

**VILLAGE OF QUESTA
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 04, 2016
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.

Present:

Councilor Julian Cisneros
Councilor John Anthony Ortega
Councilor Lawrence Ortega
Councilor Brent Jaramillo arrived at 6:03pm.

Also Present:

Administrator Loretta Trujillo
Village Clerk Renee Martinez
Finance Director Karen Shannon

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor John Anthony Ortega led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A request from Ms. Trujillo to strike Item VII D from the agenda.

****Councilor Brent Jaramillo arrived at this time.**

Councilor John Anthony Ortega requested that Item XI, (Executive Session) be moved up to follow Item VI, (Public Comments).

Motion: Councilor John Anthony Ortega
Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

Roll Call:

Councilor Brent Jaramillo	YES
Councilor Lawrence Ortega	YES
Councilor Julian Cisneros	YES
Councilor John Anthony Ortega	YES

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

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V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Regular Meeting September 13, 2016

Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that on that on page 5, line 222, it states:

“Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if the QEDFB was involved in the land and water trust. Mr. Chino stated that QEDFB is out of the picture.” Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked that we add that Mr. Christian Isely of Chevron also stated that the QEDFB is out of the picture.

Motion: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

Second: Councilor Brent Jaramillo

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

To approve the September 13, 2016 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.)*

Mayor Gallegos acknowledged Taos County Sheriff Jerry Hogrefe. Sheriff Hogrefe stated that he hopes everything is going well and that there is an open door policy at his office.

XI. **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. Limited Personnel Matters (Section 10-15-1(H) (2)) – EMS Department

A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Councilor John Anthony Ortega, seconded by Councilor Lawrence Ortega.

Roll Call:

Councilor Julian Cisneros YES

Councilor John Anthony Ortega YES

Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES

Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES

Mayor Gallegos stated that the Governing Body will go into Executive Session to discuss only the item listed. The Governing Body entered into Executive Session at 6:07pm.

A motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 6:57pm was made by Councilor Julian Cisneros, seconded by Councilor Brent Jaramillo.

Roll Call:

Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES

Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES

Councilor Julian Cisneros YES

Councilor John Anthony Ortega YES

Mayor Gallegos stated that only item discussed during closed session was Limited Personnel Matters regarding the EMS Department. No action was taken.

VII. ACTION ITEMS - (Consideration and Action)

A. Approval of Bid for CDBG Project

Ms. Trujillo informed the Governing Body that the Village went out for bid for the construction phase of the CDBG project. We advertised in the Taos News and the Albuquerque Journal on September 15th and September 22nd. A pre-bid conference was held on September 21st. Four contractors were present. The bid opening was held on September 28th. Two bids were received. Ms. Trujillo also informed the Governing Body that the construction period was originally 75 days and has been brought down to 60 days to complete the project by the middle of December. Mr. Gabriel Cisneros stated that the CDBG is moving along. Hopefully the weather will hold. Ms. Trujillo stated that the low base bid came in at \$375,031.00. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if we were to award the low bid, we would have money for the alternate work as well as for the engineering. Ms. Trujillo stated yes. Councilor Brent Jaramillo asked how much money is left in engineering. Ms. Trujillo stated about \$25,000.00. Ms. Trujillo stated that the planning phase was \$22,500.00, the design phase was \$47,500.00. Councilor Brent Jaramillo asked where we took the \$25,000.00 from. Ms. Trujillo stated that we took it from the General Fund until we get the reimbursement. Councilor Jaramillo stated that there might be a possibility that we may not get that back. Ms. Trujillo stated that Mr. Lacey has assured her that it was fine to move forward with this. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked where Adame Construction was from. Ms. Trujillo stated that they are out of Los Lunas. Mr. Cisneros stated that there are two ways we can pay for the engineering. One is to get it out of the Legislative Appropriation and/or get it out of CDBG. He stated that he and Ms. Trujillo, with input from Mr. Steve Lacey, will brainstorm and discuss what will be the best way to do this. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that this is fine as long as we are able to reapply for the next CDBG.

