into another Tahoe, and the dimensions are just slightly different, I think they do that on purpose just to get us. But yeah, it wouldn't fit.

Mayor Hechler: When vehicles are retired, is that retired from police work, and they're used for commute vehicles, or are they retired altogether?

Police Chief Tavizon: It depends, you could retire them, and if they're in decent shape, you could reassign them to another department within the city, or you could sell them to the public, and then whatever money is obtained from that would go to the general fund.

Commissioner Glines made a motion to approve purchase requisition for Phil Long Ford of Raton, LLC in the amount of $72,886.00 as presented. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Intraworks Inc.:

Carlos Miyagishima, CPO: The last one I have here is for Intraworks. This is specifically for the new Police Department building, this is for the security system controls. It is a total of $143,879.40 and it will be under a statewide price agreement, I did include the number there. It's going to be a multiple source fund, and I can break that down. It will be partially paid by the general fund, as well as the PD GRT fund. As far as the specifics, once again, I'll defer to Assistant City Manager Alvarez or Chief Tavizon.

Commissioner Forrister: It does say multiple sources for $143,000 but on our finance sheet, it has $155,000. Under the agenda request form it's a different number, what are we approving today?

Carlos Miyagishima, CPO: So originally I sent that one first, and then I noticed my error so I corrected it, and I guess it was left off there, I do apologize for that, the correct number is $143,879.40.

Commissioner Forrister: Thank you.

Mayor Hechler: So this is for the overall package for the Police Department, so I'd like to know how the finances are working in that regard with this addition, knowing that we've received some funding already, and how that's going to be spent, but what does the package look like now?

City Manager Whitehead: I'm happy to answer, again, our overall PD initial budget is approximately $800,000. We've set aside some money from the general fund, we've set aside money from the PD gross receipts tax, and then we'll receive the capital outlay

allocation. At the last meeting, you approved the contract with Carrizal to be the contractor at $550,000 so the vision here would be that they're going to put together the walls, the structure, the carpets, the building itself, and on the electrical side, they'll make all the connections ready. Then, this is the technical package of the design build for the PD. This is all the cameras, the door security, all the assets that the Chief needs to bring that building into full police facility compliance. So that's what you're looking at here. And we're still about $100,000 under that initial overall package, and the last piece we need to procure is going to be the parking lot itself. The construction will give us a fence, the bull pen, enclose the garage, finish out the interior, this will put together the technical safety requirements, and then we'll look for a contractor under statewide price to finish out the parking lot, and that will be how the project is coming together. This vendor is very familiar with the community and the facilities, they've looked at it before, finance is familiar, so they've looked over this really well, this is a good package, put together correctly, and it's right for our project.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to approve purchase requisition for Intraworks Inc. in the amount of $143,870.40 as presented. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Discussion/Action: Extension of Animal Shelter Services Agreement with Sierra County.**

OJ Hechler, Public Services Director: It was brought to my attention roughly three weeks ago that our contract with Sierra County for Animal Shelter services had expired. I did some research, I'll go back to 2023, and if you'll remember, we worked on the Animal Shelter services for Elephant Butte and Williamsburg. Sierra County just never got renewed. I apologize for the wording on the agenda request form, this is not an extension. There was some research conducted, and we agreed that for the time being we would redo a contract with the same terms, same compensation, they would pay us $3,000 per month, that will buy us a little time. I'm going to work with Tara and City Manager Whitehead to come up with what's reasonable as compensation for the Animal Shelter. We're here to ask for approval of this contract so that we are working under a current contract.

Commissioner Forrister: But we're just approving an extension, basically, of the current contract, and then you're gong to go back and re-word it to mirror what we've done with Elephant Butte?

OJ Hechler, Public Services Director: Correct.

City Attorney Rubin: You've actually already done that, if you look in the packet, the new contract is in there.

OJ Hechler, Public Services Director: We're approving a new one, but it's the same compensation. If you look at the old one from 2018, I thought it was pretty interesting, it actually references Sierra Veterinary Services, who helped run the Animal Shelter back then. The new contract, obviously, is directly with the city staff and as a city-ran Animal Shelter.

Commissioner Forrister: But you'll be coming back after you look at it again to match what we've done with Elephant Butte?

OJ Hechler, Public Services Director: Yes, ma'am.

City Manager Whitehead: Just to support OJ, initially we thought it would be a small extension for six months, just do a simple one-page. The county attorney, his thought was more just to re-do the contract itself, versus a small extension, he preferred that. Again, it's their deal with us, so that's why you're seeing the old contract as a new contract, and then we'll bring you another new contract.

Commissioner Forrister: Basically an extension of the same contract.

