CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3RD St. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Amanda Forrister 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. Amanda Forrister, Mayor Hon. Rolf Hechler, Mayor Pro-Tem Hon. Destiny Mitchell, Commissioner Hon. Merry Jo Fahl, Commissioner

Hon. Shelly Harrelson, Commissioner was absent

Also Present: Bruce Swingle, City Manager

Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager

Jay Rubin, City Attorney

Angela A. Torres, City Clerk-Treasurer

Kristie Wilson, Finance Director

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

2. SILENT MEDITATION:

Mayor Forrister called for fifteen seconds of silent meditation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler moved to approve the agenda with the amendment of removing item I-18. Commissioner Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

C. PRESENTATIONS:

1. Presentation of City of Truth or Consequences Employee Service Anniversary Awards:

City Manager Swingle presented an Employee Service Anniversary Award on behalf of Joshua Brewer for 1 year of service with the City of Truth or Consequences.

City Manager Swingle presented an Employee Service Anniversary Award on behalf of Shantell Gonzalez for 1 year of service with the City of Truth or Consequences.

City Manager Swingle and OJ Hechler, Community Services Director presented an Employee Service Anniversary Award to Tara Manning for 3 years of service with the City of Truth or Consequences. It was also mentioned that Senator Diamond gave kudos to the Animal Shelter. She feels that we have one of the top two Animal Shelters that she has seen.

City Manager Swingle and Dave Johnson, Facility Management Manager presented an Employee Service Anniversary Award to Henry "Fishy" Flores for 3 years of service with the City of Truth or Consequences.

City Manager Swingle presented an Employee Service Anniversary Award to Tammy Gardner for 6 years of service with the City of Truth or Consequences.

City Manager Swingle and Kristie Wilson, Finance Director presented an Employee Service Anniversary Award to Kerin Salcedo for 15 years of service with the City of Truth or Consequences.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT (3 Minute Rule Applies):

David Dawdy addressed the Commission with comments related to item I4. Complete comments attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Tracy McGowan addressed the Commission with comments related to:

• She is in favor of the approval of item I4. She feels that it will be great for our youth, community, and economic development.

George Henson addressed the Commission with comments related to:

 He spoke in defense of the citations against his property. He also asked where to get assistance to help him because he is trying to accomplish as much as he can.

Bruce Cox addressed the Commission with comments related to:

 He spoke on behalf of George Henson. Mr. Henson is trying to make progress on being compliant. He feels that the city should try and be tolerant because City of Truth or Consequences Commissioners, I come to speak to you today representing oner 100 of my fellow inhabitants who have given in in kind gifts and money over 30,000 dollars to People growing Together public charity to help provide food security locally in these troubling times. Among our supporters are the Sierra Vista Hospital Foundation, The New Mexico Gas Company, The Rotary Club,

The Greenhouse we propose to build at 1705 Corzine Street in the T-1 zone will provide the model and the facility for enriching our community with year round locally controlled fresh vegetables To those who for various reasons are our most vulnarable and sustain our work, by providing organic produce for the chefs of our local restaurants. Everything we produce will be distributed in Sierra County.

Our non-profit, Like a hospital, a school, or a house of worship we need to be close to those we serve. In our case our mission includes providing paid internships for high school age youth to train them in Greenhouse growing here in the Southwest. The greenhouse protects the plants from high winds, cold winter temperatures, and conserves water.

As an institution for the public good, we ask for the change of use petition for 1705 Corzine st. that has been forwarded to you unanimously from the Planning and zoning advisory board for your approval today.

People Growing Together 417 No. Broadway St. Truth or Consequences, New Mexico 87901

January 9, 2023

Bruce Swingle, City Manger

In advance of January 11, Wednesday's meeting, we are enclosing a brochure Including our Mission Statement and the activities we plan to engage in, if we are afforded the change of use applied for at 1705 Corzine St.

Our Mission Statement:

"The non-profit People Growing Together organizes community assets to maintain year-round food security through sustainable greenhouse and nurturing native plants."

Sincerely yours

Chairman

Our Mission

The Non-Profit People Growing Together organizes community assets to maintain year-round Sierra County food security through sustainable greenhouses and nurturing native plants.

What We Do:

Building Soil to provide nutrient rich growing environments in the high desert.

temperature, wind and water events that occur in the high desert habitats Model a Sustainable Earth Battery Greenhouse to conserve water, and mitigate harsh

produce to the citizens of Sierra County. Grow Organic produce year-round to sustain food banks and provide low-cost organic

Educate and support interested parties in home-based produce gardening.

civic clubs to increase food availability locally Cooperate with other non-profits such as the 4th Street Community Garden, churches, and

How We Do It:

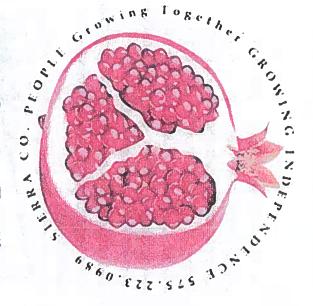
future generations will thrive We Organize Individuals and Organizations to contribute time and funds so that we and

Volunteer (1-2 hours a week makes the difference, BE A SEED BEARERI MAKE A DONATION TODAY! \$10.00 \$210.00 represents 1/100th of first Greenhouse cost

Please make checks payable to:

People Growing Together, 417 North Broadway Street TORC NM 87901 We are a 501c3 Non-Profit and an Affiliate of The Bountiful Alliance 04/22

> Growing Together



People Growing Together organizes community assets to maintain year-round Sierra County food security

Gardening Tips and Plant Starts
Available at our Store:

417 North Broadway Street
Truth or Consequences,
New Mexico 87901
575-223-0989

info@peoplegrowingtogether.org growingindependenceproject@gmail.com

Community Growing Together

By building relationships with existing Non-Profits, Community Organizations, Civic Clubs, Schools, Local Businesses, and Individuals, we network to establish our goal of food security in Sierra County.

Youth Growing Together

Our goal is to encourage county youth to engage in the art of gardening. We are currently working with Hot Springs High School to help develop their greenhouse project. Our program is all inclusive from soil building to harvest. Our long-term goal is to provide meaningful jobs for graduating HSHS students in our Growing Independence Greenhouse Project, once established.



The Growing Independence Greenhouse Project Earth Battery Greenhouses



Our collective efforts have resulted in obtaining land, and we are now raising funds towards the building of Sustainable Greenhouses within the city of TORC. Eco-Friendly greenhouses have been built over the last 35 years in 28 states with measurable results. Dug into the earth, the cooler underground temperature allows them to provide an ideal growing environment. The design requires very little energy and water and protects crops from high winds and storms.

Achieving Food Security

Sierra County is one of the most foodinsecure counties in the country. The coronavirus pandemic has had a devastating impact on people facing hunger across the state.

In Sierra County, 26.7 percent of the total population, and 43.7 percent of our children live at or below the federal poverty level. The food insecurity rate for children is at 33.7 percent. The produce our community grows will ensure better nutrition for Sierra County Children.

People Growing Together Store



Our current projects include our plots at the 4th Street Community Garden where winter greens are successfully grown late into the season. Summertime our produce and organic plant starts are available thru both our store and our local Farmer's Market. Come in to find out more and check out our collection of local and organic items for sale.

By establishing sustainable Greenhouses, Jobs and Low-cost organic produce, we can enhance the overall health of our community.

DONATE TODAY FOR FOOD SECURITY TOMORROW

George's art is very important to this community and a lot of people recognize that.

Serena Byargeon addressed the Commission with comments related to:

 She spoke on behalf of her multi-animal and kennel permit that will be discussed today. She hopes that the Commission will consider approving her permits because she has been fostering for over 2 years and they have only had one major issue in those two years with fencing and they are working on getting that resolved.

Carl Schoener addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- He congratulated the City of Truth or Consequences on how they run the town.
- He spoke on behalf of George Henson because he does not do any harm with what he is doing.

Phillip Cox and Summer Cox addressed the Commission with comments related to:

• They spoke on behalf of their multi-animal application. They have met all of Code Enforcement's and Animal Control's recommendations, so they hope that the Commission will consider approving their application.

Ariel Dougherty addressed the Commission with comments related to the Sale of the Electric Utility. Complete comments attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Susan Crow addressed the Commission with comments related to:

 She spoke on her opposition of the Executive Session item listed on the agenda, and asked that the Commission do not sell the Electric Public Utility.

Ron Fenn addressed the Commission with comments related to:

• He spoke in opposition to item H2. He feels that the city should not sell the property for \$7,000 below the appraised value.

Jessie Anderson addressed the Commission with comments related to:

 She is in favor of the approval of item I4. It is a ground breaking idea and will help the community, especially with the current prices of food.

Leslie McKinney submitted comments in opposition to items I5 and I6. Complete comments attached hereto and made a part hereof.

E. REPORTS:

City Manager Swingle reported the following:

• He reviewed the 2022 City Accomplishments & Activities. Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof.

New Year Greetings, Commission.

The contradiction of the weight of various issues that come before you is frustrating and unjust to us in the public. Last month there was a Public Hearing on the possibility of posting a stop sign requested by the concern of one person. Today, there is a proposal to sell our public electric utility, maybe our City's best asset. Over the sixteen months since your approval of a slim MOU with Sierra Electric was first put before you there has been no formal Public Hearing in which we can offer our opinions and give advice. On the agenda now, you take up this matter in secret behind closed doors.

Does this placement on Executive Session actually comply with the exception sited? I contend no. The electric utility is not "real property". It is a service with an elaborate series of facilities. It's placement as J. 1. under Executive Session is a violation of the Open Meetings Act.

The Municapl law, 3-54-1 is headed "Authority to sell or lease municipal utility facilities or real property," I sent it to you all on Monday. That it specifically states "utility facility" in its heading, underscores this is the law you should be following. Hence any attempt to identify the City's utility electrical "infrastructure" as real property misconstrues the OMA at best and is egregious subterfuge at its worst.

In the long run will the cash from the sale of the our public electric system really solve the City's cash flow problem? No, it is just a band aid, and a drop in the bucket to your ever escalating budget and pressing infrastructure needs. The ever increasing staff and the tools, vehicles, etcetera that they believe they need are the problem. A visionary long range plan with a serious savvy cut back program may be your best choice.



Rontenn public Comment Submission

Cost analysis for 309 N Birch Street

Date	Cost	Description Case # d-721-Cv-210700056	Vendor	
04/14/2017 To 11/08/17		T or C vs Bud Walters To be determined IPRA	J. Rubin	
10/13/17	\$272.25	Special Master Deed	Mark Filosa	
11/19/17	\$7,000.00	Sale to City of T or C Utility bad debt To be determined IPRA Demolition/Cleanup	Mark Filosa	
		To be determined IPRA		
01/21/22	\$500.00	Appraisal of 309 N Birch	Karen Mundy	
01/28/22	\$855.50	Survey of 309 N Birch Advertising To be determined IPRA	Chaparral Surveyors	
Cost to date	\$8,627.75			
	\$20,000.00	Appraisal of 309 N Birch		
	\$14,000.00	Offer for purchase		
	\$6,000.00	Anti Donation + Costs tbd		

The New Mexico Constitution expressly prohibits government to donate money or Value from the Public to Private Individuals or Companys.

NMSA 3-54-1 Requires a written explanation to justify selling or leasing property below the appraised value to be made available to anyone upon request.

In this instance the original offer of \$8,600 was rejected but was not resubmitted by the offeror and the negotiation of the \$14,000 adjustment is not documented.

The additional expenditures enhance the value for the buyer at the expense to the Public, without seeming reason thereby increasing the donation.

