

**VILLAGE OF QUESTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 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 6:01pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Gallegos asked Village Clerk Renee Martinez to take roll.

Those present were:

Councilor Miguel Romero
Councilor Lawrence Ortega
Councilor Brent Jaramillo

Councilor Julian Cisneros was not present.

Also present:

Village Attorney Vanessa Chavez

Administrator Loretta Trujillo
Village Attorney Vanessa Chavez
Public Works Director Arwin Vasquez
Finance Director Karen Shannon
Village Clerk Renee Martinez
Police Chief Gerald Bates
Utilities Clerk Nadine Herrera

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Malaquias Rael, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Gallegos requested to remove Items IX (C), (D) and (E) due to the fact that the Mayor Pro-Tem is not present.

Motion: Councilor Romero
Second: Councilor Ortega

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

- Regular Meeting, April 07, 2015

Motion: Councilor Jaramillo

Second: Councilor Ortega

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

To approve the Meeting Minutes of April 07, 2015 as presented. 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. Terry Bates – Ms. Bates inquired if about the possibility of getting a building for a community center. Mayor Gallegos stated that the money that was allocated towards a community center was re-directed to the Youth Center for needed improvements and repairs. He stated that we would definitely consider a community center in this year's ICIP Plan.

VII. PRESENTATIONS –

A) Mr. Charlie Deans -Frontier Community Project and MRA (Metropolitan Redevelopment Area) Update

Mr. Deans was not present at this time. Ms. Trujillo stated that Mr. Deans was aware of the presentation this evening.

Councilor Jaramillo motioned to table this item in case Mr. Deans is running late. The motion was seconded by Councilor Ortega.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

To table the presentation of Mr. Charlie Deans, Frontier Community Project and MRA (Metropolitan Redevelopment Area) Update. All voted yes. Motion carried.

B) Petroglyphs on the Rio Grande– Mr. Elmer Salazar

Mr. Salazar was not present. Mayor Gallegos stated that he believes they were also presenting at the Questa School Board meeting this evening and would probably show up here after.

Councilor Ortega motioned to table this item in the event Mr. Salazar shows up. The motion was seconded by Councilor Romero.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

To table the presentation of Petroglyph's on the Rio Grande. All voted yes. Motion carried.

C) Questa Fiesta Update

Ms. Renee Martinez stated that the fiesta committee has held two meetings so far and the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 23rd at 6:00pm. She stated that they will be having a one day event, Saturday, June 20th at the Municipal Park. There will be food, entertainment and activities during the day and a dance at night. She also stated that this year will be a fundraising year in order to have a full weekend event next year. Mayor Gallegos stated that different committees will be formed and volunteers are still needed. He stated that the Mud Bogs also will be held on that day so in order not to interfere with that event, our event will start at 2:00pm.

Ms. Loretta Trujillo stated that the San Antonio church will be having a church fiesta the day following on Father's Day, June 21st. She stated that Father would like to keep it separate at this point. She is hoping that we will be able to collaborate the two by next year.

***Mr. Elmer Salazar of Petroglyph's on the Rio Grande arrived at this time. Mayor Gallegos asked that he come forward for his presentation.

B) Petroglyphs on the Rio Grande– Mr. Elmer Salazar

Mr. Elmer Salazar apologized for being late and informed the Governing Body about the following:

- Working with the Questa School Board on how the education system in Questa gets integrated into the strategic economic development plan.
- Taos Mountain Energy Bars has landed in Questa.
- The Community Advisory Group has been organized. Two meetings have been held with two separate groups. There are people in the community who are starting to take ownership of what the economic development plan is going to be about. The leadership in Questa is being viewed as being visionary enough to welcome new companies.
- Natural and organic food production is great business for Questa.
- Trout Unlimited – How will Questa hold on to this opportunity? The people of Questa will have major opportunities to benefit from this. If Questa does not do this, someone will come into town and do it for us.
- Would like to get invited to meetings that are being held around the community. Please encourage an invitation to us.
- Need to hold a work study session soon with the Council – need to make some decisions.

Mayor Gallegos stated that we can sit down with Petroglyph's now that the Community Advisory Group meetings have been held to know what the community want. In the next three weeks we can hold a work study session. Councilor Ortega inquired about the date for the next Questa Economic Development Leadership Team (QEDLT) meeting. The meeting will be held on May 4th. Mayor Gallegos thanked Mr. Salazar for his assistance in getting Taos Mountain Energy Bars to Questa.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING –

A) Proposed Village of Questa Ordinance No. 2015-141 – Water and Sewer Ordinance

Mayor Gallegos opened the Public Hearing at 6:33pm and asked if there were any people present who would like to comment or express any concerns.

