



TOWN OF SILVER CITY

Regular Meeting

February 24, 2026, 6:00 PM

Grant County Administration Center, 1400 Hwy. 180 E.,
Silver City, NM

MISSION STATEMENT of the TOWN OF SILVER CITY

Silver City is the hub of an inclusive community settled within a small town that through guided growth, honors and preserves its historical, cultural, and natural heritage while facilitating jobs, health, and educational resources such that the residents and visitors may enjoy and protect the recreational opportunities of the area and high quality of life.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND SALUTE TO THE NEW MEXICO STATE FLAG**
- 2. CHANGES TO AGENDA**
- 3. CEREMONIES**
 - A. February 2026 Employee of the Month -**
- 4. PROCLAMATIONS**
- 5. COUNCIL COMMENTS**
- 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. Regular Meeting on February 10, 2026 -**
- 7. PUBLIC INPUT**
- 8. REPORTS**
 - A. Community Development Director's Decision on AP 26-01& AP 26-02 -**
- 9. PUBLIC HEARINGS**
- 10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- 11. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUTION 2026-06: A RESOLUTION TO FORM AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

FOR THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO. -

B. Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUTION 2026-07: A RESOLUTION TO FORM A REUSE AND RECYCLE COMMITTEE FOR THE TOWN OF SILVER NEW MEXICO. -

C. Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUTION NO. 2026-08: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A PUBLIC-PRIVATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MAINSTREET PROJECT -

D. Mayors' appointment to the Municipal Museum Community Advisory Group -

12. ADJOURNMENT

Council Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Elected Position</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>
Ken Ladner	Mayor	575-313-3990	01/2022 - 12/2025
Rudy Bencomo	Councilor, District 1	575-654-0415	01/2024 - 12/2027
Nicholas H. Prince	Councilor, District 2	575-654-0087	01/2022 - 12/2025
Stan Snider	Councilor, District 3	575-342-2535	01/2024 - 12/2027
Guadalupe Cano	Councilor, District 4	575-654-0148	01/2022 - 12/2025

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY

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The Council may call an EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1(H) for the following reasons:

1. meetings pertaining to **issuance, suspension, renewal or revocation of a license**, except that a hearing at which evidence is offered or rebutted shall be open;
2. **limited personnel matters** which means the discussion of hiring, promotion, demotion, dismissal, assignment or resignation of or the investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against any individual public employee;
3. meetings for the **discussion of bargaining strategy preliminary to collective bargaining negotiations** between the policymaking body and a bargaining unit representing the employees of that policymaking body and collective bargaining sessions at which the policymaking body and the representatives of the collective bargaining unit are present;
4. that portion of meetings at which a decision concerning **purchases in an amount**

exceeding \$2,500 that can be made only from one source and that portion of meetings at which the **contents of competitive sealed proposals solicited pursuant to the Procurement Code (13-1-28 NMSA 1978) are discussed during the contract negotiation process**. The actual approval of purchase of the item or final action regarding the selection of a contractor shall be made in an open meeting;

5. meetings subject to the **attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation** in which the public body is or may become a participant;
6. meetings for the **discussion of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights** by the public body.

Note: NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1(H) Exceptions (4) relating to students, (9) relating to public hospitals, and (10) relating to the gaming control board were not listed above since they do not apply to the Town of Silver City.

For information on what's happening in local government, please visit the [Town's website](http://www.townofsilvercity.org) (www.townofsilvercity.org).



**Town of Silver City,
NM**

Item #3.A

Item Report

Meeting Date: February 24, 2026

Item: February 2026 Employee of the Month

Attachments:

None



Town of Silver City, NM

Item #6.A

Item Report

Meeting Date: February 24, 2026

Item: Regular Meeting on February 10, 2026

Attachments:

1. 2026 02 10 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
2. Exhibit A - Diane LaBlanc's comments
3. Exhibit B - Mayor Wheaton-Smith Council Comments
4. Exhibit C - Janna Mintz Public Input
5. Exhibit D - Mick Smith's Public Input
6. Exhibit E - High Desert Humane Society Report
7. Exhibit F - Chief Portillo's Report

TOWN OF SILVER CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
GRANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 1400 HWY. 180 E., SILVER CITY, NM
February 10, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Simon Wheaton-Smith, Mayor
Angela M. Salaiz, Councilor District 1
Nicholas Prince, Councilor District 2
Stan Snider, Councilor District 3
Victor Nañez, Councilor District 4

Others present:

Jacqui Olea, Acting Town Manager
Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk
Manny Jaure, Police Lieutenant
Joseph Aguirre, Police Patrol Captain
Milo Lambert, Fire Chief
Ben Beltron, Executive Director, CATS

1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Wheaton-Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND SALUTE TO NEW MEXICO STATE FLAG - Mayor Wheaton-Smith invited the public to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the New Mexico State Flag.

2. CHANGES TO AGENDA – NONE

3. CEREMONIES – JANUARY 2026 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – Marisela Rodriguez was not present.

4. PROCLAMATIONS:

A. America 250 - Mayor Wheaton-Smith read the Proclamation and presented it to the Daughters of the American Revolution Jacob Bennett Chapter, Lucy Whitmarsh, Diane LaBlanc and Susan Bryant.

Diane LaBlanc's comments: **See Exhibit "A"**

B. Territorial Charter Day – Mayor Wheaton-Smith read the Proclamation and presented it to Raul Turrieta.

Raul Turrieta spoke about the origins of a long-envisioned community event in Silver City. He recalled that years ago, Lucy Whitmarsh dreamed of making the event happen, though he initially doubted it would come to fruition. Thanks to her work with downtown efforts, the event became a reality and grew into a full-day celebration.

He noted that the charter was thoroughly included in the planning and highlighted participants dressed in historical attire representing the late 1700s (around 1776–1778). He invited the community to attend the upcoming Saturday event, acknowledging it would be a busy weekend due to other activities like Chocolate Fantasia. The celebration traditionally takes place near February 15.

The event will include attractions such as a photo booth with an 1800s-style buggy, and attendees are encouraged to participate whether or not they dress in costume. Turrieta emphasized that the event celebrates Silver City, New Mexico.

