

**VILLAGE OF QUESTA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 07, 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 6:07pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Gallegos asked Village Clerk Renee Martinez to take roll.

Those present were:

Councilor Lawrence Ortega

Councilor Brent Jaramillo

Councilor Miguel Romero

Councilor Julian Cisneros was present via telephone.

Also present:

Administrator Loretta Trujillo

Village Clerk Renee Martinez

Finance Director Karen Shannon

Utility Billing Clerk Nadine Herrera

Receptionist Dina Coleman

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 – Regular Meeting June 23, 2015

Motion: Councilor Jaramillo

Second: Councilor Ortega

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

To approve the June 23, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Village of Questa Regular Meeting
June 23, 2015

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. Loretta Trujillo informed the Governing Body that one of the things that is very important to her as an Administrator is to recognize those employees who reach certain milestones throughout the years. She stated that she would like to recognize Renee Martinez for her 15 years of service with the Village of Questa. Ms. Trujillo presented Ms. Martinez with an appreciation plaque and thanked her for her hard work and dedication.

VII. **PUBLIC HEARING** –

A) Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP)

Mayor Gallegos opened the Public Hearing at 6:11pm for public comment.

Ms. Trujillo stated that this portion of process is to hear any recommendations from the public. A Special Meeting will most likely be scheduled for discussion and approval. Ms. Trujillo stated that the ICIP is due by August 7, 2015.

There was no public comment at this time. Mayor Gallegos closed the public hearing at 6:13pm.

VIII. **PRESENTATIONS** –

A) Ambitions – Mr. Lucas Rael

Mr. Lucas Rael informed the Governing Body that a few months ago they began upgrading the Village's IT system and infrastructure. He stated that they are very near to completing the project. He stated that they have completed the following:

- Consolidated all servers
- Ten new desktops were installed as well as some extra monitors and two laptops
- All network equipment was replaced
- Installed a new printer to print the utility bills faster
- A new projector screen, projector and cart were also purchased
- Wireless networks were revamped which includes a 'guest' network
- Electronic back up units were replaced to protect devices
- Back-up and disaster recovery system
- A firewall was implemented
- Exchange and e-mail integration / Microsoft exchange server

IPads will be available to the Council to do all Village of Questa business. Training will be held before the next meeting.

B) River Restoration – Ron Gardiner

Mr. Ron Gardiner stated that he was asked by Mayor Gallegos to work with him on a proposal for a scope of work for professional services for river planning. This proposal is to re-convene the work that has already begun and for planning and proposals to meet opportunities to receive federal funding. Councilor Ortega asked that if the contract is approved would the money paid to Mr. Gardiner come through the Village or from a grant. Mayor Gallegos stated that this request was proposed to the fund board about a month ago at the Questa Economic Development Leadership Meeting. Mayor Gallegos stated that he had the initial discussion with the fund board Chair and fund board. He stated that by doing this we may have better access to Secretary Flynn's Office. Mr. Gardiner, under this contract would be able to have discussions with Taos Soil & Water Conservation and with private owners who live along the river to get in line with planning the next phase. He stated that Secretary Flynn at this point is looking for shovel-ready projects and he feels confident that a good solid scope of work and identify some areas along the river. Mr. Gardiner can also be utilized also in chasing water rights and meeting with the Office of the State Engineers and other water areas. Councilor Jaramillo stated his only concern is if it is going to be the Questa area or a broader scope. Mayor Gallegos stated that this is something we can iron out in the coming weeks.

C) Trout Unlimited – Mr. Toner Mitchell

Mr. Toner Mitchell updated the Governing Body on the two projects on the river with the exception of the on the ground work near Eagle Rock are very close to completion. They are going to be actively pursuing more money for the planning and implementation of projects. They are going to be concentrating on local employment and are looking forward to seeing a recreational economy start to blossom in the Village and surrounding areas. They would like to hold a fundraiser fly fishing tournament to raise money. He asked for the Village support for the tournament and are seeking sponsors. He stated that Trout Unlimited is very committed to this community.

Councilor Ortega asked for the set of plans for the completed project for the Village of Questa to have. Mr. Mitchell stated he will get them sent to us.

D) Petroglyphs – Mr. Elmer Salazar

Mr. Elmer Salazar informed the Governing Body that they have delivered Phase III and IV in draft form and have begun the process of presenting them to QEDFB and the Village Council. Phases I and II consisted of a lot of research. Phases III and IV consist of compiling all this information into a picture. Farmers and Ranchers are anxious to continue farming and ranching and are looking for alternate crops. Phase V will begin tomorrow.