Ms. Vanessa Chavez requested she go over the changes that were made since the last draft. She stated that another class was added. There is now a new class for both water and sewer and the definition of the class was also added. This was done because of the large gap between the classes. Also, the service connection fees changed to add the

new class on page 15 as well as the rates on pages 16 and 17. She stated that on page 16 the numbers have been revised. She stated that she added in commercial class III and put it at \$98.00 base rate for 15,000 gallons.

The inside village limits overage rates and the outside village limits overage rates were made more consistent. This information on the outside rates were not in the ordinance that was supplied in the packet so Ms. Trujillo read them aloud.

- Mr. John Hollander, owner of Questa Lodge and RV Park: Requested a seasonal rate for his RV Park. Was also concerned about the increase in the new classification.
- Mr. Dwayne Ortega, speaking on behalf of his father Bobby Ortega, owner of Sierra Vista RV Park stated that he does agree that the ordinance needed to be revised. He appreciates the addition of the new classification. He stated that the gap between rates in classes II and III is still big. They go from 29.24 to 98.00. He requested that Council take a look at this before adopting the ordinance. He also asked the Council to consider a seasonal rate.

Councilor Ortega requested a study session on this ordinance sometime next week. Mayor stated that he would be out of town. Ms. Trujillo suggested the study session be held on Friday in Albuquerque after the meeting with Chevron and Dr. Miller. All agreed.

Motion: Councilor Romero

Second: Councilor Ortega

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

There being no other public comments Mayor Gallegos closed the Public Hearing at 7: pm.

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

A) Village of Questa Water & Sewer Ordinance #2015-141

A motion was made by Councilor Ortega to table Village of Questa Water & Sewer Ordinance #2015-141 and continue the Public Hearing. The motion was then seconded by Councilor Romero.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

To table Village of Questa Water & Sewer Ordinance #2015-141 and continue the Public Hearing. All voted yes. Motion carried.

B) Resolution 2015-17 - Method of Destruction of Public Records

Village Clerk, Renee Martinez informed the Governing Body that this Resolution was necessary to identify the Village Clerk as the custodian of Records as well as identifying the method of destruction which will be shredding. Ms. Martinez stated that now that we are attempting to get our records in order this Resolution is needed. She stated that attached to the Resolution is the destruction schedule that the Village will be following.

Motion: Councilor Ortega

Second: Councilor Jaramillo

204 Roll Call:

205
206 Councilor Miguel Romero YES
207 Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES
208 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES
209

210 To approve Resolution 2015-17 as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.
211

212 C) Resolution 2015-18 -

213 G4 Excavation Waiver of Immediate Family Member to do Business with Village

214 **Removed from Agenda
215

216 D) Resolution 2015-19 -

217 Taos Sanitary Supply Waiver of Immediate Family Member to do Business with Village

218 **Removed from Agenda
219

220
221 E) Resolution 2015-20 -

222 Doris's Waiver of Immediate Family Member to do Business with Village

223 **Removed from Agenda
224

225 F) Resolution 2015-21 -

226 Additional MVD Bank Account
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228 Ms. Karen Shannon stated that this account is necessary for the reason that NM Taxation & Revenue is requiring
229 all field offices to make their deposits by check, they will be supplying the offices with check scanners in order to
230 get deposits in within a 24 hour period. They will also begin taking credit card payments. Ms. Shannon stated that
231 she spoke with someone from Tax and Rev and they suggested we have a separate bank account to show the amount
232 of cash going in and the amount of the check coming out.
233

234 Motion: Councilor Jaramillo

235 Second: Councilor Ortega
236

237 Roll Call:

238
239 Councilor Miguel Romero YES
240 Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES
241 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES
242

243 To approve Resolution 2015-21 as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.
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245 X. **DISCUSSION** -

246 A) La Cienega Property
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248 Mayor Gallegos stated that last week he and Ms. Trujillo attended the Questa School Board meeting where they
249 discussed the idea of turning over the La Cienega School to the Village. He stated that he was asked what our plans
250 were for the property. He stated that he discussed the possibility of using the kitchen to help the senior center and
251 the head start. He also suggested that the food bank, 4H Club and other groups could operate out of there for the
252 reason that it is getting very difficult to accommodate them in the limited space we have.
253

Mayor Gallegos stated that the Questa School Board expected the Village to already have a proposal written from our attorney to the school's attorney alleviating them from any liabilities. He asked that through their attorney to disclose all known defects associated with the building to the Governing Body for consideration. He stated that his impression is that they may want to donate the property to the Village but would like to be released of all current and future possible liability.

