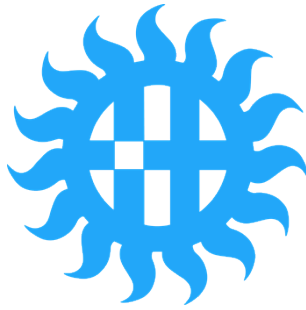




## **MINUTES**

### **City Council**

**Monday, August 3, 2026 @ 1:00 PM**

City Council Chambers, City Hall

**PRESENT:** Mayor Eric Enriquez, City Councilor Cassie McClure, City Councilor William Mattiace, City Councilor Michael Harris, City Councilor Johana Bencomo, City Councilor Becky Corran, and Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz

**ABSENT:**

**1. OPENING CEREMONIES**

**1.1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - COUNCILOR MCCLURE.**

**1.2 PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION/PROCLAMATIONS - COUNCILOR MCCLURE.**

None.

**1.3 DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS.**

Domonique Rodriguez, Assistant Utilities Director gave the overhead presentation

**1.4 PETS OF THE WEEK.**

Tonya Conway, Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley presented Pets of the Week.

**2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY BY MAYOR AS REQUIRED BY LCMC SECTION 2-27 (E)(2)**

**2.1**

None.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**3.1**

Liz Rodriguez-Johnson, Member of the Public said there is no safe level of lead in a human body. The Mayo Clinic says even small amounts of lead can cause serious

health problems. Children younger than age 6 are especially vulnerable to lead poisoning which can severely affect how a child's body grows and brain develops. According to EPA's Office of Water, lead in drinking water irreparably harms the health of children and adults and disproportionately impacts lower income communities and communities of color. When lead enters your body, it accumulates over time resulting in damage to the brain, nervous system, kidneys, and red blood cells, leading to anemia. Once in the body lead is distributed to organs including the brain, kidney, liver and bones. Lead stored in bone may be released into the blood during pregnancy and expose the fetus. Lead poisoning can be hard to detect. Even people who seem healthy can have high blood levels of lead. Symptoms usually don't appear until the amount of lead detected in the blood climbs to a dangerous level. Symptoms of lead poisoning in children include developmental delay learning difficulties, irritability, loss of appetite, weight loss, sluggishness and fatigue, abdominal pain, vomiting, constipation, hearing loss, and seizures. Low levels of exposure to lead can interfere with thought processes and lower children's IQ and cause attention and behavioral problems including hyperactivity. All which affect lifetime learning. Children with serious lead-related neurological impacts are less likely to graduate from high school and are more prone to delinquency, teen pregnancy, violent crime and incarceration. Pregnant women are at special risk. The lead they absorb crosses the placenta and enters the fetus. Babies exposed to lead before birth might be born early, have lower birth weight and/or have slow growth. Lead can also be transmitted through breast milk. Although children are primarily at-risk lead poisoning is also dangerous for adults. Symptoms in adults include high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, kidney impairment, immune or nervous system dysfunction, joint and muscle pain, difficulties of memory or concentration, headaches, abdominal pain, mood disorders, reduced sperm count, and abnormal sperm, miscarriages, stillbirth or premature births. Researchers who analyze EPA data reported a correlation between a community's racial composition, bad water and inadequate response to violations. Wealthier white communities which can afford to pay for pipe removal are more likely to benefit from lead pipe removal programs in our low income communities of color. These are the facts. It is also an appalling fact that we don't have a Utilities Department in Las Cruces that is doing an even halfway decent job of protecting us from lead in our drinking water.

Lynn Moorer, Member of the Public said experts agree that the only way to know if lead is in your drinking water is to have the water tested. As I reported to you last meeting lab reports for properties that have been tested in University Estates water system state plainly that several properties have lead that is above EPA's action level. The evidence is clear if you question the reliability of the lab reports take it up with the New Mexico State Lab which ran the samples. It is your choice if you ask to be lied to and ask for assurance that the lab reports don't say what they clearly do say but you are doing a serious disservice to your constituents when you choose to be in denial. You are betraying the trust of anyone who voted for you if you choose to turn a blind eye to the indisputable evidence that lead levels are higher than EPA's action level. The point of sampling drinking water is to find out what contaminants, if any are present in the water and if so if any are levels that EPA designates as dangerous to public health. If they are EPA prescribed steps that must be taken to address the high lead levels. Things can be done to address the problem if it is acknowledged. Simply because the city hasn't yet been named as defendant in a massive lawsuit for millions

of dollars of damages for its knowingly allowing the city's drinking water to become and remain contaminated with lead does not mean everything is fine. The Mayor's statement on the record at the last meeting that there is no problem with lead in our drinking water because no one has been hospitalized or died in the past 18 months is incredibly revealing about what kind of person occupies the Mayor's seat. It is unspeakably callous and colossally ignorant. The statement could be very useful for plaintiffs in any lawsuit against the city. This statement would not paint a favorable picture of Las Cruces city government regardless of other evidence on the record it will discourage the judge or jury from finding in the city's favor and the multi-million-dollar lawsuit brought against it for damages for knowingly harming water drinkers in Las Cruces. How does the Mayor know that no one has been hospitalized or died in the past 18 months from drinking city water? Does he receive a daily report? Who would have enough information to complete an incredible report? Medical studies show that lead poisoning and the negative effects of lead tend to build up over time. It is rare that a cause of death is unequivocally tied to lead poisoning. The fact is the Mayor doesn't actually know the extent that Las Cruces water drinkers are suffering negative health effects because of drinking lead and the fact that he made that assertion is thoroughly disingenuous and beneath contempt. I have heard from many many folks since last meeting who agree. We all think that Las Cruces water drinkers deserve much better from city government. We especially need a competent Director of Utilities with integrity unlike the one we currently have.

Charlotte Lipson, Member of the Public said I was surprised that the Deputy Utilities Director did not mention this public notice that I received in the mail this morning. It says, it is headlined, "Important information about your drinking water. Monitoring requirements not met for Las Cruces Municipal Water System. Our water system violated drinking water requirements over the past year. Even though this was not an emergency as our customers you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations. During November 2025, we failed to conduct required source water monitoring within the designated time frame following a total coliform positive sample and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time." Hopefully everybody will be receiving this in their mail in the next few days and study it. I would like to congratulate and commend Lynn Moorer and Liz Rodriguez-Johnson for calling attention to water issues.

