

1 **VILLAGE OF QUESTA**
 2 **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**
 3 **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2017**
 4 **VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS**
 5 **7:00PM**

7 I. **CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR MARK L. GALLEGOS**

9 Mayor Gallegos called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

11 II. **ROLL CALL**

13 Mayor Gallegos asked Village Clerk Renee Martinez to take roll.

15 Present:

- 16 Councilor John Ortega
- 17 Councilor Lawrence Ortega
- 18 Councilor Brent Jaramillo

20 Not Present:

- 21 Councilor Julian Cisneros

23 Also Present:

- 24 Village Administrator Nicholas Maestas
- 25 Village Clerk Renee Martinez
- 26 Finance Director Karen Shannon
- 27 Admin Assistant/CPO Dina Coleman
- 28 Attorney Lance Hough

30 III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

32 Village Administrator Nicholas Maestas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

34 IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

36 Councilor Lawrence Ortega requested Item VIII A be moved to Executive Session as Item X B. Mayor Gallegos
 37 asked Attorney Lance Hough if meets the requirements for Personnel Matters. The Attorney stated it meets the
 38 personnel matters requirement if we are discussing the employee and not the RFP.

40 Councilor John Ortega requested adding item VII D; Ms. Lindsey Mapes of the QEDF would like to present on
 41 the Community Clean-Up day.

- 43 Motion: Councilor John Ortega
- 44 Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

- 46 In Favor: All
- 47 Opposed: None

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

53 V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- July 18, 2017 – Special Meeting

54
55 Motion: Councilor Lawrence Ortega
56 Second: Councilor Brent Jaramillo

57
58 In Favor: All
59 Opposed: None

60
61 To approve the July 18, 2017 – Special Meeting minutes as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

- 62
63 • July 25, 2017 – Work Study

64
65 Motion: Councilor John Ortega
66 Second: Councilor Brent Jaramillo

67
68 In Favor: All
69 Opposed: None

70
71 To approve the July 25, 2017 – Work Study minutes as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

- 72
73 • July 25, 2017 – Regular Meeting

74
75 Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that there is a correction on line 412.

76
77 Motion: Councilor John Ortega
78 Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega, with discussion.

79
80 Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked the Attorney if we have to state for the record what the correction is. The
81 Attorney stated that yes.

82
83 Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated for the record that the correction on line 412 is that the wrong Councilor was
84 recorded as seconding a motion.

85
86 In Favor: All
87 Opposed: None

88
89 To approve the July 25, 2017 – Regular Meeting minutes as corrected. All voted yes. Motion carried.

- 90
91 • August 8, 2017 – Regular Meeting

92
93 Councilor John Ortega asked if these minutes need to be approved since there was no quorum. Councilor Lawrence
94 Ortega stated that he imposed this question before and was told that they needed to be approved.

95
96 Motion: Councilor Brent Jaramillo
97 Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

98
99 In Favor: All
100 Opposed: None

101
102 To approve the August 8, 2017 – Regular Meeting minutes as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

- 103
104 • August 22, 2017 – Regular Meeting

105

106 Motion: Councilor Lawrence Ortega
 107 Second: Councilor Brent Jaramillo

109 In Favor: All
 110 Opposed: None

112 To approve the August 22, 2017 – Regular Meeting minutes as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

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

- 118 • Municipal Judge Michael Rael – Judge Rael stated that he attended the Municipal League conference in
 119 Clovis and that one of the speakers spoke about unity and working with the people that you work with.
 120 He realized that he has never taken the time publicly to thank the hard working staff for the work that they
 121 do. He also thanked Mr. Maestas for coming on and looks forward to working with him and moving things
 122 forward. He stated it takes everyone to keep thing running.

124 VII. **PRESENTATIONS / UPDATES** –

125 A. Chevron Pipeline Removal (Embargo Road) - Mr. Gabe Herrera, Project Manager

127 Mr. Tommy Lyles, Policy, Government and Public Affairs Manager for Chevron Mining, stated that he spoke to
 128 his management team regarding Abra road and the facilitation of the pavement for that that road; they would like
 129 to create a MOU between Chevron and the Village that basically will say this is what the money will be used for,
 130 once the agreement is signed, a check will be given to the Village. Mr. Lyles also stated that Chevron will be doing
 131 some work at Eagle Rock Lake soon; Councilor John Ortega asked about the dry hydrant that is not working and
 132 asked if this would be taken care of.