This sale should not be endorsed until the anti-donation issue is resolved by the City or possibly the NM Attorney General.

Analysis by Ron Fenn Jan 11, 2023 Values not shown are under IPRA request and will be provided to concerned parties upon receipt and recording.

16 Whom It May Concern 1/9/23 I loste Mikinner, of 702 x labollo Rd would like to go on record as being opposed to kennel licensing at lelle N, Caballo Rd. The house is across the street from more there are always, issues with barring dogs, looke dogs, & aggressive dogs. I personally have been chased by lather does I had to jump in my car in my corport to avoid being betten. I've witnessed her does attacking each other. We've had to buy hase machines & replace ou windows to keep the sound of her backing dog. to a dull roar. there are at least 17 calls on record with dispatch re. her animals & I have a video of her dogs fronting. I appreciate your time Level & MCK 575-740-1882



2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACTIVITIES

2022 SWOT Analysis & Strategic Response

In April, 2022, the Commission conducted a SWOT Analysis with senior staff. SWOT is an acronym for *strengths*, *weaknesses*, *opportunities*, and *threats*. SWOT analysis is a framework used to evaluate an organization's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats and to develop strategic planning to improve an organization. SWOT analysis assesses internal and external factors, as well as current and future potential.

Strategic Actions

Low revenues

1. To meet operational needs and community expectations, the city must grow revenues significantly.

The city imposed a 1/8% or 0.125% increase on gross receipts taxes. This increase was imposed after the state reduced its GRT by the same 0.125%, which essentially keeps the city overall GRT rate at 8.5%. This increase started January 1, 2023. The city estimates the increase will equate to about \$180,000 per year.

2. Due to the current state of city utility infrastructure, develop a general obligation bond package for street, water and wastewater infrastructure and present the package to the public in a referendum.

The city drafted two bond questions, which were unequivocally approved by the community. The public approved \$1 million for street and \$2 million for water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

Low salaries

Recognizing the city has a vast salary gap compared to the region, the commission sanctioned a salary study to determine salary needs and to elevate salaries to current market values.

- 1. The city completed a market analysis and salary study and implemented the plan within the organization. Based on the study, all salaries and pay classifications were increased to "fair market value."
- 2. The city adopted a salary policy to ensure future salaries, new hires, movements within the city, and newly created positions conform to the new salary and classification study.

Staff Development

The city should provide training and structure to develop a career path for virtually all positions and encourage internal promotions and transfers to higher paying jobs.

- 1. The city implemented a classification and pay plan policy, with establishes movement through the pay plan, reclassifications, and promotions. As a result, many employees are taking advantage of internal transfers and promotions within the city.
- 2. A comprehensive training program has yet to be developed citywide; however, a structure has been implemented for Electric, Wastewater and Water Departments.

Exploration of other funding sources

The city now utilizes more of its general revenue on key priorities than it has historically.

- 1. Consistent with anti-donation law, the city now charges nonprofit organizations and special interest groups for services or resources, unless the service/resource meet the public intertest anti-donation standard.
- 2. In 2020, the state de-earmarked all of the city's GRT revenue, making it available for general use. This was done to give local government leaders the ability to best decide how to use its revenue. The city now uses a percentage of Police Department (PD) GRT for general fund purposes and swept 100% of the environmental GRT for general purposes.
- 3. The city reviewed many existing governmental agreements, MOU's, etc., to ensure the city is charging its true cost for providing services/resources. Several agreements were either modified or terminated, while many more agreements will be modified in the future.
- 4. The commission recommended elimination of Municipal Court. The process is not complete at this point, but closing the Court and transferring cases to Magistrate Court will result in an annual savings to the general fund of approximately \$260,000.
- 5. The city submitted an application for \$54 million in Congressional Direct Spending appropriation. US Senator Heinrich sponsored and Congresses approved \$1.6 million of the request for water improvements.
- 6. The city submitted a CDBG application for \$750,000 to replace antiquated water meters with AMI meters. The city has been awarded the full \$750,000.
- 7. To increase the tax base and grow revenue, the city sold three city properties for \$175,101. In addition to the revenue received from the sale, these property owners now pay property taxes on these properties. The city foreclosed on two properties and sold one of them for \$17,000. Three other properties will be sold, once appraisals are completed.

Lobbying state and congressional delegation

The city should develop an organizational lobbying strategy for both state and congressional delegations.

- 1. Each year the city identifies legislative priorities, and communications these priorities to either its state or federal delegation. The city collaborates with the appropriate delegation and has an annual meeting with its state delegation to support ICIP projects, capital outlay requests and other legislative priorities. The 2023 meeting is scheduled for January 10.
- 2. Staff collaborated with Senator Heinrich's office to support the city's congressional direct spending request. As a result of the collaboration, the city will receive \$1.6 million for water infrastructure needs.

Discontent citizens

Discontent citizen pose a significant threat to city revenue, services and the community's image.

1. Through transparency, professionalism and effective communication, much of the unconstructive behavior has ceased.

Misinformation

Misinformation is harmful to city success and community empathy.

1. Again, through transparency, professionalism and effective communication, much of the misinformation has ended. The city adds frequent updates to its web page and disseminates information via Facebook. Misinformation continues to circulate in the community; however, it has been reduced. Unfortunately, the community has a small group of residents pandering to special interests.

Litigation

Litigation is an unfortunate peril of providing government services, particularly in this litigious state.

1. The city still has significant exposure to litigation; however, the city is defensible and prevailing in most cases. Efforts have been taken to provide quality services in the most risk-free manner possible, based on available staffing and financial resources.

ADMINISTRATION

- Developed and the commission approved the city's FY 23 budget. Remarkable cuts were made to balance the budget. Approximately \$1.8 million was cut from the budget.
- The city hired a professional chief of police and finance director.
- The city implemented a random drug testing program for safety sensitive positions.
- The city, Sierra Electric Coop (SEC) and consultants completed Phase 1 and 2 of a study to examine the feasibility of selling city electric infrastructure to SEC. These studies provide city and SEC governing boards pertinent information relevant to making an informed determination on whether to sell and/or buy the infrastructure.
- Designed and purchased a marketing and promotional display for the city. The professional design will enhance the city's ability to market the city as a unique destination venue and promote career opportunities.
- In 2021, the city-initiated Leadership training to supervisors and Professionalism training to all employees in the organization. This training continued in 2022.
- Developed and the commission approved a robust infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan for the city. The plan and priorities have been communicated to our Legislative delegation.
- Received the largest Local Government Road Fund (LGRF) award the City has received to date, \$313,636 for Pine Street Improvements.
- After 7 years of application requests, city was awarded funding for AMI Water Meter Project \$825,000.

- Worked with Airport Management to obtain \$1,135,000 grant funds for airport safety improvements and equipment.
- Administered 24 active grant agreements/projects to include the start of construction on the long-awaited MSD Water Project.
- Reviewed and processed 13 new construction builds, resulting in the collection of \$79,050 in impact fees, while another \$21,600 in fees is pending.
- Issued 5 well permits, 29 solar permits and presented 19 public hearing planning applications to P & Z commission, most of which pertain to plat amendments for property development and sales.
- The commission amended the Lodgers Tax Ordinance, allowing "marketplace providers" to collect lodgers tax, which will result in increased revenue to the city.
- The commission amended the solar ordinance, which complies with state law and provides a process for reasonable credits and payouts.
- Staff managed \$93,000 in city sponsored and Lodger's Tax Board subrecipient grants, \$221,147 in Lodger's Tax subrecipient grants, and \$25,000 for a state tourism cooperative grant.

AIRPORT

- Effort to improve professionalism and service has resulted in customers that had taken
 their business elsewhere to return to the airport for services. These include medical
 rescue companies, private aircraft owners, and yearly visitors for hunting and holidays.
 The changes also resulted in positive reviews on popular apps used by pilots to navigate
 and choose services.
- Staff has been working to repair past relationships with the military, which resulted in selection of the airport for a weeklong Army operation. The airport has seen an increase in use for military operations from bases in the Albuquerque area and more military units are calling to inquire about using the airport for operations. These operations will result in increased fuel sales for the airport.
- Reconfigured the pilot lounge with useable space, as well as replaced the floor to eliminate safety and health hazards.
- Completed two major upgrades, including a new electrical vault, which assures safe use of the electrical system, as well as runway preservation/re-surfacing, which helps prevent FOD.
- Negotiated temporary acquisition of a new fuel truck, which drastically increases the airports ability to deliver fuel to tenants and guests.
- The commission modified fuel pricing, which allows the airport flexibility to set fuel pricing for both larger jet aircraft and AVGAS (fuel for smaller aircraft).
- Received a grant and procured a tractor with many implements for airport maintenance.
- Submitted several NM DOT Aviation grant applications and received approximately \$1.5M to reduce FOD and improve the airport.
- The EAA (experimental aircraft association) completed installation of a tetrahedron (large wind indicator) that is made from an old twin engine aircraft (Beech model 18), which is a great addition to the airport.
- Staff introduced a FOD control program, which includes cleaning the ramp, taxiway, and runway utilizing new and industry standard tools. These programs allow staff to better

clean, and cause less harm to concrete surfaces in less than $1/10^{th}$ the time it took with previous equipment.

ANIMAL SHELTER

- 1402 animal intakes
 - o 291 were returned to their owners
 - o 434 animals were adopted; 109 more than in 2021
 - o 146 were sent to rescues
 - o 242 released residents as barn cats
 - o 108 were euthanized
 - o 160 were dead on arrival to shelter
 - o 40 died in shelter (diseased)
- 437 animals were either spayed or neutered by shelter, compared to 147 in 2021.
- The Animal Shelter's social media following continues to grow. The shelter has 3,831 followers on Facebook, 297 on Instagram and 672 on TikTok.
- Volunteer and Foster programs continue to improve to pre-COVID levels.
- A new fee schedule was implemented.
- A new stray hold policy was implemented that reduced the average time in the shelter. In 2022, the average stray time in the shelter was 10.8 days, compared to 13.5 days in 2021.

CLERK

- Spearheading redesign of the City's website, which will be completed in 2023.
- Processed 336 business licenses.
- Processed 73 IPRA's; some IPRA's include up to 30 requests per IPRA.
- Processed 54 Civic Center and 80 Park rental agreements
- Processed 6 Multi-Animal/Kennel Permits.
- Processed 123 Dog licenses.
- Processed 15 Cat licenses.
- Processed 16 Liquor licenses.
- Transitioned office to a new software called IWorQ to process licenses and permits.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Received a \$213,000 legislative appropriation to build a gazebo and renovate the east bathroom at Ralph Edwards Park.
- Submitted an application and was awarded a \$449,019 regional recreation/quality of life grant from the state for improvements to Ralph Edwards Park. The funding is to purchase and install new playground and outdoor exercise equipment, and to plan and design an in-ground skate park.
- Drafted and commission approved a new fee structure that streamline operations at the shelter. Owners now have 72 hours to claim animals or they become city property. This change limits the time an animal is at the shelter, increased adoptions, and has put more pressure on owners to take care of their animals, pay fees, and become more responsible.

- Continued agreement with SCARS; SCARS is paying for spaying and neutering of cats and some dogs. All dogs and cats that leave the shelter are fixed.
- Hired new Golf Superintendent and Pool Manager.
- Installed a sulfur burner at the Golf Course to eliminate salts from effluent water.
- Updated rental fee schedule for Parks.