Michael Amezcuita, Member of the Public said last month this republic celebrated its 250th year of independence as a nation under God. So, I thought it fitting to take this opportunity to refute the claims of a gentleman who spoke on the wall of separation between church and state in April to celebrate the so-called National Day of Reason. Wherein he said our founders identified religion as a threat to liberty. Nothing could be further from the truth. At least 50 of the 55 men who attended the constitutional convention in 1787 were men of Christian faith. This doesn't even include Benjamin Franklin who was a Deist. However, I will need to save this discussion for another time. I would like to focus on the misinterpretation of the meaning of the wall of separation of church and state. Most Americans think that this clause is in the US Constitution or the Declaration of Independence. It is not. Let me just read it. "Congress shall make no law representing an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof or bridging the freedom of speech, press, or right of people who can peacefully to assemble and to petition the government for any redress of

grievances.” Let me first say that I don’t believe that it is by any coincidence that the first clause of the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights pertains to religion of freedom. It is not about freedom from religion. So often context is in everything such as it is in this case. This term or phrase was first used by one of our founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson in a personal letter written January 1, 1802, which he was replying to a group of Baptist in Danbury, Connecticut. By the way Thomas Jefferson was not involved in writing the US Constitution although he was the author of Declaration of Independence. Actually during that time, he was serving as a US Administrative to France from 1785 to 1789. In 1801, nine years after the ratification of the First Amendment some states had state sponsored churches that were supported by taxes. In Connecticut the state sponsored denomination was the Congressional Church of Danbury Baptist Association and didn’t want their tax dollars going to congressional church so every year they petitioned to redirect their taxes to support the Baptist Church. Eventually they got tired of the hassle, and they asked the new President Jefferson for support. On January 1, 1802, Jefferson replied to the Danbury Baptist in part, I contemplate with sovereign reverence the act of the whole American people in which declared that their legislature should make no law respecting or establishing religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof thus building a wall of separation between church and state and since then many, well it is not until 1947 that the Supreme Court invoked this clause in which a series of US Supreme Court decisions basically remove prayer and Ten Commandments from our public schools and we have seen what that has resulted in.

Derrick Pacheco, Member of the Public said I realize something that has been stewing for a minute and that is that Councilor Bencomo is the most dangerous person in Las Cruces. She is an oppressor. She absolutely will not give the time of day to important conversations, she avoids it. So let me start off with some props. These are 3 ½ inch floppy diskettes. This is how long I have been into tech. This one here is a Polaroid Polaview LCD panel disc for Macintosh. I got this from the Mesquite School District. Where I was brought into elementary school as a teenager to help train the teachers there because they got mounds of technology including these touch screen adapters for their Apple products that they were never trained on. Sound familiar? Sounds like Project Jupiter. Let’s give all these kids a bunch of tech, satisfy the news and then move on because we don’t really care about the kids. Here is a piece of software I wrote, it’s call Simple Mac. I wrote it when I was a teenager. I wrote a new software and I have been a developer for a while. I will just address the public instead. You can all go to my newest project. It is called [borderlandmail.com](http://borderlandmail.com). It is a government transparency tool that I built over the course of three days using Claude code, using the latest soul build of ChatGPT that is on limited release and I am importing each and every one of your mailboxes and phone records and all of your conversations that you try to keep secret for your secret select meetings stuff. It is all in there. So, government transparency starts today and I am a proud advocate of it. Moving right along I brought some rainwater that I collected personally, not off my roof but without interruption and I used this. This is a pH meter. The rainwater here is close to 10 pH. That is too alkaline for plants and for fish. We have a big problem on our hands. It starts with community conversation. It starts with conversation about mass surveillance and Flock. It starts with conversation about water and everything else will fall into place. But I urge you to do better Councilor Bencomo, because you are not fooling anyone. You already heard from the audience, you are hearing from

me now. Do better.

Jim Hoerst, Member of the Public said wow, I get to talk about separation of church and state again. Contrary to the previous remarks, the phrase separation of church and state was common in the American and political dialogue. It was started by a man named Roger Williams. Roger Williams thought that the state corrupted the church and that the church corrupted the state and that they should be separate. If you bother to read Roger Williams sermons and he gave many of them, Roger Williams referred to a hedge around the vineyard. The vineyard was the church. The hedge was a wall so Roger Williams thought that God put a wall, a hedge around the vineyard, the church and then when the state or the church violated that wall it was violating the will of God and damaging the church. Roger Williams was also unique in that he bought land from the Indians, Native Americans and he advocated dealing with them justly and like Christians. Most Americans didn't have that point of view. Nonetheless, Jefferson and Monroe and many other of our founders and they are called our founders because like in any movement we had leaders and our leaders were the radicals. They were the Jeffersons and the Franklins and the Monroes. They didn't think like everybody else. Everyone else was going to build an England in America. Jefferson was going to build America in America. His close friend Thomas Paine talked about starting the world anew and that is what we did in America and part of that starting the world anew was putting religion in its place. Giving it no political power. No office, no recognition by the government. That is what separation of church means. You cannot establish religion in America by the government. That is what separation of church and state means, and we are the first country to do it. It is what is unique about us. Keep it that way.

Tim Jenkins, Member of the Public said today I am not here to criticize or ask for change. Today I am simply here to express my sincere gratitude. Last week's town hall meeting was a reminder of what good government should look like. Every one of you took time out of your busy schedule to come together, listen to the concerns of your constituents, answer difficult questions and engage in meaningful conversation with the people you were elected to serve. Whether everyone agreed or disagreed on every issue is not what mattered most. What mattered was your willingness to show up, to listen and to be present for this community. Public service is often a thankless job. It requires long hours, difficult decisions and the willingness to stand in the middle of passionate disagreements. So today I simply wanted to say thank you for your time, your dedication and your continued commitment to the people of Las Cruces. I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the men and women of the Las Cruces Police Department. Every day they put on the uniform knowing they may be called into dangerous and unprecedented situations, yet they continue to answer the call with professionalism, courage and compassion. While most of us are heading away from danger they are running towards it to protect complete strangers. This week our Police Department reached an incredible milestone by earning CALEA accreditation after more than three years of tireless work and dedication. This is not simply another certificate to hang on a wall. It represents thousands of hours of training, public improvements, accountability and a commitment to meeting the highest professional standards in law enforcement. It reflects a department that continually strives to improve and better serve the people of our community. To Chief Jeremy Story, the command staff, every officer, dispatcher, civilian employee and

support staff, please know that your hard work has not gone unnoticed. This accreditation is something our entire community can be proud of and each of you has earned our respect and appreciation. In a world where criticism often speaks louder than gratitude I believe it is equally important to recognize excellence when we see it. So today I simply say thank you to our city council for your service to this community and to the Las Cruces Police Department for your unwavering dedication, sacrifice and commitment to keeping our city safe. May we continue working together to make Las Cruces safer for all.