He also recognized Ken Ladner for introducing the idea as a Senate memorial and thanked Patricia Madrid and the rest of the committee for organizing and supporting the celebration.

5. COUNCIL COMMENTS – Councilor Salaiz expressed gratitude to those who supported her appointment to represent District One and assured the community she would do her best in the role. She also thanked the Silver City Police Department, including Chief Portillo, Lieutenant Jaure, and Captains Aguirre and Carrillo, for a productive meeting with Councilman Snider and several citizens. She noted that the meeting involved meaningful dialogue and stated she looks forward to continued collaboration in the future.

Councilor Nuñez thanked department heads for providing reports and information prior to the meeting, noting that the materials and follow-up phone calls helped him better prepare. He also commended the emergency on-call team for their professionalism and responsiveness, stating that residents are satisfied with their work and expressing his sincere appreciation for their efforts.

Councilor Snider reported attending Grant County Days in Santa Fe, where the Prospectors received multiple compliments for their strong turnout and organization at the Capitol. He expressed optimism that funding would be approved for Town projects, including improvements to the Town Annex building and expansion of Gough Park. He also shared that Sixth Street School in District Three will be used by Western University for an Early Childhood Center, calling it positive news for the neighborhood. Overall, he noted it was encouraging to see Grant County well represented.

Councilor Prince thanked Main Street Director Sharla Lefkowitz-Oberg for her efforts in organizing the Shop Local campaign. He noted that 28 businesses participated and described the event as a successful and enjoyable day downtown, with strong community involvement. He also acknowledged the contributions of Main Street partners in making the event a success.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith **See Exhibit “B”**

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. January 21, 2026, Regular Meeting. Councilor Prince moved to approve January 21, 2026, Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Silver City. Councilor Nañez seconded the motion as stated. Motion carried unanimously.

7. PUBLIC INPUT – Raul Turrieta expressed appreciation for the councilors’ participation at Grant County Day in Santa Fe, noting that Grant County is often recognized as one of the best and most well-attended delegations. He shared his long history of public service, including his work in the County Assessor’s Office since 1981 and his current role as President of the Silver City Museum Society.

Turrieta spoke highly of the Museum Society board members, describing them as professional, dedicated, and like close comrades. He introduced and praised several members:

- **Dr. Doug Dinwiddie**, a retired historian, educator, and regional history scholar with a Ph.D., recognized for his work in historic preservation and public education in southwest New Mexico, and a former curator at Western New Mexico University Museum.
- **Dr. Rick Johnson**, a former university professor of 25 years and long-time volunteer with the Museum Society, known for his detailed and analytical approach, serving on the executive board alongside his wife for over 30 years.
- **Francis Vasquez**, a longtime member and leader within LUAC, passionate about Chicano studies and actively involved with the museum.
- **Lydia Villegas**, founder of “Fight Like a Girl,” artist and business owner, recognized for her advocacy work and community involvement.
- **Patsy Madrid**, owner of Vintage Fantasy for 25 years, described as a local historian and a significant cultural presence in Silver City.
- **Roger Tree**, Vice Chair of the Museum Society, acknowledged for his support in numerous community events.

Turrieta concluded by thanking the board members for their dedication and expressing pride and gratitude for their service to Silver City and Grant County.

Jana Mintz – **See Exhibit “C”**

Mick Smith – **See Exhibit “D”**

Tashna Hamilton, a Silver City resident of over six years, spoke about an ongoing five-year legal battle involving her son and a domestic violence case. She stated that her ex-husband, who is currently on probation for domestic violence, has full custody of their son despite allegedly violating court rules. She expressed frustration that evidence she attempted to present in court was ignored or dismissed and that she has been held in contempt while, in her view, her ex-husband faced no consequences.

Hamilton said she has sought help from multiple officials and agencies, including the Attorney General’s Office, State Legislators, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Representative Terrazas, and the Judicial Standards Commission, but has not received relief. She also alleged racism in the case, including racial remarks made by her ex-husband and in the courtroom, and shared a statement from her medical records that she believes demonstrates discriminatory behavior.

Feeling that all formal avenues have been exhausted, she said she has begun protesting outside the courthouse in hopes of drawing attention to her situation. She concluded by asking what options remain available to her after years of unsuccessful attempts to seek assistance and justice.

Roger Tree clarified details about the upcoming Territorial Charter Ball. The event will be held at the Murray Hotel on the 14th from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Admission is \$20, which includes live music from a band and event decorations. Tickets are available for purchase at Patsy's place Vintage Fantasies on Bullard and at Flowers on 11th.

8. REPORTS:

A. High Desert Humane Society (Heidi Ogas) See Exhibit "E"

After giving her report, Heidi Ogas questioned the purpose and effectiveness of Silver City's pet licensing program. She asked what the town hopes to achieve, noting that identifying pets and linking them to owners can already be done through rabies vaccination tags. She shared January intake data showing that most impounded and stray animals were not wearing collars or tags, suggesting the licensing system may not be producing the intended results.

Ms. Ogas mentioned that other municipalities, such as Ruidoso and Las Cruces, have eliminated licensing programs in favor of mandatory microchipping, which she believes may offer advantages despite some challenges. She suggested the Town reconsider the goals of the licensing program and whether it remains necessary, noting that any change would require an Ordinance amendment.

B. Manager's Report – Acting Town Manager Jacqui Olea gave her time to Police Chief Freddie Portillo. See Exhibit "F".

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Mayors' appointments of Boards and Commissions for Council - Mayor Wheaton-Smith discussed council appointments, confirming that Councilor Salaiz wished to serve on the Health Council. He also proposed adjusting representation on the Southwest Solid Waste board by appointing Councilor Snider as the regular member and Councilor Salaiz as the alternate. The Mayor noted that there are still vacancies to fill and that he is proceeding carefully to ensure the appointments are made correctly.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approval / Disapproval of NOI Ordinance 1338 the sale and transfer of Town Property - Community Development Director Susan Mittelstadt informed the council of the Town's intent to sell a parcel of municipal land to Richard Mata. The approximately 0.4-acre property is

located at the southwest corner of Swan Street and College Avenue. An appraisal and survey were completed, establishing a proposed sale price of \$25,125.

