



TOWN OF SILVER CITY

Regular Meeting

July 28, 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 July 14, 2026. -
- 7. PUBLIC INPUT**
- 8. REPORTS**
 - A. Manager's Report -
 - B. Police Chief -
- 9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - A. Trails and Open Space -
- 10. PUBLIC HEARINGS**
- 11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval / Disapproval of Special Dispenser, Public/Private Celebration Permit Application Process -
- B. Destruction of Town Records -
- C. Approval / Disapproval of Annual Recommendation to appoint Labor union Member and Council approval and appointment of Local Labor Management Relations Board, per Ordinance, 1300, Section 7.B. -
- D. Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUTION 2026-24: A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE APPROVED AND ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027 AND FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSE IN THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO, TRANSFERRING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF. -
- E. Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUTION 2026-25: FINAL QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026 -
- F. Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUTION 2026-26: APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027. -

13. 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 M. Salaiz	Councilor, District 1	575-654-0415	01/2026 - 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 Nãnez	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 \(www.townofsilvercity.org\)](http://www.townofsilvercity.org).



Town of Silver City, NM

Item #6.A

Item Report

Meeting Date: July 28, 2026

Item: Regular Meeting on July 14, 2026.

Attachments:

1. 2026 07 14 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes

SILVER CITY
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
GRANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 1400 HWY. 180 E., SILVER CITY, NM
July 14, 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
Crystal Lester, Acting Town Clerk
Ben Beltron, Executive Director, CATS
Freddie Portillo, Chief of Police
Vickie Toney, Code Enforcement
Bruce Ashburn
David Stone

Members Absent: None

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 – Mayor Wheaton-Smith proposed Public Input speakers be allotted time from 5 minutes to 3 minutes due to the large number of people signed up to speak.

Councilor Salaiz moved to amend the meeting agenda by removing Agenda Item 14, which concerned whether the Town of Silver City should continue owning and exclusively operating the Silver City Museum while having a separate entity handle fundraising only. She argued the council had already addressed the issue during meetings on June 15 and June 23 and said revisiting it without new circumstances would be an inefficient use of council time, but no one seconded the motion. As a result, the motion failed for lack of a second. The mayor asked whether a motion to reconsider was desired, but the response was no, since there was nothing to reconsider.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked if there were any other changes to the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was approved.

3. CEREMONIES – Mayor Wheaton-Smith recognized Olivia Britton as Employee of the Month for July 2026. She was honored for her outstanding performance, dedication, and positive attitude, which have made a significant impact on the town.

Business Operations Manager, Randy Hernandez noted that Olivia has served the Town of Silver City for more than 20 years, primarily as Utility Billing Supervisor and currently as Purchasing Agent. He praised her as a dependable team player who consistently goes above and beyond to

help coworkers and the public. Olivia has become an unofficial trainer for City Hall staff, serves as a key resource on procurement procedures, and has played a leading role in the town's utility billing software conversion. Randy expressed appreciation for her long-standing service and said the town is fortunate to have her on its team.

4. PROCLAMATIONS - None

5. COUNCIL COMMENTS – Councilor Salaiz began by stating she was appointed to the council on January 21, said she was elected with strong resident support for greater transparency and honest representation. She stated that she was honoring the mayor's expectation that council members challenge decisions when necessary.

She criticized the council's delay in continuing negotiations with the Museum Society, noting that the council had twice voted unanimously to proceed but had not held meetings or responded to the Society's request. She argued that postponing the matter went against the council's prior decisions.

Councilor Salaiz also raised concerns about town budget priorities, questioning the amount of funding allocated to the museum compared with the road department. She cited issues such as low wages, staffing shortages, poor equipment, and declining infrastructure, arguing that essential services needed more attention.

She defended the Museum Society's long-standing relationship with the town, stating that it had supported the museum for about 40 years and that conflicts only emerged under the current museum director. She also questioned the creation and operation of the "Friends of the Museum" organization, citing concerns about transparency, legal liability, and possible conflicts of interest.

Additionally, Councilor Salaiz criticized the Museum Advisory Board, alleging that some citizens were treated unfairly during public comments and emphasizing that board members should remain neutral and respectful.

She concluded by reaffirming her position, urging the council to follow its previous decisions, focus taxpayer funds on infrastructure and public services, and avoid repeatedly revisiting the museum dispute.