Tomas Stevens, Member of the Public said I was born in Philly, I was raised in the southern borderland and my German ancestry assimilated in World War II and World War I to the American liberty that I am going to speak about today. Revelation Chapter 1, Verse 3, Blessed is he that readeth and he that heareth the words of this prophesy and keep those things which are written there in for the time is at hand. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, City Council, for your oath of office of the United States Constitution in the Bill of Rights. I think the supreme judge of the world for our founding principles and his inalienable rights to every person on the planet but especially to my country the United States of America. Thank you, Las Cruces Police Department, for laying down your life for the protection of the citizens of our city even though many hate you for it. You are just like my Lord Jesus Christ, greater love have no man then this then a man laid down his life for his friends. I love my city of Las Cruces. We are at the crossroads. I love the symbol of the three crosses. I love the cross in the center the best. The word of God speaking through Isaiah prophet, Isaiah 53:12, Because he hath poured out his soul into death and he was numbered with the transgressors and he bear the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors. The powers that be the city has removed the center cross of Jesus Christ. Without the cross of Christ in the center all that is left are the transgressors lost in darkness and the condemnation of their sin waiting on judgement. The current symbol of the son of Egypt surrounding the two crosses of the transgressors is blatant rebellion and apostasy of the blood of Christ and the power of his resurrection. Without the center cross of the Lord Jesus Christ in the middle there is no blessed hope. The current symbol on the outside of the city defies Christ Jesus of my bible. On the mountain side in Juarez are these words, La Biblia es Verdad. Meaning lea la, meaning the bible is truth. Read it. I took that Mexican's advice and encourage you to do the same. From 2008 to 2013, I worked the city. This is when our city patch said Character Counts on the patch and still had the cross of Christ on the center of the two crosses. Solidarity is defined as having the same cause and purpose. Finally in conclusion to all that have ears to hear in this room let me say that the apostle Peter, the Saint Peter Chapter 2, brother Peter referred to Noah as a preacher of righteousness. To the center cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, Noah preached with liberty to those on the other outside of the arc of salvation. Noah preached we are not judging you. Judgement is coming. It is going to rain, the door of faith of Christ Jesus, the Arc of God salvation is still open to all men not just some until it is not. Come, get on board. The invitation is the same as it ever was. Revelation 22:17, The spirit of the bride say come, and let him that heareth say, come and he that thirst come and whosoever take the water of life freely. Just like Eddie did. November 25th, he trusted the same Jesus, November 2025, he trusted the same Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as I did in 1979 and it showed up on the doorstep, hallelujah. The powers must be true to the founding principles of liberty provided by our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

They are given by the supreme judge of the world in our Declaration of Independence in 1776 and ratified in our Constitution and Bill of Rights in the year of our Lord amen 1787, say his name. Jesus Christ, the Lord Jesus Christ, our Lord. He is the cross in the center. My prayer, our father who are in heaven, I thank thee that I can only call you my father. Blood of Jesus by the power of his resurrection in one mediator between God and man I pray you are born again blood wash remnant church in this world today that would be salt and light shine for the honor and glory the cross and the sinner and the mighty name of the Lord Jesus Christ the king of kings we praise you in Jesus name be lifted up. Amen.

#### **4. READ CLOSED MEETING STATEMENT**

##### **4.1 READ AUGUST 3, 2026 CLOSED MEETING STATEMENT INTO THE RECORD.**

The Las Cruces City Council met in closed session and only discussed those limited items as stated in the posted notice:

To discuss pending or threatened litigation regarding Brandon Barron, et al. v. City of Las Cruces, et al., D-307-cv-2023-02217, which is closed pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(7).

To discuss pending or threatened litigation regarding Francisca Clifton v. the City of Las Cruces et al., Cause No. D-307-cv-2025-370, which is closed pursuant to NMSA 1978. Section 10-15-1(H)(7).

To discuss pending or threatened litigation regarding Gabriel Padilla v. City of Las Cruces et al., Cause No. D3-307-cv-2025-3295, which is closed pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(7).

To discuss pending or threatening litigation regarding City of Las Cruces and Dona Ana County v. the Lofts at Alameda LLC; American Linen Supply of New Mexico, Inc.; Rawson Leasing Limited Liability Co.; and Chisholm's Village Plaza L.L.C, Case No. 17-809 JCH/GBW, which is closed pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(7).

#### **5. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

**City Councilor Michael Harris moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz, to accept the agenda as presented.**

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>Carried</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | City Councilor Michael Harris                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Mayor Eric Enriquez, City Councilor Cassie McClure, City Councilor William Mattiace, City Councilor Michael Harris, City Councilor Johana Bencomo, City Councilor Becky Corran, and Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz |

#### **6. CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

**6.1 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 6, 2026.**

**6.2 WORK SESSION OF JULY 13, 2026.**

**7. RESOLUTION(S) AND/OR ORDINANCE(S) FOR CONSENT AGENDA**

**7.1 RESOLUTION NO. 27-019: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES (CITY) TO CONSOLIDATE THE FUNDING FOR SHARED ENGINEERING SERVICES THROUGH AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY'S ADOPTED FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2026-27 BUDGET.**

**8. RESOLUTION(S) AND/OR ORDINANCE(S) FOR DISCUSSION**

**8.1 RESOLUTION NO. 27-020: A RESOLUTION TO AWARD A FIVE (5) YEAR LEASE WITH UPPER VALLEY INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF EL PASO, TEXAS COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2026 FOR THE LAS CRUCES FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING FACILITY LOCATED AT 1670 SOUTH VALLEY DRIVE IN LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO IN AN INITIAL AMOUNT OF \$192,000 ANNUALLY, INCREASING \$24,000 EVERY TWO YEARS, FOR A FINAL ANNUAL LEASE TOTAL OF \$240,000 (PROCUREMENT NO. 25-26-113).**

Virginia Barela, Buyer II gave the overhead presentation.

Councilor Harris asked what is the approximate square footage of that facility?

Virginia Barela said the square footage is approximately 22,000 square feet and it is on approximately five acres of land.

Councilor Harris said I guess for that price I guess that size seems like a reasonable rate compared to the rest of the market. So, for like improvements wise, are there any improvements that need to be done to the facility for the next five years? Is the landlord going to take care of those? Are we going to take care of those?

Tibor Kocsis, Deputy Fire Chief said between the two leases there were some improvements done by the landlord. Enclosing one of the bay areas and providing a little bit more square footage with the shop. Outside of that there are some other things that we would like to do but being mindful of the budget and everything we didn't want to increase the rent to that so yes some of that is temperature control, increased temperature control\ in the shop area.

Councilor Harris asked is that something that we are going to forgo?

DC Tibor Kocsis said we are dealing with it in a temporary situation. Understanding that this is a lease and limiting some of the funds that we can use to improve the building. We are going to be utilizing some temporary measures.

Councilor Harris asked this is the first of the two five-year extension options?

DC Tibor Kocsis said this is your first renewal option, correct.

Councilor Harris asked the general hope is that maybe in five years we might be out of there and into a new training facility?

DC Tibor Kocsis said that is correct. There are some options kicking around on trying to explore different avenues.

Councilor Mattiace said I am optimistic like Chief Daniels. Let's say that you get a new facility, what is the end of the lease provision? I mean let's say that you go out in three years or four years, some big money comes down and we start our own training facility is there an end of lease? Do we have to pay the whole five years if we leave early?

Virginia Barela said there is a termination clause that is in the lease. I would have to go back into the lease and pull up what the actual termination clause to see if there are any early end of lease penalties to be able to answer to that question but we can provide that at a later time once we are able to pull up that specific clause.

Councilor Mattiace said if you could just share it with us on an email.

Mayor Enriquez asked I know that it has plenty of acreage, the size, the area but as far as the facility itself is it adequate for the academies and the continuing training and education for the firefighters?

DC Tibor Kocsis said adequate is kind of a subjective term. There is ideal situations that having the academy located in one spot, providing them with showers and facilities so that after PT they can go and get ready for the day and then being able to PT and then drill in the central location limiting the back and forth from the training facility out by the training tower out by the airport would be an ideal situation for the Fire Department.