ELECTRIC

- Power outage time to restore power averaged 12 minutes.
- Total service consumption sold to consumers 45,044,864 kilowatts.
- Total Demand consumption sold 52,929.
- Total billed electric consumption \$6,490,626.73.
- Merchandising and jobs construction completed \$44,515.45.
- Hired consultant to complete much needed maintenance, repairs and testing on South Substation Transformer.
- Replaced North Substation Transformer at a cost just over \$1.1 million.
- Replaced 25 wood poles, installed 4 steel poles, and replaced 10,000 ft of conductor around the city.
- Installed new primary underground and new transformers at the new White Sands Federal Credit Union and Dollar General Store.
- Installed new transformer and updated service for old building at Veterans Center.
- Procured Electric Rate Study, which hasn't been accomplished in at least 20 years. Staff is awaiting the results of the study.
- Replaced numerous poles around town.
- Started electric line relocation for NMDOT Williamsburg bridge and on and off ramp project.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

- Completed facility maintenance and janitorial services for all city buildings.
- Completed a full season of Vector Control.
- Installed a new roof and remodeled areas at the Police Department.
- Installed new AC units at the Lee Belle Johnson building.
- Working with engineers on a structural issue at the Lee Belle Johnson building.
- Installed a new floor and painted the Service Center
- Upgraded the Clerk's Office restroom to conform with ADA requirements.
- Remodeled the Golf Course apartment.
- Oversaw installation of a new septic system at the Airport.
- Installed fencing and a gate at the PD's Shooting Range.

FINANCE

- Managed a budget of \$46,624,538 in revenue and \$49,693,835 in expenses.
- Completed the FY 22 audit. The city received the draft FY 22 audit findings. There were no repeat findings and the finding from the previous year was resolved. The city did receive one new audit finding that will be resolved.

- Promoted internal staff member from payroll clerk to Procurement officer on 6/2/22; she was certified as a Chief Procurement Officer in September.
- HR and Payroll participated in specialized training for HR Basics and FMLA training through a membership with SkillPath.
- HR re-implemented anniversary awards for employee recognition and attended 2 job fairs.
- Procurement sent 10 projects out to bid; 4 were cancelled with no bids.
- Procurement processed approximately 2746 purchase orders totaling \$28,968,567.24.
- Accounts payable paid out 2258 checks totaling \$16,671,03.18.

FLEET MAINTENANCE

- Maintained a fleet of 153 units encompassing heavy equipment to light vehicles.
- Completed 82 oil changes, which entailed a 27-point inspection.
- Completed 155 repairs to the fleet.
- 194.14 gallons of motor oil was replaced or added and 346.36 gallons of hydraulic fluid was replaced or added to the fleet.
- Purchased a diagnostic scanner to help with trouble shooting fleet issues.
- Upgraded shop and outer buildings lighting with LED's.
- Purchased a Plasma cutter and Chop saw to expand shop capabilities.
- Procured and installed a security camera system at the shop.

GOLF COURSE

- Staff created a tracking system mid-year, to track the number of golfers, disk golfers and cart rentals per day. This number will assist the city in determining property usage in the future. The Golf Superintendent estimates 9,278 rounds are needed to sustain Golf operations.
 - o From June 1, 2022- December 31, 2022, the Golf Course had:
 - 1,604 rounds of golf
 - 237 rounds of Disc golf
 - Rented 30 carts
- Staff made significant improvements to the course:
 - o Verti-cut greens weekly.
 - o Due to the condition of greens, reseeded all greens with Bent and Rye seed.
 - o Renovated hole # 8 green.
 - o Laid sod on hole # 5.
 - o Removed dirt and old Bermuda grass and weeds around the course.
 - o Filled course with 37 tons of new sand. Overseeded tee boxes with Rye grass to give grass color during the winter.
 - o Installed tee marker posts at all 18 Disc Golf holes.
 - With donations, purchased range balls, essentially doubling the inventory of balls available to customers.
 - Created a berm around the catch pond outlet pipe to prevent effluent water from running down the arroyo.
 - o Installed new Effluent water use signs on course perimeter.

- To reduce operational costs, created a Sod Nursey. Development of the Nursery included 13 tons of sand, which was seeded with Bent and Rye grass.
- Hosted the first Drive, Chip & Putt tournament at the course.

LIBRARY

- A core goal was to continue recovering patrons and bring Library use back to prepandemic levels. This goal has not yet been accomplished; however, significant progress has been made.
- Experienced 17,914 patrons and visitors, checking out 14,616 books and other library items.
- Inventory consists of approximately 56,000 circulating items in its collection, with an estimated replacement value of \$7,862,000.00.
- Added 473 new items to the circulating collection.
- The public computers were used in 3,263 individual sessions, with an average length of 52.5 minutes per session -- a total of 2,650.75 hours of computer time.
- The wireless network is available to (and is used by) the public 24/7.

Library use Comparison 2021 to 2022

Service type	2021	2022	Increase	%
Visitor count - 01/01/21 to 12/31/21 - Main	10,505	15,690	5185	49.36%
Visitor count - 01/01/21 to 12/31/21 - Branch	1,569	2,224	655	41.74%
Visitor count - 01/01/21 to 12/31/21 - Total	12,074	17,914	5840	48.36%
Public computers used - 01/01/21 to				
12/31/21	1,324 40 min. 9	3,263 52 min. 27	1939	146.30%
Average session length - (minutes)	sec. 870 hr. 21	sec. 2,650 hr. 43	n/a	n/a
Year total public computer use - (hours)	min.	min.	n/a	n/a
Collection count - 12/31/21 - Main	54,884	54,969	n/a	n/a
Collection count - 12/31/21 - Branch	1,005	1,017	n/a	n/a
Collection count - 12/31/21 - Total	55,889	55,986	n/a	n/a
Collection value - 12/31/21 - Main	\$7,818,946	\$7,821,824	n/a	n/a
Collection value - 12/31/21 - Branch	\$40,202	\$40,634	n/a	n/a
Collection value - 12/31/21 - Total	\$7,859,148	\$7,862,458	n/a	n/a
Items checked out - 01/01/21 to 12/31/21				
Main Items checked out - 01/01/21 to 12/31/21	11,272	14,330	3058	27.12%
Branch	243	286	43	17.69%
Items checked out - 01/01/21 to 12/31/21 Total	11,515	14,616	3101	26.93%

PARKS & RECREATION

- Successfully maintained 21 parks and grounds around the city.
- Successfully completed Little league, Socorro and Adult Softball sessions.
- Completed 44 burials. Full casket burials take about 6 hours to open/close, while cremations take about 2 hours to open/close.
- Set over 34 headstones at grave sites.
- Successfully planted 10 new trees and remove 10 old dead trees from various parks.
- Completed remodel of the Skate Park bathrooms.
- For safety considerations and lack of use, demolished the old BMX track.
- Successfully completed numerous citywide events (fiesta, Christmas lighting, etc.)

POLICE

- Successfully provided professional law enforcement, code enforcement and animal control services to the community.
- Received and responded to 14,739 calls for service; compared to 14,000 in 2021.
- Participated in a non-perishable food drive for the schools.
- Participated in career day at the high school.
- Participated in a car seat clinic.
- Participated in a school supply drive at Wal-Mart, raised \$977 in donations and purchased school supplies for students in our community.
- Participated in National Night Out, where school supplies were also given out.
- Assisted NM Game and Fish in safely relocating a bear that had wondered into town.
- Recognized Officers Jeffers and Vega with lifesaving awards.
- Participated in a candy drive for Halloween.
- Participated in Shop with a Cop, where over 50 families were served.
- Conducted a full policy review and revision, submitted new policies and procedures for approval.
- Procured a vendor to conduct a full 100% inventory and audit of the evidence room.
- Code Enforcement identified 101 violations.
 - Sent property owners 84 letters to address issues.
 - Most cases address through site visit and dialog.

POOL

- 3,691 people attended the Pool.
- Received \$11,466 in total revenue.
- Hired a new Pool Supervisor.
- Established a new schedule for pool operations.
- Completed a state NMED inspection and successfully addressed all concerns.
- Pool supervisor obtained certified pool operator certification.
- Held multiple private rental events at the pool.

SANITATION

- Received and processed 8,203.30 tons of trash, 197.76 tons of cardboard, 131.62 tons of scrap metal, and 3.31 tons of aluminum cans for the year.
- Picked up and processed 166,400 residential/commercial poly cart and 75,000 commercial loads.
- Procured a new 2022 John Deere 410L backhoe and a 2023 Freightliner dumpster truck.
- Upgraded Recycling floor and Tipping floor with new LED lighting.
- Installed a security camera system at the site.
- Purchased new poly carts and dumpsters to replace aging receptacles.

STREET

- Patched and repaired over 500 water cuts
- Paved 3 streets for Williamsburg- East Val Verde, West Val Verde & Rio Grande
- Paved walkway to the columbarium at the Veteran Memorial Wall Parking Lot
- Provided maintenance to Cuchillo Negro Dam, Saint Annes Dam, Marie Street Dam & Cantrell Dam.
- Cleaned and burned all waterways for the city.
- Maintained pot holes and signage within city limits.
- Maintained all dirt roads in the city.

UTILITY BILLING OFFICE

- Issued 82,009 utility, effluent and landfill bills.
- Received a total of \$9,875,100 in payments:
 - o \$1,054,383 in cash payments
 - o \$6,298,118 in check payments
 - o \$758,718 in credit card payments
 - o \$331,077 in direct deposit payments
 - o \$1,432,801 in online credit card payments
- Issued approximately 2,064 Red tags and 5,280 delinquent letters.
- Made approximately 1,576 payment arrangements with residents and businesses to collect rears.
- Accounts Receivable completed approximately 250 bills and received a total of \$5,487,114 in payments.

WASTEWATER

- Treated 493,309,000 gallons of wastewater.
- Maintained and exceeded permit limits for all regulated contaminants with the exception of Dissolved Oxygen for three (3) months, and e-coli for two (2) months.
- Repaired and replaced equipment and machinery including Ultra-violet bulbs and sleeves, blower motors, pumps, and mixers.
- Processed over 1,200,000 gallons of sludge through the belt press.

- Replaced approximately 16 full valves with control valve assemblies in the City's vacuum sewer system. This constitutes 18.8% of the entire vacuum sewer system.
- Processed approximately 4,000,000 gallons of WAS (waste activated sludge) for compost.
- Maintained adequate and sufficient amounts of re-use water to the golf course and soccer fields in the amount of 74,192,000 gallons.
- Collected a total of 328 samples for compliance with NMED and EPA.

WATER

- Repaired an approximate total of 416 leaks including 3/4" & 1" service lines, 2" main lines, 4" main lines, 6" main lines, and 8" main lines.
- Replaced approximately 400' feet of various sizes of main water lines.
- Produced an approximate total of 475,000,000 gallons of potable water.
- Maintained proper chlorine residuals throughout the city's water infrastructure.
- Maintained logs and reports for monthly and annual water production.
- Maintained well integrity by assuring preventive maintenance occurred as needed on all available wells.
- Completed 13 new water service line taps, and 15 sewer lateral taps.
- Collected a total of 132 bacteriological samples for compliance with NMED.



City Attorney Rubin reported the following:

• He addressed Ariel Dougherty's and Ron Fenn's comment in regards to Executive Session. They raised some legal issues, and he wants to assure the Commission that he is prepared to discuss the issues they raised during the meeting today. When we get to items H2 and H3, he will be explaining why we do have the legal right to sell the property below the appraised value, and when we get to J1, we will have a discussion as to why we do have the right to go into closed session. We will have a discussion about that when get ready to go into closed session.