Councilor Snider stated that he opposed using the expedited approval process for the July 4th celebration permit, arguing that it bypassed normal public discussion and council voting procedures. He said the process allowed a minority of council members to make decisions without public input, which was unfair to the applicant and could lead to poor outcomes. Councilor Snider recommended ending the expedited process and returning to the standard council meeting approval process.

Councilor Prince shared three main topics. First, he discussed the regional water project and joint powers agreement (JPA), emphasizing that the original goal of regionalizing water supplies was to strengthen community resiliency and protect residents and businesses. He expressed concern

that the project's focus may be shifting toward economic development and encouraged reviewing the JPA to consider future water demands and long-term security.

Second, Councilor Prince urged residents to address the spread of the invasive Trees of Heaven species by working together on removal efforts and using guidance from U.S. Department of Agriculture resources.

Finally, he highlighted a positive community achievement by promoting the New Mexico Farmers Market Association's profile video about Silver City's farmers market, praising it as an example of local collaboration, creativity, and community spirit.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith commented on several recent issues. He explained that once the police department completed a report, the council had no authority to alter it, noting that during his 16 years in federal law enforcement, his reports could not be modified either. He said this was why he declined a citizen's request to place an accident-related matter on the council agenda, as there was no action the council could take after the police report was finalized.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith also addressed communications from residents, including a recent museum-related complaint. He explained that he did not respond because the individual had previously asked him not to contact them. He said he respected that request and emphasized that council members would continue trying to respond to citizens, although delays could occur.

He clarified that he could not intervene in utility billing matters because the town's structure separated council policy responsibilities from daily operations, which were handled by the acting town manager and staff. He praised the utility billing department for its recent work.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith discussed a recent fire at Pizza Hut around July 4, warning that fireworks could create serious hazards. He encouraged residents to contact the fire department for free advice on fire wise standards.

He shared positive remarks about the Silver Creek Botanical Garden event, saying he was impressed by the exhibits, educational booths, and performances. He also praised the lodgers tax committee for working with the county committee to prevent overlapping expenses.

Regarding the museum discussion, Mayor-Wheaton-Smith explained that the council had previously decided it needed to determine what type of museum it wanted before making decisions. He said he had informed the museum society that the council would take time to gather input from visitors, volunteers, and staff before moving forward. He thanked Councilor Salaiz for raising important points and emphasized that differing opinions were part of the democratic process and would ultimately be resolved through a vote.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. June 15, 2026, Special Meeting. Councilor Snider moved to approve June 15, 2026, Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of the Town of Silver City. Councilor Salaiz seconded the motion as stated. Motion carried unanimously.

B. June 23, 2026, Regular Meeting. Councilor Prince moved to approve June 23, 2026, Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of the Town of Silver City. Councilor Salaiz seconded the motion as stated. Motion carried unanimously.

7. PUBLIC INPUT – Georgianna Duarte, Victoria Reese, Dennis Nendza, Allyson Hearst, Susan Berry, Melinda Austin, Theresa Murphy, Glenn Theron, Alex Mackenzie, Daniel Duran-Paiz, Charlie Kiehne, Kevin Hearst, Barbara Bush, William Woodward, George Carr

Councilor prince moved for a five-minute recess. Councilor Salaiz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Council recessed for five minutes at 7:18 pm.

Council returned from five-minute recess at 7:26 pm.

8. REPORTS:

A. Manager's Report – Acting Town Manager, Jacqui Olea announced that a budget hearing was being scheduled for July 23rd from 12:30 to 2:30 at the Grant County Administration Center. She stated that the hearing would focus on the proposed FY27 budget. She also proposed that the council table two agenda items: the destruction of town records, to ensure all proper procedures had been followed, and the appointment to the town's local labor board, due to not yet receiving union nominations or recommendations.

B. Finance Department – Business Operations Manager, Randy Hernandez presented one of the first Finance Department reports and noted that the team was still working through the process of organizing the information. He presented the May financial report, focusing on the General Fund and the Lodgers Tax Fund, and stated that any additional questions could be addressed during future meetings.

For the General Fund, Randy reported a beginning balance of \$1,588,463.23, revenues and receipts totaling \$1,574,100.25, and expenditures/disbursements totaling \$1,756,292.19, resulting in an ending balance of \$1,406,261.29 for the month of May.

For the Lodgers Tax Fund, Steve reported a beginning balance of \$28,816.59, receipts totaling \$41,835.31, and expenditures/disbursements totaling \$14,099.19, resulting in an ending balance of \$56,552.91 at the end of May.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked if there were any questions or comments from councilors.