Mayor Enriquez said I know at one time there was maybe an option to purchase that site. Is that still part of the negotiating with the owners or are we looking at just the five year of leasing?

DC Tibor Kocsis said there has been discussion about purchasing the property not necessarily for the training facility aspect. Locating the training facility out by the airport would be an ideal situation but for a logistics component, a hub and possibly running an ambulance company out of that location is what we are looking at so as far as the facility goes having a location in the city makes it better for logistics being able to bring the apparatus there for regular PMs or any kind of work the fleet needs to do, our locations of our medical supplies, our medications, and all of the EMS equipment, our bunker gear, our uniforms are all located in a central location. That makes it more feasible and better location logistically so actually we are looking at separating the two. Moving the training facility out by the training tower and keeping that facility if possible as a logistics station.

Mayor Enriquez asked remind me again of how this is funded?

DC Tibor Kocsis said everything is funded through the general fund.

**City Councilor Becky Corran moved, seconded by City Councilor Michael Harris, to Approve Resolution No. 27-020.**

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>Carried</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | City Councilor Becky Corran                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | City Councilor Michael Harris                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Mayor Eric Enriquez, City Councilor Cassie McClure, City Councilor William Mattiace, City Councilor Michael Harris, City Councilor Johana Bencomo, City Councilor Becky Corran, and Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz |

## **8.2     RESOLUTION NO. 27-021: A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FY2027 - 2032 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM.**

Cynthia Alamillo, CIP Manager gave the overhead presentation.

Katherine Harrison-Rogers, Parks Plan & Construction Administrator continued the overhead presentation.

Natalie Green, Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization Administrator continued the overhead presentation.

Councilor Harris said I would like to say that I appreciate the inclusion of the pictures. I think that when we are looking at these capital improvement projects it is very helpful for us to actually be able to see what is going on and kind of see what were are up against and what we need to fix. I think this is a good thing. All of these projects sound great. I would ask because I brought up overspending on another roof project before. So, the \$800,000 to fix this roof is a lot of money to fix a roof. So about how big is it?

Natalie Green said it is about 13,000 square feet.

Councilor Harris said it still feels a lot, but I guess my question is more maybe this is a City Manager question or another department's question. When we actually go out to bid are we expecting people to actually bid to that amount? Are we expecting them to bid more? And how do those bids compare to similar commercial jobs? If Community of Hope were on their own, they had raised some money and they had their own purchasing to go out and fix their own roof, I understand it is our building, this is a hypothetical question. Are we paying a government premium is what I am trying to get at?

Jimmy Moreno, Assistant Director of Public Works said typically when we have beginning estimates at this time it includes, there is a premium for it being government work because of the prevailing wages, all of the additional items, the standards and everything else, codes that we put on these buildings but these costs also include contingency cost, they are always on the higher estimate because we don't want to have to come back or if we are applying for grant money we don't want to be short on that grant so it typically includes everything on the higher end and especially unknowns as well. So, a lot of the time the cost for the roof is typically a lot less

because once we get in there we determine that the base doesn't need to be replaced and so we will go ahead and do that at the time of construction. So typically, they are always on the high end, but we always try to get the best bang for the buck with the city dollars.

Councilor Munoz asked how old is the roof? Did you say 20 years?

Natalie Green said it is under 20 years. It was built in 2002, but I will have to go back and double check.

Councilor Munoz asked what is the mark up for the contingency cost? Is that 10%, 5%?

Natalie Green said it depends on the project type. It is typically 10%. Although I have seen in roadway projects, they are a little more volatile, it is closer to 20 but if I got it wrong Jimmy will correct me. But I believe the contingency requirements live within our procurement code and the maximum contingency is 20%.

Jimmy Moreno said it can range from up to 0 to 20%. Our procurement code limits at 20% and that is usually for higher risk at the 20% and typically most projects is 5 to 10%.

Councilor Munoz said it does seem high. I do also think that it is important to take care of our equipment and our facilities in a timely manner. I am not a fan of deferred maintenance. I think that you pay now or you really pay a whole lot more later if you don't take care and properly maintain a building, so I appreciate the work that is going on this and curious to see what the final numbers are with the repair of the roof.

**City Councilor Becky Corran moved, seconded by City Councilor Michael Harris, to Approve Resolution No. 27-021.**

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>Carried</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | City Councilor Becky Corran                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | City Councilor Michael Harris                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Mayor Eric Enriquez, City Councilor Cassie McClure, City Councilor William Mattiace, City Councilor Michael Harris, City Councilor Johana Bencomo, City Councilor Becky Corran, and Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz |

**8.3 RESOLUTION NO. 27-022: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RIO GRANDE THEATRE FOR INCLUSION IN THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES REGISTER OF CULTURAL PROPERTIES. (CPD2026-001)**

Caitlin Beesley, Historic Preservation Specialist gave the overhead presentation.

Caitlin Beesley said yes. I pointed that out in the last in the Historic Preservation Committee meeting, but I wasn't sure anyone would pick up on it.

Councilor Harris asked I noticed that the Railroad Museum earlier this year we are talking about preventative maintenance and things of that nature and so the question

is does this historic designation make it more challenging to do things like replace the door or replace the roof?

Caitlin Beesley said for the city owned buildings it does not impact them at all. They are already required to go through design review with the Historic Preservation Committee. There are requirements as to what types of materials can be used when we do work like replacing roofs or doing interior work. But again, that is part of why my position exists and why the Historic Preservation Committee exists as well. The process for the city owned property it does not impact them at all. The two city owned buildings that were nominated this year are already under an overlay ordinance that requires them to go through design review so they are not impacted as well, however that may change in the future. We may nominate privately owned buildings that would require their owners to go through design review and that is part of why we are acknowledging these buildings' history. Part of designating them is stating to the public that we view these buildings as important and worthy of preservation and so it is important to maintain what those material connections that make the building's story apparent to everybody.

Councilor Mattiace asked would you be willing, you know the History Club does presentations at the Good Samaritan and I think they are starting it up in late August or September, would you be willing to give this presentation if I get a hold of you and set it up?

Caitlin Beesley said I am giving a presentation on local historic buildings to the Dona Ana County Historical Society. I believe that is in November. I will get back to you. I would love to talk more about these buildings.

Councilor Mattiace said it is really great stuff you know. I really appreciate your presentation today.

Councilor McClure said I know you worked hard, you Caitlin but also the Historic Preservation Committee that has moved a lot of this forward and showed how the city wants to value its history. I think a lot of people kind of gloss that over, but it is something very fundamental to the core of who we are and where we are going. What does it look like to save these buildings? What does it look like to take care of them? I really appreciate the hard work that you and the committee have done over the past year.

Councilor Munoz said I want to thank you for preserving our history and culture. What is the process of this? Is this a yearly process or quarterly process? How do you go about nominating or looking at a specific property?

Caitlin Beesley said for now we are trying to make it more of an annual thing. Part of it is bringing attention in one big Historic Preservation Committee meeting and then at City Council as opposed to individually throughout the year. So that is one thing that we are aiming to do moving forward. The process has been very time-consuming. I have participated with nominations to the national register, and I know that it is a very time-consuming process regardless of what historic register nomination is going

towards. For the local level I would say, especially for these properties the amount of information that we have for most of them is staggering so part of it is writing it and putting it together into one document. Of course we left out things. Everybody has a story with all of these buildings I think and unfortunately, we couldn't capture everything, but I hope that we did a good enough job.

