

**VILLAGE OF QUESTA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2015
VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:00PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR MARK L. GALLEGOS

Mayor Gallegos called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Gallegos asked Village Clerk Renee Martinez to take roll.

Those present were:

Councilor Lawrence Ortega
Councilor Miguel Romero
Councilor Brent Jaramillo

Councilor Julian Cisneros was not present.

Also present:

Administrator Loretta Trujillo
Village Clerk Renee Martinez
Finance Director Karen Shannon

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Tommy Lyles led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilor Ortega
Second: Councilor Romero

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

To approve the agenda as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

• July 29, 2015

Motion: Councilor Ortega
Second: Councilor Jaramillo

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

To approve the July 29, 2015 minutes as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried

• August 04, 2015

Councilor Ortega stated that on page one it states that Mayor Gallegos called the meeting to order. Mayor Pro-Tem Julian Cisneros called the meeting to order. Also, the minutes state that Councilor Romero was present, he was not.

Motion: Councilor Jaramillo
Second: Councilor Ortega

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

To approve the August 4, 2015 minutes as amended. All voted yes. Motion carried

VI. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - *(It is the policy of the Governing Body to accept public comment. Because your particular issue is not on the agenda the Governing Body cannot respond immediately, but may direct staff to address issues at a future Council Meeting. Public comments are limited to a maximum of three minutes.)*

Ms. Trujillo stated that she requested Mr. Amalio Madueno to be present at the meeting to give the Governing Body and update on the grants at this time.

Mr. Madueno informed the Governing Body on the following:

1. Questa Industrial Park – The Fund Board has agreed to fund the engineering plans to be completed by Wilson & Company. The engineering will take 60 days. The contract will be a direct agreement between Wilson & Company and the Questa Economic Development Fund Board.
2. Meetings – Has met with the Water Trust Board and the NM Environmental Department in connection the Cabresto Road Waterline Upgrade Project. He stated that a resolution must be passed authorizing the submission of the grant application to the NM Finance Authority.
3. Water Treatment Impact Study – We will be submitting an application to the Water Trust Board, a resolution may also be necessary.

Councilor Ortega inquired about the Cabresto waterline project and what section it will cover. Mr. Madueno stated that from what he understands it is about 2 miles of the road that needs the upgrade.

VII. **PUBLIC HEARING** –
A) Village of Questa Water / Sewer Ordinance

Ms. Trujillo informed the Governing Body that the changes requested at the last meeting have been made. She stated that staff intends to bring it before the Governing Body at the meeting of September 15th for approval. The changes were as follows:

- The water and sewer connection fees have been increased by \$300.00.
- The authority has been given to the Administrator to negotiate delinquent accounts. The Administrator may not waive accrued penalties or fees.
- Rates to commercial water were also increased.

Mayor Gallegos opened the public hearing for comments from the public at 6:16pm

Mr. Malaquias Rael asked if this change regarding delinquent accounts would address the 10% penalty issue regarding payments made a couple days late. Ms. Trujillo stated that late penalties will not be waived. An issue

regarding mailed payments was brought up for the reason that sometimes the local mail is sent to Albuquerque and then back to Questa. It was suggested from Mr. Jim Vaughn that maybe we could go by the postmarked date.

Mr. Elmer Salazar suggested that it would be proactive for the Village to consider financing the hookup fees for residential or business with a reasonable interest rate attached to the contract.

Mayor Gallegos stated that we will consider looking into these suggestions and concerns.

Being that there were no further public comments, Mayor Gallegos closed the public hearing at 6:39pm

B) Village of Questa Animal Control Ordinance

Mr. Jim Vaughn stated that the name of the ordinance will be changed to Village of Questa Animal Welfare Ordinance. He stated that there were no major changes to the Ordinance since the last discussion aside from the name change.

Mayor Gallegos opened the public hearing for comments from the public at 6:42pm

Mr. Malaquias Rael inquired if this ordinance will give the officer permission to take animals who are not fenced or tied up. He stated that there are owner's that have their pets roaming around the neighborhood for years with no problems. Mr. Vaughn stated that if the owners are not in control of the animal such as the animal not being in their property, the animal can be picked up. Mr. Rael asked if owners will be able to put their dog down if needed. Mr. Vaughn stated yes, per state law. Mr. Charlie Gonzales asked if this ordinance covers small dogs in cars. Mr. Vaughn stated no.