134 Mr. Gabe Herrera informed the Governing Body that on August 8th he attended a meeting and had a brief
 135 conversation concerning the tailing pipeline removal on Embargo Road. In this conversation Mayor Gallegos
 136 indicated that it was the Village's preference to remove the pipeline along the road. Mr. Herrera passed out some
 137 illustrations and information to the Governing Body to explain the impact of this. Mr. Herrera went over the maps
 138 pointing out the gas lines and irrigation ditches, etc. He stated that there are two sets of pipeline.

140 Due to the depth of the pipeline which they believe to be about 14ft deep, a good majority of the trees along that
 141 stretch of 522 will have to be removed. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that on Map #3, there is tailing pipe
 142 running along the south side of the road; does it just end right there? Mr. Herrera stated no, these are not
 143 engineering documents, only informational. The pipe continues on. Councilor Brent Jaramillo stated that he
 144 thought back in 2007, or earlier, Chevron (Molycorp) replaced the pipelines, cut across Felimon Rael's property,
 145 and under Embargo Road. It was a repaving job.

147 Mr. Herrera stated that based on the estimates from the contractor they would be looking at construction duration
 148 of 6-7 months, targeting the March through September time frame. The affected section of Embargo Road would
 149 be closed for that timeframe. The section between where the Chevron gate is and the residents at 140 Embargo
 150 Road would be shut down for 6-7 weeks. The remaining of the road would be closed for the remaining time. Haul
 151 traffic would be increased. Due to the fact that the pipeline and the utility lines are so close together along this
 152 stretch of road, there would be a number of utility outages. Intermittent and constant throughout the project. There
 153 is a gas line that is located immediately above one of the two lines; they would have to undermine the gas line in
 154 order to access the pipeline below it.

157 Mr. Herrera stated that the other scenario would be to fill the entire length of pipeline between roughly the hillside
 and downstream, with cement grout. The two main benefits of this are that the grout will prevent any kind of

158 structural collapse of the pipeline in the future; the second benefit would prevent the transmission or conveyance
 159 of ground water from one point to another. This would take maybe 2-3 weeks with minimal impact to traffic.
 160 Pipeline is abandoned all the time across the country. Chevron's recommendation is to consider the second
 161 scenario of filling and abandoning the pipeline.

162
 163 Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked where the shallowest point of tailings pipe is. Mr. Herrera stated that the
 164 shallowest point is near the hillside at about 4 feet.

165
 166 Councilor John Ortega asked if the pipeline removal was part of the ROD. It is not part of the ROD but a
 167 requirement under the state NMED closure plans. Councilor Brent Jaramillo asked if the removal of the pipeline
 168 on highway 38 part of the ROD. It was stated that the pipeline removal is not part of the ROD at all.

169
 170 Mr. Herrera stated that they would like to give the Council some time to consider the two proposals.

171
 172 Mayor Gallegos stated it is a big project and we will have to evaluate the options.

173
 174 Mr. Lyles stated that regarding the hydrant earlier in the discussion, it will be repaired in the work Chevron is
 175 completing.

176
 177 B. NRDA Update – Attorney Lance Hough

178
 179 Attorney Lance Hough stated that there were three proposals:

- 180
 181 • River Restoration Project \$1,600,564.88
 182 • New Municipal Water Supply well \$335,000.00
 183 • Improvements to the Sanitary Sewer System \$1,900,063.00

184
 185 The trustees came to visit on November 2, 2016 for a walkthrough. He stated that he believes we have a strong
 186 chance of getting these projects funded. They are currently working on the restoration plan environmental
 187 assessment which is a long comprehensive document which should be available in October for public comment.
 188 Once it is available, he will go through it and bring it back to Council for an update as well as if there are any
 189 questions or concerns the Council would like him to bring up.

190
 191 Councilor Lawrence Ortega requested a copy of the revised proposal regarding the infrastructure. Mr. Hough
 192 stated he will get copies for the Council tomorrow.

193
 194 C. River Stewardship Grant – Attorney Lance Hough with Mr. Abe Franklin, NMED

195
 196 Attorney Lance Hough presented a power point regarding the project budget. He stated that he has been working
 197 with Mr. Chris Philips and Mr. Abe Franklin on this. The original proposal was \$168,048.00; \$110,000.00 was to
 198 be for construction; \$54,000.00 for engineering and project management which includes construction oversight.
 199 The agreement was originally executed on 02/23/2017 at \$158,000.00. We have a reversion date of 2020.

