

**LINKED MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO, HELD IN THE JANELL WHITLOCK
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX BUILDING ON APRIL 14, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.**

Present:	Richard D. Lopez	Mayor
	Lisa A. Anaya Flores	Councilor
	Edward T. Rodriguez	Councilor
	Karla Niemeier	Councilor
	Anthony Foreman	Councilor
	Mark C. Walterscheid	Councilor
	Jason O. Chavez	Councilor
	Mary Garwood	Councilor
Absent:	Jeff Forrest	Councilor
Also Present:	Wendy Austin	City Manager
	Ken Ahrens	Deputy City Manager
	Barbara Hodgson	City Attorney
	Nadine Mireles	City Clerk
	Jalynn Dominguez	Open Meetings Act Manager
	Stephan Brown	Compliance Clerk
	Dina Navarrette	Community Services Director
	Angie Barrios-Testa	Director of Grant Programs
	Patrick McManus	Project & Grant Accountant
	Mike Abell	Director of Utilities
	Melissa Salcido	Finance Director
	Tony Souza	Fire Chief
	Kyla Gonzales	HR Director
	Wayne Hatfield	IT Director
	Stormy Valenzuela	IT Technician
	Jeff Patterson	Planning Director
	Jessie Rodriguez	Police Chief
	Randy Galindo	Safety and Compliance Director
	Tim Nyce	Senior Detective
	Joey Landgraf	Senior Detective
	Terry Gregston	Bureau of Land Management
	Adrian Rivera	Captain
	Chris Caron	Detective Sargent
	Tyler Barker	Sargent
	Treshawn Rowe	School Resource Officer
	Ciera Samaniego	K-9 School Resource Officer
	Kristen Gamboa	CDOD
	Cliff Stroud	Citizen

Armando Quintela	Citizen
Danny Thompson	Citizen
Rachel Sapien	Citizen

Time Stamps and headings below correspond to recording of meeting and the recording is hereby made a part of the official record.

0:00:00 **Call Meeting to Order**

0:00:34 Invocation - Pledge of Allegiance

0:01:11 **1. CITY OF CARLSBAD EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

- A. Detective T. Nyce
- B. Detective J. Landgraf
- C. Crime Scene Investigator S. Nelson
- D. BLM T. Gregston

Chief Rodriguez recognized these employees for their hard work and investigative skills in the Brian Runnels Case.

0:15:20 **2. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2026-21, A RESOLUTION MAKING CERTAIN BUDGETARY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2025-26 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET**

Ms. Salcido reviewed the revenue and expenditures making certain Budgetary Adjustments to the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget highlighting the Capital Projects Fund, the Fire Protection Fund, and the Insurance Fund.

0:16:56 **MOTION**

The motion was made by Councilor Chavez and seconded by Councilor Rodriguez to approve Resolution 2026-21, a Resolution making certain budgetary adjustments to the 2025-26 Fiscal Year Budget

0:17:02 **VOTE**

The vote was as follows: Yes - Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Garwood, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Absent - Forrest; the motion carried.

0:17:35 **3. ROUTINE AND REGULAR BUSINESS**

- A. Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting held on March 16, 2026
- B. Minutes of the City Council Meeting held on March 24, 2026
- C. City Personnel Report
- D. Purchasing
 - 1) Consider Approval to Award RFP 2026-03 to multiple contractors for on-call Construction Services

2) Consider Approval to Award Bid 2026-04 to Deans Inc. for Emergency Vehicle Equipment and Upfitting for the Carlsbad Fire Department vehicles

E. Agreements and Contracts

1) Consider Approval of Second Renewal of Agreement between the City of Carlsbad and the Grant Plant, Inc for On-Call Grant Management Services

2) Consider Approval of Second Renewal of Agreement between the City of Carlsbad and Witt O'Brien's LLC for On-Call Grant Management Services 2026-786 100%

3) Consider Approval of Second Renewal of Agreement between the City of Carlsbad and CPRA Strategies for On-Call Grant Management Services

4) Consider Approval of Renewal Agreement between the City of Carlsbad and EMSRx, LLC, for Medical Direction Services for the Carlsbad Fire Department and Carlsbad Police Department