Councilor Prince asked whether the General Fund balance represented the required minimum reserve set by the State Department of Finance and Administration.

Randy explained that the required reserve was based on one-twelfth of annual expenditures and that the calculation would be included in the upcoming fourth-quarter report due July 31. He noted that the reserve information would also be presented as the council moved closer to adopting the final budget.

Councilor Prince thanked Randy, his team, and town management for their work in improving the town's financial position, noting that the reported numbers showed significant progress from the fiscal challenges faced at the beginning of the year.

Councilor Salaiz asked why the records showed a total fund for the Friends of the Library but did not show any fund for the Friends of the Museum. She questioned whether there was a reason the museum group was not included.

Randy explained that the Friends of the Library fund was managed through the town, while the Friends of the Museum was not affiliated with the town and was handled fiscally through the Gila Community Foundation.

Councilor Salaiz raised a concern that the town's website directed donors to the Friends of the Museum, creating an issue because the town did not have records of those donations. Randy suggested requesting a report from the Gila Community Foundation showing donations and revenues to date.

Councilor Prince clarified that different names such as "foundation," "society," and "friends" did not necessarily indicate different organizational structures, using the library organizations as an example. Councilor Salaiz acknowledged the distinction but reiterated that she was concerned the town was directing people to donate to the museum through its website while not receiving reports on the funds collected.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Reuse and Recycle Committee – David Stone president of Silver City Recycles and a member of the Reuse and Recycling Committee, reported on the New Mexico Recycling Coalition's annual statewide meeting. He shared that New Mexico is moving from traditional waste management toward resource recovery, with a greater focus on recovering valuable materials rather than disposal.

He noted that New Mexico's recycling rate is currently 12%, below the national average of 32%, but emphasized that this represents an opportunity for growth. Mr. Stone discussed recycling efforts in states such as Colorado, California, and Oregon, including extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs that require companies to help fund recycling solutions. He also highlighted the role of the Circular Action Alliance in developing recycling systems.

Mr. Stone described the potential for a future statewide recycling network in New Mexico, where communities could collect materials locally and connect with larger processing systems. He encouraged Silver City to prepare for these changes by continuing support for Silver City Recycles, pursuing grants for the Trash to Treasure facility, and strengthening partnerships among nonprofits, businesses, and local agencies. He emphasized that early preparation would help Silver City participate successfully in a statewide resource recovery system.

Councilor Snider mentioned that the Reuse Recycle Committee had held a meeting the previous Friday. He noted that one of the main topics discussed was education and emphasized that

educating people was an important step toward encouraging recycling and making it a regular habit.

Councilor Prince stated that he was checking in and making efforts to avoid violating the Open Meetings Act. He had been contacting the County Commission regarding proposed cost changes at the Tri City Landfill, including potential changes to tipping fees. He asked whether any ex officio members or members of the Recycling Committee had received updated numbers that could be reviewed for the upcoming fiscal year. Councilor Snider has not heard anything.

B. Municipal Library Community Advisory Board – Councilor Prince reported as the ex officio member, reported that the library had been working to fill a vacant clerk position, and the ongoing shortage required salaried staff to cover public service shifts. This increased staff exposure to illnesses and contributed to frequent sick leave. He explained that hiring a clerk remained a possible solution, but budget impacts needed careful consideration.

He noted that the approved budget was about \$723,000 and that the library was exploring possible schedule adjustments after the school year began, likely in September or October. Adjusting hours would provide salaried employees more time for administrative responsibilities, including grants, data collection, planning, and programming development.

Councilor Prince stated that the advisory committee generally supported the proposed changes. While he preferred that the library remain open every day, he felt access would still be available through other resources and that consistent hours would be better than unexpected closures due to staff illnesses. He emphasized that additional administrative time would strengthen programming, grant efforts, and long-term planning while keeping spending within budget.

He encouraged community members with concerns to share feedback with the library director before the end of July. Councilor Prince reported that the library's finances were stable, noted that the library foundation was considering increased annual distributions. He concluded that he was pleased with the advisory committee's progress and direction.

C. Economic Development and Research Committee – Councilor Prince shared the committee's discussions reflected concerns raised during public input, including registering the town with short-term rental platforms to improve lodgers' tax collection and studying vacant properties. He clarified that the committee was researching the causes of vacant, habitable homes amid a housing shortage rather than pursuing enforcement actions.

