

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3RD St.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sandra Whitehead 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. Sandra Whitehead, Mayor
Hon. Amanda Forrister, Mayor Pro-Tem
Hon. Paul Baca, Commissioner - Absent
Hon. Randall Aragon, Commissioner
Hon. Frances Luna, Commissioner

Also Present: Morris Madrid, City Manager
Angela A. Torres, City Clerk-Treasurer

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

2. SILENT MEDITATION:

Mayor Whitehead called for fifteen seconds of silent meditation for fallen State Police Officer Darian Jarrott. She asked that everyone keep his family, all of his brothers and sisters in blue, his community, and all of the first responders who help us live in a safe community in your thoughts and prayers.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Whitehead called for Commissioner Luna to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Whitehead requested that the City Manager's Report be moved before Public Comment so that Parks Department Manager OJ Hechler can give a report during that time.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve the agenda with the amendment mentioned by Mayor Whitehead. Commissioner Luna seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Parks Department Manager OJ Hechler reported the following:

Ralph Edwards Park:

- While we continue to be under COVID restrictions, they are going to take full advantage to insure that the newly laid sod at the park has the best chance to grow. They had an expert analysis performed, and it was suggested that they apply a Liquid Humate onto the grass in order to help speed up the growth process. We can't count on much to happen in the month of February because the Bermuda that was planted at the park is a warm season grass that thrives in warm temperatures. The grass is rooting, but it still needs a bit more time before we can open the park for foot traffic. The Liquid Humate will give it a dark brownish color which will help absorb heat and help raise the soil temperatures which will also help stimulate growth. We will monitor it in April and give our analysis of when we think we can open the park.
- They are currently working on the south parking area of the park.
- They will be adding railing onto the raised platform of the gazebo while they work on the plan and design so they can open it up because they are not exactly sure of when the gazebo installation is going in.
- They removed all of the mistletoe from the trees at the Ralph Edwards Park, the fish pond and Family Park.

Ball Fields:

- They will be working on the ball fields in hopes of opening up this year. They are not sure of when that will happen due to COVID restrictions, but they want to be prepared and have it ready.
- This year they budgeted for a new fence installation for the C-Field. They are going to do a new fence on the back stop which will go all the way into the dugouts. While the fence is torn down they are going to paint the dugouts to match the other two fields.
- They will be topping off the infields because last year's flood brought in a bunch of sand.

Frisbee Golf:

- They had a gentleman who participated in a Frisbee Golf contest, and this was the justification of why we need Frisbee Golf in our community. The gentleman received 3rd place in the contest, and as a result of that they donated 9 Frisbee Golf Baskets to the city which are currently at the Armory. We have the baskets and all of the hardware, we just need a location for the courts. We are requesting community involvement in this decision. So far we have received a few suggestions of using the Healing Waters Trail area or maybe the Golf Course area. This item will be discussed at the next Recreation Advisory Board Meeting and they welcome any public input regarding the location.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister suggested that they maybe look into using the Ball Fields for Frisbee Golf.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Whitehead stated that it has been requested that the Commissioners each have their video cameras on in the GoToMeeting app. A lot of us Commissioners are not on the GoToMeeting app most of the time. She personally attempted to turn on her camera this morning and it would not connect because it won't share webs. We moved our camera a bit closer to the dais, so hopefully everyone can see the Commissioners. We have also changed the way we broadcast through GoToMeeting, so hopefully we will not lose anybody during public comment.

Ron Fenn virtually addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- (1) He feels that the Commissioners have one job, and that is to see that the city is properly operated. While doing research, and looking at the accounting system we have, we are not doing a good job because you continuously hire people as City Managers who have no connection to this community, and who are in it for their money. And in order to get along, they just go along. The best thing you can do is involve the community in the process of hiring the next City Manager.

Mayor Whitehead read public comment submitted by David Koonce in regards to his feelings about City Staff and City Officials. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

City Manager Madrid read public comment submitted by Rick Dumiak in regards to 630 Charles Street. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

Mayor Whitehead read public comment submitted by Isaac Eastvold regarding the Rotary Park Soft Path. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

E. RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commissioner Aragon responded to the following comments:

- **Rick Dumiak's comments regarding 630 Charles Street:** He asked for an update on the progress of that property.