Mr. Gabriel Cisneros also informed the Governing Body that during the Special Session, the Village of Questa has been affected by two Legislative Appropriations, one for \$40,000.00 and one for \$50,000.00 that the Village is going to lose.

Councilor Lawrence Ortega motioned to approve the low base bid amount plus tax. Seconded by Councilor Julian Cisneros.

Roll Call:

Councilor Brent Jaramillo	YES
Councilor Lawrence Ortega	YES
Councilor Julian Cisneros	YES
Councilor John Anthony Ortega	YES

To award the Bid for the CDBG Project to Adame Construction. All voted yes. Motion carried.

B. Approval of Bid for Landscape Project

Ms. Trujillo informed the Governing Body that the Village went out for bid on the landscape project. Three bids were received. Ms. Trujillo recommended the bid be awarded to La Yucca Landscaping. They have added an alternative to their bid for decorative rock. They came in as the lowest bidder, including the alternative decorative rock. The bid is \$45,438.75 plus \$3,245.63 for the alternative decorative rock including GRT. Councilor John Anthony Ortega inquired if this bid included the grass. Ms. Trujillo stated yes. It also includes irrigation. Ms. Trujillo stated that the landscaping company can start right away.

Motion:	Councilor Brent Jaramillo
Second:	Councilor Lawrence Ortega

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156 Roll Call:

157 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES
 159 Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES
 160 Councilor Julian Cisneros YES
 161 Councilor John Anthony Ortega YES

162
 163 To approve the bid from La Yucca Landscaping. All voted yes. Motion carried.

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 165 C. Approval of New Position – EMS Coordinator

166
 167 Ms. Trujillo states that during the last council meeting she asked the Council for permission to advertise for an EMS
 168 Coordinator. She stated that we feel that this position is needed to help structure the department. Because it will
 169 affect the budget, this position does need Council approval.

170
 171 Motion: Councilor Julian Cisneros
 172 Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

173
 174 Roll Call:

175
 176 Councilor John Anthony Ortega YES
 177 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES
 178 Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES
 179 Councilor Julian Cisneros YES

180
 181 To approve the new position of EMS Coordinator. All voted yes. Motion carried.

183 D. Approval of State Contract for NMDOT Projects

184
 185 ** Removed from Agenda

186
 187 VIII. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

188 A. Rocky Mountain Youth Corp Grant Match

189
 190 Ms. Trujillo stated that the letter that was sent to RMYC on behalf of the Village of Questa was included in the
 191 packet. She stated that RMYC included the Village of Questa in their 2017 budget they need confirmation that we
 192 are still interested. Councilor Brent Jaramillo stated that he would like to commit to the \$15,000.00 grant match
 193 contingent upon the Questa Economic Development Fund Board will fund it. Mayor Gallegos stated that Chevron
 194 did agree that if the Village received funding from a grant that they would cover the match. He stated that we will
 195 present it to the Fund Board. Councilor John Anthony Ortega inquired if we have money left from the landscaping
 196 project; if so, maybe we can use it for this match.

197
 198 IX. **FINANCIALS** – Ms. Karen Shannon, Finance Director

199 A. Approval of Unpaid Vouchers

200
 201 Ms. Shannon stated that these vouchers are as of September 29, 2016 and stood for any questions.

202
 203 Councilor Lawrence Ortega inquired about the invoice from Terra Bound Solutions. Ms. Shannon stated it was a
 204 waste station for the park so that people can pick up after their dogs.

