



TOWN OF SILVER CITY

Regular Meeting

March 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**
- 4. PROCLAMATIONS**
- 5. COUNCIL COMMENTS**
- 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. Regular Meeting on March 10, 2026. -
- 7. PUBLIC INPUT**
- 8. REPORTS**
 - A. Representative Luis Terrazas and Senator Gabriel Ramos
-
 - B. Stage 1 Fire Restrictions – Fire Chief Milo Lambert -
 - C. Manager’s Report -
- 9. PUBLIC HEARINGS**
- 10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A. Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUION 2026-09: A RESOLUTION

**EQUESTING TRANSPARENCY AND DETAILED INFORMATION FROM
THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING
THE PROPOSED PROJECT AT THE INTERSECTION OF US 180 AND NM
90. -**

11. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Mayors' appointment to the Economic Development and Research Committee. -**
- B. **Mayors' appointments to the Reuse and Recycle Committee.**
-

12. ADJOURNMENT

Council Members			
<u>Name</u>	<u>Elected Position</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>
Simon Wheaton-Smith	Mayor	575-313-3990	01/2026 - 12/2030
Angela Salaiz	Councilor, District 1	575-654-0415	01/2024 - 12/2027
Nicholas H. Prince	Councilor, District 2	575-654-0087	01/2026 - 12/2030
Stan Snider	Councilor, District 3	575-342-2535	01/2024 - 12/2027
Victor Nañez	Councilor, District 4	575-654-0148	01/2026 - 12/2030

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY

***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.

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 #6.A

Item Report

Meeting Date: March 24, 2026

Item: Regular Meeting on March 10, 2026.

Attachments:

1. 2026 03 10 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes

SILVER CITY
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
GRANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 1400 HWY. 180 E., SILVER CITY, NM
March 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
Charles Kretek, Town Attorney
Randy Hernandez, Business Operations Manager
Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk
Freddie Portillo, Police Chief
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 – Councilor Snider requested postponing Item F, Resolution 2026-10, which would repeal Resolution 2021-9 related to constructing community solar. While expressing support for community solar, Snider explained that additional research is needed before removing the moratorium. Concerns include unclear state guidelines for decommissioning solar facilities, the absence of requirements such as surety bonds, and lack of provisions regarding eminent domain. Councilor Snider also noted the need to ensure proper setbacks and local regulations, so the Town is not financially responsible if a solar project fails and requires decommissioning. Councilor Snider recommended delaying the decision until these questions are addressed and either clearer state guidance is found or local ordinances are established.

Councilor Prince stated that Silver City’s current community solar legislation conflicts with existing state law. He explained that repealing the moratorium could create opportunities to amend the policy and establish deadlines to align local regulations with state requirements. The main purpose of the resolution is to bring the Town’s policies into harmony with State law.

Councilor Snider suggested that delaying the decision for a short period—such as two weeks or a month—would allow time for additional research and would not significantly impact the situation. Therefore, he recommended postponing the matter.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked Town Attorney, Charles Kretek for his thoughts.

Town Attorney, Charles Kretek confirmed that Councilor Prince is correct and that a moratorium is not authorized under state law, meaning the Town is currently in violation. He noted the Town is fortunate it has not been sued. While a short delay might not matter, it still carries risk. He also explained that community solar projects must obtain a letter from the Town confirming compliance with local zoning and setback requirements when applying to the PRC.

Councilor Snider requested more detailed information about how state law regulates community solar projects, including decommissioning requirements, construction guidelines, and how connections to substations would work if neighboring properties are involved. He raised concerns about whether neighbors could be affected through eminent domain or if projects would be prevented from proceeding.

Town Attorney, Charles Kretek explained that community solar projects under the state program (5 megawatts or less) connect to existing distribution lines rather than substations. He also noted that solar utilities do have eminent domain authority, but it must go through the courts.

Councilor Snider said he would like to see more data, particularly regarding surety bonds, to ensure the City would not be financially responsible for decommissioning a solar project if it reaches the end of its life or fails to operate properly.