5) Consider Approval of Renewal Agreement between the City of Carlsbad and ConsultRx, LLC, for Consultant Pharmacist Services for the Carlsbad Fire Department

F. Monthly Reports

1) City Clerk Department March 2026

2) Human Resources Department March 2026

3) Utilities Department February 2026

G. Board Appointments

1) Historic Preservation Advisory Board appoint Marsha Doss, two-year term

H. Set the Date: May 12, 2026

1) Ordinance rezoning part of "C-2" Commercial 2 District to "R-1" Residential 1 District for approximately 0.28 acre property located at 2305 W. Jackson Street

0:17:22 **The Mayor asked Tony Souza to discuss item E4, Consider Approval of Renewal Agreement between the City of Carlsbad and EMSRx, LLC, for Medical Direction Services for the Carlsbad Fire Department and Carlsbad Police Department**

Chief Souza stated the renewal of this agreement would benefit the Carlsbad Fire Department and the Carlsbad Police Department. He stated the medical direction contract was been awarded to EMSRx back in 2016 and it has been renewed annually. He said that both the Carlsbad Fire Department and Carlsbad Police Department have agreed on the contract, the only changes that have been made are the extensions of the dates for one year beginning on May 1, 2026, and ending on April 30, 2027.

Councilor Chavez asked what the Carlsbad Police Department uses it for. **Chief Souza** stated that their emergency medical dispatchers are certified medical officers through the State of New Mexico.

0:19:42 **MOTION**

The motion was made by Councilor Chavez and seconded by Councilor Garwood to approve Routine and Regular Business

0:19:47

VOTE

The vote was as follows: Yes - Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Garwood, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Absent - Forrest; the motion carried.

0:20:04

4. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REQUEST BY MILTON'S BREWING TO SERVE ALCOHOL (BEER & WINE) ON CITY STREETS DURING THE "DOWNTOWN LIONS BLOCK PARTY"

Mr. Ahrens stated Milton's Brewing is requesting to expand their alcohol serving area into Mermod street for a downtown lions block party on Friday May 1, 2026. He said the serving area will be setup by a licensed alcohol server it will be fenced off from other event areas with one controlled entrance and security will be present. He stated alcohol will be served from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. He said that city staff recommends approval of this request.

0:21:38

MOTION

The motion was made by Councilor Niemeier and seconded by Councilor Garwood to approve a request by Milton's Brewing to serve alcohol (beer & wine) on City streets during the "Downtown Lions Block Party"

0:21:42

VOTE

The vote was as follows: Yes - Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Garwood, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Absent - Forrest; the motion carried.

0:22:12

5. CONSIDER APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE FY26 FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT EQUIPMENT REIMBURSEMENT GRANT AWARD FROM THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION FOR THE CARLSBAD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Souza stated the purpose of this program is to allow fire departments to request reimbursements for equipment purchased to support newly hired recruits. He stated because of all the new hires it created an unexpected expense for the city. He said the Carlsbad Fire Department applied for a total \$129,648.92 to reimburse the equipment purchased for the 18 new hires. Chief Souza stated the request also included a laundry unit to support post incident decontamination in the amount of \$19,471. He said that on March 30, 2026 the city was notified that the grant had been fully funded at \$149,119.92, which includes the laundry unit. He stated if accepted by the city the city agrees to comply with all terms and conditions.

0:24:38

MOTION

The motion was made by Councilor Anaya-Flores and seconded by Councilor Garwood to accept the FY26 Firefighter Recruitment Equipment Reimbursement Grant Award from the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration Local Government Division for the Carlsbad Fire Department

0:24:54

VOTE

The vote was as follows: Yes - Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Garwood, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Absent - Forrest; the motion carried.