205
 206
 207 Motion: Councilor Julian Cisneros
 Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

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208 Roll Call:

209 Councilor John Anthony Ortega YES
 211 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES
 212 Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES
 213 Councilor Julian Cisneros YES
 214

215 To approve the Unpaid Vouchers as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.
 216

217 X. **MATTERS FROM ADMINISTRATOR, MAYOR AND COUNCIL**
 218

219 Ms. Trujillo informed the Governing Body on the following:
 220

- 221 • The Village received a letter from Comcast stating that service to Questa will cease as of January 2, 2017.
 222 Certified letters have been sent out to all current customers. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if this was
 223 done according the franchise agreement. Ms. Loretta Trujillo state that the franchise agreement is not
 224 updated. Mayor Gallegos asked if we have a say in it. Ms. Trujillo stated that if the franchise agreement
 225 was updated, we would. Ms. Trujillo stated that they have been paying the franchise tax to the Village for
 226 years on an expired agreement. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if the agreement covered this issue. Ms.
 227 Trujillo stated that she would have to look at the agreement to be sure. Ms. Trujillo stated that we are
 228 working with our attorney's to have them updated. Mayor Gallegos stated that it is a good thing that they
 229 are addressing all the franchise agreements.
 230
- 231 • Mr. John Hollander who is a resident on Embargo Road, came in to inquire about the Village putting speed
 232 bumps on his road for the reason that people are driving at a high rate of speed. She did let him know that
 233 he needed to get with his neighbors and that there is a process. Councilor Brent Jaramillo stated that he
 234 needs to also know that it will also affect the residents on Old Red River Road.
 235

236 Councilor Lawrence Ortega inquired about the fiscal agent agreement with Taos County for the \$50,000.00. Ms.
 237 Trujillo stated that it was approved today at the County Commission meeting.
 238

239 Councilor Lawrence Ortega also inquired about when the Fund Board will meet to decide on the funding for the
 240 Village Corrals. Mayor Gallegos stated that the Fund Board is going to come up with a preliminary budget. They
 241 will present it to the Council for input and possible revisions and go from there.
 242

243 Councilor Lawrence Ortega also inquired about the water rights that are tied up through the Interstate Stream
 244 Commission because of the Abeyta water settlement. How are we involved in that? Ms. Trujillo stated that we are
 245 not involved with that other than that the Interstate Stream Commission has informed the Village that their first
 246 obligation is to make sure that there is water rights available to meet the requirement of the Abeyta Settlement.
 247 They cannot release money for other purchases until they meet that obligation. She stated that she has Village
 248 Attorney Marcus Rael working on this.
 249

250 Ms. Trujillo stated that she was hoping to bring before the Council an approval of the state contract for Northern
 251 Mountain Constructors for the Phase I of the Old Red River Road project as well as the pot-hole repair and the
 252 rehabilitation of Embargo, Abra and Cabresto Roads. Mr. Joe Moore is having a hard time getting a hold of Mr.
 253 Perovich and from what we understand has other projects that are backed up. Ms. Trujillo stated that she does not
 254 believe that he will have the time to complete these roads before December. She stated that the Town of Taos has
 255 contracted with Cutler Paving to do their road projects. Mr. Moore contacted them and they informed him that they
 256 have a contract with the NMDOT and the Town of Taos was able to piggy-back off of that contract. Mr. Moore
 257 has provided the plans to Cutler and is waiting on a quote from them. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if we
 258 would lose the funding if we do not compete the projects. Ms. Trujillo stated that she is not sure if we can ask for
 259 another extension but Mr. Moore will contact Susan Godina in the morning to see if it is possible. Councilor John

Anthony Ortega expressed his disappointment in the length of time this has taken. Ms. Trujillo stated that she is just as frustrated and has been for two years now, with the way things have progressed. She stated that she is diligently working on getting these projects completed. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that we lose a lot of time waiting on contractors who say they can do the work and end up not being able to. Councilor John Anthony Ortega stated that it doesn't sit well with him telling people that we can't do anything.