Town Attorney Charles Kretek stated that while he is unsure if specific data is available, decommissioning bonds—either surety bonds or cash bonds—are commonly required for solar projects and other energy production sites to ensure proper decommissioning. He added that he would look for additional data on the topic.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked the Council if they wished to keep it on the agenda.

Councilor Snider stated he would like to postpone.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith suggested asking Town Attorney, Charles Kretek for his legal advice.

Town Attorney, Charles Kretek stated that the moratorium is illegal and should be lifted. He advised that removing it would not change existing standards, and the Town could continue gathering information on community solar regulations from the PRC while moving forward. He noted that, similar to cannabis regulation, most oversight is handled by the State rather than the Town.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith stated that, based on the guidance provided, the Council should proceed with the agenda item as presented.

Councilor Snider suggested conducting additional research and potentially returning with an ordinance tailored to the Town. He noted that a previous ordinance drafted by James Marshall contained useful information and could help guide how the Town should manage and accept Community Solar projects.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith proposed proceeding with the resolution and suggested that, since further discussion goes beyond the agenda item, prior notice could be given during council comments to indicate the intent to move forward with the issue.

Councilor Snider agreed to proceed with the resolution.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked if there were any other changes to the agenda and, hearing none, confirmed that the agenda was finalized.

3. CEREMONIES – Employee of the Month for January, February and March 2026. January 2026 Employee of the Month Marisela Rodriguez – See Exhibit “A”.

February 2026 Employee of the Month Randy Hernandez – See Exhibit “B”

March 2026 Employee of the Month Ami Jaime – See Exhibit “C”

4. PROCLAMATIONS: “WORLD SUNDIAL DAY” - “FAIR HOUSING MONTH” Mayor Wheaton-Smith read the Proclamation for World Sundial Day proclaiming March 20, 2026 as “World Sundial Day”.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith read the proclamation for Fair Housing Month and proclaimed March 2026 as “Fair Housing Month” and presented it to the Community Development Director Susan Mittelstadt.

5. COUNCIL COMMENTS – Councilor Prince reminded the public of two upcoming events: a county listening session on the Behavioral Health Reform Act (SB3) on March 19 at the Grant County Convention Center and online, and a regional economic development discussion hosted by New Mexico Tech on March 17 at the same location.

Councilor Snider stated that he fully supports community solar but emphasized the need for the Town to ensure proper protections are in place and to move forward with developing an ordinance soon.

Councilor Nañez congratulated the Silver City Gospel Mission for launching “The Pantry to the People,” a mobile food pantry that delivers food to homebound individuals. He praised the staff, board, and volunteers for creating a program that will greatly benefit the community.

Councilor Salaiz had no comment.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. February 24, 2026, Regular Meeting. Councilor Prince moved to approve February 24, 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 – Martha Blacklock – See Exhibit “D”

Raul Turrieta – See Exhibit “E”

8. REPORTS:

A. Police Chief Freddie Portillo – See Exhibit “F”

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked if there were any questions for Chief Portillo.

Councilor Prince asked for confirmation about a recent bomb threat, noting it was the second such incident at the same facility in the past four years and asking whether the reports had been filed with the ATF.

Chief Portillo stated right now it is being handled by his investigations division and there is an ongoing investigation.

B. Manager’s Report – Acting Town Manager, Jacqui Olea explained that the Town administratively removed sponsorship for certain events due to financial reporting issues with the state. A quarterly report was submitted late, leading the state to require mandatory monthly financial reporting in addition to existing quarterly reports and audits. She noted the decision was difficult because of the economic benefits events bring to the community.

Business Operations Manager Randy Hernandez explained that the state’s Department of Finance and Administration has required the Town to begin monthly financial reporting due to extremely low general fund balances—64 cents in the first quarter and 93 cents in the second. This indicates expenditures have exceeded revenues, triggering increased state oversight. As corrective actions, the Town is suspending discretionary spending such as event sponsorships, reviewing contracts for possible reductions, evaluating department fees for potential increases, and considering a sanitation rate increase to address a funding shortfall.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked if there were any questions for Mr. Hernandez.