0:25:05

6. CONSIDER APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE FY26 NEW MEXICO RECREATION DIVISION OUTDOOR RECREATION TRAILS+ GRANT AWARD FROM THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FOR THE FRIENDSHIP PARK PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE PROJECT

Ms. Barrios-Testa stated this request is to accept a grant for the outdoor recreation trails plus program. She stated the project includes a 260ft accessible pedestrian bridge extending over the Pecos River. She said the completion of the bridge will create a 1.5 mile recreational loop to lower Tansill. Ms. Barrios-Testa stated the total estimated project cost is \$2.7 million. She said the city was awarded 1 million dollars with a required local match of \$771,008. She added that the city has applied for an additional 1 million dollars through the Land and Water Conservation Act Fund to help cover the remaining cost. She stated this grant award will make it the city's 4th trails plus award and brings the total amount of funding received to \$2.5 million demonstrating continued success in securing funding.

0:28:05

MOTION

The motion was made by Councilor Garwood and seconded by Councilor Anaya-Flores to accept the FY26 New Mexico Recreation Division Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant Award from the State of New Mexico Economic Development Department for the Friendship Park Pedestrian Bridge Project

0:28:12

VOTE

The vote was as follows: Yes - Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Garwood, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Absent - Forrest; the motion carried.

0:28:26

7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF A NATIONAL FITNESS CAMPAIGN BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF NEW MEXICO COMMUNITY WELLNESS OUTDOOR GYM GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE BOB FORREST SPORTS YOUTH COMPLEX

Ms. Barrios-Testa stated this is to submit a grant application to the National Fitness Campaign. She noted that the City has an existing fitness court at the Riverwalk Recreation Center, and this grant would fund a second fitness location. She stated the secondary fitness center would be built at the Bob Forrest Youth Sports Complex. She said the project cost would be \$530,000 it would include \$80,000 that National Fitness Campaign would provide through BlueCross BlueShield of New Mexico Funding.

0:31:07

MOTION

The motion was made by Councilor Chavez and seconded by Councilor Foreman to approve submission of a National Fitness Campaign BlueCross BlueShield of New

Mexico Community Wellness Outdoor Gym Grant Application for the Bob Forrest Sports Youth Complex

0:31:18 **VOTE**

The vote was as follows: Yes - Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Garwood, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Absent - Forrest; the motion carried.

0:31:32 **8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2026-22, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM FOR THE FY27 DESTINATION FORWARD GRANT PROGRAM FOR A FITNESS COURT GYM STUDIO PROJECT AT THE BOB FORREST YOUTH SPORTS COMPLEX**

Ms. Barrios-Testa stated this program supports sustainable tourism. She said this project aligns with the program and it will help expand the outdoor recreation amenities.

0:33:21 **MOTION**

The motion was made by Councilor Garwood and seconded by Councilor Foreman to approve Resolution 2026-22, a Resolution authorizing the submission of an application to the New Mexico Department of Tourism for the FY27 Destination Forward Grant Program for a Fitness Court Gym Studio Project at the Bob Forrest Youth Sports Complex

0:33:30 **VOTE**

The vote was as follows: Yes - Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Garwood, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Absent - Forrest; the motion carried.

0:33:43 **9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2026-23, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EDDY-LEA ENERGY ALLIANCE (ELEA) TO FILE A LAWSUIT AGAINST THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO TO DECLARE THAT NMSA 74-4A-11.1 IS PREEMPTED BY FEDERAL LAW.**

Ms. Hodgson stated this Resolution was approved in December however the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance (ELEA) board chose not proceed. She said that now they wish to pursue this matter with the State of New Mexico. She stated ELEA has found that the state of Utah was preempted from passing a law similar to this preventing or regulating the storage of nuclear fuel. She said the proposal is for ELEA to file a lawsuit against the State of New Mexico to declare that 74-4A-11.1 is preempted by Federal Law and not valid in New Mexico. Ms. Hodgson stated there is one change on the Resolution from the one that was presented in December. She said in December ELEA wanted to partner with the Nuclear Regulatory Agency to work on a Federal and State cooperative agreement to permit the nuclear facility that has already been permitted. She stated since December the Nuclear Regulatory Agency has completed a new Federal and State partnership opportunity called Nuclear Life Cycle Innovation Campus and ELEA is interested in applying.