Mayor Enriquez said thank you very much for acknowledging and preserving our history here in Las Cruces. It was a wonderful presentation.

**City Councilor Becky Corran moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz, to suspend the rules to listen to items 8.3 to 8.7 concurrently.**

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>Carried</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | City Councilor Becky Corran                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Mayor Eric Enriquez, City Councilor Cassie McClure, City Councilor William Mattiace, City Councilor Michael Harris, City Councilor Johana Bencomo, City Councilor Becky Corran, and Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz |

**City Councilor Johana Bencomo moved, seconded by City Councilor Michael Harris, to Approve Resolution No. 27-022.**

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|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>Carried</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | City Councilor Johana Bencomo                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | City Councilor Michael Harris                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Mayor Eric Enriquez, City Councilor Cassie McClure, City Councilor William Mattiace, City Councilor Michael Harris, City Councilor Johana Bencomo, City Councilor Becky Corran, and Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz |

**8.4     RESOLUTION NO. 27-023: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BRANIGAN CULTURAL CENTER FOR INCLUSION IN THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES REGISTER OF CULTURAL PROPERTIES. (CPD2026-002)**

**City Councilor Becky Corran moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz, to Approve Resolution No. 27-023.**

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|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>Carried</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | City Councilor Becky Corran                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Mayor Eric Enriquez, City Councilor Cassie McClure, City Councilor William Mattiace, City Councilor Michael Harris, City Councilor Johana Bencomo, City Councilor Becky Corran, and Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz |

**8.5     RESOLUTION NO. 27-024: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LAS CRUCES RAILROAD MUSEUM TO THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES REGISTER OF CULTURAL PROPERTIES. (CPD2026-003)**

**City Councilor Becky Corran moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz, to Approve Resolution No. 27-024.**

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|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>Carried</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | City Councilor Becky Corran                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Mayor Eric Enriquez, City Councilor Cassie McClure, City Councilor William Mattiace, City Councilor Michael Harris, City Councilor Johana Bencomo, City Councilor Becky Corran, and Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz |

**8.6     RESOLUTION NO. 27-025: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CLARA BELLE WILLIAMS PROPERTY FOR INCLUSION IN THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES REGISTER OF CULTURAL PROPERTIES. (CPD2026-004)**

**City Councilor William Mattiace moved, seconded by City Councilor Michael Harris, to Approve Resolution No. 27-025.**

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|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>Carried</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | City Councilor William Mattiace                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | City Councilor Michael Harris                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Mayor Eric Enriquez, City Councilor Cassie McClure, City Councilor William Mattiace, City Councilor Michael Harris, City Councilor Johana Bencomo, City Councilor Becky Corran, and Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz |

**8.7     RESOLUTION NO. 27-026: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PHILLIPS CHAPEL C.M.E. CHURCH FOR INCLUSION IN THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES REGISTER OF CULTURAL PROPERTIES. (CPD2026-005)**

**Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz moved, seconded by City Councilor Becky Corran, to Approve Resolution No. 27-026.**

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|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>Carried</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | City Councilor Becky Corran                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Mayor Eric Enriquez, City Councilor Cassie McClure, City Councilor William Mattiace, City Councilor Michael Harris, City Councilor Johana Bencomo, City Councilor Becky Corran, and Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz |

**9.     BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

**9.1     COUNCILOR MUNOZ IS APPOINTED TO THE METRO NARCOTICS BOARD.**

**9.2     TANNER GUSKEY**

**City Councilor Michael Harris moved, seconded by City Councilor Becky Corran, to appoint Tanner Guskey to the Historic Preservation Committee.**

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|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>Carried</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | City Councilor Michael Harris                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | City Councilor Becky Corran                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Mayor Eric Enriquez, City Councilor Cassie McClure, City Councilor William Mattiace, City Councilor Michael Harris, City Councilor Johana Bencomo, City Councilor Becky Corran, and Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz |

**9.3     SANTOS HERNANDEZ**

**City Councilor Michael Harris moved, seconded by City Councilor Becky Corran, to appoint Santos Hernandez to the ADA Advisory Committee.**

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|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>Carried</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | City Councilor Michael Harris                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | City Councilor Becky Corran                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Mayor Eric Enriquez, City Councilor Cassie McClure, City Councilor William Mattiace, City Councilor Michael Harris, City Councilor Johana Bencomo, City Councilor Becky Corran, and Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz |

**9.4     GENNIFER GATES**

**Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz moved, seconded by City Councilor Michael Harris,**

**to reappoint Gennifer Gates to the ASCMV.**

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|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>Carried</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | City Councilor Michael Harris                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Mayor Eric Enriquez, City Councilor Cassie McClure, City Councilor William Mattiace, City Councilor Michael Harris, City Councilor Johana Bencomo, City Councilor Becky Corran, and Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz |

**10. NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE(S)**

- 1) There will be no public discussion.
- 2) A Councilor may ask staff for clarification on the proposed ordinance(s).

**10.1 COUNCIL BILL NO. 27-005; ORDINANCE NO. 3121: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT FROM NH-1.S (NEIGHBORHOOD-1 SUBURBAN) TO CR.S (COMMERCIAL/RETAIL SUBURBAN) FOR A PROPERTY ENCOMPASSING APPROXIMATELY 0.987 ACRES IN SIZE AND LOCATED AT 1240 S. VALLEY DRIVE. SUBMITTED BY JAKE REDFEARN, REPRESENTATIVE, ON BEHALF OF CHINOOK PACIFIC CORP., PROPERTY OWNER. (26ZO0500037)**

Council agreed to bring it forward.

**11. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENT**

**11.1 COUNCILOR MCCLURE**

I wanted to give my thanks to the Garrison Command at White Sands Missile Range. Councilor Mattiace, Councilor Harris and myself went out to talk about what collaboration might look like going forward. There used to be a very strong sort of bond between the city and White Sands Missile Range. In particular help for their Bataan Memorial Death March. They need volunteers. This is going to be my first plug for this. There might be other opportunities as well but that is going to be more of city led thing than perhaps even in council led thing.

I also just wanted to talk about just briefly my 5th police ride along. It has been the 4th one that I did with Las Cruces Police. In particular going along to witness the nuisance and abatement team as they checked a house and what is happening there and just recognizing that it is such a difficult job to make things sure are up to code but to also give a lot of grace to the people who are trying to. It is not an easy job, and I just very much thank them for doing what they do. We saw also a lot of other different things. This was Councilor Harris and Mayor Pro Tem Munoz and I went in separate vehicles to different locations here in town just to kind of get a sense of it which has been different to what I have done in the past where you ride along with somebody for a couple of hours and just encounter what happens. This was a little bit more dedicated to seeing what happens all over town and what they see especially from a community engagement perspective.