Hearing none, Mayor Wheaton-Smith stated that during a meeting with Town staff and the Department of Finance and Administration, the State recognized that the Town had quickly taken corrective actions regarding its financial situation, which helped ease some pressure. He emphasized the seriousness of the issue but noted the Town still has reserves and incoming revenues. He also suggested exploring future financial strategies such as creating a sinking fund for infrastructure and reviewing budget assumptions. The Mayor expressed confidence in the Town’s finance staff and supported the difficult decisions being made to stabilize the Town’s finances.

Councilor Prince praised Town staff for identifying the financial issues early in the new administration and expressed full support for their efforts to address and resolve the situation.

Councilor Nañez expressed support for the staff’s quick actions and thanked them for addressing the financial issues promptly, stating his commitment to working together to improve the city.

Councilor Snider thanked the staff as well.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approval / Disapproval of a Public Celebration Permit Application for Tour of the Gila VIP Beer Garden for May 2, 2026, with alcohol served from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm at 601 N. Bullard Street, Silver City, New Mexico. Liquor License Holder: 1). Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, License #SBL-000032, 203 S. Mill Road, Silver City, NM 88061. Arthur Gamez thanked the Council for reviewing the applications and requested approval for Public Celebration Permits related to the Tour of the Gila, including one for a VIP tent and another for a private tent for public alcohol sales.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked if there were any questions.

Councilor Prince asked for confirmation about server permits, specifically two that will expire before the upcoming event dates.

Arthur Gamez stated he will have them updated before the end of the month and send copies to the Town Clerk, Alfred Sedillo.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked if there were any more questions. Hearing none, Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for a motion.

Councilor Snider moved to approve a **Public Celebration Permit Application for Tour of the Gila VIP Beer Garden for May 2, 2026, with alcohol served from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm at 601 N. Bullard Street, Silver City, New Mexico. Liquor License Holder: 1). Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, License #SBL-000032, 203 S. Mill Road, Silver City, NM 88061.** Councilor Nañez 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.

B. Approval / Disapproval of a Public Celebration Permit Application for Tour of the Gila Beer Garden for May 2, 2026, with alcohol served from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm at 601 N. Bullard Street, Silver City, New Mexico. Liquor License Holder: 1). Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, License #SBL-000032, 203 S. Mill Road, Silver City, NM 88061.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked if there were any questions.

Councilor Price reminded Arthur Gamez of the two server permits that are to expire prior to the event.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for a motion.

Councilor Prince moved to approve a **Public Celebration Permit Application for Tour of the Gila Beer Garden for May 2, 2026, with alcohol served from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm at 601 N. Bullard Street, Silver City, New Mexico. Liquor License Holder: 1). Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery, License #SBL-000032, 203 S. Mill Road, Silver City, NM 88061.** 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.

C. Approval / Disapproval of a Public Celebration Permit Application for First Friday Celebration for April 3, 2026, with alcohol served from 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm at 214 W. Yankee Silver City, New Mexico. Liquor License Holder: 1). Open Space Brewing, License #SBL-000112, P. O. Box 2369, Silver City, NM 88062. Alexa Tubbs of Open Space Brewing requested Council support for a Public Celebration Permit on April 3rd to help bring more activity and excitement to First Fridays at the Seedboat Collective.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for a motion.

Councilor Prince moved to approve a **Public Celebration Permit Application for First Friday Celebration for April 3, 2026, with alcohol served from 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm at 214 W. Yankee Silver City, New Mexico. Liquor License Holder: 1). Open Space Brewing, License #SBL-000112, P. O. Box 2369, Silver City, NM 88062.** 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.

D. Approval / Disapproval of a Public Celebration Permit Application for Light Space Art Red Dot Weekend for April 3, 2026, with alcohol served from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at 209 W. Broadway, Silver City, New Mexico. Liquor License Holder: 1). JG Owen Enterprises LLC, License #WGL-000048, 11533 Woodmar Ln., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111. Karen Hymer, owner of Light Art Space Gallery, requested approval for Owens Winery to sell wine at her First Friday event during the Silver City Art Association's Red Dot weekend, which aims to attract visitors downtown to celebrate local art.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked if there were any questions.

Councilor Prince noted that he did not believe a liquor permit had previously been issued to the establishment and asked that the correct contact information be confirmed.

