

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 405 W. 3RD St.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sandra Whitehead at 9:00 a.m., who presided and Angela A. Torres, City Clerk-Treasurer, acted as Secretary of the meeting.

B. INTRODUCTION:

1. ROLL CALL:

Upon calling the roll, the following Commissioners were reported present.

Hon. Sandra Whitehead, Mayor
Hon. Amanda Forrister, Mayor Pro-Tem
Hon. Paul Baca, Commissioner
Hon. Randall Aragon, Commissioner
Hon. Frances Luna, Commissioner

Also Present: Traci Alvarez, Acting City Manager
Angela A. Torres, City Clerk-Treasurer

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

2. SILENT MEDITATION:

Mayor Whitehead called for fifteen seconds of silent meditation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Whitehead led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Whitehead asked that the wording of "possible litigation" under executive session be removed from the agenda.

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

D. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ron Fenn virtually addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- (1) He sent the Commissioners information about procedural due process regarding his recent appeal. He then read it into the record. In the United States Constitution, the phrase due process under the 5th amendment and the 14th amendment guarantee due process when someone is denied life, liberty or property. Possible guaranteed procedures in this article entitles some kind of hearing and a created list of required procedures that due process requires. While the list is not mandatory, and remains highly influential both in its content and relative priority to the item. 1) An unbiased tribunal. 2) Notice to the proposed action and the grounds for free opportunity to present reasons why the proposed action should not be taken. 4) The right to present evidence including the rights to call witnesses. 5) The right to know opposing evidence. 6) The right to cross examine at adverse witnesses. 7) A decision based exclusively on the evidence presented. 8) Opportunities to be represented by counsel. 9) Requirement that the tribunal prepare a record of the evidence presented. 10) Requirement that the tribunals prepare written findings of facts and reasons for its decision. In light of today's item H2, he would like the Commission to remember that they have a sworn oath to obey under the Constitution of the United States, New Mexico and local laws. In that regard, take into consideration what went on and transpired in the alleged appeals process that was held on the 27th of January. Take that very seriously, because this may go much further than it has.

Ariel Dougherty virtually addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- (1) Her comments pertained to her objection to item H2 on the agenda. She feels that the Commission needs to have a better process for appeals. The appeal held on January 27th didn't follow any rules, and she feels that the Commission violated her due process rights. She also feels that the process was incomplete, and she feels that item H2 is an attempt to try and fix some of those problems that never happened during the meeting. She's not sure how you can correct the problems from the January 27th meeting, and she doesn't think it is a sufficient request. It continues to violate her due process rights, and she hopes that the city can find a better solution.

Traci Alvarez read public comment submitted by Rick Dumiak in regards to 630 Charles, the Meter Reading Fee, and the Recruitment of a New City Manager. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

Sophia Peron virtually addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- (1) She added a picture of the city yard to GoToMeeting. She then stated that the city yard is right below her home, and it's about 500 ft. from the Rio Grande and where children play at Ralph Edward's Park. Right now, a gentleman is washing off diesel fuel into the ground. This has been going on for 20 years and it's

Rick Dumiak, 705 Charles TorC

I have three items to comment on:

First, I have been trying to get my smart electrical meter replaced since the city commission voted and passed a motion to allow opting out of the smart meters. I have been told there is no policy yet.

The proposed monthly fee of \$50.00 for a meter reading charge is outrageous in my opinion. Before the smart meters were installed, meter reading was included in the monthly electrical fees. Why are we supposed to pay more now? What happened to moneies we were being charged to read the old meters? Why are we expected to pay more now?

I have health issues and concerns that I wish to remain private and under HIPPA regulations do not need to be disclosed.

By charging me or anyone else that wishes to opt out of having a smart meter due to health reasons or concerns, you are putting a price tag on their health and for our residents on fixed incomes you are forcing them to decide on feeling safe in their own homes or having to perhaps give up \$50.00 worth of food each month.

My understanding is that the \$50.00 amount was based on Sierra Electric Cooperatives trip charge to read meters. I urge you to consider that the City of TorC is much smaller than the area that Sierra Electric Cooperative services. To charge a resident of the city of Tor C the same fee that Sierra Electric Cooperative charges for a trip charge is like comparing apples and oranges, they are not the same.

Has an in-depth cost analysis of the actual time it takes for a worker to travel to the furthest city limits and read a meter and return to the shop been completed? If not, how can a fair charge be established?

Why can't the homeowner simply take a picture of their meter every month and send it in to the city?