It was a police heavy week because we also had the town hall as well and I thought that was an interesting chance to kind of listen to a wide variety of requests. I just sent off an email saying the dog park lighting is one thing you know that we are worried about but then a more sort of philosophical conversation happened about someone

who had just moved here and they had their car broken into and this was a couple of years ago and they couldn't leave and they didn't know anybody in town. So, they couldn't leave their car. They couldn't get anywhere and as much as I always hear we are very friendly town, but it takes a long time for you to establish a network of people that you can trust and rely on, and I think we can be that. I will send that email to Chief Story at some point later this week. What can that look like? Can the community advocates reach out if they know hey like we have like a bunch of different options and other calls, can we have community advocates basically say, hey is there anything you need right now because it is going to take our officers a little bit longer to get to you. So, things like that made that pretty valuable. I also want to give kudos to Lt. Bradley who the table next to us was working with someone who was very in his feels and then at the very end he said I usually walk away from this very agitated, very angry and I felt better today and I thought that was a win even if we couldn't solve it in that moment.

Lastly, I just want to give a short kudos to Utilities. Partially because I work more from home in general and I just want to say that there is a lot of work that happens that we don't see and the one that I got reminded of is that I have a 70-year-old palm tree and we have fronds that come off all the time. I put them in a little stack, and they came and they took it all away. Better than that, they pulled the whole thing up and they said you know what there is a couple more fronds and we will pick them up. They didn't have to. They could have just said, well it's one per go. No, they do that extra effort, and I think there is a lot of conversation about Utilities where we don't recognize if it doesn't happen it doesn't happen for us and it makes our city less and it makes our quality of life less. So, I want to thank Utilities and send my thanks back to you for doing the things that people just don't see.

## **11.2 COUNCILOR MATTIACE**

I would like to comment on that town hall as well. It was very informative. It was very good for me to hear from constituents. There is still a lot of crap and crime going on. We have had people complaining about their mailboxes getting ripped off and some vandalisms, some aggressive behavior at different places in the city of Las Cruces but we are addressing it, but I think what was common in their comments was the repeat offenders. In other words, all these folks they knew these people had just done it before, come back out and they do it again. Done it and they do it again. They just keep coming back committing the same vandalism, committing the same problems. Maybe Chief Story can get with council. Maybe we can have a Work Session on this, but these repeat offenders have to be arrested. Somehow it just has to stop. They just can't keep going out to the city and vandalizing, stealing people's mail and things like that so that was an eye opener getting comments really from the people that have been victimized and they are victims and their properties getting damaged and the trucks are getting stolen and so maybe we could address the repeat offender system. Maybe somebody, Ikani, Brad, or somebody can sit with me and tell me what is happening in the courts and all of that. Why do some of these people have 15,20,30 arrests or they don't get arrested they just get slapped on the hand and back out on the streets, maybe we could address that.

I would like to thank some people, Jimmy Moreno, David Sedillo, Sonya Delgado. I am sorry I email you so often about fixing this and potholes there, broken that, trees

taken down, some wires and all. Every time I call, I just want to say thank you for really quick response and these neighbors have called me and they are really impressed with how quick you all are fixing things so I just want to say I appreciate you and I will just keep emailing you.

On the third item it is kind of a sensitive item. I have been getting calls about these violations that we have had. The open meetings violations and of course they were kind of okay by the Justice Department that they weren't violations but when I went through all of these public safety, the secret select committee meetings and I want to thank Christine for being so honest and getting me as much as I can, I couldn't get any discussion by the way but when you look at the topics that were discussed by people like Gabe Vasquez, Miyagishima, Gill Sorg, we have had some attendees and they were attending because of course the Mayor put it together and said let's get together, it is not a quorum because it is just two of you and they discussed things like the liability fund, the DWI, cannabis, strategic plan for the future, future budget for the City of Las Cruces, body cam changes, the Civil Rights Act, they even had Larry Horan come in and speak, they talked about homelessness, citizen police oversight board, I think one of the former Police Chiefs attended it. I believe Dominguez, none of this was done in a Work Session and I just want to say, I just really want to thank our Mayor now, Eric that we got to repeal this kind of nonsense and Chad and everyone and now we are transparent and now we are doing everything in Work Sessions so if there is any people out there you don't have to keep emailing me or coming up to me saying what are you going to do about those private meetings? They were handled, they got a decision from the State of New Mexico that they weren't in a IPRA violation. Christine cleaned it up, got it to where it is legal, transparent and it is all good and I think with this particular council as Corran said most of us did not attend any of these meetings. We are new to this system of transparency, and we will stay that way.

### **11.3 COUNCILOR HARRIS**

The first thing that I want to remind people about is that we are ongoing in the strategic plan public input meetings. The one for District 3 is tomorrow evening at Lynn Middle School so I hope to see you there.

It has been a busy couple of weeks for meetings and tours and stuff. So, I also want to thank the staff at WSMR for inviting us down and also for taking us through the museum and seeing what they are doing there. We just had a history presentation that was all quite interesting. LCPD, community outreach officers for ride along. That was also very eye opening and good to see some of the stuff that we are dealing with and also last week I went with Councilor Corran to South Central Solid Waste which speaking of invisible tasks that get done every day and if they don't get done the city would completely fall apart. That is right up there with them. It was great to see the staff was all extremely proud of the things they do, extremely knowledgeable. That operation is very professionally run, and it was just very interesting and great to see what we are doing there. As a reminder, please keep recyclables in their recycling bin and pay attention to the little sign on top. It causes everybody great strife when there is contamination in those bins.

On the police town hall, one of the big issues that actually came up in the District 3

table was traffic. We have several very high-speed roads in there and everyone kind of comes to these things with different perspectives and different concerns but that was a common theme this whole District 3 table. People are concerned about kids waiting for school buses, crossing Roadrunner to get to the school and the officers were very upfront that enforcement doesn't really solve the problem and that is why people were there at the Police Department town hall to ask for was more traffic enforcement and they are like hey, we can do that and it affects the people who get tickets and the people who see other people getting tickets and anyone who wasn't in that area at the time doesn't get effected and so fundamentally we need to continue to look beyond that and the structural issues that are in our roads and built environments when Public Works is considering new roads or extending roads you know maybe we don't need the third lane. Maybe that third lane should be a dedicated bus lane and really just trying to get on top of this issue at the root. Likewise, there is things that can be done within neighborhoods. One of the neighborhoods in District 3 where there is almost people have certainly almost run into walls all the time, those walls are now brightly painted with lovely murals from that the neighborhood put together to maybe remind you to stop at the stop sign. So, there is other interesting things that we can do you know instead of just putting this whole burden on the Police Department because we have 587 miles of roads, that was a very specific number so don't quote me on that, and officers can't be everywhere all the time.

Finally, this came up in the last Work Session and it also came up a little bit at the town hall but the use of surveillance technologies by the police by other places within the city. I think we have some policies our department has been thinking about it. They are working on some transparency measures to make sure that people know what these technologies are, what the cameras really are looking at, what they can and cannot do and I appreciate those efforts and I also think that we should be looking forward to comprehensive city level policies on just how the city is going to navigate these new technologies. Not just police, everyone uses these things. It's Building Services, Economic Development, it's Parks & Rec, it's Traffic. It's a big thing.