She clarified that no Council approval was required at this meeting; this was simply a notice of intent. An Ordinance authorizing the sale will be presented at a future meeting for Council review and approval or disapproval.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked if there were any questions for Ms. Mittelstadt. There were none.

B. Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUTION 2026-05: A RESOLUTION ENSURING THAT CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS ARE NOT COMPROMISED BY RECEIVING FEDERAL, STATE OR COUNTY FUNDS. Councilor Snider explained that the resolution reaffirms the Town's longstanding position supporting citizens' constitutional rights. The resolution states that no Federal, State, or County funds will be used in ways that would infringe upon those rights. It also provides that if a federal or state agency takes actions that could affect constitutional rights, the local police would have a plan in place to respond and prevent such impacts.

Councilor Prince moved to approve **RESOLUTION 2026-05**. Councilor Snider seconded the motion.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for a roll call vote Town Clerk, Alfred Sedillo did a roll call vote. Councilor Salaiz voted aye; Councilor Prince voted aye; Councilor Snider voted aye; and Councilor Nañez voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval / Disapproval of BID 25/26-3 Improvements to the Silco Theater. Acting Town Manager Jacqui Olea reported that only one bid was received for the Silco Theater project, and it exceeded the available project funding. As a result, the Town will reject the bid and work with the architects to revise the project and seek new bids in the future.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked if there were any comments or questions for Ms. Olea.

Councilor Prince sought clarification about the bidding timeline for the Silco Theater project, noting that the bid was received on January 23, 2026, and likely followed a standard 30-day bid process over the holiday period. He emphasized the importance of ensuring ample opportunity for contractors to participate in the bidding process. He also asked whether the Town's website links had been updated to allow easier public access to bid details and schematics through the procurement page or related subpages.

Town Clerk Alfred Sedillo confirmed that whenever a bid is received from the Procurement Officer, it is posted on the Town's homepage. The posting includes the bid title, requirements, and access to the materials to ensure public availability.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith called for a motion regarding Bid 25-26-3 for improvements to the Silco Theater. He clarified that motions must be made in the affirmative form, regardless of whether the intended vote is to approve or disapprove the bid.

Councilor Prince clarified the proper procedure under Robert’s Rules of Order regarding motions. Although the Council has previously made motions to disapprove bids, he noted that motions must be stated in the affirmative. Therefore, even if the council intends to reject a bid based on a department recommendation, the motion should be made to approve it, and members would then vote against it during the vote.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith answered yes.

Councilor Prince moved to approve **Bid 25/26-3 improvements for the Silco Theater.**

Councilor Salaiz seconded the motion.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith stated a vote in the negative would reject the bid.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for a roll call vote Town Clerk, Alfred Sedillo did a roll call vote. Councilor Salaiz voted nay; Councilor Prince voted nay; Councilor Snider voted nay; and Councilor Nañez voted nay. Motion failed.

D. Mayors’ appointment with the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board - During the meeting, Mayor Wheaton-Smith presented three nominations for appointment to the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board

Appointments

Peter Stubben was recommended and appointed to a **two-year term**. During discussion, a councilor noted Mr. Stubben’s involvement in short-term rentals and emphasized the importance of compliance with the **Government Conduct Act** and the **Open Meetings Act**, particularly regarding recusal from any votes that may impact his financial interests. The appointment was approved without objection.

Karen Louise Hymer was recommended and appointed to a **two-year term**. There were no objections, and the appointment was approved unanimously.

Catherine “Kitty” Clemens was recommended and appointed to a **three-year term**, in accordance with statutory provisions requiring staggered terms to ensure board continuity. A councilor noted that, due to affiliations with lodgers tax-receiving organizations, Ms. Clemens must appropriately recuse herself from any votes involving those entities to avoid conflicts of interest. The appointment was approved without objection.

Guidance to Appointees

The Mayor requested that all newly appointed board members:

- Review the **Code of Conduct** contained in the Town’s Code of Ordinances.

- Download and familiarize themselves with the **New Mexico Open Meetings Act** from the Office of the State Attorney General.

All three appointments were confirmed without objection.

12. Approval / Disapproval of Closed Executive Session pursuant to NMSA 1978 10-15-1(H)(6), meetings subject to the **attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation** in which the public body is or may become a participant. Councilor Snider moved to approve Closed Executive Session pursuant to NMSA 1978 10-15-1(H)(6), meetings subject to the attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant. Councilor Salaiz seconded the motion as stated.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for a roll call vote Town Clerk, Alfred Sedillo did a roll call vote. Councilor Salaiz voted aye; Councilor Prince voted aye; Councilor Snider voted aye; and Councilor Nañez voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Council entered Closed Executive Session at 7:18 pm and reconvened at 7:49 pm.

13. ADJOURNMENT - Mayor Wheaton-Smith entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilor Prince moved to adjourn. Councilor Snider seconded the motion as stated. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Simon Wheaton-Smith, Mayor

Attest:

Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk

EXHIBIT "A"

Presentation at America 250 Proclamation February 10, 2026

Diane LeBlanc, America 250! Committee Chair

Jacob Bennett Chapter NSDAR, Silver City

The Daughters of the American Revolution (or DAR) is the largest nonprofit, non-political women's service organization in the nation with close to 190,000 members in about 3,000 chapters across the country and world-wide. Our Jacob Bennett chapter in Silver City was established in 1903 when New Mexico was still a territory!

There are lots of things going on across our country to celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence that have been planned for years. The Semiquincentennial Commission was established in 2016 by President Obama and now identifies under the name of America250. It is a bi-partisan coalition of public and private partners, including DAR.

Our Governor Lujan-Grisham also established New Mexico's Semiquincentennial Commission to engage every American in commemorating our nation's milestone and to honor the unique history, traditions and contributions of New Mexico.

Did you know that New Mexico made important contributions to our American independence? In 1776, New Mexico became part of the General Command of the Provincas Internas, a new military department from Texas to California. When Spain declared war on Great Britain, all New Mexicans, including Native Americans, were asked to contribute to support the American Revolution. They raised 3,677 pesos, including 1 from Geronimo!

The focus of DAR's commemorative efforts across the country are to celebrate the nation's rich history and diversity of experiences by honoring all men and women who helped achieve American Independence. As DAR members, we are inspired by the service of our Revolutionary War ancestors and are celebrating through acts of community service and hosting educational events.