Councilor John Anthony Ortega asked for an update on the EDA Grant. Ms. Trujillo stated that we need to look for companies that will bring in about 100 jobs to Questa in order to get the \$1.3 million. Councilor John Anthony Ortega asked if this is still in play now that Secretary Barela is no longer in office. Ms. Trujillo stated that as far as she knows, yes it is. Mayor Gallegos stated that the Secretary informed the person who will fill his seat that the \$1.3 million is committed to Questa contingent on filling these jobs. Mayor Gallegos stated that he sat down in a meeting with Taos Mesa Brewery, they are looking at the barley projects that were set in place this summer. If all goes well they are still wanting to move a production line here in Questa within a year or two. Councilor Lawrence Ortega inquired about the Village's \$200,000.00 match. Mayor Gallegos stated that he and the Administrator do not believe that we are ready for this yet. Councilor Brent Jaramillo stated that Councilor Lawrence Ortega is inquiring about where the \$200,000.00 is going to come from. Mayor Gallegos stated that the money would potentially come from a loan from the NM Finance Authority. Mayor Gallegos stated that we need letters of commitment from businesses who will employ at least 100 people. Then we would contact the NM Finance Authority and apply for the \$200,000.00 loan. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if Mr. Phillippe Chino is actively looking for these businesses or who is looking for them. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that he believes Mr. Chino should be doing this. Mayor Gallegos stated that he agrees. He stated that this was part of our retreat discussions to restructure the MOU in which Mr. Chino would be taking the lead in looking for these jobs.

Councilor John Anthony Ortega stated that he still does not have any water pressure at his home and in the area. Ms. Trujillo stated that the public works employees did look into it. She believed it was taken care of. She stated that she does need to hear from the Council and the constituents if we are not making progress on issues. Councilor John Anthony Ortega stated that we owe this to our constituents to provide good service to them since we are expecting them to pay their bills within a 15 day period. Ms. Trujillo stated that if she does not know about it, she cannot address it. Councilor Lawrence Ortega commended the Public Works staff on their work on the leak in Cabresto. Ms. Trujillo stated they worked until midnight.

Councilor Julian Cisneros inquired about the status of the Resolution request to Chevron for assistance in repairing Abra Road. Ms. Trujillo stated that the Resolution along with a letter signed by Mayor Gallegos was mailed out on September 15th. Ms. Trujillo has not received any response as of yet. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that he would like a copy of the letter as well as the other Council Members.

Mayor Gallegos informed the Council that he, along with Attorney Marcus Rael will be meeting with a representative from EPA on Thursday in Santa Fe for an update on the fact sheet in which we will have a response to. He stated that he may have a draft of the response letter by next Tuesday's Council Meeting. In the fact sheet, Chevron is proposing to put two feet of cover as opposed to the original three feet of cover on the ROD. He asked the Council if they have the opportunity to send an email to Mr. Rael with concerns they may have regarding the fact sheet. The meeting will be from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Councilor Lawrence Ortega would like to have a copy of the letter.

Mayor Gallegos also informed the Council that the Cambalache was a great success. It was a great opportunity to sit down with the community. We also had a sign-up sheet to volunteer for the Fiesta committee. Ms. Dina Coleman did a great job organizing and facilitating the event.

Mayor Gallegos asked the Council for permission to allow members of the audience to speak at this time.

Ms. Teresa Sandoval, #26 Cabresto Road, thanked the Governing Body for the great job they are doing bringing in new activities to Questa. Ms. Sandoval stated that it makes her feel proud to live here and she does see the difference

that's taking place. Ms. Sandoval inquired about seeing Mayor Gallegos along with about four other people outside of her house on Cabresto and wondered what plans were being made for that area. She felt that decisions were being made without the input from the property owners. She also expressed her concerns about the drivers who are speeding down Cabresto Road near her home. Mayor Gallegos stated that he along with Alberta Bouyer and other were there discussing a proposed walking path which was part of the plan done by Charlie Deans with Frontier Communities Group. The proposed idea was to place a path along the road from the visitor's center to possibly the Church. He stated that this is not something that would be done without public input.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

Second: Councilor John Anthony Ortega

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.

ATTEST:


Renee Martinez, CM



APPROVED:


Mark Gallegos, Mayor