Councilor Prince also reported that Dr. Vicens and Dr. Van Randolph were comparing the town's economy with similar New Mexico communities, focusing on populations between 6,000 and 15,000. Early findings showed the town had a higher population density than many comparable communities. Dr. Van Randolph also completed an initial analysis of RP80 economic reports, which provided insights into tourism, hotel activity, retail growth, and changes since 2019. Councilor Prince encouraged residents and council members to request copies of the reports.

He explained that the committee's research was helping identify ways to better allocate resources, including potential support for businesses, organizations, and events during slower economic periods. Councilor Prince concluded with an update on upcoming meetings, noting that summer schedules might affect quorum availability for July. He said meeting notices would be posted if a meeting was held and reminded the public that recordings, transcripts, and notes were available upon request.

D. Lodgers Tax Committee – Councilor Nañez reported that the Silver City Lodgers Tax Advisory Board met on July 1st and identified a vacancy, encouraging interested lodging vendors to apply. The committee focused on improving lodgers' tax compliance and reviewing the work of the city's advertising and promotional agency, Sunny505.

The board is working to ensure all lodging properties comply with city ordinances and contribute fairly to tourism promotion. A newspaper article was being considered to highlight these efforts. The committee also reviewed Sunny505's billing practices and marketing strategies, with the mayor directing the agency to work with committee chair Kitty Clemens during the review process. Sunny505's contract runs through October 2027, with renewal discussions expected to begin before that time.

Councilor Nañez emphasized the committee's commitment to enforcing lodgers tax regulations, understanding revenue sources and collections, and thanked the volunteers for their dedication and focus.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked if there were any questions.

Councilor Prince said he was just checking and noted that the contract with Sunny505 would be going back into negotiations. He stated that the timeline was October 27, fiscal year 27, or October 2026.

Acting Town Manager, Jaqui Olea stated that they discuss the contract with Sunny505 annually. Sunny505 had responded to an RFP for a four-year advertising contract for the Town of Silver City. She noted that they would meet with the Sunny505 before the renewal period, which was expected around late October or early November of 2026.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith reported that he had been researching and documenting Lodgers Tax expenditures and discovered discrepancies in past spending, including a Sunny505 purchase order that exceeded the expected \$225,000 limit by reaching \$270,000. He explained that the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board would make recommendations to the council on funding corrections and sponsorship priorities.

He stressed the importance of reserving funds for new and future events while recognizing established events like Blues Fest as priorities. Mayor Wheaton-Smith expressed concerns about recent spending practices and said he was tracking expenditures to provide documentation for the Lodgers Tax Committee's future financial review.

He thanked committee members for their efforts and recognized Chair Kitty Clemens for her extensive experience in tourism promotion and advertising, noting that the committees now include highly experienced members.

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

12. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Acceptance of Expenditure Report for June 2026 – The Business Operations Manager, Randy Hernandez, reporting expenditure report ending June 30, 2026, reporting total expenditures of \$3,693,850.37 for the month. Of that amount, \$3,185,708.82 came from accounts payable and \$587,955.00 was for payroll covering two pay periods.

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

Councilor Prince expressed appreciation for the continued progress on the Visitas de Plata project and for ensuring grant funds were being used to address the community's housing needs. He thanked those involved for their time and effort in properly preparing properties and making sure the project's goals were being met.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked whether the audit preparation services would review not only the organization's funds and financial information but also its procedures to ensure they were being followed correctly.

Business Operations Manager, Randy Hernandez, clarified that the audit preparation firm will do more than review the organization's finances. In addition to helping finalize the financial records for fiscal years 2025 and 2026 in preparation for the audit, the firm will assess the organization's policies and procedures, meet with staff to evaluate current practices, and recommend improvements where needed. The goal is to ensure operations align with industry standards and strengthen internal processes. The preparation work is expected to take about six months, with the audit planned to begin in January 2027, although it could start sooner if preparations are completed early. Randy emphasized that the firm is a partner working to support the organization and help ensure a smooth audit process.

B. Approval / Disapproval of Special Dispenser, Public/Private Celebration Permit Application Process Councilor Snider said he had previously raised the issue during council comments and supported returning to the former process. He believed the current approach made applicants think the process was expedited, encouraging late submissions, and suggested requiring applicants to attend council meetings instead.

Councilor Salaiz stated that discussing the matter with council was much smoother and more effective than handling it through email.