Commissioner Glines made a motion to approve the Animal Shelter Services Agreement between Sierra County and the City of T or C Animal Shelter. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Discussion/Action: Incorporation of the National Fitness Campaign Fitness Court into the Louis Armijo Sports Complex Master Plan or other potential locations.**

OJ Hechler, Public Services Director: I'm just going to talk a little bit about the background here. The National Fitness Campaign has reached out to me the last several years. It's been hard for me to go after this fitness court because they're grant, Blue Cross Blue Shield offers a $60,000 grant. The total project cost on a new fitness court is anywhere from $200,000 to $300,000 depending on the site and preparation and those factors. I've always thought it would be beneficial to our community because it's free outdoor exercise equipment; I've never found a way to justify it. I thought what we could do is incorporate it into our master plan that was approved by the Commission a few years ago, and use that $60,000 and then apply for another grant to offset the cost. There are other ways you could also offset the cost, there are in-kind services, we can put a concrete slab out there, that is something we could do internally, and then there are sponsorships, so if we could find sponsorships that could collaborate with us as well on some of the costs. We can also partner with the high school, this would be something that would be awesome next to the high school, I think. So there are other potential locations that I wanted to discuss a little bit, City Clerk Torres has a 3-minute video to introduce what the program is about, I thought we could watch that, and then maybe open it up for discussion. The first page you'll see within your packet is the grant

application process. What the national campaign wants to see is that they have support, it could be Commission support, city support, school support, things of that nature. Then we apply for the grant, in New Mexico there's the Blue Cross Blue Shield grant, which is $60,000. So how do we get from the $60,000 to the $220,000 or $240,000 whatever that may be. I thought maybe we just add it to the master plan, and then we use that to go after additional funding. You'll also see, within your packet, the location here on the maps and renderings of our master plan. We all met with Site Southwest, Wilson, and Allie Campbell from the National Fitness Campaign, and we agree that a great location would be located next to the basketball court up there on the top right of the map where you see the pickleball courts and basketball courts. They want the fitness studio and courts to be next to a trail, or other amenities such as exercise equipment, they do not want them next to playgrounds because you're supposed to be 14 years old and older to use it. With that, I will stand for any questions.

Commissioner Forrister: If you apply for this, when would you know if you get it or not?

OJ Hechler, Public Services Director: Probably not going to happen this year, when I was talking with Allie Campbell, the representative from the National Fitness Campaign I've been speaking with for several years, she sad it didn't necessarily have to be this year. Once we get it into the master plan, if that's what we choose to do, then – as you guys know, we've already received some funding, we're waiting on a grant agreement for the new playground equipment over there at Family Park. So this could be the next potential piece, and I don't want this to lose traction, so I'm going to keep bringing it up and talking about it.

Commissioner Forrister: But it's something that you could apply for every year, like they come every year and want to – but I'd assume if you got that grant, you would have to use it within the year?

OJ Hechler, Public Services Director: Correct.

Commissioner Forrister: So that's why you haven't applied for it.

OJ Hechler, Public Services Director: Correct. It's always been hard for me to see how I could go after this.

Commissioner Forrister: What happens if we just find another place to house – like a gaga ball pit or a tether ball or things like these around the area where we could spend $60,000 and just add to it?

OJ Hechler, Public Services Director: We could do that too.

Commissioner Forrister: And I don't want to take away from this, but if it's something we could continue to do year after year, is this something we could do like an MOU with the county and maybe do something at the fairgrounds?

OJ Hechler, Public Services Director: We could, absolutely.

Commissioner Forrister: Just putting that little bug in your ear, I have ideas.

OJ Hechler, Public Services Director: Yeah, and that's where this could be a community, it could be a county and Williamsburg, and T or C, The Club, you know, all these different entities. We could find way to maybe split some of the costs or have some sort of buy-in with it, or something of that nature.

Mayor Hechler: So the $60,000 is that like seat money, will that open the door to apply for more grants? It's not like a match, is it?

OJ Hechler, Public Services Director: No, what they want to see is that we have support, we're willing to move forward with it, and then we apply, and then we'll get the $60,000 grant. But they want to make sure we're moving forward, so they want a commitment. I think the process for us would be to apply for an additional grant first, let them know. And a couple communities in New Mexico have done this, I've talked to Allie about this, they didn't have much success, she mentioned two cases, but they don't have it on a master plan, and they don't have a master plan already funded by quality of life grant that's been approved by our Commission, so I think that really strengthens our application process for these grants. There are other potential location, too. I think the community could benefit from this. You can order these with shade on them already to where they would come and you would have shade in the studio, I could see some of the seniors using that, the music, the fitness studio, yoga, all those things.

Commissioner Forrister: I think, especially on our master plan, if it's reoccurring , like we can apply for it every year, and this isn't ready to rock and roll yet, if there's something else we can use those fund for, if we could apply for it and use it elsewhere, I would like to do something like that.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to approve the incorporation of the National Fitness Campaign Fitness Court into the Louis Armijo Sports Complex Master Plan or other potential locations. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Rubin: And I'm assuming that's a prerequisite in order for us to go forward with the grant application, we actually have to take this action, is that right?

OJ Hechler, Public Services Director: It is one of them. The other, Attorney Rubin, is that they want to see an upfront commitment that we're going to have some sort of buy-in with the city. We're going to want to apply for an additional grant first, upfront, and then let them know, "Hey we got this." And then "Where's our $60,000 at?" sort of thing.

Commissioner Glines made a motion to skip to agenda item G15, then return to G6. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion/Action: Police Department Staffing and Command Structure Adjustment.

