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Mayor, Janet Jernigan Vice Mayor Kirsten Merritt Councilmember Tona Belt Councilmember Ellen Campbell Councilmember Jamie McCorkle Councilmember JoAnne Pogue Councilmember Henry Longbrake

City Manager Patrick J. Martinez

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 29, 2023

 As we approach the end of the year, I want to express my gratitude for the incredible teamwork and dedication displayed by each member of our council and the city staff. The past year has been a testament to our collective commitment to enhancing our community.

We've made significant strides in various initiatives to elevate our city's infrastructure, foster community engagement, and ensure sustainable growth. Your guidance and support have been instrumental in driving these endeavors forward.

Reflecting on the accomplishments of this year ignites excitement for what lies ahead:

- \$17 Mil. in Capital Projects:
  - o Lillyhill and L Street Booster Station \$3 Mil.
  - o Water Treatment Plant \$6 Mil.
  - Needles Bridge Rehabilitation \$1.4 Mil.
  - Duke Watkins, Jack Smith Park, and Bob Belt Beach Park \$6.5 Mil.
- General Plan Updates to Various Elements (Lane Use, Housing, Transportation) \$500,000
- The acquisition of the Housing Authority of the City of Needles is 52 Public Housing Units, 23 Section 8 Vouchers, and 30 Veterans Housing Vouchers.

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, I am eager to continue our collaborative efforts, building upon past successes and exploring innovative strategies to address the challenges and opportunities awaiting us.

In the coming year, I look forward to further collaboration with the council to embark on new projects, implement policies, and prioritize the well-being of our citizens. Together, we can continue to steer our city toward a future defined by progress, inclusivity, and prosperity.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support and dedication to our city. I am honored to serve alongside such a passionate and visionary council. I wish you all a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

- 2. City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 1, and Tuesday, January 2, in observance of the New Year. Normal operations will resume on Wednesday, January 3, starting at 8:30 AM. In emergencies, don't hesitate to contact City Staff directly at 760-326-5700. Our after-hours answering service will promptly direct your call to the right staff member.
- 3. City Staff recently convened with Touchstone's local and Regional Corporate representatives overseeing Rivers Edge Golf Course, marking a pivotal moment as the course reaches its peak condition in years. With a remarkable surge in golf rounds and Touchstones' skilled staff gearing up for the bustling Spring season (January-April), our Director of Golf, JJ Deleon, leads the way with monthly public clinics, private lessons, and expertly managed golf tournaments. For inquiries about these opportunities, kindly contact the Director of Golf, JJ Deleon, at 760-326-3931. Moreover, to attract new enthusiasts, the Touchstone staff has crafted enticing "Stay and Play" packages available through regional hotels and casinos such as Harrah's, Riverside Resort, Edgewater, and Aquarius Resort.
- 4. The ongoing Street Sign Replacement Project, sanctioned by the City Council in 2021 for three years, is now in its final phase. City Staff has diligently progressed to 65% completion. Additional street signs have been procured and installed to enhance the city's infrastructure.