Councilor Prince said the main issue was the timing of application submissions, noting that many were received too close to meeting dates for adequate staff review or Town Council referral. He recommended setting a minimum submission deadline to give staff time to review applications, ensure compliance with state laws, maintain proper records, and use an expedited approval process when no concerns exist. If issues are identified, he proposed requiring applications to be submitted by the Monday before the Thursday agenda posting for the following Tuesday's council meeting and asked what review period would be reasonable to identify concerns, notify the town clerk, and request the applicant's attendance at the next council meeting.

Councilor Nañez agreed that the process was expedited to help applicants but argued that some individuals are abusing the system by submitting their applications late. Those delays create difficulties and put the organization in a difficult position.

Councilor Prince moved to table item 12B, **Special Dispenser, Public/Private Celebration Permit Application Process** until the next meeting on Tuesday, July 28th. Councilor Nañez seconded the motion as stated.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith called for a voice vote. Hearing no opposition, the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith stated that the matter is being tabled until the next regular meeting. He noted that, under Robert's Rules of Order, and because the City is not using the New Mexico Municipal League's special rules, tabling the item is an appropriate action.

C. Mayors' appointments to the Downtown Action Planning Committee Mayor Wheaton-Smith after confirming that members had reviewed his application and hearing no objections, the mayor appointed Bruce McKinney to the Downtown Action Planning Committee.

D. Mayors' reappointments to the Trails and Open Space Committee Mayor Wheaton-Smith announced the reappointments of Bruce McKinney and Harry Browne to the Trails and Open Space Committee. Both appointments were approved without objection.

E. Destruction of Town Records

F. Approval / Disapproval of Annual Recommendation to appoint Labor union Member and Council approval and appointment of Local Labor Management Relations Board, per Ordinance, 1300, Section 7.B.

Acting Town Manager, Jacqui Olea recommended tabling items E and F.

Councilor Prince moved to table agenda items E and F, **Destruction of Town Records and Approval / Disapproval of Annual Recommendation to appoint Labor union Member and Council approval and appointment of Local Labor Management Relations Board, per Ordinance, 1300, Section 7.B.** Councilor Salaiz seconded the motion.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for any discussion or debate.

Councilor Prince stated that he wanted to confirm there was a required time limit for the Labor Relations Board appointment. He noted that it was a “use it or lose it” timeframe and that the appointment typically needed to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Acting Town Manager, Jacqui Olea stated that the reappointment phase deadline was August 4th. She explained that recommendations from the local unions needed to be received before that date to reinstate all members of the local labor board. If the recommendations were not submitted in time, the local labor board would be dissolved, and all matters would be referred to the state labor board.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith called for a voice vote. Hearing no opposition, the motion carried unanimously.

G. Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUTION NO. 2026-22: A RESOLUTION FOR PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROAD FUND PROGRAM

ADMINISTERED BY NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Acting Town Manager, Jacqui Olea summarized that the town had received this grant for several years, and it had been administered by the Public Works Director, Mr. Peter Pena. She explained that the grant required a 25% local match, which would come from the Public Works budget. The project would address local roads within the Town of Silver City, specifically roads A, B, C, and D, along with Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Streets, in a grid pattern. The funding would be used to provide chip seal treatment for the neighborhood roads.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for a motion for Resolution 2026-22.

Councilor Snider moved to approve **RESOLUTION NO. 2026-22: A RESOLUTION FOR PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROAD FUND PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.**

Councilor Salaiz seconded the motion as stated.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for a roll call vote Acting Town Clerk, Crystal Lester 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. Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUTION NO. 2026-23: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TOWN OF SILVER CITY TO ENTER INTO THE FUNDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION AND TOWN OF SILVER CITY

Acting Town Manager, Jacqui Olea explained that the resolution pertained to a \$96,000 grant application for an asset management plan. She stated that the plan would assess the town’s potable water system and create a GIS database to help oversee the system, identify pipe types, and improve maintenance scheduling. She noted that the grant would be fully funded by the Interstate Stream Commission and requested approval to execute the agreement.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked if there were any questions.

Councilor Prince commented that Chairman Ponce from the County Commission had asked about the status of the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) money. He is pleased that they were able to obtain asset management and that it will benefit the rest of the county.

Councilor Salaiz moved to approve **RESOLUTION NO. 2026-23: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TOWN OF SILVER CITY TO ENTER INTO THE FUNDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION AND TOWN OF SILVER CITY**. Councilor Prince seconded the motion as stated.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for a roll call vote Acting Town Clerk, Crystal Lester 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.

