

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

A. CALL TO ORDER:

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

B. INTRODUCTION:

1. ROLL CALL:

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

Hon. Sandra Whitehead, Mayor
Hon. Amanda Forrister, Mayor Pro-Tem
Hon. Paul Baca, Commissioner
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 called for Commissioner Baca to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

C. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ron Fenn virtually addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- (1) He would like to speak about the follow up from the Sun's article on the water problem in the city. He'd like to know whether or not any of the Commissioners are familiar with the utilities monthly billing report. It's not something that's published. It's something that you have to request, and it's a 14 to 16 page summary. On the first page of the billing report for the month of January 2021, the city billed for 15,250 units, which is 15 million, 250 thousand gallons of water, and at the same time they did not bill for 22 million gallons of water. We're pumping it, but we're not billing for it, which is a loss. 40% is being billed, and 60% is un-billed. Going back to January of 2020, the city billed for 18 million, 958 thousand gallons of water, and did not bill for 150 million gallons of water. The ratio there is 11.2% billed, and 88.8 not billed. This is indicative of a very serious situation, and until you understand that, and stop contributing to this paradigm of incompetence in our management of our utilities and the city, we are going to be in very serious trouble. He recommends that the Commission look at it, and contact him if they need an explanation on how to read it.

Rick Dumiak virtually addressed the Commission with comments related to:

- (1) He asked why the Commission meetings are not open up to the public now that our county is in the turquoise. He feels much more comfortable speaking in person, especially with some of the communication issues we have had.
- (2) He is very concerned about the water issues Mr. Fenn mentioned in his public comment. He hopes we are staying on top of things.
- (3) He asked if there were any updates regarding 630 Charles Street.

Mayor Whitehead read public comment submitted by Isaac Eastvold. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

Mayor Whitehead read public comment submitted by Suzanne Carlstedt. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

D. RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Whitehead responded to the following comments:

- **Rick Dumiak's comments regarding opening up the meetings to the public:**
This meeting, and the next meeting we will be limited, but hopefully during our first meeting in April we will be back on board with opening up. We just want to see how everything pans out. She realizes that we are in the turquoise, but we want to stay there, and we want to make sure that our community and public are safe before we open our doors. However, we will look at opening our doors next month if we stay in the turquoise.

Acting City Manager Alvarez responded to the following comments:

T or C Public Comment

From: ISAAC EASTVOLD <eastvolds@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2021 10:19 PM
To: T or C Public Comment
Cc: Sharon Eastvold
Subject: Turtleback Trails area: public comments for the meeting of March 10, 2021

Dear Angela,

Please distribute my comments below to Members of the City Commission and staff. Thank you very much, Isaac Eastvold

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Honorable Mayor Whitehead, members of the City Commission and City staff:
March 8, 2021

The current Turtleback Trails effort encompasses a very large area of mostly federal and state lands. Before a bridge site, or sites, trails, or river accesses are suggested, the entire area needs to be much better known. To date, bridge sites and trails have been brought forward without on-the-ground wholistic knowledge, causing conflicts with protected wildlife, archaeological and historical sites, and a multitude of other important values.

At your last meeting, Ms. Fahl announced that she was now proposing not one, not two, but four bridge locations. This was a surprise to most people following the issue, including some persons on Ms. Fahl's Steering Committee. I have attended all three of the Conservation Committee meetings, and our Committee was never informed of the multiplication of bridge locations, muchless asked for input. Indeed, just the two bridge locations we did know about have proved replete with conflicts. Adding two more unknown sites is a recipe for additional confusion and conflicts.

We would recommend slowing down and opening up what is now largely a top-down, piecemeal process. There is an urgent need to replace this piecemeal approach with a wholistic one that is ground-up, not top-down.. The larger landscape needs to be defined, together with an in-depth sketch of its overall values, before any bridges, trails, river accesses, or other hardware is imposed on a poorly understood area with great value.

The rough area which needs to be defined extends from the Rio Grande River between Williamsburg and Las Palomas on the west to the Turtleback Mountains on the east.

When looked at as a whole, this entire area with its archaeological/historic resources, its Native American heritage, its wetlands values, its migratory birds major Central Corridor, geologic and paleontologic values, mountain slopes on the Turtlebacks, mind-expanding scenic values, and low impact recreation values, including natural open space, is all together a package of national stature.