Town Clerk Alfred Sedillo stated they were on the phone if the Council had any questions.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked if there were any more questions. Hearing none, Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for a motion.

Councilor Snider moved to approve a **Public Celebration Permit Application for Light Space Art Red Dot Weekend for April 3, 2026, with alcohol served from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at 209 W. Broadway, Silver City, New Mexico. Liquor License Holder: 1). JG Owen Enterprises LLC, License #WGL-000048, 11533 Woodmar Ln., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111.** 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.

E. Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUION 2026-09: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING TRANSPARENCY AND DETAILED INFORMATION FROM THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT AT THE INTERSECTION OF US 180 AND NM 90. Councilor Nañez explained that the resolution does not support or oppose the proposed changes at the US 180 and NM 90 intersection. Instead, it requests transparency and detailed information from the New Mexico Department of Transportation so that Town officials, residents, and businesses can make informed decisions. He then made a motion to adopt the resolution.

Councilor Salaiz seconded the motion as stated.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked if there were any questions.

Councilor Prince noted that he received a draft memorandum of understanding from the New Mexico Department of Transportation and asked for the Mayor's thoughts on it in relation to the pending ordinance or resolution.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith stated that he is not permitted to participate in the debate beyond asking questions. As a result, he chose to defer his response and noted that he still needed more time to review the material.

Councilor Prince expressed concern about inconsistent communication between the State Department and the Town Council, noting that the state is following its own communication standards. He requested that Town management formally share the draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Council for review to avoid conflicts with existing resolutions and prevent issues with ongoing projects. He then suggested tabling the matter until the next Council meeting, allowing time to review information from NMDOT, with the intention of making a final decision at that time.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith stated there was a motion to table asking Councilor Nañez if he is okay with it. Councilor Nañez agreed.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for a second.

Councilor Nañez stated no, stating tabling is in a motion.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith clarified that, under Robert's Rules of Order (12th edition), a motion that is tabled can be taken up at a later meeting within the same quarterly period. He noted that while New Mexico Municipal League guidance suggests tabling must be addressed in the same meeting, the Town follows Robert's Rules instead, allowing consideration at a subsequent meeting.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith stated there was a motion to table and asked for a second.

Councilor Nañez seconded the motion as stated. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith stated therefore, the agenda item will be on the table and therefore become unfinished business at the next regular meeting.

F. RESOLUTION NO. 2026-10: A RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION 2021-19 A MORATORIUM TO PROHIBIT BUILDING, CONSTRUCTING, AND ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY SOLAR FACILITIES. Councilor Prince discussed a current moratorium on Community Solar Developments, noting it has limited projects within City limits and created uncertainty about alignment with state regulations. He explained that the state is promoting solar development to provide affordable renewable energy and support energy exports. Councilor Prince suggested repealing the Town's 2021 resolution to reopen opportunities for community solar while still allowing State and local review of applications. He emphasized the need to address the issue promptly due to potential legal implications, while still leaving room to improve State law.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked if there were any questions.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith added to the discussion by noting that Councilor Snider wishes to introduce a draft ordinance and move forward with it.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for a motion.

Councilor Prince moved to approve **RESOLUTION NO. 2026-10: A RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION 2021-19 A MORATORIUM TO PROHIBIT BUILDING, CONSTRUCTING, AND ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY SOLAR FACILITIES.** 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.

G. Approval / Disapproval of ORDINANCE NO. 1338: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE AND TRANSFER OF A 0.430 ACRE TRACT OF REAL PROPERTY, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 48, SECTION 48-30 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY. Community Development Director Susan Mittelstadt explained that Richard Mata applied to purchase a Town-owned property located at Swan Street and College Avenue, approximately 0.43 acres. The property was appraised at \$25,125, and no other bids were received. The Town determined that it has no future use for the land due to its size, shape, and location. Mr. Mata has covered the application, survey, and appraisal costs and will also pay all transaction-related fees.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for a motion.

Councilor Snider moved to approve **ORDINANCE NO. 1338: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE AND TRANSFER OF A 0.430 ACRE TRACT OF REAL PROPERTY, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 48, SECTION 48-30 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY.** 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.