Police Chief Tavizon: What I am proposing and hoping you consider for approval is allowing me to restructure my command staff to include an additional lieutenant position. I'm not trying to create another position, what I'm trying o do is take the position I have of a detective sergeant right now, and just move that to a detective lieutenant style/administrative lieutenant. I'm going to need some assistance when it comes to trying to gain accreditation, and accreditation manager, and being able to get all the documents needed to show that we're in compliance with the program. I will need someone who can go in and have that authority, and then at the same time, he is currently acting as a rank or sergeant, so when you have a sergeant trying to tell or ask other things from other sergeants, you may have some animosity between the ranks, so this way it's a clear structure, he'll be able to straight line directly, take care of the business I need him to take care of, when it comes to administrative duties, and then he'll also still be doing his investigations as well. With that, I'll stand for any questions unless City Manager Whitehead has anything to add.

City Manager Whitehead: I would like to also add, we initially started looking at this for two purposes: one, we wanted to create the separation, and we tried to find some solutions with overtime, as you saw from the report, we did lose the school resource officer, which is $58,000, so the Chief and I met multiple times trying to find ways to offset that expense. What I will tell you is that currently we are still down a few officers, and we have been for the last year. We're usually off one or two officers, so we're not spending the full allocation of dollars that we have for the full 16 compliment that we have. We thought we could separate this, and then by doing so, we would have two leaders that could potentially cover those shifts when a supervisor needs to come out. We're not saving a lot on the overtime, but we feel like we could affect it by not having just one officer coming out. We did try to move the senior officer into a different vertical opportunity, but we found that it wouldn't work for that particular employee base don his current tenure, his ability to retire, and some of those items. This structure seemed to give us the best opportunity. The Chief and I are both aware that we are short again by the $58,000 so what Chief has agreed to is that we keep a close eye if we did get fully funded, and if we needed to, we could use the Police Department's GRT to offset any additional cost in labor if we did so. And then the last piece, to support the Chief, I think there's real importance that we continue. We did hire an officer for that position, we'd like to continue to train and make sure that we're ready. For one, we could be a good backup for the Sheriff if they needed us, and two, if the opportunity presents itself we would be ready to go. So it's more than just changing the structure, we really thought about this internally, operationally, and budgetarily if we could make this work. We're supportive of this program for the Chief.

Mayor Hechler: Chief, can you give me a breakdown of kind of what the structure will be? So you'll have the Chief, you're not going to have an assistant chief, two lieutenants, and then the sergeant that's moving up, are you going to refill that sergeant position?

Police Chief Tavizon: No, we won't fill that position, instead of being a detective/sergeant, he'll just be a detective/lieutenant with additional duties. Since he already takes care of the majority of my administrative duties, he'll just be an administrative lieutenant, and then I'll have my operations lieutenant, and they'll compliment each other.

Mayor Hechler: And you and I talked briefly, they're going to be on opposite days off, or how does that work?

Police Chief Tavizon: So yeah, the scheduling will be to where one is on-call, they'll offset the on-call that way one of them is not just constantly on-call. And then, like our first line supervisors will be able to have that communication with either one of them, depending on who's available for the on-call.

Mayor Hechler: And then do they supervise individual officers, or the whole group under them, and share those duties?

Police Chief Tavizon: So the span of control is, the patrol operation lieutenant takes care of all the patrol, the administrative takes care of the civilian staff, and then in the absence of the operations lieutenant, he fills in on the on-call, and his span of control will change to whomever is on-call.

Mayor Hechler: And the lieutenant in charge of administration, he's going to be doing things like certification for your PD and things of that nature?

Police Chief Tavizon: Yes, sir. He takes care of all the technical stuff with tracks, and then the crime reporting, and he will basically be an accreditation manager, taking care of everything that's demanded of him from those accreditation programs.

Mayor Hechler: Budget-wise, how does it look, in general? Is it a slight increase?

Police Chief Tavizon: It's a real slight increase for him, not a whole lot.

Mayor Hechler: Not just for him, but for the department as a whole?

Police Chief Tavizon: Yes, it's really a slight increase.

Mayor Hechler: Okay, you've answered my questions.

Police Chief Tavizon: Regarding this officer specifically, we've prepared him, sent him to the Northwestern School of Command, and he's passed that with flying colors, he passed with an A, and that's a college course, highly sought after for command staff and chiefs. He's met that, so he is well-qualified for the position. He's be qualified for any organization he chose in that structure.

Mayor Hechler: How many years does he have in with us?

Police Chief Tavizon: Over 5, I think, or right at 5.

Mayor Hechler: I guess I'm looking down the road, because you're not going to be with us forever. So we potentially have a chief available?