Today's modern world is hungry for such well-managed areas, and would enthusiastically support their creation using public lands and public funds if given the chance. Needless to say, such a well-managed area would be a boon to local economies. But the tail cannot wag the dog any longer: the landscape, its resource values, and sensitivity need to be understood first before planning can proceed to things like bridges, trails, river accesses, management, maintenance, and budget.

Sincerely,

Isaac Eastvold, President
Chihuahuan Desert Conservancy
(505) 255-7679

T or C Public Comment

From: Suzanne Carlstedt <tmyatorc@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2021 10:20 PM
To: T or C Public Comment
Subject: Fiesta

I'm opposed to the city taking over Fiesta, especially if the reason is to ensure it happens when we haven't put the pandemic behind us yet. I don't think running a festival is an appropriate role of city government. Providing security, trash pickup and similar peripheral services are appropriate, but not planning and running the whole festival, especially considering that we are challenged to maintain our basic Infrastructure.

Sent from my iPhone

- **Rick Dumiak's comments regarding a follow up on 630 Charles Street:** The contractor has been procured, and now we are just waiting on schedules. Out of 6-8 requests for proposals, she only received one proposal from a local contractor. Right now their schedule is really crazy, and they are a couple of weeks out on getting things back on schedule.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. **City Commission Regular Minutes, February 24, 2021**
2. **Acknowledge Regular Airport Advisory Board Minutes, January 5, 2021**
3. **Acknowledge Regular Airport Advisory Board Minutes, February 2, 2021**
4. **Accounts Payable, February 2021:**

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

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. **Public Hearing/Discussion/Action: Application for a Beer Wholesaler Liquor License for the Truth or Consequences Brewing Company dba: Truth or Consequences Brewing Company, 410 Broadway, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Application No. is 1178919:**

City Clerk Torres explained that the Truth or Consequences Brewing Company submitted their application for a Beer Wholesaler Liquor License at 410 Broadway, which is the address of the T or C Brewery. The first process of the application was a waiver request and zoning statement to allow the reduction of a required 300 ft. distance from a church, to a distance of not less than 150 ft. That waiver was approved by this governing body on October 14, 2020. The Alcohol and Gaming Division granted preliminary approval of this application, and now the next step is to hold a public hearing to receive public input and final approval of the application. All publication requirements have been met. The public hearing notice was published in our local newspaper on January 29, 2021 and February 5, 2021, and it was also posted on our city website.

Mayor Whitehead opened the public hearing.

City Attorney Rubin stated that the governing body already approved the reduction of the distance between the brewery and a nearby church of less than 300 ft., so now the requirement is to have the public hearing.

Proponents: John Masterson stated that this is the final step in the administrative process to allow them to sell their delicious beer to restaurants, grocery stores, and other licensees who are licensed to sell beer. This is the final step before the state approves the wholesale license.

Opponents: None.

Mayor Whitehead closed the public hearing.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve the application for a Beer Wholesaler Liquor License for the Truth or Consequences Brewing Company dba: Truth or Consequences Brewing Company, 410 Broadway, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Commissioner Aragon seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- 2. Public Hearing/Discussion/Action: Approval to submit a USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant Application for financial assistance for various equipment needs, and approval for City Manager and/or Mayor to execute, sign, and submit the required and requested documents:**

Traci Alvarez, Acting City Manager explained that this grant is used to assist our various departments with purchasing equipment that they may budget for throughout the year. We've used this in the past for our streets department street sweeper, and backhoe loader. Our parks department has also used this to receive equipment, and our police department has used it to receive police vehicles. This is an annual public hearing that she tries to do before each fiscal year, and that allows them to be able to apply for these grants as the equipment needs come up throughout the year.

City Attorney Rubin stated that he sees no legal reason on why we cannot proceed.

Mayor Whitehead opened the public hearing.

Opponents:

Ron Fenn stated that this is the same silliness that goes on annually. We are in a very difficult period of time, our infrastructure in the city is crumbling, and we just want to buy more equipment. Isn't it very nice that there are brand new pickup trucks all over town? That wasn't the case when he first moved here, and the city was running slightly better. Now the infrastructure is 20 plus years old, and nothing is being done. This is incompetence on top of irrelevance.