City Commission Reports:

Commissioner Fahl reported the following:

- She thanked City Manager Swingle for his report on the accomplishments. It is
 incredible what you inspire your people to do given the limited resources that you
 have, as well as limited funding. We are really lucky that we have such great
 people working for us. We are really lucky to have such great people working for
 us.
- Christmas brings her so much joy, and when the staff does our lighting system, and you drive through town, and you see that it makes her happy. She just drives around town sometimes at night to look at the lights, and she thinks that most people will admit that makes them very joyful so staff does a great job.
- Most of us here have now been in office a year, and when they had the candidate forum, a guy came up to her and asked her what was her platform. She did not know at the time, but after a year she thought about what she would like to accomplish. She and Commissioner Mitchell have 3 years left on their term, and so there are some things that she would like to focus on during the remainder of her term. One thing would be the sustainability of our drinking water. She has worked with the city for years through her career and over that time she has learned a lot about our wells. Some are dry, and some are not functioning. Some do not have potable water. She knows that she can learn more, but she thinks that we need to have a long term sustainability plan in place so that we can continue to provide that, and at least secure enough water so that we have some sustainability in the future. We really need to have a thought out plan and that is something that she would like to work on when she is here. We had that workshop about the Hotsprings district, and our hot water wells, but she believes that if we don't put a lot of thought and time into that, we could pump ourselves out of business. She does not know what that will look like, but she thinks that the city needs to put some things in place so that we are prepared. She knows that some of those individual wells are going dry, so we know that the aquafer is shrinking. It is a fine item out of water, so we need to get the information and the data, so that we know what we have, and then maybe we can have a citizens group to help us watch over that. She knows that we can't get people to serve on advisory boards, but for the long term the Commission definitely needs to have a good handle on what that is going to look like. We

really need to partner up with the other entities, and work as close together on projects as we can so we grow as a whole.

Commissioner Mitchell reported the following:

- She thanked City Manager Swingle for putting the 2022 accomplishments together. It was very informative. Kudos to the city staff for all they have accomplished. One of the things she saw was the rapport with the community, and how it seems to be a lot better, and we seem to be accomplishing a lot more when it comes to public comment. People are staying positive, and realizing that this is a new Commission. We are not the same, and we haven't always been the same. We are going to change, and we want to change with the community. She gave kudos to the Commission and City Manager Swingle for that.
- The Fiesta meeting is this afternoon. We are calling for volunteers if anyone wants to meet with us, it will be at 4:00 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce. The theme this year is "It's out of this world". Although, many people have suggested that we call it "Under construction".
- She gave Tara Manning a shout out for their fundraiser with SCARS on January 29th. They will be having an open house type of event with games, and dogs and it is corresponded through a group called Jordan's Way. It looks like it is going to be a really fun community event, and a great way to support our wonderful Animal Shelter.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler had no reports.

Mayor Forrister reported the following:

• They attended the legislative session yesterday with Senator Diamond, House Representative Armstrong, and Representative Elect Jaramillo. That is where all of the entities get together, and we get to tell them that we need lots of money. Commissioner Fahl was talking about the sustainability of our drinking water, and one of our top priorities for our ICIP was our Water Infrastructure Improvements, and we asked for very large amounts to address all of those problems that we were having throughout the city. Obviously the \$20 million is not going to come from our legislators, but that is kind of a good plug for us to tell them, wake up, we need some help around T or C for our water. It was a very productive meeting, and she really appreciates the county for also supporting the Animal Shelter building too. They were in support of putting that on our ICIP request to our legislators.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 1. City Commission Regular Minutes, December 14, 2022
- 2. Acknowledge Airport Advisory Board Minutes, October 4, 2022
- 3. December 2022 Accounts Payable

Commissioner Fahl moved to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted. Commission Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS (5 Minute Rule Applies):

1. Public Hearing/Discussion/Action: Final Adoption of Ordinance No. 742 amending the City of Truth or Consequences Municipal Code of Ordinances, by adding a new section designating the Sierra County Magistrate Court as the Court having jurisdiction over Municipal Ordinances and Repealing Sections 2-371 through 2-380:

City Manager Swingle: On June 22, 2022, the Commission adopted a resolution whereby the City of Truth or Consequences expressed its intent to designate the Sierra County Magistrate Court as the court having jurisdiction over the city's Municipal ordinances, and resolutions. There is a statute on the process that the city has to follow to eliminate a court, and refer our cases to the Magistrate Court. The process basically includes that the Commission had to appoint seven members to serve as a committee who is known as the Municipal Court Jurisdiction Advisory Committee. The city has done that, and a public hearing was held on September 26, 2022 soliciting public comment on the decision to move forward with switching courts or keeping our existing court. At the public hearing, the committee received testimony from all of the interested persons. On October 24th, 2022 the committee met, and a motion was made and seconded, so it was basically voted on and approved to go ahead, and transition to the Magistrate Court. On November 7, 2022 the report was complete, and the advisory committee approved the aforementioned report. On November 16, 2022 the Commission adopted and accepted the committee's recommendation. You are at a point now at this meeting where you can consider the recommendation and post your public meeting. That is basically where we are at today. The ordinance reads: The Sierra County Magistrate Court is designated as the Court having jurisdiction over Municipal Ordinances. Sections 2-371 through 2-380 of the City Code of Ordinances are hereby repealed, and this ordinance shall become effective upon approval from the New Mexico Supreme Court and at the expiration of the term of the Municipal Judge in office on the date of the Supreme Court's approval of this ordinance. It also says that the City Commission and the City Administration shall take all necessary steps to comply with §35-14-1, et. seq. (1978).

City Attorney Rubin: The ordinance before you is something that I prepared. I think the key that the City Manager is pointing out is, everything we did, and the ordinance I prepared is basically very closely aligned with §35-14-1 so all of the procedures that City Manager Swingle articulated are set forth in that statute. If we move forward with the proposal of designating the Magistrate Court as our Court of jurisdiction, then we would also be repealing our sections of the ordinance which creates and administers our current Municipal Court, so that is why it is in there. There are a few minor changes on section 2 of the ordinance. He had the effective date as January 16, 2023 because ordinances usually become affective 5 days after the ordinance is adopted, but in this case we have to wait for approval from the Supreme Court so the wording has been changed to "as described above". There was also a typo at the beginning of section 1 where it says "That the Code of Ordinances of the City of Truth or Consequences be as amended follows" it should say "amended as". Aside from that he feels that you can move forth with the public hearing.

Mayor Forrister opened the public hearing.

Proponents:

There were no proponents.

Opponents:

George Henson: I am supporting the court and the judge so I am a proponent. I've had to go through court several times. At this point I've had to defend myself to be heard, because as it goes down the chain of command I think there is a loss of communication, and the only place that's worked out for me is this court that you are disbanding. I've had witnesses come to that court with me several times, and I've also had the issues of the lack of car insurance and registration gone through there, and I have complied with them because it is a smaller court. I am worried that there will be a harder thing for the citizens to go through the upper court which has crowds, and has a lot of State Police, and all kinds of things involved with it. The Clerk and the Judge over there have been real good citizens.

Mayor Forrister closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Fahl: I would like to reiterate that this has nothing to do with the functionality of the office or the professionalism of the office. This is strictly just a fiscal responsibility discussion. We all support what they have been doing, but we need to be fiscally responsible so I just want the public to keep remembering that.

Mayor Forrister: Yes, this is a monetary decision and being responsible with our money.

Commissioner Fahl made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 742 amending the City of Truth or Consequences Municipal Code of Ordinances, by adding a new section designating the Sierra County Magistrate Court as the Court having jurisdiction over Municipal Ordinances and Repealing Sections 2-371 through 2-380 with the amendments made by City Attorney Rubin. Commission Hechler seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

H. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING:

1. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 21 22/23 Budget Adjustment Request:

Kristie Wilson, Finance Director reviewed the Budget Adjustments provided in the packet.

Commissioner Fahl moved to approve Resolution No. 21 22/23 Budget Adjustment Request. Commission Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Approval of Resolution 22 22/23 and purchase agreement pertaining to the sale of 309 Birch Street, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico:

Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager: These are city owned properties that were surveyed, appraised and advertised for sale. The two offers were received, and the offerors had opportunity to amend their offers, and submit a best and final offer. We received a best and final offer of \$14,000 that we are recommending the Commission approve. It is less than the appraised value of \$20,000. The city acquired this property thru the property abatement process. It was declared a dangerous building back in November 23, 2015. The property was abated, and the property was removed. A lien was placed on the property in March of 2016 and went to a special master sale on October 2017 for the amount of \$9,123. That was the cost of the lien that was placed on the property for abatement which included past due utilities, any attorney fees, the master sale fees and appraisal at that time. We appraised the property in 2017, and it appraised at \$15,000. We are recommended to have new appraisals within two years. The new appraisal started in 2022 for \$20,000. The property has been advertised multiple times over the last 5 years without any previous offers. The advertisement was done in the real estate ads and not the legal ads. It was also posted on our city Facebook page on November 9th, as well as on our city website where it is still posted to this date. Staff is recommending to approve this resolution and sell the property for \$14,000 and put it back on the tax roll.

Mayor Forrister: Traci, I am glad that you mentioned the tax rolls because they sat vacant with no building or nobody owning them so they are not on our tax rolls, and by selling them we are putting them back on our tax rolls and gaining money from that.

City Attorney Rubin: The statute that we are looking at when you deal with the sale of property is section 3-54-1, and with respect of the issue about us selling property below the appraised value. I would like to read to you a couple of sentences from Subsection B which states that an appraisal shall be made by a qualified appraiser and submitted in writing to the governing body. If the sale price is less than the appraised value, the governing body shall cause a detailed written explanation of that difference to be prepared, and the written explanation shall be made available to any interested member of the public upon demand. So, what we learned from that is that the legislator doesn't vision a situation that does allow you to sell property below the appraised value, and you aren't in violation of the anti-donation clause, and to the provision about having a written explanation, I believe that the agenda request form prepared by Ms. Alvarez is excellently written because it sets forth the fact that we acquired this property during the abatement process. We advertised it multiple times in the last 5 years, and we didn't get any offers. It will include the property value for future development, and put it back on

the property tax value roll so I think we have satisfied the provisions of section 3-54-1. I always add a few standard provisions in the purchase agreements which are, upon receiving the purchase price, the City shall deliver to buyer an executed quitclaim deed which shall convey the aforesaid property to the buyer, and the buyer is purchasing the property on an "as is" basis, and is not relying upon any warrants or representations made by City, either to the condition of the premises, the status of the title, or as to its feasibility of future development. The Buyer has been encouraged to perform its own title search, and if desired, purchase its own title policy. So what I am doing is really protecting the city that we are not making any representations or warranties. We are selling the property in a quitclaim deed so that way I am lessening your exposure here.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler moved to approve Resolution 22 22/23 and purchase agreement pertaining to the sale of 309 Birch Street, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Commission Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

 Discussion/Action: Approval of Resolution 23 22/23 and purchase agreement pertaining to the sale of parcel 302307923913, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico:

Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager: This property was surveyed, appraised and advertised for sale. This property was advertised for sale due to an inquiry of an adjacent property owner. They have been inquiring the last multiple years about the possibility of purchasing the property next to the arroyo. It would be in combination to their land where they can expand, and potentially build a garage. The location of this tract is next to an arroyo making it an undesirable lot for full development. We did not receive any other offers even though it was advertised. The offeror is offering \$4,000 which is less than the appraised value, but due to the low development possibility of that property I am recommending that we accept the offer of \$4,000.