As we celebrate the Signing of the Declaration of Independence, DAR has several ongoing projects in our communities to celebrate this historical occasion.

"In the Spirit of 1776", which unites a time capsule with a "message in a bottle." We are currently collecting 1,776 notes from children, students and adults in our communities for a time capsule. On our special note paper, we are asking individuals to write a quote meaningful to them from a signer of the Declaration of Independence, US President, song verse, scripture, or simply a warm wish. At the 250th July 4th celebration in Silver City this year, these notes will be enclosed in a time capsule. At America's Tricentennial celebration in Silver City, the time capsule will be opened and each note randomly passed out to those at that celebration. It will be a warm wish from those in our communities celebrating America's 250th, to those celebrating our 300th!

America 250 Patriot Marker Dedication at Gough Park on May 30th. The gazebo was built in Gough Park by the Town of Silver City as its Bicentennial project in 1976. It has been a great gift to our communities, and we want to recognize the Town of Silver City for the gazebo.

Liberty Tree – We are working with our community on planting a Liberty Tree at the Visitor's Center to commemorate America's 250th.

So, look for upcoming public announcements for dates, times, and how you can participate. There is no charge to the public for any of these projects or events.

We look forward to celebrating with you -- and thank you, Mayor and Council members for this wonderful America 250 proclamation.

EXHIBIT “B”

02/10/26 COUNCIL COMMENTS

Recently, I attended the Grant County Community Wildfire Protection Plan update , the 1/25/26 Vigil and officer presence which drew very positive comments. I attended a Trails and Open Space Committee meeting, and met with some monks from the monestry who had concerns about several hundred mining claims filed. I am anticipating Municipal Court changes coordinated with magistrate's court to take back some cases.

In January the Council held a retreat. I mentioned considering some goals for the Council itself. One related to recycling, another to Downtown related issues.

I would like the Council to consider establishing a formal Recycle, Re-use, and Re-purpose of Waste Committee to work with the existing informal committee to consider more effective waste processing. I recommend Councilor Snider take the lead to recommend that the Council establish such a committee at the next regular Council meeting.

I would like the Council to consider establishing a Committee to work on Economic Development, and Research initially to develop ideas to re-vitalize our Downtown area. Issues to consider would include the impact of noise, vacant properties, and issues relating to the unhoused, as well as any other factors. I recommend a Councilor wanting to take the lead contact me and thus develop a recommendation that the Council establish such a body at the next regular Council meeting.

Regarding the NM DOT 180 project isolating Hudson and Juniper Streets, as Mayor Elect and later Mayor, I received no official notice of a prior Public meeting to discuss the 180 safety proposals. It must be understood that NM DOT manages 180 and 90, that this is an NM DOT project, not a Town one. I received many complaints from District 1, and wrote to NM DOT expressing those concerns, and I asked some questions. I followed that up with a phone call. I was then invited to the NM DOT Stakeholder set for Meeting February 6and I requested our senior Councilor be invited also. During the meeting, while no accident data was provided, the traffic volumes were depicted as the basis for isolating Hudson and Juniper Streets. The stakeholders from SCPD, SCFD, EMS and the schools did not object.

I was told NM DOT would send a detailed plan for the 180/90 intersection as well as a list of questions raised at the prior Public Meeting; they wanted answers to those questions by the end of this week. As of today I have received neither.

I spent Friday through Monday asking random people throughout the town their views; 63% liked the plan, 23% had no opinion, and 14% opposed it. After the stakeholder meeting, I sensed a lack of enthusiasm among some stake holders, sufficient to suggest each Councilor conduct their own survey in their district. With Districts 1 and 4 most impacted, I

would suggest Councilors Nanez and Salaiz consider the results of their own impartial surveys, and if they believe there is justified opposition, I suggest they consider a resolution expressing the citizen's concerns to be presented at a special meeting, the results of which would then be presented to NM DOT at the NM DOT February 19 Public Meeting.

Simon Wheaton-Smith
Mayor, Silver City NM

EXHIBIT "C"

Public Comment

US-180 & NM-90 Intersection Project

Good evening, Mayor, Councilors and Town staff.

My name is Janna Mintz, and I live in District 1 in a neighborhood that will be directly impacted by proposed changes at the intersection of US-180 and Hudson.

I'd like to offer a few comments focused on **process, communication, and alignment with Silver City's adopted plans**, based on information I've received directly from NMDOT staff.

First, clarity about the process.

I understand that the February 5th meeting was an **agency-to-agency stakeholder meeting**, and that the February 19th meeting is the designated **public input meeting**. I appreciate that clarification, and I appreciate hearing that comments received from residents — including from the December 10th meeting and written submissions — are being considered as design work continues.

I also understand that design materials are still being developed and are not yet ready for public release. I respect that this is an evolving process.

That said, I want to emphasize the importance of **clear communication** as this project moves forward — particularly about who meetings are for, how public input is incorporated, and when updated materials will become available. Clear distinctions help avoid confusion and build public trust.

As materials become public, I also encourage the Town to help amplify their availability through its usual communication channels, so residents know where to find accurate, up-to-date information.

Second, alignment with community priorities.

I'm encouraged to hear that NMDOT is actively working on **bicycle infrastructure options** in response to public feedback. That matters greatly to residents in my neighborhood.

Silver City's Comprehensive Plan identifies US-180 and NM-90 as corridors that should support safe pedestrian and bicycle movement, along with improved crossings, landscaping, and street trees. Those values are especially important here.

Pedestrian and bicycle safety are everyday concerns where I live. Walking to a nearby public park — less than half a mile away — is **uncomfortable**, and families have expressed a desire to bike with their children to schools or parks if safe cycling infrastructure is provided.

Finally, a request going forward.

As design work continues, I respectfully ask that:

- updated materials be shared publicly as soon as they are ready,
- communication about meetings and milestones remain clear and consistent, and
- the town continue to advocate for solutions that reflect adopted plans and lived community needs.

I appreciate the opportunity to share these comments, and I appreciate the work being done to improve safety along this corridor.

Thank you.

EXHIBIT "D"

Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I am here representing not just myself, but many neighbors who feel deeply disappointed, frustrated, and excluded by the transportation planning process that has brought us to this point.