Proponents:

None.

Mayor Whitehead closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Luna made a motion for the approval to submit a USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant Application for financial assistance for various equipment needs, and approval for City Manager and/or Mayor to execute, sign, and submit the required and requested documents. Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Hearing/Discussion/Action: Approval to submit USDA Funding Application for Electrical Transformer equipment needs, and authorization and approval for City Manager and/or Mayor to execute, sign, and submit the required and requested documents related to the USDA/RUS applications for Federal Assistance:

Traci Alvarez, Acting City Manager explained that this is the exact same grant funding that we just heard in the previous public hearing. Due to the amount of the request of \$1.1 million dollars, they require an individualized public hearing. Included in the packet is the feasibility report that we submitted which describes the need for a transformer, and there are no utility increases that would be implemented through this grant funding.

City Attorney Rubin stated that he sees no legal reason on why we cannot proceed.

Mayor Whitehead opened the public hearing.

Opponents:

Ron Fenn stated that if you look back in history, you will see a previous grant application of this type that was rejected for the electric utility, and for good reason. The electric utility has more than enough money to maintain this equipment if it does not give the money to the City Manager to spend as he wishes on unnecessary employment, toys, or any kind of wasteful thing that this city has done in the past. Electric utility has recently spent \$50,000 on new fencing to replace the old fencing which was perfectly adequate to keep people out. They also spent that on paving the parking lot, and \$50,000 for a parking garage for their trucks is totally unnecessary. These trucks have been out for 20 years, and there is no reason why they need to be covered today. \$30 plus thousand dollars was also spent on a bathroom. This money should be used for the replacement of poles, transformers, and lines. We are asking for \$1.2 million dollars when you are transferring \$1.6 million dollars into the general fund from the utilities. This is outrageous, and there is no question that there will be rate increases down the road because you cannot continue this way without rate increases. \$1 million dollars was just spent for smart meters that could have paid for a new transformer. This is absolutely the most ridiculous thing that he has seen in his life, and you will pass this without a doubt because incompetence is exactly what this city is built on. Nobody is doing any thinking.

Commissioner Luna asked for Electric Division Director Easley to explain exactly what we are talking about replacing.

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Electric Division Director Easley explained that the two substation transformers are very old. They were installed back in the 60's. The north transformer was rebuilt back in 2001, and during that past two years when we've had a company test the transformers, the oil samples on the north transformer was bad. The inside of the transformer is arching and it's giving us bad oil samples. It's time to replace the north transformer and install a new one. These transformers are our bread and butter for the city.

Commissioner Luna asked what the match of this grant is, and what the cost for the city, and the tax payers is.

Acting City Manager Alvarez responded the application will be submitted to the USDA Office for review, then they will let us know what our grant amount is, and what the loan or match amount is.

Commissioner Luna stated, so in theory, we can get a 100% match, a 10% match, or a 20% match so we are not having to pull the entire amount out of our utility fund. Is that correct?

Acting City Manager Alvarez stated yes, and the reason we went this route is because we knew that this was a piece of equipment that needed to be replaced. We could have gone out straight for a loan or tried to pull it from the operating budget, but why not apply for a grant instead, and see if we qualify.

Commissioner Luna stated it sounds like a smart use of resources available to the city for infrastructure improvements.

City Attorney Rubin stated that all we are really doing today is submitting the application and that is why he sees no legal issues with this.

Commissioner Luna stated that she believes that they are giving the City Manager and the Mayor the approval to do whatever is brought back to the city. Is that correct?

Acting City Manager Alvarez responded that is correct. When they allocate the money on this particular grant fund (because it is Colonias funding) the allocation comes through very quickly. We will come back and update the Commission when we receive the funding, and let them know how much of the funding was approved.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister said call us incompetent, but she thinks if we can stretch our funding, and use it in other places, that's a good move.

Mayor Whitehead added, anywhere we can get extra funding that doesn't cost us an arm and a leg is good and that's what it's out there for. The more we can make available to our city the better off we are financially, so thank you.

Commissioner Baca stated that it sounds like a smart idea to him.