City Attorney Rubin: I would give the same legal analysis in this issue as I did in the previous one, but the one difference is that we are talking about the detail written explanation, and in this case it would be the offer itself. The buyer in this case has given several reasons as to why the offer should be accepted, so if you go forward with adopting this you would be adopting her reasoning which is listed in the resolution so that would be the justification for selling the property under the appraised value.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to approve Resolution 23 22/23 and purchase agreement pertaining to the sale of parcel 302307923913, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion/Action: Publication of Ordinance No. 743 amending the City of Truth or Consequences Municipal Code Sections 2-356 and 2-357:

OJ Hechler, Community Services Director: This is for the publication of an ordinance amending our Municipal Code pertaining to our Recreation Advisory Board. We are basically combining our Golf Course Advisory Board into our Recreation Advisory Board. The combined boards will consist of 8 total members. Three (3) would be staff which are non-voting members, and the other five (5) would be voting members. This went in front of our Recreation Advisory Board, and they recommended this change to our Municipal Code.

Commissioner Fahl: On the ordinance where it lists the three (3) non-voting members, it lists the City Recreation Director, the City Parks Director, and the Golf Course Superintendent. However, your job title does not align with what you have in here. If we are going to do this and amend it, why don't we just have the positions align with what the current city positions are because if you don't then people could say, well we don't have a Recreation Director so then you couldn't be there.

OJ Hechler, Community Services Director: We can change that to Community Services Director, Parks Manager, and the Golf Course Superintendent. Also, under section 1 it should say "be amended as follows" and on the last page it should have the correct year of 2023.

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve Publication of Ordinance No. 743 amending the City of Truth or Consequences Municipal Code Sections 2-356 and 2-357 with the amendment of the correct city staff titles and the amendments stated by OJ. Commission Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion/Action: Publication of Ordinance No. 744 to providing for the repeal of Ordinance No. 406 pertaining to the Golf Course Advisory Board:

OJ Hechler, Community Services Director: With combing our Golf Course Advisory Board into our Recreation Advisory Board all sections pertaining to the Golf Course Advisory Board in our Municipal Code will no longer be in effect. So this is for publication of an ordinance amending that.

Mayor Forrister: I think this is a really good idea because we have problems all of the time with filling these boards so if we could combine any aspect I think it would really help getting [people on these boards, and these two boards go really well together.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler made a motion to approve Publication of Ordinance No. 744 to providing for the repeal of Ordinance No. 406 pertaining to the Golf Course Advisory Board. Commission Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion/Action: George Henson Public Appeal in regards to Resolution No. 18 22/23 Property Abatement for 731 Wyona.

City Attorney Rubin: If the Commission will recall that a couple of meetings ago you adopted a resolution which found the property at 731 Wyona Street to have an accumulation of rubbish, wreckage, and debris and we'd empower the city to go onto the property and take corrective action. However, the Resolution did allow Mr. Henson to provide an objection within a 10 day period of being served. What happened was that we got a document dated November 25, 2022 which was very brief, and when you read the document it is really unclear if he is even asking for an appeal so we had to make an interpretation, and we felt for a due process stand point it is better to classify a document as an appeal. That is why we are coming back for a hearing on the objection.

George Henson: As your attorney has brought up, I've jumped through many hoops to try and keep this from turning into a destruction of my lifestyle, and hopefully not wrecking something that's been involved in my life for 20 or 30 years. That is the important thing. This morning I saw a customer who was happy to get flagstone, and I guess I will get back with him. So there is movement in my rock garden situation. We cancelled our rock show which is now being promoted by your lodger's tax. I am a good influence on the rock show which is part of our history here. That is where it gets to be cunning for everybody involved because you guys have important things to deal with, and I have compliments on what I do, but the idea goes down the chain of command is lack of converse and what is, and the petitions. I was involved with the film that was filmed up to Cortez. It is hard to see that the idea that my dead end street had no complaints, and some developer comes in and has grandiose plans for 30 houses within 100 yards of my place and this complaint carries such weight and destructive nature to me that I've had two days to clean up an easement, and I had to go to District Court and get that to slow down. Since that time I have worked a year, and finally had help involved from my good friend and rock club member to drive me to the dump with a trailer 5 times, and he is 95 years old, and still has his life to live. I've had witnesses show up several times, and I had a friend come to my door at the early part of the meeting, but he is too deaf and walks with a cane. He supports me with the things I do that involve the lake. I used to sail a lot, and we build experimental boats, and things like that, but they don't always work out and they fall apart quicker, and that is the same thing with my property. What happened earlier with this easement clearing that I have a law suit in District Court with, they had a hearing without notifying me, and I don't know how that happened, but I was not notified. So I had to re-file that situation, and I will continue to defend myself through the District Courts if possible, and I am continuing with loading of hundreds and thousands of pounds of stuff that has decayed. The

easement issue was that I need to improve what I've done in the past because it was done in an artistic way, and I could improve it if I had my cinderblocks, aluminum tubes, and my glass panels back. Those were stolen, and I brought that up in here saying that you can't have people take from me. I have an issue with adverse possession on this ditch that is next to my house. I have to have a retaining wall, and a fire brink, and the public walks right by there all of the time, and I have to have some privacy, and lack of trespassing involved. Those things that were taken from me were part of the improvements that could have changed. I have improved all of those issues to my satisfaction, but like I said, I could do better.

George Henson's proponents:

Carl Schoener: As an outsider what I would like to see from a different perspective as an outsider I can understand the dilemma the city is in, and you have to keep a certain amount of order. On the other hand, the final question I this is, does it harm anybody with what he is doing. He is on the edge of town in a corner, and his neighbors don't complain in the contrary. They support him. I think it is important for a community to allow leeway for the misfits and who are a little bit of oddballs. As being an outsider, for me, this is part of the charm of Truth or Consequences. You allow something, and you say it is okay as long as it doesn't harm anybody. We all have our standards of what we consider orderly and stuff like that, but I think it is important for a community, and I think that this is equality, if there is tolerance for the outsiders, it is not the attitude that everybody has to have a 6 inch lawn.

Code Enforcement Officer Sweeney: Like I stated previously at the other meetings is that the present condition creates an odor. Just yesterday I served him with it, and he just said it too himself that there is decay from the stuff that he has on the property. If it was just his rocks, we wouldn't be here today, and that is not where we are at with what is going on with the property. It is everything else that he has accumulated. I see him constantly every day bringing more stuff in. He said that he had a medical condition and that is why the property is like that, but I have pictures from 2015 to now and it has grown massively. He is continuously bringing stuff in and nothing out. He did show me receipts yesterday. He is starting to take some stuff to the dump, but that is only after we started this process. That was not done before. Now he is recognizing that stuff has to be moved, but he waited until the moment that we were doing this to go ahead and move that stuff. This is a safe haven for critters, and animals. Yesterday a cat jumped out and scared us. It is also a fire danger. He has a lot of wood decaying over there. and there are very dry materials there as well. If something sparks it is going to light that whole place up, and there is going to be nothing that anybody can do. They are just going to have to let it burn. There wouldn't even be any way to get in there and safely do that. Medically if something happens to him, we could not get through either. He may not care about his life, but we do and there would be no way for our EMS to even get in there safely to be able to assist him with that. It is just the amount of stuff that he has there is the problem we are here today with. He has just accumulated so much stuff. He has made a little dent, and a little walk way in the back area, but it is nowhere near

where it needs to be. If we continue to allow him to do that, it would be many, many years before we would see it where it is at a condition where it is safe.

Mayor Forrister: How many years have we been trying to get him to clean this up?

Code Enforcement Officer Sweeney: In the file that I have, the last one was in 2015. The Commission passed a resolution once before to clean that property out, but I'm not sure where that ended. We've changed hands a little bit and so I kind of stalled, and when I came on I saw that property, and I started from the very beginning of issuing him a letter, and letting him know that he needed to get it cleaned, and so it started building up from there. So it has been maybe 10 plus years.

City Manager Swingle: So what you are saying is that it is a public health and public safety hazard at this point?

Code Enforcement Officer Sweeney: Yes. It is a fire danger and everything else. It is an unsanitary property right now.

Mayor Forrister: Does he have utilities?

Code Enforcement Officer Sweeney: He did not for about two years, but currently does have utilities at the property.

George Henson: There are personalities involved at this stage, and my personality is probably abrasive to some people. There is an argument that there are term limits that haven't been followed, and it jumps into the next thing, and the idea that I approached you guys with every time is that my mental health has been good because I have support. I have an issue that works for me to gain on this, but when you are being put down in a non-constitutional way... we have rights to property and happiness. So when an officer or 6 or 10 people come to your house they give you a post-traumatic stress situation and I have had to recover from those things, and that doesn't allow me to go to the next step of being the person that I am as a marketer, or a teacher, or having skills and crafts to make myself known. I have a reputation of people saying that my collection is wonderful. I got to be heard, and not just the other side being heard with mistruths. The walkway is now being abated by myself and will continue to be. It is too stressful to go through this anymore, but I have to go through it in the courts.

Mayor Forrister: Mr. Henson, why did you wait until the last minute to start moving things out?

George Henson: The idea I brought up now is that I have rocks that are sellable. There is a rock show that has been cancelled.

Mayor Forrister: I don't think the concern is the rocks.

George Henson: I understand that. I am just saying that one thing is the first step and that was his friend loaning him the trailer and driving him to the dump. I didn't understand that the complaint was going to overpower the petitions and the good report I have. The reputation I have for having a beautiful front. It was bad in her photos and I apologize for that, and that is why I am here today because I was thinking that I was going to be on a dead end street without speculators surrounding me with 30 houses. I have some money that can help me. I am doing it myself and I am good at what I do, and I do it every day.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler: We as Commissioners have to deal with things in a reasonable nature. I've been by the property, and I think that all of us have, as well as staff, and we then have to decide whether it is reasonable. We are all forgiving people. There may be some things that we can overlook a little bit, but there is no room to squeeze through the walkway from one end to another on this property. It is obviously a hoarding situation that has been occurring for many years and to be it has lost the reasonableness and it is something that has to be done. What message are we sending to other community people that properties like this can be tolerated in our community? We've been dealing with thing for 8 or 9 years and we haven't made that final decision. I think that is another thing that we have to be cognizant of.

Commissioner Fahl: As Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler said, we are very tolerant and we really support private property rights, but this is not about his art, and we've heard a lot of testimony from the public about his art. It is not about that. We have processes in place, and if we expect other people to abide by it, we can't make exceptions all of the time. Hording and art are not the same thing. If this has been going on this long, it has to be resolved one way or another.

City Attorney Rubin: Should you deny this appeal, you may want me to draft an appropriate order of appeal to set forth what your determination was so we will have something written for the file.

Commissioner Fahl made a motion to deny George Henson's Public Appeal in regards to Resolution No. 18 22/23 Property Abatement for 731 Wyona and instruct City Attorney submit an Order of Appeal. Commission Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion Action: Approve Letter of Agreement between Sierra County Animal Rescue Society (SCARS) and T or C Animal Shelter for a fundraising event held at the Animal Shelter:

OJ Hechler, Community Services Director: We are going to enter into a letter of agreement between SCARS, and the Animal Shelter for a fundraising event at the T or C Animal Shelter on January 29, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Jordan's Way will

be hosting the event, and proceeds from this event will be split in accordance with the Letter of Agreement.

Tara Manning, Animal Shelter Manager gave an overview on what Jordan's Way is. (Mission Statement attached hereto and made a part hereof).