Why can't the same person reading the water meter simply read both meters at the same time?

Bottom line the city is telling me that if I want to feel safe in my home from the smart meter concerns that I and many others have, we need to pay \$ 50.00 a month for a meter reading.

Perhaps \$50.00 a year is a more realistic and actual cost for meter reading by a city employee and an amount that would not create an undue hardship on or elderly residents.

The next item I want to comment on is once again, 630 Charles. At the last city commission meeting on Feb 10th, 2021 the city manager stated that progress has been made and that substantial completion would be obtained on Monday Feb 15, 2021.

The city manager also stated the weeds and debris along the fence line had been removed. I urge the commissioners to drive by 630 Charles and look in the back yard and alley and tell me if you believe that has happened?

Yes, I understand we had a snowstorm on Sunday Feb 14th, 2021 but again this issue has been going on for years and the other resident on Charles continue to wait on for closure.

The last item I wish to comment on is the selection of a new city manager. It is my hope this commission will reach out to the citizens of TorC for input in the interviewing process.

I personally have many years of experience in hiring upper-level managers in the corporate and municipal environment and I would be happy to assist in any way possible and I am sure I am not the only resident with this experience.

Thank you
Rick Dumiak

poisoning our town. She proposed that the city use federal money to clean the city yard. A community project can be done and paid for by the federal government. There are two beautiful buildings in that area that can be used for community recreation or a farmer's market. A recreation area is much economical than a \$12 million dollar complex our previous City Manager was proposing.

Traci Alvarez read public comment submitted by Scott Boyd in regards to the proposed footbridge. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

Isaac Eastvold virtually addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- (1) He led a group called Petroglyph National Monuments on the Westside of Albuquerque. It was created June 27, 1990. Present Bush gave him one of the two pens to sign the bill so he knows a little something about areas of national stature. With being involved in the Healing Waters Trail issues, and discovering the magnificent landscape that we have on the southern border, he can tell you that we have one such landscape that is of national significance. It starts at Williamsburg and goes East across the river. It includes major cultural sites, and it is an area for the great central flyway. We have birds coming down across the region to the wetlands that are around Rotary Park and the Turtleback Mountains. He thinks the Commission should plan carefully on that area and not sell it short for a couple of bridges and trails.

E. RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commissioner Aragon responded to the following comments:

- **Rick Dumiak's comments regarding the Meter Reader Fee and 630 Charles Street:** He spoke to Public Utility Advisory Board Chairman George Szigeti and the board is working on reducing the meter reading fee. In regards to 630 Charles Street, he thinks that project is moving along.

Acting City Manager Alvarez explained that they have been working with the tenants /owner at 630 Charles. She knows it may not seem like there has been any progress, but there has been a little bit of progress, but it's just enough to hold us at bay. However, the tenants have hit their deadline, and we will be proceeding forward as long as she can contact services to go in and do so. It's not an easy location to get quotes for, but she thinks she may have that set in place now.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister asked Acting City Manager Alvarez if she advertises for the contracts.

Acting City Manager Alvarez explained that she reaches out to any contractor she can get email addresses from. She believes she has 7-10 emails sent out for various abatement properties. She almost always gets a response on one, and occasionally she gets responses on others who do not wish to quote on the item, and most of them are

T or C Public Comment

From: riobutte1@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 2:30 PM
To: Sandra Whitehead; T or C Public Comment
Subject: Re: City Commission Agenda 02_24_2021

Dear Truth or Consequences communittee members Mayor and commission. I and most of all the landowners of the other side of the river from T or C are in support of a bridge, but not just for pedestrians, but also for automobiles and emergency police, fire & rescue services. We have been annexed by the city for over 60 years and the city has invested nothing on our side of river in helping us develop our lands. A center piece bridge to drive across the Rio Grande down by the hotsprings art district and city parks would not only benefit the local community of TorC, but its counterpart on the other side of the river, the landowners who would like to further develop their lands. Just a walkbridge will only bring more people over in our area and subject already the dangers that if somebody is hurt over there, it takes quite a long time for the emergency vehicles to get there and to get back when the rivers flowing.

The city of Truth or Consequences should look into the future and a bridge for everyone would not only be inclusive but would be more advantageous to both sides of the river and access for everyone.

I believe both the BOR and the BLM should be supportive as stakeholders in the local community and the local lands and the Rio Grande.