#### **11.4 COUNCILOR BENCOMO**

I am excited to hear a couple of trends come out of the LCPD town hall meeting, which again I also want to express my gratitude for the invitation. I especially want to thank Lt. Austin and Sgt. Rogers, I think we made a pretty good team. I actually wanted to go through my list of a couple of things folks brought up because I thought it was a great set up to be able to have conversations with folks and for community members to get to know each other. There is faces there that come to everything and there was people there that were like this is my first one of these ever. It was very community building but folks brought up someone who is at the senior programs who talks who said often seniors are complaining about the lack of response from the non-emergency number which I think is very good kind of feedback to receive. I know that we have had issues with that in the past, with the 911 and the non-emergency numbers but I wanted to lift that up as it continues to happen. A neighbor from the Casa Linda neighborhood who is requesting more drainage support from all of the waters and so David I think we just put some of those neighborhoods on a priority list to often check back in after heavy rains. Folks brought up issues of safety at parks for example and it is truly interesting when I have conversations with people face to face,

more in one to one or in a face to face type of conversation even though someone might automatically want to go to criminalization in the moment they are sort of provided with alternatives like increased outreach and peer to peer support programs people are really open to that and so I found that really encouraging a way to have conversations with people that move away from just solely criminalization. We had someone there that was a behavioral health expert and she was there with Soteria House who provide mental health services for community. A woman who asked about ICE enforcement and kind of LCPDs role and so Lt. Austin was able to reiterate our city policy, issues of traffic safety and pedestrian safety came up and I think to your point Councilor Harris this is one of the things multiple folks brought up as being issues in their neighborhoods or in their community and just general beautification and then more traffic safety and there was also a pretty good conversation about surveillance technology that I want to get into but before that I did want to provide one piece of feedback for LCPD or really all staff. There were folks in my group that were hard of hearing and so that sort of set up was difficult for people and for us to just be aware that people have different abilities coming into a space like that and so it was hard for folks who were hard of hearing to fully engage in the conversation so just a little piece of feedback for future organizing of those meetings.

Yes, the surveillance conversation did have a bit of a moment there and honestly, I think beyond what we hear here sometimes I do hear from folks in the community about concerns they have regarding surveillance and Flock and just to really go off and ditto what Councilor Harris is saying that I think that Las Cruces could really have some model legislation that can be holding this conversation responsibly. I understand that even if I advocated for us to remove Flock that I would probably be in the minority so if that is not the correct pathway then we absolutely must adopt model legislation that helps with people's concerns regarding surveillance and I think often we can come at it from a point of safety. Like what happened at Young Park and those kinds of things. I also hope that we can come to this conversation with the concern that a lot of historically targeted communities might have immigrants, people seeking reproductive justice, I don't know people on the far-left terrorist list that now exists. Whatever the case may be I think there are very legitimate concerns for people to have around this, so I do want to encourage us to, I am glad Councilor Harris is working on model legislation. Chief Story and Lt. Bradley were able to tell me that the LCPD was working on launching a public transparency portal for Flock which I think is very important. I have spoken with the City Clerk about our internal audits. I know that our welcoming city resolution that we approved in October had a piece of audits in it and I have asked to really look at that and see if there have been requests by either federal law enforcement agencies or out of state law enforcement agencies that have asked for surveillance data from Las Cruces Police Department or the city of Las Cruces as a whole and so I think those audits are important and that we are transparent with them. Those things are really important to me and I do think that conversation we had with OIR last week about if these are here to stay then we need to be responsible stewards of these technologies and I do think there are ways that many cities are taking on to be responsible stewards.

The last thing I wanted to lift up was that this weekend I attended the Alameda Neighborhood Association meeting and one of the things that I promised them that I would bring up today was the requesting 4-way stops around the J. Paul Taylor

Academy Schools and the reason I wanted to bring this up during comments today was because I know we are headed into a Work Session on traffic safety. I had brought this issue up before where it feels like sometimes there is a misconnect between what neighborhoods and residents are experiencing with traffic versus potentially what the data is that is driving Public Works to make certain decisions. I feel like there is a disconnect and we have to figure out a way to better address some of those concerns but I did want to lift up the issues around J. Paul Taylor Academy and the pedestrian safety issues that they are raising now given the different in configuration of the stop signs there.

## **11.5 COUNCILOR CORRAN**

I also want to thank LCPD and the team of officers that joined in. My group also sort of broke off because it was very hard to hear in the big room because everyone was so enthusiastically participating, which was a really great dynamic. The biggest things that came up in my group again the number one thing was related to traffic and I think speaking to this idea, one of the things was Sonoma Ranch Boulevard, one of the top three most discussed roads in my district as far as speed and enforcement and engineering and the ways that we are thinking about this but I do think that is coming up in a few weeks and hopefully you all can give us a reminder of when the Work Session is related to traffic calming and the conversations that we have with communities but I do know that is a big, that was a huge topic in the conversation and thank you to the officers for really talking about the types of enforcement that they have experienced and a similar perspective that we could help with different kinds of interventions as well. Thank you to all the residents that participated in those conversations.

I also want to thank residents and the consultants and the city staff who worked to put on, Mayor Pro Tem Munoz and I shared a strategic planning workshop on Thursday night that was really well attended and people had really interesting and enthusiastic inputs both in the big picture and a lot of them did write a lot of reflective notes that I know the consultants are going to want to work on compiling and coming back to and so participants just to encourage other people to come to these meetings if you have an opportunity. Participants are both asked to sort of think on our feet, if you have money how will you spend it? What are your priorities but then also reflect on what you wish for in Las Cruces, what you hope for and there are opportunities to talk to your neighbors to quietly reflect yourself to sort of get together with a gang of people if you feel so possessed and those spaces are really cool to think about talking about how the city can grow in the next two to five years and what we really need to prioritize and so I hope those of you whose district meetings haven't occurred yet I hope you consider going to one of the upcoming ones that I know are happening this week. It was really powerful and the residents were really excited to be participating and I was happy to just be observing and eavesdropping occasionally but not bringing my full boss energy, dangerous boss energy, whatever that is. So, thank you to everyone who was involved in both of those townhall meetings and the engagement process that happened.

I am here with Councilor Harris and Councilor Bencomo on the Flock question that did come up in our conversation, and it is coming up in many letters from constituents, folks asking what are we doing and I would like for us, I am confident that we are

reflecting on this and thinking about how to balance people's privacy and boundaries and safety and addressing new technology. I think we can do this in a way that serves the most people in our city and I hear folks who are making their voices heard and all of those forms and other forms that we have been hearing and so I support that ongoing conversation and however we might be able to develop legislation that can help with that.