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the Letter of Agreement between Sierra County Animal Rescue Society (SCARS) and T or C Animal Shelter for a fundraising event held at the Animal Shelter. Commission Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion/Action: Recommendation of replacement landscaping for MSD Waterline Project:

Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager: As we move forward in our MSD Water Project. It has come to light that some of the trees that have been planted in the downtown area unfortunately are either over the top of the existing water lines or their roots are around the existing water lines, and for that reason there are going to be some trees that need to be removed. The trees that are marked may be necessarily be the only ones that need to be removed. There may be a few more. We are requesting that the Commission make a recommendation of how you would like to re-landscape those areas. A couple of different ideas would be the zero scape or low root bushes of some type. Maybe something in a planter. Any of the changes that we do are going to cause a change order within the project and it will cost more money. This wasn't accounted for within the project because we didn't know the exact location of some of these lines. You can also direct staff to just work with the engineering and the contractors to proceed forward with the best possible landscaping at the lowest possible cost. We are here to get some recommendations from the Commission and to also make the public aware that unfortunately it did happen, and what we would like to not happen is for the Commission to recommend that we replace trees over the top of the new water lines. We really don't want to do that.

Commissioner Mitchell: Is there a possibility of going with another organization such as MainStreet or something like that who could help us.

Commissioner Fahl: You may want to approach the Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District and strong-arm them into donating the plants that you suggest. They are community oriented. We've always supported the city doing that stuff in the past so maybe they would pay for whatever the plants are. I will call them when we are done here.

Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager: It was a very unfortunate thing to happen, and we are also working with the time constraint of the construction as they are proceeding forward.



Our Jordan's Way Mission:

At Jordan's Way, we focus on shelters and the animals residing in them to bring community awareness via live, virtual four-hour events. These events help to clear the shelters by promoting adoptions and donations thereby giving valued assistance to these various facilities by placing animals in loving homes. We shine the light on the forgotten and give hope so they can have a better and full future.

About Jordan's Way:

Jordan's Way was created to get the unnoticed—NOTICED. Animals who have been in shelters for months, even years.

Our vision is to create an ultimate, extremely active animal loving platform, that encourages feed participants. The participants remain active in terms of constant interacting in the form of tags, comments, and millions of shares using the Facebook LIVE platform. We believe that together we can truly get every animal adopted.

The other arm of Jordan's Way is the funding performance I love to host and lead. Our goal is to provide a platform that serves as the engine to get these animals into a forever home.

With 15,000 plus shelters in the USA, funding is a major problem. Our platform allows for goals to be set, and we actively encourage our viewers to share, tag and donate. The energy of the four-hour event is contagious. Our events raise thousands of dollars, but why not Hundreds of thousands? It is possible.

Jordan's Way serves as the true "Make a Wish" style company, for animals and those who help them. As we grow to millions of followers, the combination of our events, my energy and the millions of people watching and sharing, we can truly clear the shelter while funding them at the same time.

We have the power of social media today. Let's use and abuse it for a good cause!

Kris Rotonda - Founder



First and foremost, let me introduce myself!



I'm Kris Rotonda, and I founded Jordan's Way after my best friend, Jordan, passed away. Jordan was a shelter dog who spent the first 3.5 years of her life being overlooked in a shelter. We spent 11 wonderful years together before she died from cancer of the heart. After she passed, I made it my life's mission to honour her legacy by helping overlooked shelter animals get the attention they deserve.

Since beginning our nationwide tour in January 2021, Jordan's Way has helped over 300 shelters and rescues raised just over \$3 million in much-needed funding. We've also helped thousands of animals get adopted.

I am so excited to partner with you and your rescue on the next round of our tour! Now, let's go over things you need to know:



Let's Talk About How the Fundraiser Works

- 1. Before the Fundraiser: We will arrive at your facility 60 to 90 minutes before the start of the event. This gives us time to prepare, tour your facility, and learn about the animals before we start. It also gives me and my team the opportunity to meet the animals who will be featured so they can get to know us before we go on camera.
- 2. Live Streaming: I will livestream our fundraiser on Facebook Live on your Facebook page for four hours on the allotted date and time (either from 10 a.m. 1 p.m. or from 6 p.m. 9 p.m.).

It is a good idea to have someone <u>mirror the LIVE event on Instagram</u> as well. This can be a shared responsibility between a couple of people using one phone for the entire event.

Your potential reach will be dramatically increased as some people do not use Facebook. We have had great results suggesting this. The same can be done using Tic-Tok (unlimited live if you have over 2k followers)



3. Challenges: During the fundraiser, we will conduct multiple fun challenges, all on Facebook Live. For the fundraiser to be successful, we are going to need to have willing participants and a little preparation (more on that in a moment).

Here are some of things we often do:

- Puppy Love: We cover a willing participant's face with Whipped Cream, then he or she lies on the ground and lets the selected puppies or dogs lick it off.
- Make Out Mania: This is the same as Puppy Love only we use Peanut Butter.
- Puppuccinos: These are little squirts of whipped cream that we give dogs when donations are given.
- Slap Fight: Willing participants get pies (whipped cream on Styrofoam plates) thrown in their faces.
- Weiner/Burger Mania: Dogs get a hot dog (or burger) when a specific goal is reached.
- Camera Time: I get into the kennel with a few dogs of your choosing to talk about the dogs and give them treats. The more donations we get during camera time, the longer they get to stay on camera.
- Bail Out Game: We divide your participants into teams and put them in kennels. Each team
 gets a specified amount of time to contact their friends and Facebook followers to raise as
 much money as they can during that time period. Whichever team loses gets a pie to the
 face or hosed down.
- Treat Mania: If a specified amount is raised within the required timeframe, we give the dogs (or cats) treats. If not, we skip them.

IMPORTANT: You are not limited to these challenges! We encourage you to get creative and come up with your own as well! See "Goal Boards" in your Final Packet.

Some of our most successful fundraisers involved additional challenges that the shelters or rescues made up themselves. Here are some additional ideas, and we encourage you to come up with your own.

- Ice Bucket Challenges
- Shaved Heads, Chests, etc.: We recently had a donor give \$10,000 to stop a participant from shaving her head!
- Egg Roulette: Participants pick an egg to smash against their head. Some are hard boiled, but some are not.



- Hot Sauce, Baby Food, Gross Jelly Beans, Dog Treats, Edible Insects: Willing participants
 agree to eat these or other things unless a certain amount of money is raised to prevent the
 participants from having to do it. You can even add a spinning wheel with yucky food options
 for more fun.
- Overnighter: The executive director agrees to stay in a kennel overnight if a certain amount is raised.

What We Need from You for a Successful Event

- 1. Publicity: The more you get the word out there, the better your fundraiser will go! While we can create a fun and exciting fundraiser, we have to have eyes on the feed to maximize its success. That is up to you! Here are some simple things you can do to ensure a good showing:
 - Launch your event on Facebook. We recommend you start promoting the event at least 5 to 7 days before it takes place more if possible. (See the "How to Launch Your Fundraiser" section for more.)
 - Post about the fundraiser regularly at least 2-3 times per day prior to the event.
 - Invite all your Facebook fans to participate. Send them messages through Facebook. You will also need to be ready to invite them to participate during the feed. You will want to try to get at least 2,000 invites out to your event. (See the "How to Have a Successful Fundraiser" sheet for more on this.)
 - Get your volunteers and staff involved. Have all your volunteers and staff invite their friends and family to participate.
 - Email your past supporter and adopters. Let them know how and when to participate.
 - Contact local businesses. Reach out to area veterinarians, pet stores, Realtors, insurance agents, accountants, lawyers, etc., to let them know you will be hosting the event and invite them to participate. We recommend having at least 3 volunteers dedicated for this, as well as having others reach out to any business owners they know personally. If the businesses donate during the event, we will make sure to give them a shout out. Or even better, they can come down and make their donations in person while we're live. (See your Final Packet for a template script for contacting businesses.) We also recommend having a volunteer who can reach out to businesses during the event.



- Contact the local media. We've included a sample press release you can personalize and send out to the media in your area. We've had multiple news sources send people to cover our events, and sometimes even take a pie to the face for the cause!
- 2. Participants: The more people you have involved, the more successful your event will likely be! Here are some things you need to know:
 - You will need to have a MINIMUM of 10 volunteers or staff who can commit to staying involved throughout the entire event. We highly recommend that you have between 15-20 to allow for people who can't stay for the entire three hours. If your staff will have to be doing other things, you need to find additional people to participate.
 - We recommend also having someone on hand to help take photos/videos of the
 event. This is a good opportunity to see if a professional or hobbyist photographer
 would be willing to volunteer their time. If not, a person with a phone will do as well.
 We'd also like access to the photos taken for our website and for Jordan's Way
 Magazine.
 - This is a family-friendly event, and children and teens are welcome to participate.
 - Prep your participants so they understand they will likely get dirty, messy, and possibly wet. While we understand not all participants are willing to do this, it's important to at least have several who will.
 - Encourage participants to bring a change of clothes so they can be more comfortable if they do get wet or dirty.
 - Discuss ahead of time if anyone is willing to have his or her head (or chest for men) shaved if we reach a specific goal. This is often a big incentive to bring in donations.
 - Make sure participants understand the "Bail Out Game." (See "How the Fundraiser Works" section.) This is one of the most successful ways for these fundraisers to bring in money. Ideally, they should talk to their friends and family ahead of time so that they know to donate.
 - Encourage your participants to watch one of our prior fundraisers. We recommend any of the one's we have in our packet.



3. Preparation:

- Location: We realize that many rescues are foster-based and do not have a physical shelter. You will need to figure out where the event can be held where people and the animals can be involved. While we have done several events outdoors, it needs to be somewhere that offers protection from inclement weather, including cold. We have had to cancel events because of this.
- Facebook Access: We will need editorial access to your Facebook page. This allows our team (Kris and Greg) to help you build momentum and help explain the event to your community.
- Internet: We have had occasions where the service just was not strong enough for the feed and we had to cancel. Be sure to check this before we come. If you have WiFi, be sure that the signal strength is strong in the kennel areas. If not, we use Verizon as our cell service. You'd need 3 bars in the kennel areas.

• Supplies:

- o 10-20 cans of whipped cream
- o 2-3 packs of hot dogs
- o Dog and cat treats
- o Several Styrofoam plates
- o 1 Small Jar of peanut butter
- o 2-4 packs of Large Flour Tortillas
- o Ice and Ice Bucket (if doing ice bucket challenges)
- Any other items for challenges you'd like to include
- Access to Animals: We are going to want to put animals on camera, especially during camera time. You will need to select which dogs you'd like us to include for different challenges like Camera Time and Puppy Love ahead of time. For camera time, we recommend some of your harder-to-adopt animals, but we want to make sure they feel comfortable with Kris.
- Special concerns: If any of the animals have health issues that would be impacted by giving Treats, Puppuccinos, Peanut Butter, Hot Dogs, etc., please make us aware of this before the feed begins.
- Your total number of past adoptions. This gives us a better idea of what to expect.
- Your past adopters list to use for contacting people during the feed.



Understanding the Financial Side

1. Deposit: You will need to secure your event with a \$250 deposit - which helps with our trip and incidentals. This is non-refundable unless your event is cancelled through no fault of your own.

General: https://paypal.me/jwdeposit (PayPal/Credit Cards Accepted) Venmo: https://venmo.com/code?user_id=1793804617121792342

CashApp: https://cash.app/SKrisRotonda

Invoicing: Your fundraiser is set up to work with a 25/75% split - 25% going to Jordan's Way, and 75% goes to YOU!

Once the Facebook fundraiser is launched, billing begins for all donations until 48 hours after your feed ends. Any additional funds you receive after that point will not be bill for, allowing you to retain 100% of any residual funds that come in once the fundraiser closes.

At that point, Facebook will remit a check to you for funds raised, minus their fees. Once all donations have been tallied, the Jordan's Way portion is 25%, including the private donations, as they were part of the fundraiser.

Your shelter or rescue will only receive an invoice from us for the total to be remitted to Jordan's Way. Please note that the initial deposit is separate and not included in this split.