First, I want to acknowledge the positive aspects of this project. We appreciate the ADA-compliant sidewalks, improved pedestrian crossings, and efforts to improve traffic flow and safety. We also understand that the New Mexico Department of Transportation is aware of concerns regarding the lack of an appropriate bike lane and is exploring possible ways to address those concerns, and we appreciate that willingness to revisit aspects of the design.

However, the real issue is not simply about bike lanes, green space, or even the specific design of this intersection. The real issue is the **process** — and the fact that throughout nearly the entire planning timeline, our neighborhood has lacked meaningful representation, advocacy, transparency, and inclusion.

This project began in early 2024 with securing funding, yet residents were not informed that this intersection would be affected until the very beginning of 2026 — nearly two years later. When it was finally presented, and the community responded with concerns, we've been told that funding timeline constraints mean significant changes are unlikely, and that if we did not accept the design as presented, we risked losing the funding entirely. That approach made residents feel pressured, cornered, and excluded from a process that directly impacts our daily lives.

It is difficult to meaningfully engage when the message we receive is: *this is your only option*.

In addition, this design cuts off direct access into the neighborhood that will be most impacted by the project from nearly half of town. This is not a small inconvenience. It affects emergency access, daily commutes, neighborhood connectivity, local businesses, and overall quality of life. These are fundamental issues that should have been openly discussed with residents and local leaders far earlier than the few months we have been given.

During much of this critical period, our district did not have an elected council representative. After new representatives were elected, neither were invited to key stakeholder meetings nor fully briefed on decisions that had already been made. As a result, our neighborhood effectively had no advocate at the table during key stages of the design process.

At the mayor's suggestion, I contacted our state representatives, since this is a state-led project. Both Senator Ramos and Representative Terrazas informed me they were not invited to the December 10 meeting or to the stakeholder meeting. Additionally, the upcoming public input meeting is scheduled during the legislative session, meaning they are unable to attend and advocate for the concerns of our community. Once again, our neighborhood and county finds itself without representation in discussions that directly affect us.

We also want to address the city's position that this is a state project and therefore the city has no control as to what will happen. While we understand that DOT is the lead agency, this project directly impacts city streets, neighborhoods, and residents. City leadership has a responsibility to

advocate for and provide information to its constituents, regardless of which agency is leading the project.

The message we have received — that the city can do very little, that we should simply take what we can get, and that we should be grateful for whatever improvements are offered — feels dismissive and deeply discouraging. Our community deserves better than to be told to accept decisions made without our involvement.

There is a public input meeting scheduled for next week, which would not have happened if the community did not have an outpouring of concern over the proposal. While we appreciate the opportunity to attend, the way it has been presented raises concern. The information provided states that the DOT will explain why they are implementing the design and listen to questions and concerns, but nowhere does it indicate that meaningful amendments can be made. This makes many residents feel that the meeting is more about public optics than genuine public engagement. It feels as though this project is being done *to* us, not *with* us.

We are not asking to halt progress. In fact, we welcome thoughtful and inclusive change. We are asking for collaboration, transparency, and advocacy. We want to know that someone at the city level is standing up for our neighborhood — ensuring that our concerns, safety, and long-term needs are part of the decision-making process, not simply dismissed because it is inconvenient. Solutions can only be found if community voices are brought into the process early and not at the final stage.

I respectfully urge the council to reflect on how this process unfolded and to commit to a more inclusive, transparent, and representative approach moving forward — both for this project and for future ones.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

ANIMAL SHELTER of High Desert Humane Society

Intake of Dogs and Cats from:
Town of Silver City

Yearly comparison

YEAR	D=Dogs		FEB		MAR		APR		MAY		JUN		JULY		AUG		SEP		OCT		NOV		DEC		TOTAL		D & C TOTAL
	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	
2025	19	15	19	14	43	22	21	25	40	42	8	23	23	66	29	41	25	28	24	27	51	16	23	21	325	340	665
2024	32	15	36	15	23	22	37	47	24	64	30	30	30	51	19	64	17	49	39	52	24	38	23	11	334	458	792
2023	22	32	43	19	22	32	37	25	30	40	44	22	36	39	38	28	36	16	38	32	39	18	30	16	415	319	734
2022	20	9	30	30	25	19	36	61	31	49	40	25	46	53	31	55	24	31	40	62	58	23	27	28	408	445	853
2021	40	17	33	32	41	23	30	35	25	33	44	63	29	55	34	31	32	17	32	29	32	10	32	30	404	375	779
2020	36	56	46	5	33	18	23	27	26	49	40	92	41	36	24	47	20	34	25	46	19	25	36	14	369	449	818
2019	48	17	33	26	40	32	39	35	36	43	47	54	43	60	46	39	35	40	48	38	39	36	23	28	477	448	925
2018	29	36	42	18	28	33	24	39	12	67	42	72	45	64	40	28	41	34	23	46	35	22	38	18	399	477	876
2017	27	26	38	28	34	30	18	18	35	34	25	33	42	21	41	42	37	46	37	35	24	41	29	20	387	374	761
2016	28	12	30	11	25	13	28	15	42	30	47	44	49	41	41	45	40	29	34	31	30	24	50	28	444	323	767
2015	35	10	34	10	38	7	27	33	27	28	26	37	36	36	32	38	32	22	28	17	39	21	39	11	393	270	663
2014	29	20	29	35	38	29	37	33	37	22	22	35	52	41	46	21	36	20	25	50	36	22	27	11	414	339	753
2013	53	13	25	12	35	11	44	28	32	24	32	46	53	51	45	38	52	13	32	27	35	21	27	18	465	302	767
2012	49	14	40	12	33	12	32	12	44	29	36	36	47	25	34	38	26	29	33	41	29	5	27	14	430	267	697
2011	31	56	39	14	34	19	36	9	27	45	30	58	48	71	40	25	24	26	31	9	27	27	48	9	415	368	783
2010	43	30	35	18	28	14	39	22	38	36	48	57	84	31	33	51	51	30	29	29	35	47	49	30	512	395	907
2009	46	30	38	16	51	21	30	20	28	33	31	91	46	44	49	19	49	28	55	38	22	19	45	22	490	381	871
2008	46	35	57	24	30	24	35	34	48	39	31	55	61	49	50	36	49	28	57	46	39	26	40	16	543	412	955
2007	58	38	41	28	40	56	33	58	55	70	35	76	33	49	37	67	39	66	52	45	46	43	44	28	513	624	1137