Police Chief Tavizon: I think so, he's a strong candidate. He's a great asset to the city and I'm extremely excited for him if we could make this happen.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to approve the Police Department Staffing and Command Structure Adjustment. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Discussion/Action: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Truth or Consequences and Sierra County – Development Along Shared Boundaries.**

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Due to some recent inquiries about some potential development that could come in in areas adjacent to our city limits, I felt it was really important to establish a process with some guidelines for development, specifically to properties that may be just outside city and county limits, but would be close enough they could potentially be connecting to our water, sewer, and electric utilities. With that being said, we did a lot of research and came up with a potential MOU to work with the county to be able to have those potential developments required to follow our guidelines and our development standards, so that we don't potentially have two businesses or developments directly across the street from each other that have extremely different development standards. We presented the MOU, we met with the County Manager as well as the County Attorney, with our City Manager and City Attorney, and I think we've come to a pretty good agreement. With that, I will turn it over to our City Manager, and the City Attorney may have some comments. If the Commission is on board with it, my request today would be to authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to get the final agreement set, signed, and sent over to the county.

City Manager Whitehead: Assistant City Manager Alvarez explained it well. The concern would be particularly in commercial areas where our boundary is right next to the county, that potentially a business could buy that land, come to us for water/wastewater/electric, and we would have no zoning authority. So we really wanted to make sure that we found a compromise. Likewise, the county has the same

requirement and responsibility, they don't want to give up any authority that they have in their particular two areas, so we met to really solidify what would be the right opportunities. What we've agreed upon is connection to our utility system would be the one trigger in this agreement that would then require a property that's connected to us in boundary only, to then comply with our zoning ordinance. So you could have a business that says, "Well we'll let Sierra Electric Co-op supply us electricity, we'll drill our own well, we'll put in our own wastewater treatment on-site, and we'll haul our trash away." We would have no authority over them, and we wouldn't have any way to connect with that, if you will. So we think the agreement is clean, the county was comfortable with it, provided that, again, they have all their authorities and all their authorities in place. Potentially, the second part of this might come when we look at our ordinances, we may want to look at an ordinance that would require any property owner that wanted to connect to water/wastewater/utilities to have some form of compliance within our rules and regulations. I think it was a good thought, it was put together well, and with that, I will let the City Attorney speak to the legal sides of the agreement.

City Attorney Rubin: This agreement went back and forth between Mr. Pato, the County Attorney, and myself. As Ms. Alvarez pointed out, we had a meeting that involved us and their attorneys. While the application process is geared towards the county, and the county being involved in the initial process, you can take comfort from paragraph five, if you take a look at the blue line sentence there, "Any applicant seeking connection to municipal utility systems shall be responsible for complying with all applicable city ordinances including but not limited to, zoning, technical standards, utility regulations, fee schedules, and utility service requirements then in effect. Nothing contained in this MOU shall obligate the County to require connection to City utilities where lawful alternatives are otherwise available." But the point is, if they want to go through our system, they have to comply with all of our rules and regulations, that's the point here.

City Manager Whitehead: And just to be clear, we do not have an application that this particular action would take effect to immediately, but we have received inquiries, as Love's is in, they're active, that's the typical process that one business will follow another, and we have received inquiries, and that was the reasoning for us bringing this to your attention to say, "If something more is going to happen in that area, we should at least be prepared to be forthright and forward with our ability to manage it.

Mayor Hechler: So Love's is right there on a city boundary, isn't it?

City Manager Whitehead: Love's is inside the city limits.

Mayor Hechler: But it's right on the boundary, itself.

City Manager Whitehead: Right on the boundary.

Mayor Hechler: Right, so if somebody were to do something across the street, they'd want to hook up to our facilities, but they would be technically in the county.

City Manager Whitehead: That's correct. The property is on the other side of Cemetery Road or Dr. Hubble Road, the other side is county property. That particular area was enough to get us to say we better be thoughtful. And the same could happen in the Williamsburg area, there could be something going outside in those areas.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Truth or Consequences and Sierra County – Development Along Shared Boundaries and authorize the Mayor to execute the final documents. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **Discussion/Action: Approval of Contract and Allocation of Funds to SCRAGS for the 2027 Rock & Gem Show.**

City Clerk Torres: This is an application that went before our Lodgers' Tax board. If you look at the amount requested, it was for $27,650. Our board did not recommend approval of the entire amount due to limited funds, they want to see where we're at with our funds. They recommended that later on in the year, if we do have funds available, they can go back and ask for additional funding for this event since it's not until 2027. The amount requested was $27,650 and the amount recommended by the Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board was $12,100. I recommend approval for the amount recommended by the board.

City Attorney Rubin: So what you'd be doing is approving the contract in the amount, and I think you just want to satisfy yourself that by approving the amount that you believe the city is getting a comparable benefit in exchange for the allocation funds. And that's true for this item and the next two items on the agenda.

Commissioner Glines made a motion to approve the Contract and Allocation of Funds to SCRAGS for the 2027 Rock & Gem Show in the amount of $12,100. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Discussion/Action: Approval of Contract and Allocation of Funds to MainStreet Truth or Consequences for the Levitt AMP T or C Music Series Promotional Campaign.**

City Clerk Torres: This request was in the amount of $7,880, and after review from the Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board, they recommended a reduced amount. They did not approve funding for the A-frame signs because it didn't put heads in beds, so the recommended amount was $6,528 for this application. I recommend approval of the contract in the amount of $6,528.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to approve the Contract and Allocation of Funds to MainStreet Truth or Consequences for the Levitt AMP T or C Music Series Promotional Campaign in the amount of $6,528. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Discussion/Action: Approval of Contract and Allocation of Funds to MainStreet Truth or Consequences for the 2026 Oktoberfest.

