



MINUTES

Planning and Zoning Commission

Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026
Grant County Administrative Building
1400 US Hwy 180 E.
Silver City, New Mexico

Commissioners Present:

Susan Moody, Chair
Dave Stone, Vice Chair
John Balas
Dale Lane
Laura Schoen

Staff Present:

Susan Mittelstadt, Community Development Director
Emily Hickle, Mapping and Planning Technician

The regular meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission was called to order at 6:02 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and the State Pledge were recited. A roll call from commissioners was taken, and a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Schoen made a motion to approve the agenda, and Commissioner Lane seconded. A debate ensued, and Commissioner Schoen amended her motion to remove the minutes from the February 26th working session. Commissioner Lane seconded, and the motion passed with a unanimous voice vote, 5/0.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Stone made a motion to approve the February 3rd regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Balas seconded, and the motion passed by a unanimous voice vote of 5/0.

Community Input:

None

Continued Business:

Ms. Mittelstadt began by informing the commission of the recent updates to the Vacancy Ordinance. The Community Development Department agreed to work with the New Mexico Main Street project on drafting the ordinance. She went on to ask whether the commission would be interested in waiting to discuss the proposed vacancy ordinance until a draft plan is available. The commission then went on to debate the approach they wanted to apply to the ordinance's penalties, incentives, and enforcement. Susan then presented the Comprehensive Plan to the Commission. She introduced the sections of the plan that the commission could focus on, including the points made in *Principles of the Comprehensive Plan*. She listed the following:

1. Provide direction to both short-term and long-term economic sustainability as the Town seeks to collaborate with the county and other municipalities to develop a diverse and sustainable regional economy
2. Follow principles and goals to guide the Town's collaboration with Grant County for management strategies in the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ), including procedures for joint planning
3. Protect the community's historic downtown and neighborhoods, including the Town's distinctive architecture and settlement patterns
4. Preserve the quality of the natural environment, open space, water, and other resources
5. Maintain and enhance community facilities and provide park, open space, and recreational opportunities to serve the entire community
6. Protect Silver City's small town feel and character, and shape new growth to promote walkable, livable neighborhoods and districts with safe traffic flow
7. Ensure that the Town's cultural diversity is maintained and historic traditions are protected and celebrated.

Ms. Mittelstadt discussed the role of commissioners in the comprehensive plan update. She cited the recent shift in leadership and the Planning and Zoning Commission's interest, which would help make broader changes to administrative processes. The commission briefly discussed the update and its role in the changes.

New Business:

None

Reports from Staff:

Ms. Mittelstadt reported that the town had begun selling small parcels of land. She noted that initial input was being sought from various town departments and committees to ensure a broad perspective. The report highlighted a close collaboration with code enforcement to address administrative issues. The community development department will be raising the fees for specific applications. She then discussed the Town's overturning of the moratorium on community solar projects.

Reports from Commission:

None

Adjournment:

Commissioner Lane moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion, and it passed by a unanimous voice vote of 5/0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Susan Moody, Chair
Planning & Zoning Commission

Date