City Manager Madrid responded that progress is being made at 630 Charles Street. Outside of the fence area has been cleared, the weeds have been removed, and all of the smaller items throughout the yard have been removed. He met with the occupant yesterday afternoon, and she explained that she has had difficulty in moving some of the larger items in the yard, but she has made arrangements to make more progress this weekend. We do work with them as long as they are making progress. It should be

Public Comment

David Koonce
217 B, North Cedar Street
T or C, NM. 87901

Mayor, Sandra Whitehead
505 Sims Street
T or C, NM. 87901

Dear, Mayor Whitehead

Please share this letter with City Counsel .

I have been in Truth or Consequences now for nine years by doctor's orders to move to the drier climate of Arizona, due to my crippling arthritis. Being from a small town in Southern Louisiana that is similar to Truth or Consequences, I thought this was a nice town, but then again I was only here for less than a week.

After going to the library, and explaining that I was from "out of state" and given the third degree for not having a New Mexico ID, I was finally allowed to use the computer to learn a little more about Truth or Consequences. I learned that Truth or Consequences is just as dry as Arizona, so I decided that this small town would be better than the larger city that I was planning to go too.

I found an apartment, a church, made awesome friends. After a while, my friends wondered why I kept calling the city by its full name {Truth or Consequences} when everyone called it (T or C). In the same conversation, I was told "don't be fooled, T or C, does not mean Truth or Consequences. It really means Trashed and Corrupt. Where the city is Trashed and the city officials are Corrupt (along with all the city departments)."

In the nine years that I have been here in Truth or Consequences, it is getting harder and harder to see the honesty in the city, however, the Trashed and Corrupt part seems to be showing up more and more in my eyes.

I can not, nor will I try to speak for the residents of Sierra County. This is something that I would like to see happen. Please develop a "Report Card" for the city that has the City Departments like a School with different Subjects. With space so residents can give a reason for the grade and a space on how things can be improved.

Being hearing impaired myself, my ways of contacting people is by text message, US Mail, Face to Face (without Masks) because I lip read. Due to Covid-19, I understand why the state and city shut down. Now everything is with masks or online. I do not have internet service due to it being overpriced, since I am on a fixed income.

How can I get involved? How can I make a difference to turn Trashed and Corrupt, N.M. back into Truth or Consequences. Or would you rather keep it the way it is as Trashed and Corrupt?

David Koonce

T or C Public Comment

From: Rick Dumiak <rdumiak@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2021 9:33 AM
To: T or C Public Comment
Subject: Public comment for Wed Feb 10 City Commission Meeting

Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners, Rick Dumiak and I reside at 705 Charles St. TorC.

Once again, I am here to try and get an honest answer on a resolution the city commission passed on August 12, 2020, that resolution (11 20/21) pertained to 630 Charles St and the condition of the property and the rubbish and debris on the property.

Resolution 11 20/21 passed unanimously. The resolution required "the prompt removal of accumulated rubbish, wreckage, and debris from 630 Charles St."

It is important to note that the city sued the property owner of 630 Charles in March of 2019 and the court ruled against the property owner.

At the Sept 12, 2020 city commission meeting, I asked during public comment for an update on resolution 11 20/21. Our city attorney stated at the time that there is a due process that has to be followed before the city can act to clean up the property at 630 Charles St.

I emailed Traci Alvarez on Dec 9, 2020 asking for an update on the resolution and was told by Traci as long as the property owner is making progress the city will continue to work with them.

In January of 2021 during public comment, I again asked why this resolution has not been acted on and the city manager said the city was having a hard time to get anyone to remove the debris and there may be hazardous materials involved.

It seems clear that the city manager has different timelines for due process depending on who he is dealing with. With Mr. Fenn the city manager arbitrarily picked a timeline, and it appears he is doing so once again with this resolution.

I ask the city manager, where (RFPs) requests for proposals sent out to qualified contractors for this work?

When was the bidding deadline on the RFPs?

How many bids were received?

Has a contract been awarded?

If RFPs have not been sent out, why not or why isn't the city performing this work in house as was stated during the resolution hearing?

How much longer do the other residents on Charles have to wait for action on this item that has been on the cities radar since at least March of 2019 when the city took the owner to court and won.