H. Mayors' appointments to the Trails and Open Space Advisory Committee. Mayor Wheaton-Smith announced two applications for Trails and Open Space Advisory Committee appointments—Jonathan Harold Titus and Samuel Schramski. Based on the committee chair's recommendation, both were approved, with one filling a vacancy from a recent resignation. With no objections raised, both individuals were officially appointed to the Trails and Open Space Advisory Committee.

I. Mayors' appointments to the Reuse and Recycle Committee. Mayor Wheaton-Smith stated there were four applicants—Robert Jay Stockdale, Stuart Egnal, David A. Stone, and Daniel Chris Lemme—were considered for positions on the Recycle and Reuse Committee. With no objections from the council, all four were appointed. The committee has five positions total, including Councilor Snider as an ex officio member. The appointees will serve staggered terms of one or two years as outlined in the resolution.

J. Mayors' appointment to the Economic Development and Research Committee. Mayor Wheaton-Smith stated for the Economic Development and Research Committee, three applications were received, with one deferred. The remaining two applicants—Brent Steinberg and William "Gene" Jones—were reviewed and, with no objections, both were appointed to the Economic Development and Research Committee.

12. ADJOURNMENT - Mayor Wheaton-Smith entertained a motion to adjourn. Councilor Prince moved to adjourn. Councilor Salaiz seconded the motion as stated. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Simon Wheaton-Smith, Mayor

Attest:

Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk



**Town of Silver City,
NM**

Item #8.A

Item Report

Meeting Date: March 24, 2026

Item: Representative Luis Terrazas and Senator Gabriel Ramos

Attachments:

None



**Town of Silver City,
NM**

Item #8.B

Item Report

Meeting Date: March 24, 2026

Item: Stage 1 Fire Restrictions – Fire Chief Milo Lambert

Attachments:

1. SCFD Stage 1 Restictions March 25, 2026



SILVER CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

"Dedicating our lives to another chance on yours."

P.O. BOX 1486 • SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO 88062

STATION 1: 575-538-2591

FAX: 575-956-1289

STATION 2: 575-388-3050



Drought and Local Fire Conditions Stage One Fire Restrictions

Pursuant to the Town of Silver City Ordinances Section 18-24 (9). The Fire Chief and the Town of Silver City have declared that a state of fire danger does presently exist. By the order of the Fire Chief, the following restrictions are in effect:

- A. No building or maintaining of campfires
- B. No open burning to include the burning of yard waste, tree limbs, and weeds. No Burn permits will be issued.
- C. UL approved propane grills with appropriate covers/lids are approved.
- D. Any other outdoor wood or charcoal burning device shall have protective fire screens and prior approval from the Silver City Fire Department.
- E. Underground fire pits for use of meal preparation shall have appropriate covers such as screen, metal siding, and or dirt. Fires used to prepare hot coals must have a protective screen and a five-foot clearance around the entire fire pit. Fire pits must have prior approval from the Silver City Fire Department who will issue a special burn permit.

These restrictions are effective immediately, March 25, 2026, and shall remain in effect until conditions improve and will only be lifted by the Fire Chief. Anyone caught in violation of this order is subject to the following penalties: A fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500, and or imprisonment of up to 30 days.

Eloy Vasquez, Deputy Chief
Silver City Fire Department
Fire Prevention Bureau

MILO E. LAMBERT
FIRE CHIEF
575-956-1273

AARON SEEVERS
ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF
575-956-1272



**Town of Silver City,
NM**

Item #8.C

Item Report

Meeting Date: March 24, 2026

Item: Manager's Report

Attachments:

None



**Town of Silver City,
NM**

Item #10.A

Item Report

Meeting Date: March 24, 2026

Item: Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUION 2026-09: A RESOLUTION EQUESTING TRANSPARENCY AND DETAILED INFORMATION FROM THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT AT THE INTERSECTION OF US 180 AND NM 90.