Mayor Gallegos asked the Council if this was something they would like to pursue. Councilor Ortega asked if we could get a letter from the school listing the items of concern such as safety issues, mold, etc. He stated that these are things we need to know. Administrator, Ms. Loretta Trujillo stated that she asked the Superintendent, Ms. Valerie Trujillo about the issues and the Superintendent stated that she is not familiar with the issues and referred her directly to the board members.

Councilor Ortega stated that he would be interested in the Village utilizing that property if we can but we first need to know exactly what we're getting into. Councilor Jaramillo and Councilor Romero both agreed that they would like to see the letter before making any decision.

Mayor Gallegos asked Ms. Trujillo and Ms. Chavez to contact the Questa Schools attorney to get this information. Also, inquire if they can arrange a tour of the property.

B) Grant Writer Contract

Mayor Gallegos informed the Governing Body that the original contract with Mr. Amalio Madueno was tabled at a previous meeting to possibly make some changes to the scope of work. Councilor Ortega stated that he has had the opportunity to read the revised contract and stated that the scope of work is clearly defined and would like to see it up for approval at the next meeting. Ms. Trujillo stated that she did notice that the COPS grant was not included in the scope, they will add it. Mayor Gallegos asked Councilor Jaramillo if the upcoming Economic Development Grant would be part of this contract. Councilor Jaramillo stated that Item 4 does cover that. Councilor Jaramillo commented that he sees items 1-9 as economic development. He is concerned about how Chevron may view the COPS Grant. He stated that he does not have a problem with it if Chevron doesn't have a problem with it but would like to discuss it. Ms. Trujillo stated that she could do the COPS Grant because we really need more officers patrolling. Councilor Ortega asked if we could have our consultant help out with it. Mayor Gallegos stated that Mr. Madueno is very familiar with applying for the COPS Grants. Mr. Christian Isley commented that a good argument would be that we need to hire more officers to deter crime. Mayor Gallegos suggested we contact Chevron and Petroglyphs regarding the COPS Grant so that we are all on the same page.

XI. FINANCE DEPARTMENT - Ms. Karen Shannon

A) Approval of Paid Vouchers

Ms. Shannon informed the Governing Body that the pay per runs would no longer be on the voucher list. These people are on the payroll as of March 15th.

Motion: Councilor Jaramillo
Second: Councilor Romero

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

To approve the Paid Vouchers. All voted yes. Motion carried.

B) Approval of Unpaid Vouchers

Councilor Ortega requested if he could see the ad in NM Magazine. Ms. Shannon stated that it has not come out yet. Also, the Taos News invoice regarding the Economic Development. Ms. Shannon stated it was for the CDBG Hearings. Councilor Ortega wanted to know why it said Economic Development. Ms. Shannon stated that that was how the Taos News had it labeled. Councilor Ortega inquired about the voucher for dispatch and if this was the budgeted amount. Ms. Shannon stated that a budget adjustment would have to be done because it is more than was budgeted. Councilor Ortega asked if this amount was what the JPA requires. Ms. Trujillo stated that in previous budgets only \$6,000.00 has been budgeted. She stated that \$6,000.00 was paid last year and this is why we it was budgeted at that amount. Councilor Jaramillo stated that he believes that amount is correct in the quarterly report. Mayor Gallegos stated that he believes that the amount is split between the police and ems/fire. Ms. Trujillo stated that they will look into it now that they know the payment should be split between the departments. Councilor Jaramillo stated that he believes that the voucher should be paid to Taos County. A discussion was held. Ms. Shannon believes that it came from the Town of Taos. It will be looked into before the check is mailed out.

Motion: Councilor Ortega
Second: Councilor Romero

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

To approve the Unpaid Vouchers. All voted yes. Motion carried.

XII MATTERS FROM ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Trujillo reminded the Governing Body about the meeting in Albuquerque on May 1st with Dr. Miller from 9:00am to 11:30am and a meeting with Chevron following. Mr. Malaquias Rael, asked the Council if there is any questions that they would like to ask, please contact him and they will get it addressed at the meeting.

Mr. Lucas Rael of Ambitions updated the Governing Body regarding the computer equipment upgrade. Ms. Trujillo stated that she is happy with their work.

Ms. Trujillo also stated that the Caselle Clarity upgrade is working for Utilities. Work is continuing on the Court side. The goal is to get everyone on the General Ledger.

Ms. Trujillo stated that the Audit contract has been submitted to Kubiak & Melton for the 2014-2015 fiscal year audit. They should be here sometime in September.

Ms. Trujillo stated that the street light issue is being worked on. A discussion was held.

Councilor Jaramillo asked Mr. Lucas Rael of Ambitions if it was possible to move our domain name where we have our email addresses. Mr. Rael stated that they have already done that. He stated that the Council will be receiving an I-Pad with the outlook email address. This will be happening soon.