Scott Boyd 🐾 Back Ave
5752233690

On Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 11:19:29 AM MST, Sandra Whitehead <sandra.whitehead@torcnm.org> wrote:

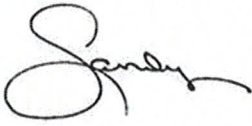
Good Morning Mr. Boyd;

It was nice talking with you yesterday. Please find attached the City Commission Agenda for tomorrow (2/24/2021) meeting.

Information to connect to GoToMeeting, as well as calling in is on bottom part of agenda.

Please note **Item C – Public Comment:** We do allowing all participants an opportunity to give Public Comment. There is a 3 minute rule. We ask that you identify yourself (name and address). A timer is set and you are only allowed 3 minutes!

Thank You!



Sandra Whitehead
Mayor
City of Truth or Consequences, NM 87901
Cell: (575) 740-1285
sandra.whitehead@torcnm.org



no responses. All responses are documented before she obtains a purchase order to procure the services.

Commissioner Aragon continued by responding to the following comments:

- **Isaac Eastvold's comment:** Mr. Eastvold knows a lot about environmental stuff so he hopes that they use his expertise.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister responded to the following comments:

- **Rick Dumiak's comments regarding the recruitment of a new City Manager:** She stated, with all due respect Mr. Dumiak that is why we are elected. We welcome any phone calls, emails, or requests with input you may have, but as far as us going out into the public and holding all these extravagant events to hire the City Manager, she personally does not think that is necessary.

F. PRESENTATIONS (10 minutes)

1. Sierra County Regional Dispatch Authority (SCRDA) Emergency Services Tower for Dispatch Radio System:

Michelle "Mickey" Atwell, SCRDA Director and Dennis Hewing from Advanced Communications explained that SCRDA is moving into the new Sierra County building that is being remodeled at this time. It will be on the back end of the building, and with this move they are getting new equipment which is extremely needed for SCRDA. Everything is outdated and past its life. They have been working with Traci Alvarez to put up a 100 foot public safety radio tower. They provided the Ms. Alvarez with the radio study that was done over a year ago. It shows the mass improvement of radio communications for all of their public safety responders and SCRDA. When the new tower goes up, the tower will be placed behind the building and will be visible. It is a 100 foot tower, and you'll see at least 70 foot of it above the building. It has to be moved because there are anchor bolts that go into the ground, and they can't use them. The current system is on the water tank above the current SCRDA building. The tower that is behind there is actually owned by the County, and not the city. As time has progressed, there have been different revisions of construction requirements by the federal government for towers. Even if they were to try to take the current tower that's up there down and move it, it does not meet the new revisions of construction.

G. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. City Commission Regular Minutes, February 10, 2021:

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve the consent calendar as submitted. Commissioner Luna seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

H. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS/ZONING:

1. Discussion/Action: Resolution No. 35 20/21 Budget Adjustment Request:

Carol Kirkpatrick, Finance Director explained when they first did the budget they were working with a new chart of accounts and they were trying to get items into a capital line item. They double budgeted in the Municipal Street Fund for \$30,000 so they wanted to remove that from that line item. On the second document that was provided, again they wanted to budget that into a line item in which they had a cash balance for the Street Fund. Most of these are just correcting line items. We have a couple of grants in there which are \$50,000 dollars each. One for the sewer, and the other one is for the PG 5240 grant which is the River Walk Feasibility Study. Again, most of these items are just corrections of where we budgeted to start with or to increase budgets for loan funds that we received to go on future projects.

Commissioner Luna moved to approve Resolution No. 35 20/21 Budget Adjustment Request. Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion/Action: Request an extension of the National Park Service Technical Assistance Grant for the Sierra County Rio Grande Trail Project.

Merry Jo Fahl, Jornada Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D) gave a detailed of the study of the foot bridge and what we can do with our trails. She also explained that the proposal you submitted was for two years assistance, and that time is about up. She sent a template letter to Ms. Torres and if you approve that extension she is going to go to the Village of Williamsburg so they can also send one.

Commissioner Luna moved to approve the request an extension of the National Park Service Technical Assistance Grant for the Sierra County Rio Grande Trail Project and to work with Ms. Fahl regarding the project. Commissioner Aragon seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Order on Section 14-30 (e) Appeals.