City Clerk Torres: This request amount was for $4,400. Due to the limited funds, they went through the application to see what they could reduce. After discussion, they wanted to reduce some of the t-shirts, and that put them down to $4,000. I recommend approval of this contract in the amount of $4,000.

Mayor Hechler: I just want to say I appreciate the Lodgers' Tax Board going through all this work, and their diligence in making their recommendations to us. I appreciate their efforts.

Mayor Hechler made a motion to approve the Contract and Allocation of Funds to MainStreet Truth or Consequences for the 2026 Oktoberfest in the amount of $4,000. Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Discussion/Action: Re-appointment of Jake Foerstner to the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board.

City Clerk Torres: Mr. Foerstner is a long-time member on our Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board. His term expired in July, so he reapplied for the position. The board unanimously recommended his reappointment. If you reappoint him today, it will be for a 4-year term. I recommend approval.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to re-appoint Jake Foerstner to the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board to serve another 4-year term. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Discussion/Action: Re-appointment of Jessica Mackenzie to the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board.

City Clerk Torres: Jessica MacKenzie is also a current member on our board, and her term also expired in July. Her application was taken to the board, and they unanimously voted to recommend another 4-year term for Ms. MacKenzie. I recommend approval.

Commissioner Glines made a motion to re-appoint Jessica Mackenzie to the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board to serve another 4-year term. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Discussion/Action: Appointment of Andrew Curry to serve as a member on the Public Utility Advisory Board.

City Clerk Torres: On June 24th, this application was brought before you for the request to appoint Mr. Curry to the board. You recommended that we take it back to the board when they had a full board available, we did that and they made a unanimous vote to appoint Mr. Curry to the board. We also have the minutes available in the packet. We do have two vacancies on that board right now, so I do recommend approval of Mr. Curry to serve on this board for a 2-year term.

Commissioner Glines made a motion to appoint Andrew Curry to serve as a member on the Public Utility Advisory Board for a 2-year term. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Discussion/Action: Appointment of Susan Buhler to serve on the Public Arts Advisory Board.

City Clerk Torres: Susan is here if you'd like to hear her speak.

Susan Buhler, Applicant: It's nice to be here, thank you all. I am applying for the Public Arts Advisory Board. If you have any questions for me, I'd be happy to answer them for you. I have had some experience with public art, I spearheaded the tower for sun, which resides in the Healing Waters Plaza. Art is very important to me, and my goal would be to bring public art to fruition.

Mayor Hechler: I don't have any questions but I have a request. If you're on that board, would you ask the other members and make it a mission to get some of our artists registered at the state level so that when we get funding for major projects, and we set money aside for arts, then we can look at some of our local artists to support them and feature them in the processes that we have here?

Susan Buhler, Applicant: I think that's an excellent idea, I'd be happy to work on that and help with that.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to appoint Susan Buhler to serve as a member on the Public Arts Advisory Board for a 4-year term. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Discussion/Action: NMSU Cooperative Extension Service – FY 2026-2027 Funding Request for Sierra County Extension Office.

City Manager Whitehead: I was given a presentation last week for some needs at the Extension Office, I would like to hear their presentation. What we're asking for today in this request would be to hear the presentation, understand what the need is, and then the motion would either be to authorize me to find and work with other parties to potentially find a solution, or not to authorize us to move forward if you so choose. We're not asking for any funding today, really just a presentation and then direction from you on where we should go. With that, I'd like to introduce Tom from New Mexico State and he would like to make a presentation.

Tom Dean, Southwest District Department Head: I cover 9 counties for cooperative extension service down in the southwest corner of the state. What New Mexico State University the cooperative extension service has done in Socorro County, as well as in Sierra County, has implemented positions to be able to address some of our non-traditional 4H youth needs, and really tailor some programming for school enrichment back to the schools, so that we can have a reach and touch almost every individual within the county in regards to that. For Sierra County, there was some funding that we were able to procure through Sierra First Community Foundation to start this position. But we just received notification that we weren't able to secure all the funding that we were needing in regards to that, so for this particular initiative, the extension service, now that we've found that out, we're looking at other avenues like we've done in other communities as far as funding. We are behind, I've been able to get $50,000 through NMSU and some of our other providers to be able to fund $50,000 of the position here in Sierra County. Consequently, we are behind $25,000 in regards to keeping this position fully-funded for this fiscal year. We've got opportunities with the County Commission, to approach them, but we would like to inquire about the city in regard to the need, to see if there is any opportunities to work with you guys in keeping this position funded, keeping our youth able to get the education and the impacts that we've been able to make this past year. I used to quarrel with the model in regards to what we're doing in Sierra County because we do have a partnership with the city in Socorro, as well as the County Commission, to fund that position up there. We've got some history in terms of working with the city councils. Just for your information, the cooperative extension service truly is a cooperative in the fact that our first 1/3 of funding for all of the county programs comes from the county, and then we supply state and federal funds to that. With this, that's the cooperative, so the county is already funding positions at the cooperative extension service here in Sierra County, but in regards to this one and keep this position going, we'd certainly like to do that. We will continue to look ta grants and other opportunities in regards to this position. In regards

to this model, the low populations and the lower tax base in some of these counties like Socorro and Sierra, why this becomes more important is we've got youth that we need to serve, and we commonly lack capacity to be able to do that with the extension service only having one agent. So we've built up the capacity, we'd like to keep that so that we can touch all the youth in Sierra County. With that, I'll yield for questions if there is more detail that you need.