Councilor Jaramillo asked Ms. Trujillo what the possibility was of hiring a day laborer to handle some issues such as weed eradication.. Ms. Trujillo stated that she likes that idea and the public works needs help. She stated that it all depends on finding the money. Ms. Shannon stated that she will look into it after the BARS are done to see where we are.

XIII MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Gallegos updated the Council on an individual who would like to host an extreme bike race in Questa. They are looking for a 10-15 mile trail. He stated that we could possibly start it at the Questa Hardware area.

Mayor Gallegos stated that Taos County has moved forward with the protest of the Water Rights for the transfer from Top of the World Ranch from Santa Fe County and BIA. The Commission has asked that other public entities provide letters of support of the protest.

Mayor Gallegos stated that Questa is experiencing an increase in crime and burglary. He stated that he is very concerned and is wondering how other public safety entities could possibly help us. Chief Bates stated that the department is very short-staffed. Most of the issues occur at night and we are getting at least two calls per night. The overtime has increased and they work a lot of on call hours but are doing the best they can. Councilor Ortega inquired about the calls to the schools. Officer Bates stated they are called out to the schools on a regular basis because if there is a fight or suspension the Police has to be called. The school resource officer they hired is more of a security guard and cannot handle the issue. Councilor Ortega asked if the school officials can handle a suspension and refer the student to JPO. Chief Bates stated that from he understands, the district policy states that a police department must be notified and submit the information. A discussion was held regarding the role our police department plays in these instances. Mayor Gallegos suggested that we talk with Chevron about the Social Economic Welfare Fund that they are funding this resource officer with. He stated that we are overburdened with calls and issues from the school. It was suggested by Councilor Romero that we meet with the school regarding their policies.

Councilor Jaramillo stated that the event with Taos Mountain Energy Bars and Governor Martinez was successful. Mayor Gallegos stated that the Governor stated that there is \$5,000.00 for the Frontier Community Grant instead of what originally had been stated.

Councilor Ortega stated that he would like to make sure that the Village is in the loop with the EMS and County issue. Also, he stated that Mr. Andamo Sanchez has approached him about selling his well and about 3.5 acre feet of water rights to the Village. Councilor Ortega inquired about when the next Questa Economic Fund Board meeting is scheduled. Ms. Trujillo stated it won't be until the first part of May. Councilor Ortega also asked Ms. Trujillo if she was involved in the grant application that Ms. Alberta Bouyer submitted. Ms. Trujillo stated that she was not. Councilor Ortega stated that she ask for a copy of it. He stated that he is perfectly fine with the application but he would like the Administrator to be in the loop.

XIV. MATTERS FROM ATTORNEY – Ms. Vanessa Chavez

Ms. Chavez informed the Governing Body that they did receive a fully executed MOU between the Loan Fund and the Questa Economic Development Fund Board. She also stated that the application for change of ownership documents are being filed for water rights the Village is purchasing from Mr. Eliu Romero.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION - *(The Governing Body may convene into Executive Session at this time pursuant to the NM Open Meetings Act NMSA 1978 10-15-1)*

A) Threatened or Pending Litigation – Section (10-15-1(H) (8)) 1. Business Park Lease Agreement

A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Councilor Ortega, seconded by Councilor Jaramillo.

Roll Call:

407 Councilor Miguel Romero YES
 408 Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES
 409 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES

410
 411 Mayor Gallegos stated that the Governing Body will go into Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation. The
 412 Governing Body entered into Executive Session at 8:56pm.

413
 414 A motion to reconvene from Executive Session was made by Councilor Jaramillo, seconded by Councilor Romero.

415
 416 Roll Call:

417
 418 Councilor Miguel Romero YES
 419 Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES
 420 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES

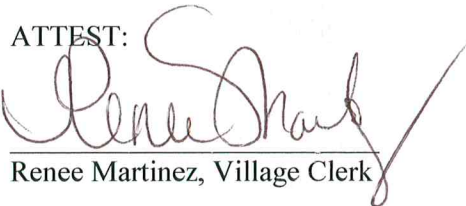
421
 422 The Governing Body reconvened from Executive Session at 9:14 pm. Mayor Gallegos stated that only items on
 423 the agenda were discussed and no action was taken.

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 425
 426 XVI. ADJOURNMENT

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 428
 429 Motion: Councilor Romero
 430 Second: Councilor Ortega

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 432 In Favor: All
 433 Opposed: None

434
 435 There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

436
 437 ATTEST: 
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 439
 440
 441 Renee Martinez, Village Clerk

APPROVED:


 Mark Gallegos, Mayor