City Attorney Rubin explained during last month's meeting he suggested putting together an Order that would set forth the Commission's decision during the January 27th meeting. The reason being is if this were to end up in District Court, if there is an appeal, we will be required to have an Order in place. Another reason behind it is

because there was some discussion that there may be other applications of the ruling for future uses, so he felt that it would be appropriate for us to have an Order in place. The Order is on Section 14-30 (e) Appeals. He has 5 finding in the Order. The first 3 are basically the procedural history of how the case wound up in front of the Commission. It talks about what the City Manager, the Electrical Department Director and he did. Paragraph 4 and 5 are important because it responds to the comments that were referred today during public comment. Paragraph 4 reads that the appellants were permitted to supplement their appeals with supporting documents. What that means is after the administration had to deny the initial request of December 31, 2020, the appellants were given opportunity to provide the Commission documents pertaining to their appeals, and if you remember the packet of January 27, 2021 had very extensive material in it. There were no restrictions that were placed on any of the appellants. They had a full opportunity to supply you with any information they felt was important to their appeal. Paragraph A. of the Order reads that the appellants were all granted due process in having their appeals considered and he feels very comfortable in his opinion in saying that the Commission did. Paragraph B states the city administration's decision to deny the appellants' respective appeals is upheld, subject to the modification described in paragraph C. This is something he had to grapple with a little bit because when we had the hearing on January 27th we didn't actually use the word grant an appeal, or deny the appeal, but if you remember the actual appeal was because the appellants did not want to have the Smart Meter installed. They wanted to keep their old meter, and they didn't want to pay for it, and we did not agree to that. We said if you want to keep your old meter you will have to pay the additional fee. Based upon that he would consider it to be a denial of what the appeal is sought to do. He actually prefers to the Order should there be a future appeal so it is clear of what the decision is. However, in paragraph C it reads if any of the appellants still opt not to have Smart Meters installed, any of the appellants can retain their old meters by paying an additional fee of \$50.00 per month. This fee would cover the City's anticipated costs, including the cost of the meter reader manually reading the meters. Commissioner Aragon made a comment earlier about the Public Utility Advisory Board considering something less than the \$50.00 per month fee. That is all well and good, but he still prefers that this Order reflect the \$50.00 per month fee which was the ruling of the Commission at the January 27, 2021 meeting. It is certainly acceptable if the Public Utility Advisory Board wants to deliberate this, make a recommendation and send it back to the Commission. You can certainly consider something later on and if you decide to change the fee you can always do an amendment, but he wants this Order to reflect what was actually agreed upon at the January 27, 2021 meeting. Paragraph D reads, if any other citizens desire to opt out of having a Smart Meter installed on their property, they must notify Electrical Department Manager and City Manager within a reasonable time pursuant to City Ordinance 14-30 (e). A "reasonable time" depends on the facts and circumstances of each particular case. The word reasonable time was rightfully worded, but each situation may be different. Should this be approved, he needs to add a date of when the Order was approved and he also wants to clean up the language in paragraph D to make deny the appellant plural.

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Commissioner Luna stated when they were having the conversation, it wasn't just for the manual reading of the meters. She then asked how the process differs from those who select to receive an old style meter, and getting that data entered into the billing system vs. setting up the Smart Meter, because her thought was that we would have to take that paper from their reading and enter it into the system.

Electric Director Easley explained when the Utility Office bills that cycle they have to download the meters into the handheld and the Meter Reader has to go out and read the meter and put the reading into the handheld and go back to the Utility Office, and plug that reading into the computer and then they do their process for billing.

Commissioner Luna stated so then there is an actual process. The \$50 opt-out fee includes the entire process that was just mentioned because it is special handling of that person's reading, utility, their bill and the whole concept. It's not just the trip charge. It is more than just that.

Mayor Whitehead also stated even though we go out there and we manually read the meter, if for some reason those individuals have a problem then we have to go back out and re-read the meter and that is also another process that we have to follow.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister thanked City Attorney Rubin for putting this together and keeping up on the straight and narrow and putting what they were trying to get across at the January 27th meeting into an actual document.

Commissioner Luna asked if we should add the remainder of the concept to the last paragraph C to include the cost of meter reading, manual reading of the meters, data entry or special handling of the billing process because it is not just the reading of the meter. By definition due process is fair treatment through the normal judicial process, especially citizen's entitlement. She felt that City Attorney Rubin laid that out accurately. We had 90 pages of documents, we read them, we heard their comments, we listened, and we came up with an option that gave them an alternative and she thought they would have been happy with that. They gave the option to help them and they are still getting beaten up about it.

City Attorney Rubin verified that the added language to the appeal would include the fee will cover the City's anticipated costs, including the cost of the meter reader manually reading the meters and subsequent billing process and procedures.