Being that there were no further public comments, Mayor Gallegos closed the public hearing at 6:56pm

VIII. PRESENTATIONS –

A) Phase 5 Report - Petroglyphs on the Rio Grande, Mr. Elmer Salazar (*Possibly an hour presentation*)

Mr. Salazar introduced Mr. David Kistin and Ms. Erin Freiboth, Vista volunteer. Mr. Elmer Salazar stated that this is the final presentation. He stated that Phase 5 is basically the document that lines out the economic actions, business development actions and infrastructure actions that Petroglyph's is recommending to the Governing Body. He stated that implementation is key.

He stated that there are five major categories. They are as follows:

- Small Business and Enterprise.
- Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- Agriculture and Food Production.
- Housing, Temporary Accommodations and Construction.
- Arts & Culture

Land and water is key. He stated that Questa cannot miss the window and hesitate on the land and water trust. The Executive Director that is hired is going to have a difficult job ahead of them. Mr. Salazar stated that this is what needs to be done in their opinion:

- Hire the Economic Development Director
- Don't lose momentum
- The Village Council and QEDFB must be on the same page with this plan and have to call the shots

- Make it happen/Get it moving

Mr. Charlie Deans stated that it would be great if this Economic Development Plan was formally approved along with updating the LEDA Ordinance.

Mr. Salazar stated that he truly believe that if this plan is implemented good things will happen for Questa.

The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Salazar for his work.

B) Metropolitan Redevelopment Area (MRA) Plan Status – Mr. Charlie Deans

Mr. Charlie Deans informed the Governing Body that Questa was selected as a frontier community. He stated that he has been working on a Metropolitan Rehabilitation Area Plan for the downtown village center since February. He stated that the designation of the Questa Metropolitan Redevelopment Area will assist the community in achieving the following goals:

- Elimination of detrimental public health and welfare conditions.
- Conservation, improvement and expansion of commercial building stock.
- Expansion of commercial activity.
- Improvement and expansion of available housing.
- Improvement and expansion of the pedestrian environment.
- Improvement of economic conditions through coordinated public and private investments.

With the powers made available to municipalities by the NM Metropolitan Redevelopment Code, the Village of Questa will be working with the private sector to create opportunities for new housing, assist in preserving existing businesses in the area, expand the business community and implement public improvements and investments in the village center.

Mr. Deans gave an overview on the designation of the village center as a MRA and presented the proposed MRA boundary. Basically the area is under performing compared to the state and can be considered "blighted". The designation allows public/private partnerships to implement redevelopment projects in spite of the state's anti-donation clause. This is the benefit of the designation.

Mr. Christian Isely asked who would be in charge of implementing this plan. Mr. Deans stated that there are different entities and partnerships that will be responsible for the implementation. Mr. Rael suggested Mr. Deans attend the next EDLT meeting for a discussion and strategy.

IX. ACTION ITEMS - (Discussion, Consideration and Action)

A) Approval of MRA Resolution 2015-28

Councilor Ortega asked how the designation was determined. Mr. Deans stated that he focused on the Village Center. Also, along with the stakeholders came up with the designated area.

Motion: Councilor Jaramillo

Second: Councilor Ortega

Roll Call:

Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES

Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES

Councilor Miguel Romero YES

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To approve MRA Resolution 2015-28. All voted yes. Motion carried.

B) ALIVE Resolution 2015-29

Mayor Gallegos stated that a presentation was made by Mr. Chris Weathers last meeting regarding the implementation of a drinking tax. This resolution is only to support this act.

Motion: Councilor Jaramillo

Second: Councilor Romero

Roll Call:

Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES

Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES

Councilor Miguel Romero YES

To approve Resolution 2015-29. All voted yes. Motion carried.

C) Council Ratification of Appointment of Chief of Police

Ms. Trujillo informed the Governing Body that three applicants were interviewed. Applicants were scored on their answers and experience. Two of the applicants were very close in the scoring so a second interview was scheduled. Ms. Trujillo turned it over to Mayor Gallegos. Mayor Gallegos stated that a majority vote is needed for the ratification of the appointment of Chief of Police. Mayor Gallegos recommended the appointment of Mr. Nick Lamendola. He stated that he believes that Mr. Lamendola has the experience to come in and make a difference in the department.

Motion: Councilor Ortega

Second: Councilor Romero

Roll Call:

Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES

Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES

Councilor Miguel Romero YES

To approve the appointment of Mr. Nick Lamendola as Chief of Police. All voted yes. Motion carried.