Proponents:

None.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve Approval to submit USDA Funding Application for Electrical Transformer equipment needs, and authorization and approval for City Manager and/or Mayor to execute, sign, and submit the required and requested documents related to the USDA/RUS applications for Federal Assistance. Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion/Action: Law Enforcement Protection Funds (LEPF) for the upcoming FY 2021-2022:

Erica Baker, Deputy Police Chief explained that she is here to present their annual Law Enforcement Protection Funds (LEPF) grant. It is a no match grant that they have used for years. It helps them purchase equipment, uniforms, training, or anything they need for their officers without having to take it out of their budget. It is extra money that is free for them to use without having to drain their budget. They start off with \$20,000 and they get an additional \$600 for every commissioned officer, certified officer, or any officer that they know will get certified or commissioned before the fiscal year ends. They have 12 commissioned officers, and they have one that will be going to the academy hopefully this summer, and one in April. This has immensely helped them over the years. They've used it for uniforms, and for sending our officers to trainings, which they usually can't afford out of their normal budget.

Commissioner Luna moved to approve Law Enforcement Protection Funds (LEPF) for the upcoming FY 2021-2022. Commission Aragon seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Lodgers Tax Funding Allocations for Sierra County Arts Council and Geronimo Springs Museum:

Traci Alvarez, Acting City Manager explained that the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board has reviewed both the Geronimo Springs Museum, and Sierra County Arts Council funding application requests, and both applications and minutes from the February 26th Lodgers Tax meeting are included in your packet. Staff concurs, and recommends approval of both requests.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve Lodgers Tax Funding Allocations for Sierra County Arts Council and Geronimo Springs Museum. Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer.

Hon. Paul Baca, Commissioner voted

Hon. Amanda Forrister, Mayor Pro-Tem voted

Hon. Frances Luna, Commissioner voted

Hon. Sandra Whitehead, Mayor voted

Hon. Randall Aragon, Commissioner recused himself due to him serving on the Geronimo Springs Museum Board.

Motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

3. Discussion/Action: License Agreement between the City of Truth or Consequences and TDS (BAJA):

Traci Alvarez, Acting City Manager explained that this item, as well as the next item are updates to pole rental agreements for TDS and Windstream. Some of the revisions include an increase to the pole rental fees.

Electric Director Easley explained that we have a current contract with TDS (BAJA) and Windstream. They connect to our poles to deliver their communication to customers. We used to charge both of them \$5.00 a pole per attachment, and this agreement reflects an increase of \$.50 per year until they reach \$10.00, and the contract will extend for an additional 15 years. On page 2 of the TDS (BAJA) contract, a part was left out on sentence 3. It should read each pole transfer must be completed within 30 days of when they have been notified by the electric department manager of the needed pole transfer. He explained that a pole transfer is when they replace a pole, and they have to take their attachment off of the pole and attach it to a new one. Over the past couple of years we've had a few issues with Windstream and TDS (BAJA) removing their attachments from the old poles so we can put up new poles. Therefore, he would like that language added back to the TDS (BAJA) contract.

City Attorney Rubin also explained that the original contracts from 2007 are about to expire so that was part of the motivation to get new contracts in place. He recommended that the TDS (BAJA) contract be approved with the additional language mentioned by Electric Director Easley.

Commissioner Luna moved to approve License Agreement between the City of Truth or Consequences and TDS (BAJA) with the additional language mentioned by Electric Director Easley. Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion/Action: License Agreement between the City of Truth or Consequences and Windstream:

Commissioner Luna moved to approve the License Agreement between the City of Truth or Consequences and Windstream. Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion/Action: Future of the Annual Truth or Consequences Fiesta:

Commissioner Luna explained that this is something that has previously been discussed. The Fiesta group which she believes is a group of three volunteers have decided not to try to do a 2021 Fiesta. She does not feel that this is just any old festival. This is our namesake, and she thinks that the Commissioners and city staff can recognize this is an economic driver for our community, our businesses, and it is at tax base for our infrastructure improvements. We heard a comment earlier that states it's probably not the appropriate role of city government, but she thinks that the time has come for us to get involved. There was an entire Facebook post with around 120 comments about Fiesta dying, and it wasn't what it used to be. Well she thinks a lot of that has to do with the lack of volunteers, and the lack of people who want to put their time in because they are retired. She wanted to bring up today to see if the Commission is willing for the city and Commissioners to take this on, and keep it alive. She thinks we all understood that the 2020 Fiesta couldn't happen with the pandemic. However, we're in our second week of turquoise, and this is an outdoor festival. It doesn't have to be indoors. It can be a parade, and there could be vendor's downtown similar to the Farmers Market. It can be around the Healing Waters Plaza, and hopefully Ralph Edwards Park will be available for some of the activities like basketball and volleyball tournaments. She thinks if you have some activities spread out, that allows for less congestion, and that allows more people to enjoy themselves at a distance. She has given everybody a copy of the schedule, and everything doesn't have to be done, but she thinks it is worth keeping our namesake alive.

Commissioner Aragon stated that he is on favor of the Fiesta. However, he has received some calls, and us being turquoise has a limited number of people allowed which is 150 people, and 200 vehicles. If we can get through this hurdle of not going against the public health order, he thinks it's great, but we have to do anything we got to do to be sure that there are no more than 150 people in one location, or 200 feet within each other.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister stated we can go back to the live music outside and get people out and still follow the social distancing rules. If people don't think that this should happen, they all have a choice to not participate. We all have a choice, and you just have to go with what you believe in. She thinks the city taking this over would be great so she's definitely on board with this.

Mayor Whitehead stated that her thoughts are that she would like to see this happen. It's always been a big tradition for the City of Truth or Consequences. She can remember back when she would go to the parades and the junk boat races down the river, and they had the fishing derbies. There was everything, and the town was full of people, but again we have to look at what's happening today. We still have this virus out there, and although we are in turquoise, we want to stay in the turquoise so that is something we need to keep in mind if we do this. We also need to make sure that if this

is something that we want to have, we need to make sure that we can put it together in a short time period. We're almost in the middle of March, so we're looking at the first weekend in May, we need to figure out if we have the money to do this, where are we going to get the money, and who's going to enforce it and see that the safety guidelines are being practiced. Of course it's going to be outdoors, but again what if everybody decides to come to Truth or Consequences that weekend, and all of a sudden there are more people here for our law enforcement to take care of. They're already stretched as it is, so we really need to look at it, and see how we're going to make this happen in a safe manner.

Commissioner Luna stated that we have made great progress since January 17th, and she believes there are some people out there who doubt the city staff, but she thinks this is the time for the City of T or C staff to shine like they've never shined before. She has a list of volunteers, and there's one man who's going to put together all of the outdoor music, and donate his equipment. The Fiesta's biggest bill the last five years has been a stage and sound equipment. She paid for the stage and sound equipment when it was in the in the Civic Center and it was astronomical. We have a man who is willing to put all of that together, and there are former Fiesta Board Members who have organized this and are eager and willing to work with the city staff to make it possible. She believes in city staff and she believes that we can make this happen.

Commissioner Luna made a motion for the city to move forward with planning a 2021 Fiesta and follow the safety guidelines mandated by the CDC guidelines. Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion/Action: Set Budget Meeting Dates:

Traci Alvarez, Acting City Manager explained that we are moving into the budget time of year, and we would like to set a date for a budget workshop. This would be for the department heads to come in and give their presentations to the Commission. It will probably be an all-day event, and we have some suggested dates which are May 4th, May 5th or May 6th.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to set a budget day for Wednesday, May 5, 2021. Commissioner Baca seconded the motion. Roll call was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion/Update: Water Leak Update:

Jesse Cole, Water/Wastewater Director gave an overview of the recent Cook Street Main Break. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

Mayor Whitehead issued certificates of appreciation to Jesse Cole, Brian Bean, Ramon Sanchez, Adrian Padilla, Luis Sanchez, Jesus Navarro, Leonides Martinez, Patrick

Loveall, Victor Valdez, Tim Hanna, and Jamie Sweeney who assisted in restoring our water during the Cook Street Main Break.

8. Discussion/Update: Emergency Price Justification for Broken Waterline Valve:

Traci Alvarez, Acting City Manager gave a brief overview of the Emergency Price Justification for Broken Waterline Valve. She stated that this item pertains to the leak described in Jesse's presentation. The emergency justification request form for this purchase is required to be posted to the city website and the state purchasing website. We put this item on the agenda for informational purposes only, in case the Commission had any questions regarding the emergency purchase.