It is my hope the City Commission can get the city manager to give an honest answer as to why we are still waiting for action on this resolution as it is clear the city manager will not give me an honest answer.

The city manager has publicly insulted me and has questioned my honesty in front of this commission before, so I certainly do not expect an honest answer from him.

Thank you
Rick Dumiak

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Honorable Mayor Whitehead, City Commissioners, City Manager Madrid, City Attorney Rubin, and City Planning Staff:

As an addition to our City and County's portfolio of economic development plans, right in front of us is development of our unique birthright of natural history to make T or C a renowned destination for bird watching, nature study, low impact recreation, and healing through what the Japanese call "nature bathing." This "soft path" to development is almost always less expensive than the "hard path," and is sustainable for a very low, or even no, cost; but not infrequently it is overlooked.

Andy Potter, in the above attached link to his Opinion Piece for the Sierra County Sun, has an excellent idea to help take us down the "soft path" to economic development. Purchasing as park or open space parcels on the east shore from Rotary Park, besides being relatively inexpensive, would strengthen the Wetlands Element restoration around Rotary Park previously approved by the City Commission in the 2009 Healing Waters Trail Plan. City Attorney is now pursuing "quiet title" for the Park from the Bureau of Reclamation. Both shores of the Rio Grande in the vicinity of Riverbend and Rotary Park, therefore, would become a potent visitor destination for birdwatchers, natural sciences students, and residents wanting inspiration and to just relax in a quiet natural environment.

In order to better qualify for grant funding for land purchase and wetlands restoration, the T or C City Commission should take two simple actions: 1) add the missing Open Space Element to the Comprehensive Plan, inclusive of the east shore parcels across from Rotary Park; and, 2) reaffirm implementation of the long-overdue Wetlands Element in the Healing Waters Trail Plan of 2009, all of which has been previously approved.

Just protecting both banks of the River in this area would create a highly successful visitor destination to increase the tourism sector of our economy. Users of Riverbend would be delighted, as would Rotary Park users and nearby residents, just as they are now by the occasional sighting of great blue herons and deer across the River.

Were you aware that bat tourism organizations exist world wide, and will direct their members to sites which are protected? Examples of bat tourism exist at Carlsbad Caverns National Park and the Turner Enterprises magnificent bat cave in their Armendaris Range property. These famous bat tourism destinations could guide T or C in sensitively developing their own populations of bats for tourism.

I have observed that large migrating flocks of both swallows and bats spend considerable time up and down river from Rotary Park, flying back and forth low over the river, to re-fuel on the swarms of flying insects. Besides helping to control insect populations, this key re-fueling area helps these animals to put on enough tiny bits of fat sufficient to continue their long migrations up River for breeding, and back down River to Mexico with their juveniles for the winter.

These precious kinds of places along the Rio Grande are essential to prevent the kind of massive bird die-offs we saw this past fall in New Mexico. The carcasses--mostly swallows--gathered at White Sands and sent by USFWS to the USGS lab in California showed that the animals were completely emaciated, and had no fat whatsoever in their tiny bodies. They just starved to death.

Preserving both shores of the River at Rotary Park would be a substantial mitigation helping these animals, and other migratory species, to prepare to continue their long journeys. It would help halt their decline toward listing as rare, threatened, or endangered species, and a substantial upgrade for our partly degraded section of the Rio Grande between Caballo and Elephant Butte dams.

If migrating species of animals along the River do become federally listed, it would place the entire area under strict standards for their recovery. This now can be avoided with economically beneficial mitigation measures such as I have suggested.

Please correct me if wrong, but I believe the east shore across from Rotary Park was at one time used for farming. Putting that use back to provide timely food for the great sandhill cranes, snow geese and Canada geese which Mr. Potter speaks about, would restore that traditional use. World famous wildlife refuges to our north, such as Bosque del Apache, could guide us in this simple restoration.

"Hard path" urban development of the east shore, however, besides being highly expensive, is also incompatible with its partial designation as a flood zone. Extending infrastructure for "leapfrog" development across the River would be an onerous burden on T or C taxpayers. And most T or C residents would oppose it.

Far better, then, to add to our development portfolio this obvious opportunity to use our birthright of natural history for "soft path" development which is both sustainable, inexpensive, and a potential boon to our economy.

substantially complete by the end of the day on Monday, and at that time we will take a look at it again.