X. **FINANCE DEPARTMENT** - Ms. Karen Shannon

A) Review and Discussion of July 2015 Financial Report

Ms. Shannon informed the Governing Body that the chart of accounts is being reorganized to match the DFA report. A clean chart of accounts is necessary to move over to the Caselle software to implement the general ledger.

Councilor Ortega inquired about the Rapid Action account and if the amount listed is the beginning cash. Ms. Shannon stated that it is the carry over cash from last fiscal year. Also, on the federal airport capital projects, why is it in parenthesis? Ms. Shannon stated that we have yet to submit for the reimbursement. Councilor Ortega asked if we have requested it yet. Ms. Trujillo stated that we have not because she needs to request for assistance in using the program. Councilor Ortega asked if we were going to still be receiving the detailed monthly report. Ms. Shannon stated yes.

Ms. Trujillo stated that monthly financials do not need to be approved. The quarterly reports need to be.

B) Review of Unpaid Vouchers

Ms. Shannon stated that these vouchers are as of August 17, 2015.

Councilor Ortega inquired about the Caselle voucher. Ms. Shannon stated that this is for the Payroll software. Also, the attorney fee voucher was approved for last month. Councilor Ortega asked about the Traveler's voucher and if this is within our budget. Ms. Shannon stated this was our liability insurance and it is budgeted. A discussion was held regarding the approval of the vouchers. Councilor Jaramillo stated that some of the vouchers listed have already been approved by another process such as the approved contracts. Councilor Ortega stated that he believes it is good practice to approve them as we have been. It was decided they be approved from this point forward. Ms. Shannon stated that she will place them on the paid vouchers list for next meeting.

C) Approval of Temporary Loan for EMS Expenditures

Ms. Shannon stated that she was going to ask the Governing Body this evening for this loan but has since then received the money so this is no longer necessary.

XI. MATTERS FROM ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Trujillo updated the Governing Body regarding the following:

- A letter from DFA was received stating that the budget for the 2015-2016 budget was approved.
- Spoke with Ms. Valerie Trujillo, Questa Schools Superintendent, the board approved our letter of request.

XII. MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilor Jaramillo stated that the County Finance Director is willing to come train the Village staff regarding the pilot project for the implementation of recording the liabilities for PERA. Councilor Jaramillo also requested an update on the legislative appropriation projects. Ms. Trujillo stated that she has met with Ms. Perry from the Town of Taos regarding a couple of RFP's for engineering services.

Councilor Ortega asked for clarification on the RFP's for engineering services. A discussion was held. Ms. Trujillo stated she would have clarification at the next meeting. Councilor Ortega asked about the status of the beautification project. Mayor Gallegos stated that originally we had 150,000.00. The Fund Board Chair stated that he believed it was 120,000.00. Mayor Gallegos stated that his thought was that we would request these funds from the Fund Board and we then go out for bid. He stated that the Fund Board is not going to move fast enough to get this project going. It's been on the table for months now and nothing has been done. Councilor Ortega stated that it's been a year that we have been talking about this. Councilor Ortega stated that it was agreed that we give the fund board the design plans from Heads-Up Landscaping and the fund board was going to hire them. Mayor Gallegos stated that he could call Mr. Rael tomorrow and tell them that we want Heads Up to do the job and move forward. If Mr. Rael cannot move forward at this time we will figure a way to get it done through the Village. Councilor Ortega expressed his frustration with the fund board in trying to get things done. He stated that there are plenty of minutes that state that the project was originally 150,000.00 and now it's 120,000.00. Councilor Ortega inquired if Mr. Moore has submitted the plans for the DOT project on Old Red River Road. Ms. Martinez stated that he did call and request the grant agreement but has not submitted the plans as of yet.

Councilor Romero asked if Ambitions can look into receiving emails on his phone.

Mayor Gallegos stated that the lease agreement between the Village and Taos Mountain Energy Foods has been signed and we will continue to move forward. He stated that the tentative move in date will be sometime in

February of 2016. The roadway to the back of the business park building needs to be worked on. Mayor Gallegos stated that Taos County has old pictures of Questa that they would like to give us and asked if we could purchase some picture frames to have them displayed.

XIII. **MATTERS FROM ATTORNEY** – Ms. Vanessa Chavez

Ms. Chavez was not present.

XIV. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Councilor Jaramillo

Second: Councilor Ortega

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44pm.

ATTEST:


Renee Martinez, Village Clerk

APPROVED:


Mark Gallegos, Mayor