Attachments:

1. Res 2026-09 THE PROPOSED PROJECT AT THE INTERSECTION OF US 180 AND NM 90

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING TRANSPARENCY AND DETAILED INFORMATION FROM THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT AT THE INTERSECTION OF US 180 AND NM 90

SPONSORED BY: Councilor Victor Nañez of District 4

WHEREAS, The Town Council of Silver City acknowledges that safety and efficient traffic flow at the intersection of US 180 and NM 90 are matters of public importance; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution is not intended to express support for or opposition to any proposed changes at the intersection, but rather to request transparency and specific, detailed information from the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT); and

WHEREAS, the Town Council, residents, property owners, and business owners require accurate and complete information in order to make informed decisions regarding matters that may significantly impact property, businesses, and public safety; and

WHEREAS, general descriptions of proposed improvements are insufficient for property owners and businesses that may be directly affected; and

WHEREAS, affected parties require, at minimum, clear right-of-way maps, draft or final design and engineering plans, identification of access (ingress and egress) changes, traffic pattern adjustments, construction phasing details, and information regarding any potential property acquisition; and

WHEREAS, without such detailed information it is not possible to fully evaluate potential impacts on property values, business viability, customer access, safety, and overall traffic flow; and

WHEREAS, business owners along the corridor rely upon safe, visible, and convenient access, and even minor modifications to turn lanes, medians, or access points may result in significant economic consequences; and

WHEREAS, thirteen (13) businesses are located at Pinon Plaza alone, supporting approximately thirty (30) families whose livelihoods may be affected by changes to access or traffic patterns; and

WHEREAS, property owners and business operators are entitled to understand whether access points will be eliminated or relocated, whether frontage roads will be added or removed, whether property will be acquired, and how traffic will be managed during construction; and

WHEREAS, transparency fosters public trust, reduces confusion and misinformation, and promotes constructive collaboration between NMDOT and the community; and

WHEREAS, meaningful public engagement and access to detailed information are essential components of responsible governance; and

WHEREAS, while safety improvements are supported in principle, such improvements must be balanced with economic stability, protection of property rights, and the long-term vitality of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL THAT:

1. The Town of Silver City hereby formally requests that NMDOT shall keep the Town Administration and the Governing Body informed in a timely manner of the plan and changes to the said plan that may impact traffic flow and thus impact affected citizens.
2. That the Town of Silver City hereby formally requesting that the NMDOT shall make readily available detailed plans for the 90/180 intersection in a timely manner.
3. Such information shall include, at a minimum: Draft and/or final engineering and design plans; Detailed right-of-way maps; Identification of specific property impacts; Access modifications affecting ingress and egress; Traffic pattern changes; Construction timeline and phasing; and Disclosure of any anticipated property acquisition.
4. That the Town of Silver shall keep the NMDOT informed in a timely manner of concerns that the Town staff or the Governing has received regarding the 90/180 intersection.
5. That the Mayor and the Mayor Pro Tem of the Town of Silver City shall be the point of contact for the Governing Body.
6. That the Town Manager or acting Town Manager, Fire Chief, Police Chief shall be the point of contact for the Town Administration.
7. That the Town Manager or acting Town Manager and Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem shall meet bi-weekly to review plans, plan changes, concerns, and recommendations and ensure that the NMDOT and Governing Body is kept informed of such issues.
8. That the Town Manager or acting Town Manager shall provide regular to the Governing Body updates on the plan's progression, to include any temporary restrictions or changes that may affect citizens travel or quality of life, as well as current project timelines; and

9. And the NMDOT be requested to provide an opportunity for meaningful public review and comment prior to the finalization of any design or construction decisions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That this Resolution represents a reasonable and responsible request for clarity and transparency. It does not seek to delay progress but to ensure that citizens, property owners, and business operators have the information necessary to determine how the proposed project may affect their property, livelihood, and community.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Governing Body of the Town of Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico at its regular meeting of March 10, 2026.

TOWN OF SILVER CITY

Simon Weation-Smith, Mayor

Attest:

Alfred Sedillo, Town Clerk



**Town of Silver City,
NM**

Item #11.A

Item Report

Meeting Date: March 24, 2026

Item: Mayors' appointment to the Economic Development and Research Committee.

Attachments:

None



**Town of Silver City,
NM**

Item #11.B

Item Report

Meeting Date: March 24, 2026

Item: Mayors' appointments to the Reuse and Recycle Committee.

Attachments:

None