13. Approval / Disapproval of Closed Executive Session pursuant to NMSA 1978 Section 10-15-1(H)(7) for meetings subject to the attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant. Mayor Wheaton-Smith explains that during an executive session, discussions must be strictly limited to the specific topic stated—namely pending or threatened litigation. No formal decisions are typically made in these sessions, and all discussions are confidential and not subject to disclosure. After the session, the mayor will confirm that the conversation stayed within the legally permitted scope.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for a motion to enter Closed Executive Session.

Councilor Prince moved to approve a 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. After a five (5) minute break. Councilor Nañez seconded the motion as stated.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for a roll call vote Acting Town Clerk, Crystal Lester did a roll call vote. Councilor Salaiz voted aye; Councilor Prince voted aye; and Councilor Snider voted aye; Councilor Nañez voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. The Council entered Closed Executive Session at 8:28 pm.

Council returned from Closed Executive Session at 10:23 pm.

After returning from the executive session, the mayor reconvened the meeting and confirmed that the discussion was properly limited to pending or threatened litigation under attorney-client privilege. A roll call is conducted to verify that all participants adhered to those restrictions.

Acting Town Clerk, Crystal Lester 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.

14. Approval / Disapproval that the Town of Silver City shall continue to own and exclusively manage the operation of the Silver City Museum, and that the Town shall negotiate with a separate entity who shall act solely in a fund-raising capacity for the Museum with no Museum operational control.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for a motion.

Councilor Prince moved to approve that the Town of Silver City shall continue to own and exclusively manage the operation of the Silver City Museum, and that the Town shall negotiate with the Museum Society who shall act solely in a fund-raising capacity for the Museum with no Museum operational control. Councilor Snider seconded the motion as stated. Mayor asked if there was any discussion or debate.

Councilor Snider requested that the negotiating team look into financial disclosure negotiations. This was noted as a request for the meeting minutes but was not included as part of the formal motion.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for a roll call vote. Acting Town Clerk, Crystal Lester did a roll call vote. Councilor Salaiz voted no; Councilor Prince voted aye; Councilor Snider voted aye; and Councilor Nañez voted no. The vote resulted in a tie. The mayor exercised his responsibility to break the tie and cast a Yes vote. Motion passed.

15. ADJOURNMENT - Mayor Wheaton-Smith asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilor Prince moved to adjourn. Councilor Snider seconded the motion as stated.

Mayor Wheaton-Smith announced several vacancies on town boards and committees. He reported that the Cemetery Board had two vacancies, the Downtown Action Planning Committee had or would have one vacancy, the Historic Design Review Board needed an architect, and the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board needed a vendee. He noted that the Municipal Museum Advisory Board, Planning and Zoning, and the remaining boards were fully staffed. The mayor also mentioned that some boards and committees were not town-owned but included council representatives, and he asked councilors to review the list before the next meeting. Following a motion and second, the council voted to adjourn the meeting with no opposition. Meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Simon Wheaton-Smith, Mayor

Attest:

Crystal Lester, Acting Town Clerk



Town of Silver City, NM

Item #8.A

Item Report

Meeting Date: July 28, 2026

Item: Manager's Report

Attachments:

None



Town of Silver City, NM

Item #8.B

Item Report

Meeting Date: July 28, 2026

Item: Police Chief

Attachments:

None



**Town of Silver City,
NM**

Item #12.A

Item Report

Meeting Date: July 28, 2026

Item: Approval / Disapproval of Special Dispenser, Public/Private Celebration Permit
Application Process

Attachments:

None



Town of Silver City, NM

Item #12.B

Item Report

Meeting Date: July 28, 2026

Item: Destruction of Town Records

Attachments:

None



Town of Silver City, NM

Item #12.C

Item Report

Meeting Date: July 28, 2026

Item: Approval / Disapproval of Annual Recommendation to appoint Labor union Member and Council approval and appointment of Local Labor Management Relations Board, per Ordinance, 1300, Section 7.B.

Attachments:

None



**Town of Silver City,
NM**

Item #12.D

Item Report

Meeting Date: July 28, 2026

Item: Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUTION 2026-24: A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE APPROVED AND ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027 AND FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSE IN THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO, TRANSFERRING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF.

Attachments:

None



**Town of Silver City,
NM**

Item #12.E

Item Report

Meeting Date: July 28, 2026

Item: Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUTION 2026-25: FINAL QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

Attachments:

None



**Town of Silver City,
NM**

Item #12.F

Item Report

Meeting Date: July 28, 2026

Item: Approval / Disapproval of RESOLUTION 2026-26: APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027.

Attachments:

None