Commissioner Luna moved to approve Order on Section 14-30 (e) Appeals with the added language mentioned by the Commission and City Attorney Rubin. Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

J. REPORTS:

Interim City Manager Traci Alvarez reported the following:

- **Water Leaks:** The water crew was onsite until 2am this morning working on the South Broadway Leak. Some residents in this area could possibly be without water or experience low flows. This morning they need to focus their efforts excavating the sites needed in the area of Cook and Hyde for installation of a flow stop. Once that is completed, they can then replace the valve and recommence pumping to Morgan Street. They will then resume troubleshooting the hydrant leak and the South Broadway leak in an effort to resolve and repair it as quickly as possible.
- **Airport Advisory Board Meeting:** She invited the Commission to attend the next Airport Advisory Board meeting on March 2, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. here in the Commission Chambers. We will be introducing our new Airport Manager and she thinks he will be an asset to our Airport. She would love the Commission to hear what his short term and long-term goals are. She will have Clerk Torres post a Potential Quorum Notice so those Commissioners that would like to attend are available to.
- **2nd Quarter Reports:** These documents are to report the expenditures, revenues, cash balances, and cash transfers for the second quarter of 2020-21. Quarterly reports are due to DFA the last day of the month following the end of the quarter. After the reports are uploaded and submitted to DFA, an analyst will review the reports and submit a Financial Quarterly Report Analysis. The analysis for this quarter was received in the Finance Department on February 15, 2021 and is included. If the Commission would like we can add this to the next Commission Agenda for further review and discussion.

Electric Division Director Easley gave an update regarding the recent power outages:

- On February 14, 2021 at approximately 7:35 a.m. the City of Truth or Consequences Electric Department received a call from dispatch, alerting them of a power outage for the stop lights located at 3rd and Date in addition to the Dispatch office. An additional call was then received approximately 10 minutes later in regards to sparks and smoke from the Electric Department Substation. Upon arriving at the Substation, we too noticed sparks coming from the South Transformer high side fuse. We proceeded to turn off the Substation South Transformer and began transferring all of the South Transformer load to the North Transformer. When this was completed, we still could not turn on the Down Town Circuit and Cedar Circuit. While patrolling the Downtown and Cedar Circuits we could not find anything in the lines that would affect the 2 Circuits from coming back on. We made a decision to isolate Cedar Circuit, cutting the jumpers behind the Bowling Alley to see if the problem was from the Bowling Alley North or South to the Substation. While doing this we found the problem was coming from the Bowling Alley South to the Substation. We went out and patrolled again and found a bad arrester and insulator, both of which were then

replaced. Also, on 4th street we found 2 three phase lines that had been slapping together due to the wind, causing them to weld together. We proceeded to get the 2 lines separated and tightened one up so this would not happen again. Power was fully restored at around 1:00 p.m. We stayed and worked on small trouble calls until 2:00 p.m. We then came back in around 3:30 p.m. to fix the South Transformer fuse and got the Transformer back up and running again. We then transferred the load from the North Transformer back to the South Transformer. We estimated roughly 500 people were without power.

Mayor Whitehead then presented certificates of appreciation to Bo Easley, Ken Moran and Chris Rees and City Manager Madrid for their involvement and tireless efforts to help restore power to our citizens during the Arctic Blast Power Outage that took place on February 14, 2021. She also thanked or Chief of Police Apodaca, Deputy Chief Baker, all of our Officers that were on duty that day, Mickey Atwell at SCRDA, Paul Tooley, County Manager Bruce Swingle for offering the Albert Lions Center for citizens and everyone else who were involved.

Police Chief Aragon Apodaca and Lieutenant Venable gave a report:

- Last Wednesday they received a call from Detective Lanford informing me them that the US Marshals were in town. They had an individual residing in T or C that was wanted for a kidnapping in Las Cruces. He has a history of assaulting police officers and carrying firearms so they brought their tactical team in because it was considered a high risk search warrant. Around 9:45 they received a call from dispatch that our officers involved were in pursuit. Pursuits are one of the most dangerous things police officers do. The pursuit was northbound on I-25. Police Chief Apodaca ended up catching the pursuit at the County line. 90 mph was the top speed and they followed the vehicle with 8 units between us and we proceeded all the way to the 128 mile marker where the suspect vehicle ran out of fuel, and they arrested the individual. There was also a female and a children in the vehicle. They got the call from the US Marshals, they met up, did their briefing and from there they went to the target house at 705 Marr Street and set up surveillance. They had units setup in alleyways and the guy they were looking for had actually shined a light at one of the units, and as they were sitting there they saw the subject go into the back alleyway and they saw brake lights come on. Then they saw the headlights coming down the alleyway where He the Marshall and the Detective were stationed. The vehicle came right towards them and from there they started to initiate the stop. The subject took off at a low speed pursuit. They went through the downtown area for just a short time, and from there they got on Broadway onto the Interstate. At that time they had three of their units there and they were already getting a hold of State Police to get involved in the pursuit. About the time they were getting to the 85 area that is when Sergeant Marin and Officer Zagorski were broken off to come back and protect the city. It was one of the slowest pursuits they've had, but it's safer that way. Lieutenant Venable thanked all of the Officers involved. Officer Bloomquist, Detective Lanford, Sergeant Marin, Officer Zagorski, and Chief Apodaca. They all came together and it went smoothly.