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

A) Beautification Project – Designate Project Area

Mayor Gallegos stated that at this time we want to identify three areas for the beautification project for this fiscal year and try to get at least two of them completed by the end of the summer. He stated that last year in July of 2014 we had a discussion regarding the project areas. Councilor Ortega stated that we have already had a lengthy discussion about this and his opinion is that we should at the least try to complete the first two project areas. Councilor Jaramillo concurred. Councilor Romero stated that we talked about this issue months ago at the retreat and we are barely getting to it now. He asked why we have to identify three areas and stated that we should concentrate on completing one area at a time. Mayor Gallegos stated that if we can complete the first area we can have the second area ready to go. It was agreed that we begin with the first area and complete it and move on to the second and so forth. A discussion was held regarding if the Village or the Fund Board would take on the projects and go out for RFP. Councilor Ortega stated that his opinion is that we go the fastest route as long as we are following the procurement policy. Mr. Malaquias Rael, QEDFB Chair stated that we need to make sure of the amount of money available. Also, Mr. Rael asked what the cost estimates were for the different project areas as per Heads-Up Landscaping. Mayor Gallegos stated that we do have the estimates but they are not readily available at this time. Mr. Rael suggested that we look at these items first. He also stated that he will have to make sure that the suggestion from the Council for the QEDFB to pay Heads-Up directly in order to expedite the projects will be possible for the reason that he is not sure if the QEDFB can pay a company direct on behalf of the Village. Mr. Rael suggested that the best way to handle it would be that the QEDFB give the money to the Village and the Village distribute it as well as go through the correct process of hiring a contractor. Councilor Ortega asked Ms. Trujillo what her opinion about this was. Ms. Trujillo stated that she is a bit confused for the reason that the Village has had several items paid directly from the QEDFB such as Ambitions. A discussion was held regarding this issue and Mr. Rael stated he will have to check with Mr. Gordon Robinson to see if the QEDFB paid Ambitions directly or to the Village. Mr. Rael stated that we get a copy of the estimate from Heads-Up and go from there. Councilor Ortega inquired when we can get this information so we can get moving on this project. Mayor Gallegos stated he can send them electronically.

1. Veteran's Memorial
2. Island across Parish Center

Councilor Ortega made a motion that we move forward with items A and B on the priority list which are the Veteran's Memorial and the island across from the Parish Center. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo.

In Favor: All

154 Opposed: None

155 To approve the designated project areas as listed above. All voted yes. Motion carried.

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B) Memorandum of Understanding – Village of Questa / Questa Economic Development Fund Board

Mayor Gallegos stated that this is probably the last time we will be able to discuss this MOU before we pass it along to the Fund Board. Ms. Trujillo informed the Governing Body that our Attorney has reviewed this document and has made some suggestions that are included in the document as well as Mr. Christian Isely.

Councilor Jaramillo stated that on page 2, Article III B, he does not like the way ‘no surprise approach’ reads. He stated that he does agree with the statement. He suggested ‘work in partnership’ instead.

Councilor Ortega asked that a signature line for our attorney be added to the document, since she has reviewed it.

Mayor Gallegos stated that there is nothing mentioned regarding if either party would like to step away from the agreement; and if so, would we revert back to the original trust document. Mr. Isely stated that when Chevron helped create the QEDF, it was created intentionally as a separate entity that would in the future help the community transition to a post-mining economy. Mayor Gallegos suggested that the document be renewed every three years instead of every five. Councilor Ortega suggested it be 2 years instead of 5 for each election year. Mr. Isely stated it is flexible. Councilor Jaramillo suggested the 2 or the 4 years. Councilor Romero agreed with the two years.

Councilor Ortega suggested that on page 4, article VIII should be removed or maybe re-written. Mr. Isely explained why this was included.

Mayor stated we make the suggestion to the Fund Board for the following changes:

- Change ‘no surprise approach’ to ‘work in partnership’
- Change the 5 year renewal to 2 years

A motion was made by Councilor Jaramillo to approve the MOU with the suggested changes passed over to the QEDFB for their consideration of approval and moving forward would like this MOU to demonstrate to Chevron that the Village of Questa and the QEDFB is a united front when it comes to the Village of Questa economic development in this community. This motion was then seconded by Councilor Ortega.

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

To approve the MOU with the suggested changes. All voted yes. Motion carried

C) Amendment to IT Services Agreement - Ambitions Consulting Group

Ms. Trujillo stated that the Village went out for RFP for IT Services and received two proposals. She stated that they did not fall within the price range that we budgeted for. She stated that it is going to take a bit longer to work through this. Ms. Trujillo stated that our current agreement with Ambitions expired on June 30th and they have been gracious enough to continue working. Ms. Trujillo proposed that we amend their agreement for up to three months in order to work out the details and do some research.

Motion: Councilor Romero
Second: Councilor Jaramillo

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

To approve the amendment up to three months for IT services from Ambitions. All voted yes. Motion carried.

X. **MATTERS FROM ADMINISTRATOR**

- Requested the hire of two temporary employees for the Public Works department to fix potholes, tree trimming and to complete the fencing at the Municipal Park.
- Requested to schedule a clean-up day for the Village
- HO Construction has submitted As-Builds / Project is now closed
- Completed questionnaire regarding the selling of the bonds
- Will visit Office of the State Engineer and DFA tomorrow
- Will be out of the office for a few days and will be available by cell phone

XI. **MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Councilor Ortega inquired about Eagle Rock Lake and where we are in an update. Ms. Trujillo stated she will follow up on that. Councilor Ortega also inquired about the status of the Water and Sewer Ordinance. A discussion was held. A work study session was then scheduled for Wednesday, July 29th at 6:00pm. Councilor Ortega inquired about who has the ball on the discussion on the La Cienega property. Mayor Gallegos stated that he spoke with Ms. Michelle Jaquez-Ortiz of Senator Tom Udall's Office and is waiting for information from her. Councilor Ortega stated that the school, as owner of the facility, needs to formerly tell us the conditions under which we can own the building. A discussion was held. Ms. Trujillo stated she will contact Valerie Trujillo regarding the conditions.

Mr. Malaquias Rael inquired about status on the Executive Director position. Mayor Gallegos stated that the Council was waiting for the MOU between the Village and the QEDFB to be finalized.

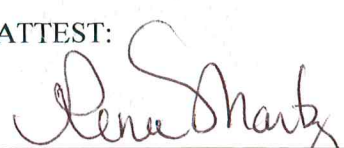
XII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Councilor Cisneros
Second: Councilor Ortega

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.

ATTEST:


Renee Martinez, Village Clerk

APPROVED:


Mark Gallegos, Mayor