Animal Shelter of the High Desert Humane Society

Annual Animal Intake for the Town of Silver City

2025

OTI = Owner Turn In RTO= Return to Owner

	Dog Impound	Dog Stray	Dog OTI	Dog Total	Dog RTO	Cat Impound	Cat Stray	Cat OTI	Cat Total	Cat RTO
January	8	5	6	19	0	9	3	3	15	0
February	10	5	4	19	2	0	10	4	14	0
March	15	3	25	43	10	13	8	1	22	0
April	7	5	9	21	7	14	8	3	25	0
May	27	4	9	40	13	17	1	24	42	0
June	3	1	4	8	2	8	5	10	23	0
July	13	6	4	23	9	5	12	49	66	0
August	24	3	2	29	8	9	20	12	41	0
September	11	4	10	25	8	0	8	20	28	1
October	16	3	5	24	9	6	14	7	27	0
November	14	6	31	51	4	6	7	3	16	0
December	11	4	8	23	4	10	7	4	21	0
Totals	159	49	117	325	76	97	103	140	340	1

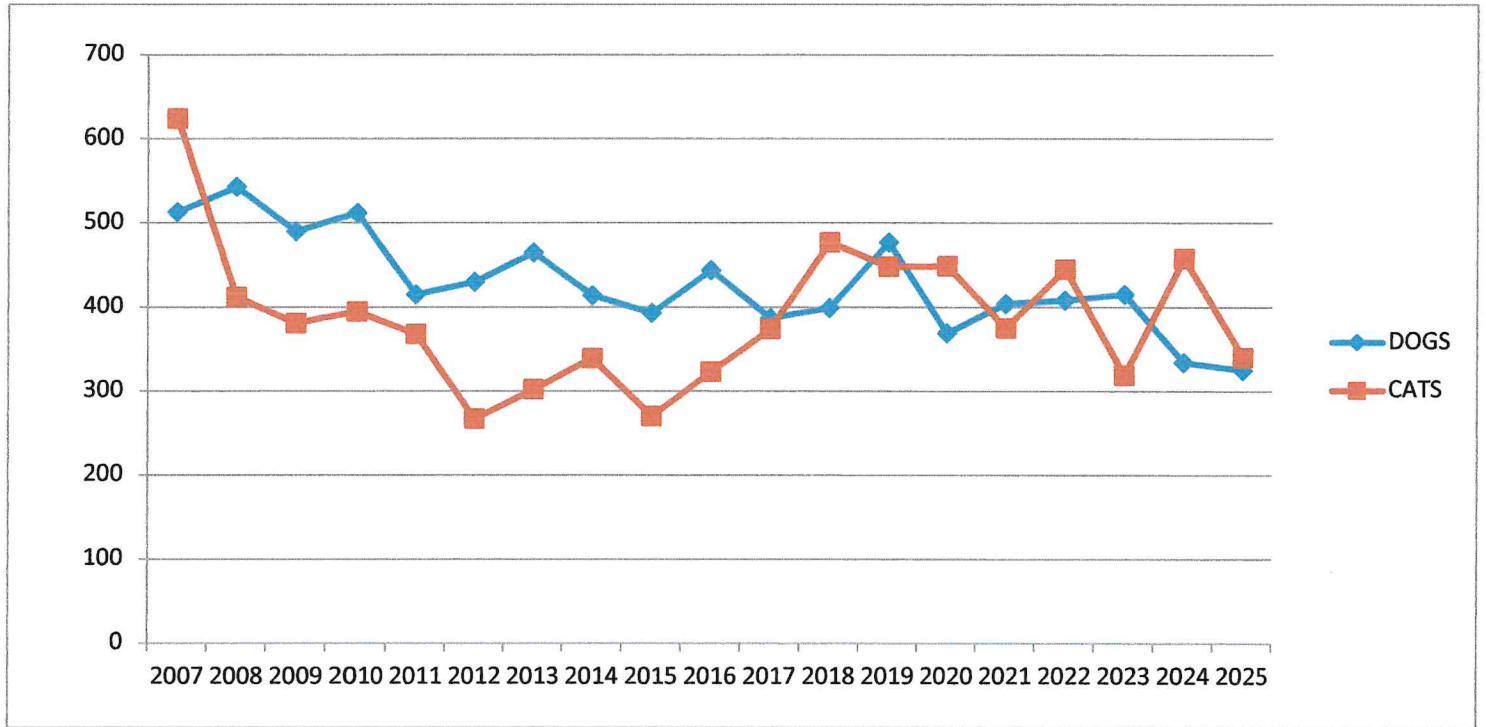
Impound fees \$2155

Licenses \$5344.15

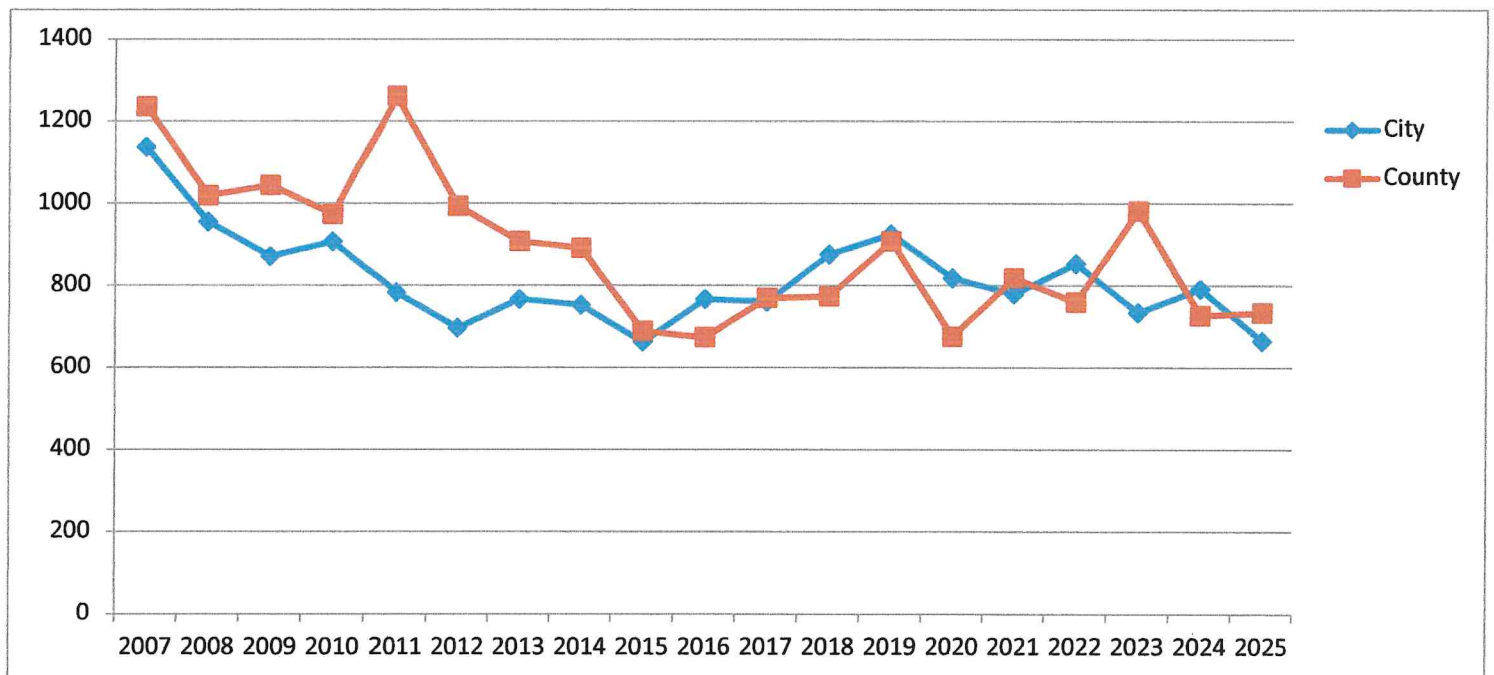
Adoptions back into the City 159

Shelter total intake 1742

Yearly Intake for the Town of Silver City



City compared to County





P.O. Box 1188 • Silver City, New Mexico 88062 • Phone (575) 534-6346 • Fax (575) 534-6377

Rudy Bencomo
Councilor District 1

Nicholas Prince
Councilor District 2

Ken Ladner
Mayor

Stan Snider
Councilor District 8

Guadalupe Cano
Councilor District 4

SILVER CITY TOWN COUNCIL

Agenda Request

The Town Council meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Grant County Administration Building located at 1400 Highway 180 E., Silver City, NM.

Please have this Agenda Request Form **along with all presentation materials** (handouts, PowerPoint copies, etc.) delivered to the Town Clerk's Office **no later than 12:00 pm (noon) on the Tuesday prior to the Town Council Meeting** during which you wish to present.

Please Note: All Agenda Requests must be approved by Jacqui Olea, Acting Town Manager and Simon Wheaton-Smith, Mayor prior to being placed on the Council Meeting Agenda.

Please submit as much information as possible via email to asedillo@silvercitynm.gov and include the words "Agenda Request" in the subject line.

Note: A representative must be present at the Council Meeting to present their request. If a representative is not in attendance, the request will be postponed, and you must reschedule.

Name(s) of Presenter(s): Heidi Ogas Today's Date: 1/26/26