Chief Apodaca then announced his retirement effective April 23, 2021.

City Attorney Rubin had no reports.

City Commission Reports:

Commissioner Baca reported the following:

- He asked Traci if she could send someone to take a look at Marie Street.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister reported the following:

- She was trolling Facebook and she saw some comments regarding the weeds by the Golf Course. She contacted Traci Alvarez and she got right on it and gave them an answer. Hopefully by Friday we will have someone out there cleaning up those weeds.
- They received emails regarding foster parents. She encourages our families that are able to look into being resource families. Our kids need us here.

Commissioner Aragon reported the following:

- He asked that Acting City Manager Alvarez keep Mr. Dumiak informed on what is going on at 630 Charles Street. A little contact goes a long way.
- He has talked about the Veteran Service Officer thing, and the City of T or C Elephant Butte, Williamsburg, and the County did a resolution to get a Veteran Service Officer to be here in our County. Right now they work with five counties which includes us and Grants County. He contacted Commissioner Luna by text and he's willing to give a media release. We have the VSO coming here and they're going to hire somebody to work in Grants County and in Sierra County.
- We have a lot of grants, and we have a lot of projects. Traci works her magic on this stuff and she's doing great job, but he would like to have spreadsheet of the projects and grants with the name of the project and how it's being funded. So he can see it when we're talking about grants.
- He feels that they should receive public input to use when they select a new City Manager.

Commissioner Luna reported the following:

- She thanked Acting City Manager Alvarez for the best Managers report she's seen since she has been on this Commission.
- She is sad to hear of Police Chief Apodaca's retirement. She remembers Chief Apodaca when she first started doing police reports for the Sentinel 24 years ago. She knows that there will be huge shoes to fill, and she hopes that maybe with the Commission's approval they can advertise for that position early, and maybe have some cross training because the man has 25 plus years of knowledge.
- She saw Dave Cook who retired from the Water Department assisting the Water Department with reading the paper plans and explaining to them his knowledge.

She thinks it's great that we have these paper maps and his assistance, but digital copies should be something to look into if we don't already have them.

Acting City Manager Alvarez explained that is part of our Water Asset Management Plan.

Mayor Whitehead reported the following:

- She also commended Acting City Manager and City Staff for the great Managers report. It's great when we come together as a team and work together as a team. She thinks the whole city is a great team and we just need to stay on top of things.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve going into executive session at 10:40 a.m. to discuss Committee Strategic Planning Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.9), Threatened & Pending Litigation (Current and Pending Litigation) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7), and Limited Personnel Matters Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2). Commissioner Luna seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

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

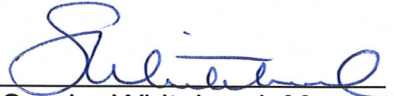
Commissioner Luna certified that only matters pertaining to Committee Strategic Planning Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.9), Threatened & Pending Litigation (Current & Pending Litigation) pursuant to 10-15-1(H.7), and Limited Personnel Matters Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2) was discussed in Executive Session.

Commissioner Luna made a motion they appoint Traci Alvarez as the Acting City Manager effective February 22, 2021, and until we hire a new City Manager. She also nominated Mayor Whitehead to consult with the Finance Director, and the Acting City Manager to handle compensation for her acting appointment. Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

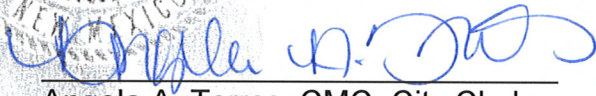
L. ADJOURNMENT:

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

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Sandra Whitehead, Mayor


ATTEST:


Angela A. Torres, CMC, City Clerk