- **Rick Dumiak's previous comments regarding an apology from City Manager Madrid:** This is all over Facebook and he asked City Manager Madrid if he has given any thought about this. However, he doesn't think it was directed towards Mr. Dumiak.

Mayor Whitehead responded that she doesn't feel that City Manager Madrid was intentionally insulting anyone. She travels around the city several times a day, and several times a week to see about these areas that are being complained about, and she happened to be driving through Rotary Park on Martin Luther King Day which is a holiday. She was amazed with the people that were using the park. She did not see any trash at all, and this was around 1:00 p.m. A van pulled away, and she saw a couple of potato chip wrappers on the ground, but that was it. She thanked Mr. Dumiak for picking up the trash and keeping our grounds clean, but she asked that he let our Park's Department go by and see what is happening, because if there is no trash to be picked up when they do their rounds they do not know there is an issue. She understands that Mr. Dumiak felt insulted, and she apologizes for that, but that was not City Manager Madrid's intent.

City Manager Madrid also stated that it was not his intention to be disrespectful to any individual. The timing of his statement might have been off because Mr. Dumiak had just spoken. However, what he said is true because we get attacked all of the time. Sometimes it's with the truth, and sometimes it's without the truth. It wasn't anything Mr. Dumiak said in particular, but there are times when the City Manager has to stand up and make sure that the facts are given. He stated to Mr. Dumiak, if you felt insulted by my comment, I do apologize, my statement wasn't meant to insult anyone.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister responded to the following comments:

- **Isaac Eastvold's public comments regarding the Rio Grande:** She recommends that Mr. Eastvold attend the Rio Grande Trail Alliance Meetings because she feels that he has a lot of the information that would be of great value to them.

Mayor Whitehead thanked everyone for their public input.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. **City Commission Regular Minutes, January 27, 2021**
2. **Accounts Payable, January 2021:**

Commissioner Luna moved to approve the consent calendar as submitted.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Rubin stated that we just approved the City Commission minutes for the January 27, 2021 meeting, and half of the minutes were taken up by the appeals. He feels that the minutes accurately reflected what happened, and he would like to draft an Order that would summarize the City Commission's decision in the event where there might be an appeal to District Court. He believes it is required that we have a written Order in place. He would also like to incorporate some language of Ordinance 14-30 into the Order.

G. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING:

1. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 31 20/21 in support of the Truth or Consequences Foch Street Renovation Project:

City Manager Madrid explained that this resolution is on the agenda by the request of MainStreet. The two purposes are the statement of support, and to commit that the \$200,000 in funds will be available for the Foch Street Renovation Project. This project will be funded through the Department of Transportation through a grant agreement with the City of Truth or Consequences.

Commissioner Luna moved to approve Resolution No. 31 20/21 in support of the Truth or Consequences Foch Street Renovation Project. Commissioner Aragon seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 32 20/21 Authorizing the submission of a New Mexico Community Block Grant Program Application to the Department of Finance and Administration/Local Government Division; and Authorizing the Mayor to act as the Municipality's Chief Executive Officer and Authorized Representative in all matters pertaining to the Municipality's participation in the Community Development Block Grant Program:

City Manager Madrid explained that this is a resolution that is required under the CDBG application. The application requires a document from the local governing body supporting the project and it also has to name the Chief Elected Official (which is the Mayor) as a primary representative on the application. This is standard, and it does describe in general what the projects intent is. At the time of application, we will need to submit a specific plan which will come before you before the submission of the application.

Traci Alvarez, Grant Projects Coordinator/Zoning Official also explained that the Commission chose the water distribution lines at the last meeting, and so this is project specific to distribution lines in the area of Hackberry Lane, Cottonwood Lane, and

Mercury Street. This area was requested by our Water/Wastewater Director as a high priority area. It will also be identified in our Water System PER that is in the process of being completed.

Commissioner Luna moved to approve Resolution No. 32 20/21 Authorizing the submission of a New Mexico Community Block Grant Program Application to the Department of Finance and Administration/Local Government Division; and Authorizing the Mayor to act as the Municipality's Chief Executive Officer and Authorized Representative in all matters pertaining to the Municipality's participation in the Community Development Block Grant Program. Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 33 20/21 Authorizing and approving submission of a completed application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) for the Colonias Infrastructure Fund.