0:38:16 **MOTION**

The motion was made by Councilor Rodriguez and seconded by Councilor Foreman to approve Resolution 2026-23, a Resolution authorizing the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance (ELEA) to file a lawsuit against the State of New Mexico to declare that NMSA 74-4A-11.1 is preempted by Federal Law

0:38:25 **VOTE**

The vote was as follows: Yes - Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Garwood, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Absent - Forrest; the motion carried.

0:38:38 **10. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2026-24, A RESOLUTION REQUIRING THE REMOVAL OF THE RUINED, DAMAGED OR DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS OR STRUCTURES, RUINS, RUBBISH, WRECKAGE AND DEBRIS AT 406 ELMDALE STREET OWNER: BRYAN CARROLL HOLLEN**

Ms. Hodgson stated this Resolution addresses the property at 406 Elmdale Street which it is covered in ruins, wreckage, and debris. She said according to the Fire Marshal it is a fire hazard and has been deemed unsafe to the public. She stated the owner has been notified that he is not in compliance and has been asked to clean and remove the ruins from the property Ms. Hodgson stated that city is prepared to remove any debris to bring the property into compliance and the amount of the removal would then be placed as a lien on the property. She said on March 27, 2026, certified letters were sent to the property owner and there has been no response.

0:41:41 **Mayor Lopez asked if anyone in the audience would like to address the Council. No one appeared.**

0:41:54 **MOTION**

The motion was made by Councilor Chavez and seconded by Councilor Walterscheid to approve Resolution 2026-24, a Resolution requiring the removal of the ruined, damaged or dilapidated buildings or structures, ruins, rubbish, wreckage and debris at 406 Elmdale Street

0:41:58 **VOTE**

The vote was as follows: Yes - Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Garwood, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Absent - Forrest; the motion carried.

0:42:20 **11. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2026-25, A RESOLUTION REQUIRING THE REMOVAL OF THE RUINS, RUBBISH, WRECKAGE, DEBRIS, AND/OR WEEDS AT 2513 SOCORRO ROAD OWNER: ERNIE R. JACKSON**

Ms. Hodgson stated this Resolution address the property at 2513 Socorro Road, in a residential area located between Standpipe Road and West Loop Road. She said there is a mobile home located on the property that was damaged in a fire and appears to be unoccupied. She stated there are also serval dismantled vehicles, trash, wreckage, and

debris. She said there is one RV and it is unknown if it is currently occupied. Ms. Hodgson stated that since 2016 there have been a number of code violations filled with the city. She stated the RV is currently in violation for being in a location for a certain period of time, the code does not allow a permanent fixture of an RV. She said when the Fire Marshal inspected the property it was discovered that the property is a extreme fire hazard.

0:45:37 **Mayor Lopez asked if anyone in the audience would like to address the Council. No one appeared.**

0:45:45 **MOTION**

The motion was made by Councilor Niemeier and seconded by Councilor Garwood to approve Resolution 2026-25, a Resolution requiring the removal of the ruins, rubbish, wreckage, debris, and/or weeds at 2513 Socorro Road

0:45:51 **VOTE**

The vote was as follows: Yes - Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Garwood, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Absent - Forrest; the motion carried.

0:46:38 **12. CONSIDER APPROVAL TO REMOVE FROM TABLE ORDINANCE 2026-16, AN ORDINANCE REZONING PART OF "R-1" RESIDENTIAL 1 DISTRICT TO "C-1" COMMERCIAL 1 DISTRICT FOR APPROXIMATELY 0.30 ACRES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2809 SAN JOSE BOULEVARD AND 2811 SAN JOSE BOULEVARD OWNER: EDGAR GONZALEZ**

0:47:42 **MOTION**

The motion was made by Councilor Niemeier and seconded by Councilor Garwood to approve the removal of Ordinance 2026-16 from table, an Ordinance rezoning part of "R-1" Residential 1 District to "C-1" Commercial 1 District for approximately 0.30 acres for property located at 2809 San Jose Boulevard and 2811 San Jose Boulevard Owner: Edgar Gonzalez

0:47:47 **VOTE**

The vote was as follows: Yes - Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Garwood, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Absent - Forrest; the motion carried.