Finally, our team will need to schedule a time with you at least one week prior to the event to go over all of this information. If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask. We want to make this the most fun and most successful fundraiser we can!

Our Final Thoughts...

You are going to have an absolute ball with this! Not only is this an awesome team building event, but it also brings your community together. I'm sure you will agree, it's the most fun you'll ever have while you raise needed funds!

The entire Jordan's Way team is here to shine light on the awesome things you do. Let's do that together! We can't wait to see you!

Commissioner Mitchell: You can also reach out to the Sierra County Arts Council to see if they may be able to come up with some sort of artistic project to replace the actual trees. I am trying to find something we could do that wouldn't cost us an absorbent amount of money, but also utilize members of our community.

Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager: My biggest concern is the time constraint on that. You can always direct the contractor to do some type of zero scape to make it look nice with rocks and then come back and have the arts council or something like that donate.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler: I think we should have some greenery downtown. We don't want to just add more asphalt or more concrete if possible. I think we should challenge Sierra Soil, Sierra Arts Council or maybe even MainStreet. I think the city can go ahead and do what they need to do to remove the trees and recover the area so it is safe for people, but we should have an ongoing initiative for somebody to come in and somehow beautify the downtown area for us.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler made a motion that we remove the trees as requested by the city, and we make the area safe for passage, but ask the city or other representatives to contact Sierra Soil & Water, Sierra Arts Council or MainStreet to see if they would like to adopt an area to put something that is more eye appealing so that we can beautify the city instead of putting in asphalt or concrete down. Commission Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion/Action: Request for Special Use permit at 1705 Corzine for the purpose of constructing a greenhouse and storage shed with no existing principle building:

City Attorney Rubin: Items 4-7 were considered by the Planning & Zoning Board. You do have draft minutes, and as you look at the draft minutes, all of those who were involved were given the opportunity to testify. At this level, we are here on the recommendations from the Planning & Zoning Board, and if you want to hear from members of the public, you can do that, but you are not required to because testimony has already been received.

Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager: The applicant wishes to construct a commercial greenhouse and commercial accessory storage building on property with no existing principal building. The applicant wishes to use the greenhouse to train young adults in local growing of organic foods. Items grown will be donated and sold. No selling will occur at the lot. The purpose is for growing and teaching how to grow in a green house. The property is located in the T-1 district. This district is considered low density semi-rural residential district comprised primarily of single family frame and manufactured housing units. Green houses both commercial and noncommercial are allowed by right in this district, but are subject to provisions of accessory buildings. Per Sec. 11-10-1 an

accessory building is a subordinate building, the use of which is incidental to and located on the same lot with the principle building and shall not exceed 1/4 of the use or area of the main building. No principal building will exist on the lot with the greenhouse and storage shed. A special use permit is required for a special land use, which is not permitted by right within the district wherein it is requested. A Public Hearing was held at the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting on December 12, 2022, and the applicant was present and did present his item. There were no opponents or proponents, and the motion was to approve and carried unanimously. My only concern with allowing a green house whether it be commercial or residential within an area without a principal building is that we do need to be mindful of the fact that marijuana is legalized, and the way we sit right now, that growth for commercial is allowed in commercial only. You could potentially be setting a precedence to allow for a commercial green house on an undeveloped property in a residential area that could potentially open the door for somebody who wants to put up commercial green houses in a residential area for the growth of marijuana. The state is not really helpful when supporting Municipalities for the growth and sale of marijuana.

City Manager Swingle: I think the state is very clear that you have to apply the Walmart standard when it comes to cannabis so if you allow any other entity to sell something or do something, you will have to allow it for cannabis as well and it is not something that we've really considered much here. It is not one of those things you can say, if we approve this, we can always decline the cannabis. You cannot do that. You will not be allowed to do that.

Mayor Forrister: I think that is where this becomes kind of a slippery slope. We heard at our last meeting during a public hearing and a recovery center, and I think our personal feelings of what is wanting to be done here is great. Yes, we will want this to happen in our community, but putting it in a residential area is not what our code is suggesting. When we start setting that precedence then I think we fall into some problems.

City Manager Swingle: You do have the caveat of this being a transition area, and not a true residential area, and I think that is a very legitimate argument.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler: Since it was zoned as a T-1, we have the right to refuse another special use permit if it is commercially related. Even if it is cannabis because it is zoned T-1. In other words, we are making an exception here because it is zoned T-1, we are allowing this commercial venture to happen, or we may, but if another person wants to come into a residential area, we would still take that one at a time, and we can still except it or deny it.

City Manager Swingle: I believe you have that right and that is the distinction between clear residential and transition lands, but if somebody came in with transition land you would have the same issue.

David Dawdy, applicant: Having been a real-estate agent long ago I appreciate zoning. It is very important to a community. In my opening remarks, at the bottom of the T-1 list,

anyone who wants to put a school, church or a rest home or hospital in T-1 still must come before the Commission even though it is not residential. There are two points to be made. We are non-profit, so there are some criteria involved, and one is the public good. It can be seen as a commercial green house, profit or non-profit. However, we are not selling anything up there. We are training people, and we are growing things. If it weren't a green house, it would be a green lot full of plants which don't have a building permit. I hope I'm meeting those two objections because the logic is that it is a residential transitional area with the allowance of buildings and other structures for the public good.

Mayor Forrister: The city does send out letters to the neighbors within a radius of the property and those neighbors do get to come and speak, and from what I understand, there was only one neighbor who spoke and she is in favor of the green house.

City Attorney Rubin: These are all on a case by case basis, and each case is different.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler made a motion to approve Special Use permit at 1705 Corzine for the purpose of constructing a greenhouse and storage shed with no existing principle building. Commission Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion/Action: Request for Special Use permit at 616 N. Caballo Road for the purpose of a Multi-Animal Special Use Permit:

Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager: A Public Hearing was held at the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting on December 12, 2022. The applicant was present. The applicant has 6 dogs of their own. A completed application has been received, and all animals have been licensed per municipal code and fees have been paid. Animal Control and Code Enforcement have completed their required site visit and they approved the application request. One opponent spoke in opposition during the public hearing, and one opponent's email was noted. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended to deny the Multi-Animal Special Use permit for 616 N. Caballo Road.

Mayor Forrister: What is the purpose for them to apply for a Multi-Animal Special Use permit and a Kennel Special Use permit?

Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager: It's because six of the animals are their personal animals and it is more than what the ordinance allows an individual to have, but they also want to foster dogs which are not their own personal animals so it is a separate permit.

Commissioner Fahl: I think it was said that the dogs got out? There was a report that the three large dogs were running down riverside and they were your dogs, and it was because they went out the front door?

Serena Byargeon, applicant: That is correct. At that time our front and our back doors were not latching properly, and so with that incident, the front door had come open and the dogs escaped. One of them was picked up by animal control, and I had messaged animal control personally, and found that out. The other ones we found on rodeo arena road. And after that incident I told my husband, I was like, I don't care what bill doesn't get paid, those doors need to be fixed, and in addition to fixing the doors, I also bought the metal security screen doors, so another double backup. That issue has been resolved. I guess people had the impression that they had jumped the fence or something, but that's not the issue. It was the door.

Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager: In the past prior to this ordinance, these applicants were following the rules on doing a kennel permit, and they have been compliant with the requirements, but now that we re-did this ordinance, we have to separate it out. So in essence, if you deny this multi-animal permit, you are telling them that they will have to get rid of dogs that they previously had been approved to have.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler: How long have you been at that location, and how long have you been operating under these auspices?

Serena Byargeon, applicant: I have been in that house for 15 years, and I've had dogs the entire time that I've been there. I had two for 13 years, and then they passed, and then a few years later we started to get more. All of our dogs are rescues, and I work very closely with rescues. I do transporting and advertising. I guess that'll come on the kennel permit side, but for the ones that we have now, the oldest one is 6 years old. We've had a kennel permit for 3 or 4 years.

Mayor Pro-tem Hechler: Have you ever had any citations, or convictions for animal neglect, or dogs at large?

Serena Byargeon, applicant: When we first got Zeus, he had jumped the fence and then we fixed that. Now he's on a 30 ft. chain when he goes outside to potty. Our dogs are primarily inside.

Code Enforcement Officer Sweeney: She's previously had other kennel permits and was always in compliance. When we went out there, we did note a few concerns about the sizing of the fence because they're big dogs. They're not tiny little ones. The sizing of the fence was a concern, and the way her property sits in the back, it was a little higher, so that was a concern for us that he could easily jump over it even though they are primarily inside dogs. She has not had any running at large incidents other than the one instance. We had mentioned also adding another water dish, which they did, just giving the amount of dogs they have. She has a massive yard, so even if she let them free roam, they have a lot of room to run around. She's not lying when she says there's nothing back there but a shed and a kennel. We set a limit of allowing no more than 10 dogs, and you'll hear that with the kennel part of it. The yard was very clean. I didn't smell any feces or any of that. The dogs appear to be very healthy. I went by there this morning to do a follow-up checkup, and to make sure that everything was good, and I

actually saw a few of them outside, and they weren't even near the fence. They were just standing by the door, and were probably wanting back inside because it was a little chilly, but that's it. We've had zero complaints or calls for the property since this process has started, other than the one time right after we did the kennel permit, and that was for the three running at large dogs.

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the Special Use permit at 616 N. Caballo Road for the purpose of a Multi-Animal Permit. Commission Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion/Action: Request for Special Use permit at 616 N. Caballo Road for the purpose of a Kennel Permit:

Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager: a Public Hearing was held at the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting on December 12, 2022, and the applicant was present. The application is for the intent of fostering dogs. The applicant has 6 dogs of her own, with an active application for a multi animal permit. Animal Control, and Code Enforcement have completed the required site visit and approved the application request allowing for no more than 10 animals to include her personal animals. There was one opponent who spoke in opposition during the public hearing, and there was one opponent whose email was noted. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended to deny the kennel special use permit for 616 N. Caballo Road. I want to bring to your attention, in Ordinance 725, we found when it came time to working with the applicant on their kennel permit that there was some wording that was dropped within our ordinance. We will be amending that ordinance and bringing it back to the Commission. However, in Section 3.8.1, item I, the ordinance currently reads "all animals listed on the application 3 months of age or over must be vaccinated for rabies. and possess the city animal license tag". It was never the intent to require the city licensing and vaccination proof for kennel permitting, and the reason for that is because the animals come and go. They are never the same animals in a kennel. The kennels are responsible for having those items within their paperwork, so at any point and time. our Animal Control Officer can go by a kennel permit place and ask to see the vaccinations, but they don't have to have city tags per se, because they may not be city residents that are being kenneled there.

Commissioner Fahl made a motion to approve the Special Use permit at 616 N. Caballo Road for the purpose of a Kennel Permit. Commission Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion/Action: Request for Special Use permit at 103 N. Maple for the purpose of a Multi-Animal Permit:

Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager: A Public Hearing was held at the Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting on December 12, 2022, and the applicant was present. The applicant has 7 dogs. The completed application has been received, and all animals have been licensed per our municipal code, and fees have paid. Animal Control and Code Enforcement have completed the required site visit. Code Enforcement did not recommend approval, due to property code violations. There was one opponent who spoke in opposition during the public hearing, and the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended to deny the multi-animal special use permit for 103 N. Maple.