City Manager Madrid explained that this is another application to go along with our overall Water Systems Improvement in our infrastructure. We have been successful in planning for Colonias funding in the past few years. A couple of years ago, we got \$100,000, and last year we got \$1 million dollars for Street Improvements. This meets all of the requirements, and the intent of the Colonias funding. This will be for more Water System Improvements along with the other ones that we are undertaking.

Traci Alvarez, Grant Projects Coordinator/Zoning Official also explained if the city is awarded, we will come back to the Commission with a Resolution to accept the award, as well as any loan or cash match that they may require.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve Resolution No. 33 20/21 Authorizing and approving submission of a completed application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) for the Colonias Infrastructure Fund. Commissioner Luna seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 34 20/21 and Resolution No. 34-A approving the required Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Certifications and Commitments:

City Manager Madrid explained that this is another requirement from the Community Development Block Grant Program. There used to be a single resolution for each requirement. They require that the governing body of the applicant certify that it will comply with the five requirements that you see before you, which are Citizen Participation; Fair Housing; Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance;

Section 3 of the HUD Act; and Federal and State Procurement Codes. This resolution is required to submit the application. Without the resolution, the funding would be denied.

Commissioner Luna moved to approve Resolution No. 34 20/21 and Resolution No. 34-A approving the required Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Certifications and Commitments. Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Discussion/Action: Request for a Summary Plat Amendment and Variance at 300 N. Maple, Truth or Consequences, NM pursuant to Chapter 15, Sec. 15-17., Amendment of plats and Municipal Code, Sec. 11-5-5, Variance.**

Traci Alvarez, Grant Projects Coordinator/Zoning Official explained that our Planning & Zoning Commission recommended approval during their February 1, 2021 meeting. This is for a Summary Plat and Variance Request at 300 N. Maple Street. The minutes to the meeting with all discussion, questions, and concerns are included in your agenda packet.

Commissioner Aragon applauded the Planning & Zoning Commission for using the finding and facts as per the ordinance. He would like to see that they also make a check list so when he is reading it he can look at it.

Traci Alvarez, Grant Projects Coordinator/Zoning Official explained that a checklist is included in their packet, but she does not have the authority of whether or not they use it.

City Clerk Torres also explained that their recommendation was approved upon everything that is listed on the checklist.

Commissioner Luna moved to approve Request for a Summary Plat Amendment and Variance at 300 N. Maple, Truth or Consequences, NM pursuant to Chapter 15, Sec. 15-17., Amendment of plats and Municipal Code, Sec. 11-5-5, Variance. Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Update: Utility Billing Update:

Sonya Renfro-Williams, Utility Manager stated that she is here today to update everyone on the utility billing, and the concerns the public may have concerning their bills. Unfortunately, this is something she wishes will never happen again, but with the billing system we have, and with other utility billing systems, this is just something that

may happen. She suggests that any customers who see any discrepancies on their bill please contact the Utility Office. They bill around 1700 people a week, so it is hard for them to go through every single bill and make sure that everyone is being billed correctly. They do however, try to do their due diligence and do re-reads, but it is impossible to catch every single error. The new AMI Meters are great because it allows them to pull up the usage on our screens and see exactly what the customer is using, and what they have used. We don't want these issues to occur, but all we can do is move forward and do our best. They do try to work with people to try and make things right.

Mayor Whitehead stated during this transition of the new meters, the billing days were off a few days, so that threw off the billing because one month may have been billed for a shorter amount of days than the next month. However, in all reality, we as property owners should know what we pay on a monthly basis, so when we see that our bills are off, we should contact the Utility Office. Things don't get resolved by putting us out on Facebook or on social media saying that we are wrong when the questions could be answered and resolved by a phone call.

Sonya Renfro-Williams, Utility Manager also stated that she wants to know if people are having issues with their bills. During the last Commission Meeting as soon as she heard there were issues, she immediately pulled up the accounts and started doing the math to see if there was an issue because we don't want to over-charge customers. We don't want there to be problems. She added her and Chelsea LeClair's numbers to the flyers so people can call them directly, because she wants to be there for the customers.