Mayor Hechler: How many youth will this help?

Tom Dean, Southwest District Department Head: Consequently, we could have a touch on almost every youth in Sierra County. But we do have an impact report, and I'll just kind of give you some numbers from that on what we were able to serve last year. Direct programming reached 1,249 youth, that's the total, and then there were some different programming efforts that were done; youth and camping programs, 64 were provided in that. I'm willing to provide the impact report directly so that you can look at ll of those numbers if you'd like.

Mayor Hechler: My understanding is we're requesting $25,000 but it may not fully come from our city? Isn't the county already going to come up with a portion of that?

Tom Dean, Southwest District Department Head: Correct, sir. I think we've got a request in to the county as well.

Mayor Hechler: Is that for $10,000 or $15,000? I get those two mixed up.

City Manager Whitehead: I spoke directly to the County Manager to understand their perspective. I believe their number is $65,000 that they already contribute to the extension service for the county. The manager felt that the whole $25,000 would be a little bit of a stretch, but felt like they could come up with $10,000 additionally if we could find a way to do $15,000. So in the terms of what we could help, it would look like the request that I might present back to you if you authorize me to more forward, would be to try to find somewhere between the $10,000 and $15,000. And I'll talk more about that when you're done with your questions, but that's where the two counterparts we've met and discussed our opportunities.

Tom Dean, Southwest District Department Head: And I'll leave the impact report here for you.

City manager Whitehead: So when we look at this project, obviously the challenge for us is that the final budget has been submitted, so we're kind of locked down until after September to really potentially change. So we do still have some limitations on being able to find that. Part 2 of that, when I think about the funds, we did set aside $50,000 for community projects, you picked and selected 5 members of the community, one of those being the youth group here in T or C. The 4H would certainly fit that model, where we could be funding a program that does touch as many youth, agriculture being the backbone of who we are, so it would fit the mission and some of the goals. With your

permission, I would work with New Mexico State, the Extension Office, and the county to see what our overall funding would be. The recommendation I would have, in speaking with Sarah, the extension agent, it looks like there was an endowment formed to try to raise money in the private sector to promote this program, and I think that somehow we need to get involved in that, not necessarily funding the endowment, but try to help that effort go forward. I think there are so many member s of our community that fund active 4H projects, if you look at the paper after a 4H auction for the county fair, those dollars are significant and I think that endowment probably just needs to get better advertised and promoted so that money for this potential is raised not only from the government sector, but still from the private sector. If we could help bridge that gap, I think the youth and the 4H program are certainly worthy of that. But we do have some limitations, we really couldn't get access to any change money until the end of September when the final budget comes back and approved so that we could do a potential BAR. With that, I would stand for any questions. Our recommendation would be that you let us continue to work with the county and New Mexico State to find as many solutions and present a number, so we would be in favor of trying to accomplish that.

Mayor Hechler: I like the idea that we may not have the to take the whole $25,000 bill, and I certainly don't want to be the group or organization or the person that derails this thing, it's already funded most of the way. I, personally, would like to see us try to find the additional funds to support this program, and work with the county in order to do that. If that's able to be done, perhaps then you could come back to us with a final declaration and request, and then we could vote on that?

City Manager Whitehead: That would be our recommendation, to do so. We could work to make sure we fully understand the impact, how many students, how many kids. I will also point out, you have members of your employment, of our staff, that use 4H. So it's not just kids in the community –

Mayor Hechler: I have grandkids that have been in those programs, it's a wonderful opportunity and wonderful programs and we need to try to support it. If we're fiscally responsible and able to do that, I think we should.

City Manager Whitehead: And I don't want to lose sight of – I feel like I made a little commitment too – we really have SJOA that needs additional funding for food, so as we think about it, it's not just looking at this, we really need to look at where we're at, and I had intended to see what our gross receipts tax looked like in January, let us get 6 months of these construction projects, if it was up I would present. So we have a few little needs that we've been pushing down the road that we need to take into consideration, and those are just as important as well.

Mayor Hechler made a motion to allow City Manager Whitehead to move forward in collaborating with Sierra County to seek additional funding to support the Sierra County Extension Office, and to report back to the Commission with a final determination. Commissioner Glines seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer.

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

Motion carried with a 3-0 vote and 1 recusal.

The Commission resumed new business at item G6.