Code Enforcement Officer Sweeney: I spoke at the Planning and Zoning meeting, and I was made aware of the property 2 months prior to us doing the permit, just for a massive fence they were constructing out of pallets. They were actually doubling up on top of each other, and I immediately went over there and knocked on the door, and spoke to them about how that was a huge safety concern because New Mexico's winds can just blow it down, and anybody walking by could easily be by hit by it because it was not that far from the road. They kind of took that down, but I did also speak to them about a massive amount of code violations. On the south side of the trailer is where they were housing the animals. The animals never went on to that side so given the checklist that we had, I had checked off everything, especially when it said debris, because it said pertaining to animals, and the animals were not going to be anywhere near it, but there were violations so I checked off on it saving it was correct, but I also noted that there was violations on there. Animal Control at that time said that there was just one thing that they recommended, and it was a runner. They don't like to put them on chains because they can get tangled up, so they did recommended go ahead to put a runner for one of their dogs, and then it was marked off correct for them. So I just went ahead and told them, (I think there was a holiday) so I think I gave him a little more than the 15 days that I normally give anybody, and I said I'll come back out here and I'll check the property and make sure it's cleaned up. They were a little frustrated. I mean it is hard being told like this what needs to happen, and so after the 15 days we went back out there, and I checked the property, and I talked to Mr. Cox. He was very upset because I was telling him that it was still not compliant, and at that time I was going to go ahead and ask for denial on the application. He was upset, but he did tell me that he was in the process of getting one of one or few dogs to kind of get it in the area where they wouldn't even need the permit, so I said well this is just where we're going to leave off. I'm going to ask for denial. After that I don't go back and check when it comes to the permit, so of course when we spoke, I spoke on the same thing that he wasn't compliant. Fast forward to today when I went by, of course you know they did recommend for denial, I went back today to check the property, and they had cleaned up what I recommended, and I explained to him outside, had it been like this when I went out there first time, I would have never recommended denial. There is still a few things that still needs to be done with the property, and he actually recognized that, but if you would look at it now where it was when they started, to where it is now, it is

massively cleaned up, and that's where we want it to be. The stuff that's there now, he's doing a little bit of remodeling, so that's what we're seeing outside a little bit is from that, but given the ordinance, he has to clean that up, and that's what I spoke to him today about. If I were to go there now, I would not cite them on what I see right now. He just needs to clean it up a little bit. We have had zero calls from that time, to this time, on any barking because I don't know if he leaves them outside vs. inside. He does have a kennel on the one side. He has a runner so there haven't been any complaints.

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve Special Use permit at 103 N. Maple for the purpose of a Multi-Animal Permit. Commission Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Discussion/Action: Approve purchase agreement pertaining to the sale of Lots 63 and 64 of the Sierra Vista Addition to the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico:

Traci Alvarez, Assistant City Manager: The city owned properties were surveyed, appraised and advertised for sale. There was an offer received for the purchase of lots 63 and 64 of the Sierra Vista Addition. The offer of \$18,500 exceeds the appraised value of \$16,000 (\$8,000 per lot), but it does not exceed the \$25,000 threshold requiring sale by ordinance. Therefore, the purchase agreement is allowed for the sale of the property with an executed quitclaim deed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler made a motion to approve the purchase agreement pertaining to the sale of Lots 63 and 64 of the Sierra Vista Addition to the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Commission Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Discussion/Action: Approval of Purchase Requisitions over \$20,000:

Kristie Wilson, Finance Director reviewed the Purchase Requisitions over \$20,000 provided in the packet.

Commissioner Fahl made a motion to approve the Purchase Requisitions over \$20,000. Commission Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Discussion/Action: Approval of contract with Document Solutions:

Kristie Wilson, Finance Director: This is for a contract with Document Solutions. The machines we have with Xerox come up at different times for renewal. Document Solutions will be sending those machines back and all we have to do is pay the shipping which we would have before anyway. This is a really good deal for us. It includes the

service, maintenance, toners and everything that our current contract with Xerox covers, and this is in addition to three new copiers that are not on the Xerox contract. This will also save us \$7,000 per year.

Commissioner Fahl made a motion to approve the contract with Document Solutions. Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Discussion/Action: Closing of obsolete bank accounts:

Kristie Wilson, Finance Director: This item is to get approval to close three obsolete bank accounts that the city has. They all have zero balances. The first one is for the electrical construction account that we did years ago. The second one is the R & R Water account, and the last one is for the transfer station account. All of these accounts have been obsolete for quite some time now.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler made a motion to approve the closure of obsolete bank accounts. Commission Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Discussion/Action: Law Enforcement Protection Funds (LEPF) Appropriation:

Kristie Wilson, Finance Director: We received an appropriation in the amount of \$281,000 which gives us \$112,500 for the first year, \$112,500 for the second year, and then \$56,000 for the third year, to be used specifically for recruitment and retention of the police officers. Right now, the way that HB 68 and 86 are, there's two different house bills that were written. We can give our officers 5% of their annual salary, every 5 years that they have been a certified law enforcement officer. All of our officers have been certified for more than 5 years, except for the two recent recruits that we have hired. In getting those bonuses, we will be spending about \$45,426, and the rest can be used for recruitment. We are now looking into how much we are allowed to give in recruitment bonuses, and then we'll get that structure completed. This is just for us to be able to receive that money.

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the Law Enforcement Protection Funds (LEPF) Appropriation. Commission Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Discussion/Action: Approval of new Position and Job Descriptions for CPO and the Payroll Clerk:

Kristie Wilson, Finance Director: Our Payroll Clerk resigned, and when he resigned, we had to figure out how we were going to get our payroll done. Our CPO singing agent did payroll prior, so she did say she could do both jobs, as long as we hired an assistant to do some of the tasks that an assistant could do. In combining those two job duties, and adding a CPO Assistant, we will be saving about \$1040 for the remainder of the fiscal year which is about \$3 per hour for the remaining of the year. Before you are the updated job descriptions of the CPO, to make it CPO/Payroll Clerk, as well as a CPO Assistant job description. These can always be amended should our CPO wish to leave the city and we need separate the two positions.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler made a motion to approve the new Position and Job Descriptions for CPO and the Payroll Clerk. Commission Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Discussion/Action: Approval of Amended 2023 City Holiday Schedule Memo:

City Manager Swingle: We made a mistake on Spring Day when we first approved the 2023 City Holiday Schedule Memo. We didn't have the right date for the spring holiday. It's half a day, and we had it on the 14th. It's actually going to be on April 7th, so we would just like to make that revision to the holiday schedule.

Commissioner Fahl made a motion to approve the Amended 2023 City Holiday Schedule Memo. Commission Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Discussion/Action: Approval of City of Elephant Butte Surface Lease Agreement:

City Manager Swingle: We've had a lease agreement with Elephant Butte for many, many, years where the driving range is at the Sierra Del Rio Golf Course. That is their old landfill site, and we are required to continue to do monitoring of that site for many more years to come. Elephant Butte would like to continue the relationship with it, but we have a couple questions before we move forward with the agreement. The attorney sent the agreement to Jay late last night, so we have not had a chance to fully digest the changes. We're looking out to protect the city's interest so I would ask if you could approve this agreement based on the competition of our revisions, and that they are incorporated into the agreement.

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the City of Elephant Butte Surface Lease Agreement based on the completion of the revisions. Commission Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

16. Discussion/Action: TowerPoint Cell Lease Agreement:

City Manager Swingle: We have talked in the past about entering into a long-term agreement with somebody to take over the towers. We've had a number of entities that have demonstrated some kind of interest, and you had a few contracts that have come before the Commission. This is extremely labor intensive on staff, on myself, on accounts receivable, and on finance frequently calling for appraisals, and surveys of these towers. We would actually like to get into a long-term agreement. TowerPoint is looking at taking over all of our 5 towers for a total of over \$1 million dollars, and we actually got them to go up to another \$4,000. We've negotiated over \$300,000 in increases over the last couple of weeks with these folks. What we are asking for today, and they need it for the minutes, because they can't encumber their funds on something that is kind of still in the air. So our board minutes need to reflect that the governing body is committed to seeking long term leases up to 99 years for those following properties which are the Pershing Street Tower, the Kopra Street Tower, the Louie Armijo Ball Field Tower, and the two Towers on Tank Hill near Second Street. Sunstate has first right of refusal on one tank, and American Towers has first right of refusal on the second tank. We're just now getting responses back from them, and they may exercise their right to take over those leases, but they will have to pay the same amount that this company was going to pay. It doesn't matter to us who has it, as long as we don't have to continue on a weekly or monthly basis having to deal with these things, and then we will see a large amount of revenue in replacement for it. They are not taking any ownership of anything, you are just providing them easement access.

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the TowerPoint Cell Lease Agreement. Commission Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

17. Discussion/Action: Liquid Waste Dumping Agreement with Talon Septic:

City Manager Swingle: Talon approached our Wastewater Director. The County is closing their lagoon where they've been allowing companies to dump by their old landfill for a fee, so companies have to find another solution. Talon talked to Pete, and it is not a high amount of waste comparatively speaking, to what we currently have. They will comply with all the requirements of what is waste, and what is not waste. Pete is comfortable with this agreement, and Jay has looked at it. The one thing we did change from your copy is changing it from a 30 day time period to terminate the agreement to 90 days.

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion to approve the Liquid Waste Dumping Agreement with Talon Septic. Commission Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

18. Discussion/Action: Approval of Nexstar Media Group Letter of Payment Liability:

Item was removed from the agenda.

19. Discussion/Action: Adoption of a Governmental Conduct Act Policy:

City Manager Swingle: This is something I've been working on for probably close to a year. We are required to have a Governmental Conduct Act Policy, and we do not have one. This pretty much mirrors state statute. In the states Governmental Conduct Act, there's portions that refer to legislators and the cabinet secretary. That language has been extracted from the policy, but otherwise it it's a mirror of the state requirements.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler made a motion to approve the Governmental Conduct Act Policy. Commission Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

20. Discussion/Action: Appointment of Paul Johnson as a Member on the Sierra Joint Office on Aging Board:

City Manager Swingle: The SJOA currently has an opening on their board and the SJOA sent an email recommending Paul Johnson to serve as a member on their board. He is an active senior and participates in their services and the SJOA feels that he would be a great addition to the board.

Commissioner Fahl made a motion to appoint Paul Johnson to the Sierra Joint Office on Aging Board. Commission Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

21.Discussion/Action: Re-appointment of Chris Sisney to the Planning & Zoning Commission:

City Clerk Torres: Chris Sisney is the Chairman on the Planning & Zoning Commission, and his term has expired. On December 12, 2022 the board recommended the reappointment of Chris Sisney to serve another 2 year term on the board. Vacancies on the board have been advertised, and we have not received any other applications for the position.

Commissioner Fahl made a motion to re-appoint Chris Sisney to serve another two year term on the Planning & Zoning Commission. Commission Mitchell seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. Purchase, Acquisition, or Disposal of Real Property (potential sale of the city's electric infrastructure to Sierra Electric Coop) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.8):

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler made a motion to go into executive session at 1:12 p.m. to discuss Purchase, Acquisition, or Disposal of Real Property (potential sale of the city's electric infrastructure to Sierra Electric Coop) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.8). Commissioner Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Forrister reconvened the meeting in open session at 2:06 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler certified that only matters pertaining to Purchase, Acquisition, or Disposal of Real Property (potential sale of the city's electric infrastructure to Sierra Electric Coop) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.8) was discussed in Executive Session.

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

1. Purchase, Acquisition, or Disposal of Real Property (Sale of Real Property) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.8):

Mayor Pro-Tem Hechler made a motion to move forward to the next phase of information gathering for the sale of the Electric. Commission Fahl seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

L. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Forrister adjourned the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

Passed and Approved this 25th day of January, 2023.

CITY COMMISSION JANUARY 11, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Amanda Forrister, Mayor

AllEon

Angela A. Torres, CMC, City Clerk