I also appreciate the South Central Solid Waste folks, the tour was amazing to see both how much work goes into thinking about our trash every day and then the ways South Central is really thinking about how to make this better so a few things that came from this, one is that there will be a new transfer station on the northeast end of town so they are working on building that. The plans are already in and they are already building that out as we speak and that will make a huge difference in how much trash has to move to certain places and I think for in particular commercial developers, people who produce a lot of trash as a matter of their job this new location will make a big difference in terms of ease of use and applicability for taking it to wherever its end location is to the recycling or to the landfill which we also got to check out which was really super interesting to see and hear and see the care that Carlos gives that space and the way South Central Solid Waste I think is the model for the State of New Mexico like many sort of things Las Cruces does well. I think this is one of them. They said that folks from Albuquerque are frequently coming down to tour the facilities that we have. So, I appreciate their pride of work and ownership of all that goes into that and contamination, the number one thing that we heard that contaminates recycling bins is actually adult diapers which is a really interesting commentary on what is happening with our recycling. I know that Brandy is thinking a lot about that and how to reduce that contamination. I think that she might actually be visiting people who put those in the trash bins sometimes. So really interesting service that goes completely unnoticed as it functions in such a positive way as it goes through in our community and so thank you to those who made that tour happen.

#### **11.6 COUNCILOR MUNOZ**

I also want to say thank you to the Police Department for the ride along that we took with the councilors at the Police Department have a very difficult job and I appreciate the care that they took to respect individual liberties and rights in how they interact with, even we saw interaction with some of the neighborhood residents and the folks who are very comfortable in talking to police personnel and very comfortable and obviously they were looking for solutions as well. We also encountered some unhoused individuals and there is a great deal of work to do there as well. I think that we can all agree that this is one of the more significant issues here in our community and working together we should be able to find some good solutions.

Also enjoyed the town hall. It is something to see how different district to district can be. You know the issues that came up in our focus group with the police town hall were the speedways that we have on Sonoma and at Roadrunner and 70. How fast cars just zip through there during the day and also in the evening. Obviously, it is very dangerous for the folks that are racing their cars down Roadrunner but also dangerous for residents who might be walking or jogging or taking their dogs out at that time of the night. I am sure the police officers at our table obviously had some very difficult questions and I commend them because they did a good job of working

with and having a good conversation with the residents as well.

On the focus groups again, Councilor Corran mentioned that I enjoyed those as well and encourage other residents to attend. The ones that are coming. I appreciate the staff that have coordinated those sessions day and night. I know it is extra work to do that during the evenings and I appreciate just the flexibility of the staff. The more input and feedback that we can get sometimes is hard, but it is important. I have been married for 25 years now on the 5th of this month and sometimes I get feedback hourly. So, it just helps as it should be. That just helps us grow. I also attended the business session as well. Very good feedback there. I also want to highlight Chris and his team for some of the work that they are doing that was positive. Obviously always asking for more and would like to see a continued speedy permit process but overall, just excellent in the progress that you have made. Also, some of the feedback include more of a presence from Economic Development and also some other pieces. I will share some of that feedback but that was pretty good. I don't know that we have completely have the power to bring a Trader Joe's into the city. If we did, my preference would be to bring back Sunshine Grocery or the Mountain View Co-op. The other feedback that I remember also from the business focus groups, our focus groups again all focused in on the unhoused but some areas included things for young people to do to recruit businesses for young adults, for children ranging from what the medians look like to just either night life or just amenities for the city. Overall good feedback, looking forward to getting a debrief and readout from the staff and then taking some action there as well. Again overall, very productive the last couple of weeks and looking forward to more feedback from the following sessions that come in this week.

### **11.7 MAYOR ENRIQUEZ**

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## **12. CITY MANAGER REPORT**

### **12.1 IKANI TAUMOEPEAU**

Thank you, Councilor Bencomo, for bringing to our attention Casa Linda. There was triage after the last heavy rains and other areas had to be hit first but that is on the streets itinerary and schedule for this Wednesday to be vacuumed for all standing water so thank you to Public Works for getting that done to streets.

Council, we were here about two weeks ago and I appreciate the dialogue that happened. Many of you may have noticed that the strat plan community meetings and listening sessions were planned during the day and you all encouraged staff to look and pivot and change that so that it can happen after work and so thank you for sharing that. I appreciate staff that was able to pivot. Thank you to Community Engagement and to Community Development for making that happen. Mandy Leatherwood and Catrina Godinez and Chris Faivre, thank you for pivoting and getting those six public meetings set after hours. We as mentioned District 5 & 6 met just this past week but we have five more coming up and I would like to read some of those. I do want to share that if you are the type that is incentivized by great refreshments, a delicious Michelin star meal, this is the place. It almost seemed like we weren't in budget cuts when I saw these refreshments. I literally asked staff, no joke, where is this budget coming from? I think the response was this happens only 5 or 6 years or so residents have to be treated because they have been waiting 5 or 6 years for this plan, it doesn't happen every year but to that end council you will not have any community outreach budget left in your budget after this so there is a trade off on that. But I do mean that to thank you to those making it happen. That just speaks to the testament of staff to ensure that everyone feels comfortable and making sure that everyone is well fed whether it is through knowledge and physically through

the meals. So upcoming August 3rd at 6, which is today at 6 to 7:30, District 1 Roadrunner Room at the Branigan Library. August 4th tomorrow at 6 to 7:30, District 3 at Lynn Middle School. August 5th, 6 to 7:30 District 2, Frank O'Brien Papen Center and then August 6th, 6 p.m. to 7:30 District 4, WIA Building. So, expect great refreshments and beverages of all types on that. In addition to that we also have focus groups. Thank you, many of the councilors mentioned that and there are three focus groups that are happening that are niched. We had a youth group that had 25 teenagers so kudos to youth coming out to speak to the strat plan. Also, to the businesses and then we have a community impact meeting later this week as well. In addition, on Saturday we have Farmer's Market. We had our strat team out there along with our Public Health Coordinator meeting with the residents and it was a great turnout to so I just wanted to report back to you council that staff is doing everything that we can to ensure that everyone hears about this because it is only every 5 to 6 years that I this occurs so thank you for your understanding and the dialogue to pivot and thank you to staff for working on that.

Additionally, we have had heavy rains as you know some of council have already shared. I do want to give kudos to our team in Public Works, Streets, Lucio Sandoval in Traffic, Soogyu, there is always more staff that we need but our crew as small as they are were out there working late nights, early mornings to ensure that traffic lights and streets are maintained if we have to bring out heavy equipment. So, thank you your work does not go unnoticed, so thank you for that. I just wanted to say kudos to the team on that.

I just wanted to share some last Parks & Rec items. We have sand volleyball. We had a great turn out, over 70 high school students participated in our recent evening tournaments. So great job to our rec team. After school program registration remains open for elementary students, kindergarten through 5th grade at select school sites parents can register online at [lascruces.gov/play](http://lascruces.gov/play) or by calling our office at 575-541-2550. Movies in the park, please head over to Young Park this Saturday, August 8th, at dusk for a free screening of Goat. Attendees are encouraged to dress as their favorite athlete or wear their favorite team jersey. Last Music in the Park, join us this Sunday, August 9th at Young Park starting at 7 p.m. for live performance by Pizza Bones Trio and Retroz. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the evening.

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

### 13.1

**Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz moved, seconded by City Councilor Michael Harris, to adjourn at 3:13 p.m.**

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>Carried</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | City Councilor Michael Harris                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Mayor Eric Enriquez, City Councilor Cassie McClure, City Councilor William Mattiace, City Councilor Michael Harris, City Councilor Johana Bencomo, City Councilor Becky Corran, and Mayor Pro Tem John Munoz |

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Mayor

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City Clerk