16. Discussion/Action: FY2025 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Agreement.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: You may remember a couple years back, we completed the vision zero safety action plan. Once that plan was completed, it provided us the eligibility to apply for additional funds to implement some of the items identified within the vision zero plan. In meeting with the City Manager and Streets Department reviewing the list of items, we ended up submitting an application for a city-wide roadway sign inventory and some road safety audits at the intersection of Date Street and Marie Street, as well as Date Street and 9th Street. We felt that within the funding allocations at that time – because there is a match required that fit within our budgetary purposes – we were awarded that and this is the grant agreement. It takes a little bit to get through this process, so this is the grant agreement for that project. It is $440,000 federal funds with $110,000 local match for a total project budget of $550,000. At this time, we're requesting for the Commission to approve and execute the grant agreement. It takes a while to get it back once we send it up, so this will come back to you guys in the form of a budget adjustment because it's come in after our budget was planned for, and in between times to be able to do the BAR. You'll see it one more time after it's fully executed. I'll stand for any questions.

Mayor Hechler: I think this will open us up for other funding once we receive that.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: It is at a national level, so it's a really competitive grant, which is one of the reasons we kind of looked down the list and thought, "Well we'll apply for a smaller project." And we were selected, which we were all a little bit surprised about. So you are correct, it will open us up. Maybe we've got our name out there and we can apply for more funding for some of the other street improvements.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to approve the FY2025 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Agreement and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement and any relevant documents necessary in order to administer the grant. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

17. Discussion/Update: Notice of Intent (NOI) to the New Mexico Finance Authority Water Trust Board.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: Water Trust Board opened up a new application process, it's for a design-only project. The City Manager and I got together and reviewed some of the funds that we have potentially coming through or available, and decided that we were going to submit a notice of intent in the amount of $2.3 million for design-only. That design is going to complete 31,000 linear feet of water line, it will look at Well #2 for rehab replacement, as well as potentially a new well in the upper zone towards the cemetery area. The estimated total project costs that would open us up to apply for would be $25 million construction projects. The notice of intent was due last Friday, so this is just an update to the Commission letting you know that we have submitted that. They'll make a determination around mid-August, and we should hopefully know some thing towards the end of August at the latest on whether or not we are awarded. With that, I will turn it over to City Manager Whitehead if he has anything to add.

City Manager Whitehead: Thank you. What I'd point out, in case you're unfamiliar, the Water Trust Board is coming into a lot of money and there's a real push in Santa Fe to try to stop funding a big project, and then the money sits for a long period of time. This appears to be their effort to say, "We're going to do a first application for those that can do some design work, we're going to fund the design, and then we're expecting that design to then come back to us for funding the project. Just to keep that, that's the new process. The second part that made this difficult for us is they do wan you to have preliminary engineering, so you do have to have some kind of preliminary engineering report, a technical report, and so we're able to use our 2019 PER for our water projects, this fit nicely into that project. Working with Traci, we identified that we do have $4.4 million coming to us in another HUD grant that the Commission applied for in 2023, so it's called 2024 HUD, that was kind of outlined and laid out for a potential project, but what we realized is we can use the HUD funding for match. So the proposal we've put together is to say, "Let's get $2.3 million, let's design $25 million worth of another project, and then take the HUD grant to be our 10% match and our 10% loan." Again, using that to create this $25 million, very innovative. Right now, we're working on securing the HUD grant, we're in the process of filling out the paperwork, getting all the contracts in, so that grant should come to us in the next year, so we think this is timely because Wilson and Company is our water engineering firm, and they have a pretty good idea of where they would go to do the design work. Really innovative, I thought Traci did a great job identifying how this thought could come together and use that. Again, really taking what we've been granted and turning it into more money. $25 million

back into water lines will make another significant contribution to what we're trying to accomplish. This project will look like, over three years trying o get together, "Let's get this grant, get the planning, get the HUD in place, make an application not this year but next year to Water Trust Board for the $23 million and then match it with this."

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: The only thing I'll add is that our planning document is required, just keep in mind as we are moving forward with applying through Colonias and Water Trust Board, one of their other requirements with that planning document is it is updated every five years, so that's something that I'll be speaking with the City Manager about and looking at the funding where we can update our municipal water PER, which would be good to do anyway with all the water system improvements we've been doing, so that will be coming down the line.

Mayor Hechler: This is discussion only, so there's no vote, but you know, it just keeps us in line. We have $120 million worth of repair work to do to our water lines, and we've got $40 or $50 million that we're spending over the next couple of years, this is the next tranche of money that's going to jump on the end of that, and we'll keep ion going, see where we go, and see if we can get to the end at some point.

City Manager Whitehead: I would just say, we didn't apply for any water money this year, we did the wastewater plant which is helpful, we're going to get hat fixed, but I've been really nervous in thinking about how we're going to get more, because everything we apply for comes with a loan, and it comes with a match. I've presented to you the water fees, and kind of the structure we need to go to, so I thought this was really innovative to recognize that we could use HUD for a match.

Mayor Hechler: And we've already done the research, sometimes you can't use funds like that.

City Manager Whitehead: That's right. But this one, we did receive a HUD grant that matched for our critical water that's ready to go to bid as well, so we know that can happen. You cannot use capital outlay for match funds, but HUD is available. And then if you think about it, if we're successful, the next Commission, at some point, will continue to ask. The next HUD program will be a large tranche of money to then be a match as well. Just being thoughtful on how we do that and how we get those grant funds.

H. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING:

1. **Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 14 26/27 authorizing and approving the submission a completed loan application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority.**

Deanna Knull, PD Executive Assistant: I have some packets I just received in the mail from the New Mexico Finance Authority, I will pass these out so you can see. It outlines

some of the terms of the loan, we are asking for $306,099 for four new Explorer units, this is fully upfit with graphics, it does look like there's going to be some interest added on that's outlined in that packet, and it's going to come to an amount of a little over $314,000 with that interest. We are looking to pull that from our GRT, and it does look like our first payment will be due shortly, should this be approved. We're looking to put in the application with New Mexico Finance Authority, and we're asking for your approval on that.

Commissioner Forrister: This is coming from the PD's GRT?

Deanna Knull, PD Executive Assistant: Yes, ma'am.

Mayor Hechler: So four patrol units that are outfitted like the other one that we were going to buy, basically?

Deanna Knull, PD Executive Assistant: Correct, yes and it is from the same company we got the quote from, which should have been in the packet that was already there.

Mayor Hechler: Do we have someone that upgrades these things? Do you take them to Las Cruces or where do we get these things upfitted?

Deanna Knull, PD Executive Assistant: We do have a couple of different upfitters that we use, WAC or MHQ, both of Albuquerque. We can look at other options for the upfit, fees are already done with this quote. So we will compare and contrast if that is something that the Commission wishes for us to do.

Mayor Hechler: So are they delivered with the upfit?

Deanna Knull, PD Executive Assistant: Yes, the only thing we may wait on is our specific department graphics.

Jocelyn Holguin, CFO: MHQ is also on state price agreement, so that helps with that process as well.

Mayor Hechler: This will allow you to retire those other vehicles, right, Chief?

Police Chief Tavizon: Yes, sir. Generally, in the past whenever we purchased a vehicle, we buy it from the dealership, then we send it to either MHQ or one of the other ones on the state price agreement, and there's a turnaround from anywhere from 6 months to a year before we ever see that unit again. What Phil Long has done, with identifying that need, is that they started to sell these vehicles fully upfitted. So right now if I had the cash in hand and were to go, there are four Explorers already upfitted ready to drive off the lot. The only thing that needs to be done is insert a radio and our graphics. It's a quick turnaround for that, and we're not waiting a year for us to get the units back fully upfitted.

City Manager Whitehead: I'll also brief you; the process you're looking for today, you're not approving a requisition, and you're not approving the state contract or purchase these units. Right now we have to make the application to the New Mexico Finance Authority. We held this application off until the 1st of the fiscal year because every fiscal year, the City of Truth or Consequences is entitled to up to $150,000 in special funds that we can receive at 0%. If you'll remember, last year, you did approve the purchase and the loan for a street sweeper, we did receive the $150,000 at 0% which took that loan down to about 0.5% interest, so what you're seeing here again on this is the $150,000, half of this loan will come to us at 0%, the remaining balance will come at 3.75% which will get us a yield of somewhere around 1.75% overall. In developing this program, the Chief and I's vision would be that the payment on this would be a 4-year payout, we'd like to get them paid off quickly so that we could redo that and potentially have a nice rotation of units where we're borrowing, paying for them, and they can survive the life. As you see, they get a lot of miles on them. Right now, with your permission to go forward, we would then get on the New Mexico Finance Authority's calendar and their agenda, this has to go through that approval process, this will probably take four months to get all the approvals and resolutions to have the funding backed fully in order. At that point, Finance, the Procurement Officer, and the Chief will come to you and present a package like they did again today, to buy the units. But good job on them identifying a place where we can get them done and upfitted and in proper order. That will be the process for this.

Jocelyn Holguin, CFO: The pricing agreement also doesn't expire until 2027, so it should be able to hold as well.

City Manager Whitehead: I apologize. We need to make an adjustment. On the resolution, unfortunately, we sent a copy and we used it, and we kept the street sweeper in there as well, so it needs to be changed to the –

Commissioner Forrister: I didn't even notice.

City Attorney Rubin: I didn't either.

Mayor Hechler: Good catch.

City Manager Whitehead: I can't take credit for noticing, I'm just the messenger.

Commissioner Forrister: Good catch, Traci.

Assistant City Manager Alvarez: I can't take credit either.

Deanna Knull, PD Executive Assistant: She's right, it was the Finance Authority that had me correct that, I did not get a corrected copy to the Commission.

City Manager Whitehead: So, it needs to say, "Whereas, the governing body intends to undertake the acquisition, construction, and improvement of a police vehicle package for the benefit of governmental unit and citizens" versus a streetsweeper.

City Clerk Torres: I'll change it.

Commissioner Forrister made a motion to approve Resolution No. 14 26/27 authorizing and approving the submission a completed loan application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority, with the changes discussed, and authorize the City Manager to execute applicable documents. Commissioner Hoeppner seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Hechler adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

Passed and **Approved** this **9th** day of **September, 2026**.

Angela M Torres, City Clerk

ATTEST:

Robt Hechler, Mayor