Mayor Whitehead explained that she met with Sonya after the last meeting regarding the utility bill that was mentioned, and she was able to talk to that person that gave the comment. She thinks we've got it squared away, and now they understand what was happening. So again, these are things that that not only Sonya and her staff are looking at, but she is looking into them as well.

Commissioner Aragon thanked the Utility Department, and the other city offices for doing a great job. During the month of December, and maybe during Christmas time people are more than likely to use a little more electricity. The Utility Office is willing to work with people if they did get an outrageous bill.

Commissioner Luna stated that she has heard from commercial accounts users that their bills have dropped dramatically, and she also has the same concern herself. If we find that there is a billing issue with the commercial bills, and we are not quick to resolve that, how far back are we going to retroactive their usage and catch them up.

Sonya Renfro-Williams, Utility Manager explained that she has had businesses call her and say that their bill can't be right, so what we're doing is going back from the time that the new meter was installed, which was November, and we're going from there. Luckily all of the commercial meters are being installed by our Electric Department. We have encountered some issues, but she feels confident that we have caught the problem, and

she doesn't foresee anyone having more than one month of a corrected bill being issued.

Commissioner Luna asked how many commercial accounts the city has.

Sonya Renfro-Williams, Utility Manager stated I would have to say that we have around 200 commercial demand meters.

Commissioner Luna asked if the Commission can review those reports.

Sonya Renfro-Williams, Utility Manager responded yes there are reports that can be ran.

Commissioner Aragon wants to make sure that we promote the budget billing system because some people might not know what it is.

Sonya Renfro-Williams, Utility Manager explained that they do offer budget billing. Customers just need to come in and sign up for it. They do however, need to be caught up on their bill. So how it works is we average their bill, so they only pay the same amount every month, and at the end of the year we re-estimate it to make sure it is correct.

C. REPORTS:

City Attorney Rubin had no reports.

City Commission Reports:

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister reported the following:

- This weekend they had a huge ATV rally and there were almost 400 UTV's which split up and went a few separate ways. She read lots of really good comments on Facebook, but she also saw some negative ones too that said it was a political rally. She however, didn't see that at all. She commended all of the riders for turning down their radios when they went into town. The people from the rally stayed in our hotels, and we were packed with people. They were also eating everywhere, and they were getting fuel here locally. This is not going to be an every weekend thing, but it really helps us a lot. She just wants everyone to please make sure we're keeping our trails clean.
- Rebecca Dow is pushing to have the State Parks moved into the Department of Tourism, and she would like the city to get on board with that and maybe make an agreement. They are wanting to move forward with opening the lake in the winter months to the UTV's, and she thinks the City of Elephant Butte, the Village of Williamsburg and the City of T or C need to get on board with having that. It brings tourism into our town, especially in winter months when we are hurting.

- She and the Mayor attended a meeting yesterday for our trails, and she feels that we need to really think about if there is a specific place where we do not want the bridge in the city, or where we would like to have it.

Commissioner Aragon reported the following:

- The Veterans Coalition turned out really well, and the (VSO) Veterans Service Officer has a Zoom meeting set up at the Olive Tree Branch, and once a month, on the 4th Thursday of each month, Veterans can go there instead of having to drive to Las Cruces. The Veterans Coalition has a Chairman and a Vice Chairman and it's a Coalition for Veterans to help Veterans.

Commissioner Luna reported the following:

- She commended Traci Alvarez and City Manager Madrid for getting the variance on the agenda, and streamlining that process. She thinks that is something that can greatly help. There's no sense in waiting so long.
- She received some phone calls from some people that very happy that the Police Department have begun fingerprinting again. She thanked the Police Department for opening up for fingerprinting.
- The first meeting of the group of the Sierra County Economic Development will be held by the end of the month. She will send out the zoom link for that, and we will get it publicized. She's waiting on two more people to be named to that organization, and then we should be able to have a meeting.
- She was a little surprised that litigation is not on agenda because we do have a notice in front of us. She asked that it be placed on the next agenda.
- In regards to the comments and concerns about people not being able to see us. She got a quote from Fire Chief Tooley who does the production for the Sierra County meetings, and if you haven't seen those, she invites you to go to the Sierra County page. The system is set up to where it's like you were there at the meeting. It's a very nice production. It is not free, but it is something we could be proud of. She sent that quote to the City Manager and the Mayor, and she would like for it to be listed on the agenda for next meeting so the Commission can look at it together to see if it's something we can do.
- She saw a comment and post on Facebook that Fiesta might not happen again this year. That would be the second year in a row. She believes last year was probably a unique thing because of COVID, but she thinks that there is no reason we can't do a parade, have vendors or do an awesome car show. We can do something with the City of Elephant Butte. They had a group of people who did their Elephant Days for a few years in the very beginning, and when that person said no mas, the staff took it over and they have a staff of less than 10 people. She does not believe that with a staff of close to 100 people, we could not do the exact same thing with this body's assistance, participation, and support. It is something that we should keep. It is our namesake event, and she doesn't think we should let it die. She would also like that to be on the next agenda.
- She chooses not to respond during to the public comments, because she feels that is when you are fired up and you're mad, and whether anyone would believe

that she can step back and think about what she says, the comments about the city being corrupt embarrass her. It also embarrasses her on behalf of every member of our staff because they go to work, and they are there to work for not only themselves, but for their neighbors, and their family. They take pride in what they do. Are there bad apples, yes, in every barrel, but she does not believe for one minute that any Commissioner sitting up here, or any member of our staff get up any morning without the best intention in their heart, and go to work to make our city better. Therefore, she challenges every single person who feels that we're not doing the best job, to step up to help make us the best. She thinks Mr. Dumiak is a prime example of a way to make our community better. He saw a problem, he picked up the trash, and he told us about it, so thank you Mr. Dumiak, and thank you Denise Addie for putting parades together. Let's thank these people for making our community better, and let's stop the strife between one another, and let's start making our community something we can all be proud of again.

Mayor Whitehead reported the following:

- She asked that Merry Jo Fahl be added to the agenda for our next meeting to come in and give a presentation. Merry Jo will be following up as to what information she has. We are also looking at areas where we want or don't want the bridge, so we as a city a community along with the Commission and city staff need to come together to find out if we still want go with Rotary Park. We also need to look at signing a new contract or a new agreement of whether or not we still want to move forward with this trail and with the implementation of the trails behind the river.
- She was asked to attend the Airport Advisory Board meeting last Monday which was kind of embarrassing because it seemed to be a little un-organized. She was asked to attend the meeting because the board was having issues and troubles, but when she attended and listened, it seemed like the City Manager, Ms. Alvarez, and our Engineer were all hounded by this board, and they were cutoff, and they were not given the opportunity to finish their comments. Commissioner Aragon had made a comment about a checklist, and she thinks that maybe we need to have a training for these Boards. We just need to stay focused, and we need to make sure that what we discuss what is on the agenda. The Boards need direction as how they need to be good and efficient Board Members.
- Another question that she thought of and talked about is the Planning & Zoning Board, and if we can dissolve it because right now we've only got three members on that Board. She would like for the City Attorney Rubin to look into how we can dissolve it and become part of the Planning & Zoning Board. These are just some ideas and thoughts she has come up with while attending these meetings and seeing how they go. She thanked each and every member that that volunteers to be on these boards, but she would like to see a little more direction given.
- She attended a department head meeting yesterday and she saw that we've got a great team, we've got a great Manager, and we've got great department heads.

D. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve going into executive session at 10:19 a.m. to discuss Limited Personnel Matters Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2). Commissioner Luna seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Limited Personnel Matters Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2):

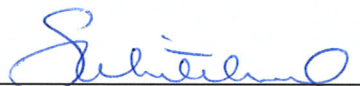
Mayor Whitehead reconvened the meeting in open session at 12:05 p.m.


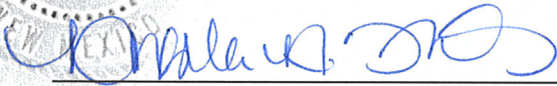
Commissioner Luna certified that only matters pertaining to Limited Personnel Matters Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2) was discussed in Executive Session.

Commissioner Luna made a motion that the City Commission reluctantly accepted City Manager Madrid's resignation letter effective March 5, 2021. Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

M. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Luna moved to adjourn at 12:06 p.m. Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.


Sandra Whitehead, Mayor



Angela A. Torres, CMC, City Clerk