0:48:06 **13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2026-16, AN ORDINANCE REZONING PART OF "R-1" RESIDENTIAL 1 DISTRICT TO "C-1" COMMERCIAL 1 DISTRICT FOR APPROXIMATELY 0.30 ACRES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2809 SAN JOSE BOULEVARD AND 2811 SAN JOSE BOULEVARD OWNER: EDGAR GONZALEZ**

Mr. Patterson stated this request is to change the zoning at the subject properties from "R-1" Residential 1 District to "C-1" Commercial 1 District. He said the properties to the north and south are zoned "R-1" Residential 1 District and the properties to the west are

zoned "R-2" Residential 2 District and the properties to the east are zoned "C-1" Commercial 1 District. He stated this change would not create a spot zone. He said that the Planning and Zoning commission recommends approval of this requests.

Mayor Lopez clarified that at the last council meeting council chose to table the item since the applicant was not present and they had more questions about the use of the property.

Councilor Chavez asked if the applicant attended the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. Mr. Patterson stated he did. Councilor Chavez asked what the property is currently being used for. Mr. Patterson stated he believes it is vacant.

0:50:39 **A. Public Hearing**

0:50:50 **Mayor Lopez asked if anyone would like to speak regarding the Ordinance. No one appeared and the Mayor declared the public hearing closed and reconvened the Council into regular session**

0:50:59 **B. Consider Approval of Ordinance 2026-16**

0:51:06 **MOTION**

The motion was made by Councilor Niemeier and seconded by Councilor Walterscheid to deny Ordinance 2026-16, an Ordinance rezoning part of "R-1" Residential 1 District to "C-1" Commercial 1 District for approximately 0.30 acres for property located at 2809 San Jose Boulevard and 2811 San Jose Boulevard

0:51:13 **VOTE**

The vote was as follows: Yes - Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Garwood, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Absent - Forrest; the motion carried.

0:51:35 **14. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2026-19, AN ORDINANCE REZONING PART OF "R-1" RESIDENTIAL 1 DISTRICT TO "C-1" COMMERCIAL 1 DISTRICT FOR APPROXIMATELY 0.67 ACRE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 328 FARRIS STREET APPLICANT/OWNER: EDGAR GONZALEZ**

Mr. Patterson stated this request is to change the zoning at the subject property from "R-1" Residential 1 District to "C-1" Commercial 1 District for approximately .67 acres of land located at 328 Farris. He said that the properties to the north, south, west and east are zoned "R-1" Residential 1 District this change would create a spot zone. He stated the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends denial of this request.

Councilor Chavez asked what the property is being used for. Mr. Patterson stated that the property is currently being used as storage and was previously used it as a trucking yard.

0:53:16 **A. Public Hearing**

0:53:19 **Mayor Lopez asked if anyone would like to speak for the Ordinance. No one appeared.**

0:53:26 **Mayor Lopez asked if anyone would like to speak against the Ordinance.**

Armando Quintela and Faith Quintela stated that this property is still being used as a trucking business. He said that during the day trucks are parked there. He stated that the building located at the back of the property has a generator, compressor, and a mobile washer. He said that everyday there is a lot of noise coming from the property.

Danny Thompson stated that if the property is turned into a commercial property, it would really affect the real estate value of the surrounding properties.

Rachel Sapien stated that she lives right next to the subject property. She said that there is a lot of noise especially when there are so many trucks parked there.

0:56:18 **B. Consider Approval of Ordinance 2026-19**

0:56:25 **MOTION**

The motion was made by Councilor Anaya-Flores and seconded by Councilor Foreman to deny Ordinance 2026-19, an Ordinance rezoning part of "R-1" Residential 1 District to "C-1" Commercial 1 District for approximately 0.67 acre property located at 328 Farris Street

0:56:42 **VOTE**

The vote was as follows: Yes - Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Garwood, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Absent - Forrest; the motion carried.