9. Discussion/Update: Project List Update:

Traci Alvarez, Acting City Manager briefly reviewed the Project Status Report with the Commission. (Complete copy attached hereto and made a part hereof).

H. REPORTS:

Parks Supervisor Ryan Lawler gave an update regarding:

- We got direction from our Recreation Board to get public input regarding where a great location would be for Frisbee Golf. The sport is inexpensive, it can be played by anyone, it can be played alone, and it can be highly competitive or completely recreational. It also encourages tourism and economic growth. Some of these things that need to be looked at when designing a course is taking advantage of wide open existing vegetation terrain, which we have plenty of. We currently have 9 holes, but we need to have room for 18 holes, and the possibility to grow. The most important thing to consider is the safety. The Frisbees are not ordinary Frisbees. They are heavy, and they can break things. He put together a 3 step process to involve the community. First the city would pick out about 5 locations, and then the second step would ensue community involvement which can be put on the city Facebook page to do a polling system. No comments will be necessary. We will list the 5 locations, and the community can choose the best location. After that process is complete we can choose the course layout, and installation of baskets, appropriate signage, trash receptacles, and safe T boxes which will require some dirt work.

Community Development Director OJ Hechler gave an update regarding:

- As everyone knows we are in the turquoise, and hopefully it will stay that way. The capacity for turquoise mobile indoor recreation facilities is 50%, and the outdoor recreational facilities is 75%. We want to start opening up. He has a proposal letter from the softball league. They want to start softball league, but they want to start off small and do one or two games per week. On this proposal letter it states under three players are allowed in the dugout at one time, and they

must work masks, there will be limited fans in the in the bleachers, and they will social distance so he wants to start supporting that.

- He spoke with Kyle Blacklock yesterday, and we're ready to open the pool on the week of the 23rd. Kyle wants to do it, and he has a full time lifeguard hired including himself. They want to do lap swims in the morning, and open swims in the afternoon, Tuesday through Saturday. To start us off with that is two parts because we have the indoor facility, and the outdoor facility, and we have to monitor the locker room, and things of that nature.
- We're also ready to move forward with events at the rodeo arena and things of that nature so if somebody wants to come in and fill out a rental agreement, I think we're going to allow them to do that, but it comes with a lot more responsibility. When they sign that agreement they have to understand that if things start getting out of hand, then we need to address it in some way.

Acting City Manager Alvarez reported the following:

- We have heard the public's concerns regarding the water meter readings, especially with the recent leaks. The Utility Office Manager has implemented a procedure that will rotate the meter readers to different areas each month to ensure all meters are being read, and she herself will also be out in the field doing spot checks. Anyone with concerns regarding the water meter readings is encouraged to contact either the Utility Office, or they can contact my office as well.
- Over the last couple weeks there have been a few instances where some of our employees in the field have been verbally assaulted while on the job. They have been cussed at, followed, harassed, and in some cases had racial slurs directed towards them. She would like to remind the public that these people are employees that are just doing the job they were hired to do, and she would like to encourage those that have concerns or questions to please contact either the department directors, the City Manager or a City Commissioner to have these concerns or questions addressed.

City Attorney Rubin reported the following:

- He have met with Acting City Manager Alvarez, and a couple of other staff members to work out procedures for appeals. We think we have a pretty good formula at this point.

City Commission Reports:

Commissioner Aragon reported the following:

- He is glad that we are doing something with Fiesta and it is going to be done in a methodical fashion. He totally supports that.

Commissioner Baca reported the following:

- He thanked Jesse and his crew for everything they have done to get our water back on.