Department / Agency: High Desert Humane Society

Requested Meeting Date: 2-10-26

Is Council Action Necessary? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, action requested of Council: _____

If yes, have you prepared the proper signatory documents? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Notes or additional information: Handouts

Name of individual making the request: Heidi Ogas

Phone Number: 538 1066 Email Address: heidio gas@hotmail.com

[Signature]
Jacqui Olea, Acting Town Manager

1/26/24

[Signature]
Simon Wheaton-Smith, Mayor

Approved: / Disapproved: _____ Pending: _____ Hold to: ____/____/____

EXHIBIT "F"



SILVER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 997 • 1011 HUDSON
SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO 88062

(575) 538-3723
FAX (575) 538-3726



January 2026

SCPD Downtown Activity Report – Bullard from Pope to Broadway

Frequent Patrols – 65
Downtown Foot Patrols – 19
Big Ditch Foot Patrols – 9
Citizen Contacts – 10
Business Check – 1
Traffic Stops – 8
Citations – 4

Note: Citation count also includes Pope Street near Downtown.

Calls for Service – 20

Noise complaint – 1
Odor complaint – 0
Traffic Complaint – 1
Animal Complaint – 1
Welfare Checks – 4
Suspicious Activity – 6
Criminal Trespass/Warnings – 3
Unwanted Subject – 1
Alarm – 2
Injuring/ Tampering with a motor vehicle – 1

Citations Noise Complaints – 0
Citations Odor – 0

Note: All activity is documented through Grant County Regional Dispatch Authority and inputted into our Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD).



**Town of Silver City,
NM**

Item #8.A

Item Report

Meeting Date: February 24, 2026

Item: Community Development Director's Decision on AP 26-01& AP 26-02

Attachments:

None



**Town of Silver City,
NM**

Item #11.A

Item Report

Meeting Date: February 24, 2026

Item: Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUTION 2026-06: A RESOLUTION TO FORM AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO.

Attachments:

1. Res 2026-06 Economic Development

RESOLUTION 2026-06

A RESOLUTION TO FORM AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO.