0:57:04 **15. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 2026-20, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 38 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, ARTICLE IV OF THE CARLSBAD CITY CODE, TITLED CITY OF CARLSBAD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN ORDINANCE.**

Mr. Patterson stated Chapter 38 Planning and Development, Article IV of the Carlsbad City Code, titled "City of Carlsbad Economic Development Plan Ordinance" allows the public support of economic development projects. He said the Ordinance defines how the city may assist economic development projects legally. He stated a list of definitions has been included within section 38-69 of the Ordinance the section provided a list of descriptions of terms such as qualifying entity and economic development project which define the parameters that are able to receive public support through this Ordinance. He said Ordinance 2026-20 proposes a change to section 38-69 which would allow the city to stay up to date with any definitions found within the act without the need to update the ordinance locally. **Mr. Patterson** stated city staff proposes to alter

the language found in section 38-69 to mirror the language in the local economic development act.

1:04:32 **A. Public Hearing**

1:04:34 **Mayor Lopez asked if anyone would like to speak for the Ordinance**

Cliff Stroud stated he believes this Ordinance is long overdue. He said this Ordinance will be good for the cities future growth.

Kristen Gamboa, Executive Director of the Carlsbad Department of Development, stated that she fully supports this Ordinance.

1:06:22 **Mayor Lopez asked if anyone would like to speak regarding the Ordinance. No one appeared and the Mayor declared the public hearing closed and reconvened the Council into regular session.**

1:06:28 **B. Consider Approval of Ordinance 2026-20**

1:06:34 **MOTION**

The motion was made by Councilor Niemeier and seconded by Councilor Garwood to approve Ordinance 2026-20, an Ordinance amending Chapter 38 Planning and Development, Article IV of the Carlsbad City Code, titled City of Carlsbad Economic Development Plan Ordinance.

1:06:40 **VOTE**

The vote was as follows: Yes - Niemeier, Walterscheid, Anaya-Flores, Chavez, Garwood, Foreman, Rodriguez; No - None; Absent - Forrest; the motion carried.

1:06:58 **16. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS. ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RESPECTFUL AND COURTEOUS (THREE-MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER PERSON)**

No one appeared.

1:07:15 **17. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Lopez stated the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) public hearing will be on April 16, 2026. **Ms. Austin** stated that for most grants the projects have to be on the plan for them to qualify for the grants.

Mayor Lopez asked **Ms. Austin** to give an update on the Pecos River. **Ms. Austin** stated in July 2022 the Pecos River experienced an invasive aquatic bloom. She said during this time City staff met with New Mexico Game and Fish and they recommended that several sterile tripod carp be placed into the river to consume the vegetation. She said currently we are contracted with an environmental engineering firm and a biologist and

they have provided reports. **Ms. Austin** stated both reports are posted to the city website. She said everyone agreed that the draining river was the best decision. She stated that a contractor is currently working along the river, removing dead vegetation. She said according to the contractor, allowing the river to dry has been effective in eliminating most of the vegetation. She explained that refilling the river is scheduled to begin on May 1, 2026, and will be done gradually over a period of approximately three to four weeks. She added once the river begins to refill, a company called Bless Bayou, based in Texas, has been contracted to apply herbicide treatments on a monthly basis and progress will be evaluated each month. **Ms. Austin** also noted that no vegetation is currently regrowing in the lower portion of the river.

Councilor Chavez stated he attended the Gus Macker and over 200 teams participated. He said that several participants were staying the entire weekend and he thanked everyone that participated in the setup of the event.

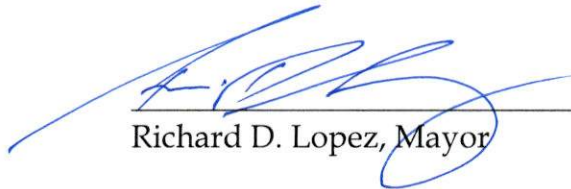
Councilor Garwood stated that a new mural is currently being painted at the racquetball court and is expected to be completed next Tuesday April 21, 2026. She said it is a partnership between Keep Carlsbad Beautiful and Permian Resources. She stated that Permian Resources will also be in town to plant 20 trees, with 10 being planted at Spring Park and 10 at Troy Young Park.


1:19:52

Adjourned

With no further business to discuss, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM




Richard D. Lopez, Mayor


Nadine Mireles, City Clerk