Commissioner Luna reported the following:

- She feels that the staff should be commended. There's over \$7 million worth of free money being poured into our infrastructure and the \$20,000 and some change that we approved for the application process today for the Police Department is free money every year, and before the USDA grant that was obtained that allows the purchase of vehicles. That money didn't go to purchase additional equipment to protect your lives that went for vehicles traditionally. She thinks that this Commission should acknowledge the staff. She knows Traci has spearheaded this, but it is not just Traci, she knows she will be the first to say everybody is on this team, and you guys are getting the short end of the stick and not enough credit for bringing \$7 million. I mean there are people I would run over to get to \$7 million of free money. She thinks every chance our taxpayers get to hammer us, they do that, but they never take a moment to thank this team for finding that free money. That's not money we're paying on our groceries or on our property taxes, or increased utility rates. That is free money coming in, and there's another \$8,000 being applied for out there if I'm reading this right. That \$7,000 is unmatched, so imagine what your household could do if you had \$15 million. I think a lot of us would quit our jobs, and we would be like Commissioner Baca and retired. She commends you guys because the work for the transparency is why we're getting hit, because we're finally putting out there hey we have this problem, you're going to get groundwater. Hey, you're not going to have water, I mean you guys are working seamlessly, and tirelessly to make that transparency happen, and you guys should be commended for that instead of getting beaten up for that. It's not fair, and she thinks that Traci said it perfectly. These are your neighbors, these are your friends, and these are your kids or your friend's kids. You guys are putting yourselves out there, and not for all the money in the world. Not for the \$15 million you're looking to bring into this community, or the legacy you're looking to leave. Remember when you're getting beat up on blogs and on social media that haters are going to hate. They have nothing better to do but sit there and hate, and you have a job to do. Take pride in that job, and remember for every one loud mouth there is out there hating, there are a 10,000 who are appreciative when they can turn the water on and they know it's you. You're putting your lives on the line, and that is what we're here for. She hopes that the Fiesta 2021 is the best thing yet, and she believe it will be because she believes in all of you. You are going to put your pride into it, and I think we have an amazing team, and a group of volunteers that are going to help put it together. Every term you guys have shown your true colors, and shown what you guys are made of. She hates that you guys keep getting beat up. Us Commissioners run to get beat up. We signed up to take this. You guys didn't so you shouldn't.
- As we leave today she would like to take a moment to remember Judge Reynolds who unexpectedly passed away over the weekend from an aneurysm. He was a great friend, and a great businessman of the city and the county, and he was a good Judge, and a fair Judge. He did a lot for the drug court program, and for a lot of our residents who needed help.

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister reported the following:

- We live in a world where we can pick up our phone and find out anything at a drop of a hat. It didn't used to be that way. We have asked for transparency, and we have asked to be updated, and when we get that we get beat for it. She thanked city staff for being transparent, and thank you for letting the citizens know what's going on. I know most of you have probably lived here a very long time. You are raising a family here, and she hates that people think that we are running this the city where we're faulting on our water, and faking it, and people are lying. That's just absurd to even believe because she wants our city to be better because she is raising her family here.
- Sports are happening at the high school, so you can come watch, we have football and volleyball games on Saturday. Attendance is lag. You can come and cheer on our Tigers.

Mayor Whitehead reported the following:

- She gave certificates of appreciation to the Water and Wastewater Department, but she also wanted to commend our staff. She knows we've had issues with electric and with water, but the last page Jesse Cole read in his presentation was perfect. That is what people should remember. We get up every day and we go to work because we like what we do, and if we don't like what we do, we may have to do it to take care of our families. We shouldn't have to be out there doing our jobs to be harassed and to be cussed at or be belittled because we are all human, and we all have to look out for each other. She asked that the last page of Jesse's presentation to be published and added to our website. This was a perfect saying, not only for Jesse's department, but for every person. If you think that we are doing something wrong, there is fixing to be an election in November, so throw your name into the hat and see if you get elected. We have a position for a City Manager so if you think you can top the City Manager submit your application. There are several boards that also need members. If you think you can do these jobs better or as good as, put your name in and volunteer for something. She commended all of our city employees, the City Attorney and Commission. We all do a great job and we all get hounded.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Pro-Tem Forrister moved to approve going into executive session at 11:15 a.m. to discuss Limited Personnel Matters Pursuant to 10-15-1(H.2). Commissioner Luna seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken by the Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Whitehead reconvened the meeting in open session at 11:30 a.m.

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

No action was taken.

J. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Passed and Approved this 24th day of March, 2021.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Angela A. Torres', written over a horizontal line.

Angela A. Torres, CMC, City Clerk

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Whitehead', written over a horizontal line.

Sandra Whitehead, Mayor