Sponsored by Councilor Nicholas Prince

WHEREAS, Silver City is the economic center for the County of Grant;

WHEREAS, our businesses are a critical factor in the Town's welfare, health, and safety;

WHEREAS, opportunities exist throughout the Town for infill, re-use, and development to stimulate, both, heads-in-beds as well as foot traffic;

WHEREAS, certain factors are inhibiting the health, safety, and welfare of our Town; and

WHEREAS, an Economic Development and Research Committee could focus on, evaluate, and develop programs, policies, and data, along with methods for continuous monitoring, and improvement, of their results, to assist in revitalizing the Town of Silver City;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by The Town of Silver City that:

1. The Town of Silver City shall form a committee called the Economic Development and Research Committee to make recommendations to the Governing Body;
2. The Committee shall have five members appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council;
3. The Committee member terms shall be staggered, three members shall be appointed for two year terms, and the remaining two members shall be appointed for one year terms, thereafter, all appointments shall be for two year terms, and

a vacancy in the membership of the Committee shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term, one member of the Committee may reside outside of town limits; and

a member whose term has expired may be re-appointed, or may continue until a replacement has been appointed;
4. The committee shall meet at least once per month, to develop programs or policies along with methods for continuous monitoring and improvements of results, then as appropriate, recommend to the Governing Body selected ways and means to revitalizing our Town;
5. The committee shall use established problem solving models to (a) determine presenting issues, then (b) underlying critical causes and factors contributing to presenting issues, and then

(c) for each unit of a problem and its associated causes and factors it shall identify one or more solutions;

6. The committee shall develop means and methods to evaluate proposed solutions when implemented and thus ensure continuous improvement of generated results;
7. The Committee shall elect its chair from among its members for a term of one year with eligibility for re-election; and
8. The members of the Committee shall be required to attend more than 75 percent of all regular meetings held during each year of a member's term. Failure to attend any three of 12 meetings shall be considered a resignation and that member shall be replaced.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Body of the Town of Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico, at its regular meeting of February 24, 2026.

(Seal)

TOWN OF SILVER CITY

Simon Wheaton-Smith, Mayor

Attest:

Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk



**Town of Silver City,
NM**

Item #11.B

Item Report

Meeting Date: February 24, 2026

Item: Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUTION 2026-07: A RESOLUTION TO FORM A REUSE AND RECYCLE COMMITTEE FOR THE TOWN OF SILVER NEW MEXICO.

Attachments:

1. Res 2026-07 A Resolution recycle committee

RESOLUTION 2026-07

A RESOLUTION TO FORM A REUSE AND RECYCLE COMMITTEE FOR THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO

Whereas, there are limited resources available on the earth;

Whereas, there is limited space in the Southwest Solid Waste Authority Landfill;

Whereas, reuse and recycling saves resources and prolongs the existing life of the landfill; and

Whereas, a Reuse and Recycle Committee could focus, evaluate, and develop programs to reuse and recycle waste within the Town of Silver City;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by The Town of Silver City:

1. That the Town of Silver City shall form a committee called the Reuse and Recycle Committee to make recommendations to the Governing Body;
2. That the Committee shall have five members appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council;
3. That the Committee terms shall be staggered, three members shall be appointed for two year terms, and the remaining two members shall be appointed for one year terms, thereafter, all appointments shall be for two year terms, a vacancy in the membership of the Committee shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term, one member of the Committee may reside outside of town limits;
4. That a member whose term has expired may be re-appointed, or may continue until a replacement has been appointed;
5. That the committee shall meet at least once per month, to develop, then as appropriate, recommend to the Governing Body, the initiation, and operation of various Reuse and Recycle Programs;
6. That the Committee shall elect its chair from among its members for a term of one year with eligibility for re-election; and
7. That members of the Committee shall be required to attend more than 75 percent of all regular meetings held during each year of a member's term. Failure to attend any three of 12 meetings shall be considered a resignation and that member shall be replaced.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Body of the Town of Silver City,
Grant County, New Mexico, at its regular meeting of February 24, 2026.

(Seal)

TOWN OF SILVER CITY

Simon Wheaton-Smith, Mayor

Attest:

Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk



**Town of Silver City,
NM**

Item #11.C

Item Report

Meeting Date: February 24, 2026

**Item: Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUTION NO. 2026-08: A RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING A PUBLIC-PRIVATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MAINSTREET
PROJECT**

Attachments:

1. Res 2026-08 - Mainstreet FY2027.jo

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-08

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A PUBLIC-PRIVATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MAINSTREET PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Town of Silver City supports the revitalization and economic re-development of its historic commercial core; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Silver City desires to continue development of the economically vital and vibrant town center for its residents, visitors and tourists; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Silver City sees the economic health of downtown as one of its critical assets; and

WHEREAS, it is realized that a sustainable town center economy contributes to the community's economic health; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized our downtown and town center are a traditional commercial core representing our unique history and culture; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Silver City wishes to continue to develop a livable, walkable town center with opportunities to shop, work, live and discover recreational, cultural and heritage opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Silver City wishes to continue a partnership with Silver City MainStreet, non-profit economic re-development organization, to invest in enhancing the quality of life for the community's citizens via the implementation of asset-based economic development strategies under the Main Street Four Points Approach®, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Silver City in partnership with the Corporation for Downtown Development D/B/A Silver City MainStreet, a MainStreet Corporation may leverage technical assistance and other resources through the New Mexico Economic Development Department, New Mexico MainStreet Program to support the economic re-development and revitalization of the Silver City MainStreet district;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL, THE
GOVERNING BODY OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY:**

1. The Town of Silver City agrees to continue to work with the New Mexico Economic Development Department's New Mexico MainStreet Program, dedicating resources and financial support to create a successful downtown economic development program through strategies established by the National MainStreet Center's Economic Transformation Strategies and the Main Street Four-Point Approach®.

2. The Town of Silver City commits to continue to work collaboratively with the Corporation for Downtown Development D/B/A Silver City MainStreet, a MainStreet organization, and the New Mexico Economic Development Department's MainStreet Program to meet the standards and principles of revitalizing and re-developing the core commercial district of the community, contracting with the local MainStreet organization to coordinate and administer activities for the Town of Silver City as set forth in a Biennial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and a separate "services contract" with the local MainStreet organization.
3. The Town of Silver City commits to continue to provide philosophical, financial, planning, and coordination assistance for the Corporation for Downtown Development D/B/A Silver City MainStreet, a MainStreet organization, to support operations and projects under the specifications of the Biennial MOU and a separate "services contract" with the Silver City MainStreet organization.
4. The term of this resolution shall be deemed effective for the life of the MOU, generally a two-year period commencing July 1, 2026

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED this

TOWN OF SILVER CITY

(Seal)

/s/
Simon Wheaton-Smith, Mayor

Attest:

/s/
Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk



**Town of Silver City,
NM**

Item #11.D

Item Report

Meeting Date: February 24, 2026

Item: Mayors' appointment to the Municipal Museum Community Advisory Group

Attachments:

None