200
 201 Councilor Lawrence Ortega expressed his concern with the amount of the project money that was going to the
 202 engineering and project management.

203
 204 D. Community Clean Up Day – Ms. Lindsay Mapes

205
 206 Ms. Mapes stated that she and Councilor John Ortega are working on a clean-up day. It has been suggested at
 207 several different meetings she has attended that Questa could use a cleanup day. She proposed that the cleanup
 208 day be Saturday, September 23rd. There will be a yard cleanup contest and a community cleanup to get volunteers
 209 to come out and maybe some staff from different organizations to come out and clean up some of the roadways.

210 Councilor Joh Ortega suggested a yard cleanup contest with prizes and pictures put on face book for most beautiful
 211 yard and most improved yard. If there is collaborative action with other entities such as Taos County and Kit
 212 Carson to use roll offs, chippers and other equipment to make a big impact.

213
 214 Councilor John Ortega stated this is important since we are trying to promote Questa as a tourist destination and
 215 the first impression is not good because it's not very clean. He has been an advocate for this for years. We can
 216 get a lot done in one day with a collaborative effort. We need some beautification in Questa.

217
 218 Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated it is a great idea and congratulated Councilor John Ortega for taking on that
 219 effort. Councilor Brent Jaramillo stated that it is important to clean up our town.

220
 221 Ms. Shannon stated that there is money left over in the beautification project.

222
 223 Councilor Lawrence Ortega recommended that Mr. Maestas get with Councilor John Ortega and Ms. Mapes and
 224 coordinate this and move forward to make this happen.

225
 226 Councilor Brent Jaramillo stated that we can get the roll offs from the County and possibly use that left over money
 227 from the beautification to use for the tonnage fees on the landfill side.

228
 229 Councilor John Ortega strongly suggested to Mr. Maestas that he put our Utility crew to work that day as well, if
 230 they don't already have plans.

231
 232 Mayor Gallegos stated that there has been staff and elected officials who have volunteered their time in the past.
 233 He stated that it is important that we get involved and not depend on others to volunteer and we don't step forward.

234
 235 Councilor Brent Jaramillo asked Christian Isely and some of the mine contractors to participate as well. Monetary
 or equipment would be helpful.

237
 238 Mr. Maestas stated that he will see if there is any staff that would like to volunteer their time and other paid staff
 239 that we may require to be there.

240
 241 **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

242 A. Discussion, Consideration & Decision regarding the approval of 2017-2018 Lease Agreement with
 243 North Central Food Pantry

244
 245 Motion: Councilor Lawrence Ortega
 246 Second: Councilor Brent Jaramillo

247
 248 Roll Call:

249
 250 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES
 251 Councilor John Ortega YES
 252 Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES

253
 254 To approve the 2017-2018 Lease Agreement with North Central Food Pantry. All voted yes. Motion carried.

255
 256 D. Discussion, Consideration & Decision regarding the approval of the agreement between the Village of
 257 Questa and NM Rural Water Association

258
 259 Mr. Maestas stated that the NMRWA has agreed to assist us for a period of time at the Waste Water Treatment
 Plant and Water Department. The cost is \$1,500.00 per month and will offer the services through January if
 261 needed.

262 Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if this is budgeted for. Mr. Maestas stated yes.

264 Motion: Councilor John Ortega
265 Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

266
267 Roll Call:

268
269 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES
270 Councilor John Ortega YES
271 Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES

272
273 To approve the agreement between the Village of Questa and NM Rural Water Association. All voted yes. Motion
274 carried

275
276 E. Discussion, Consideration & Decision regarding the approval of lifting the hiring freeze

277
278 Mr. Maestas requested that the hiring freeze be lifted now that he has been hired on and is getting familiar with
279 the needs of the Village and the needs of the staff. Councilor John Ortega stated that he feels confident in Mr.
280 Maestas to do the hiring from here on out and bringing them to the Council to know who they are. He doesn't
281 want to find out about a new hire on face book. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked Mr. Maestas for his
282 recommendation. Mr. Maestas stated that he would like to have the freeze lifted. If the Council feels comfortable
283 with him going through the process he is comfortable with that. If there is a position that is going to be created,
284 he would do his due diligence to come and present it to the Council first.

285
286 Motion: Councilor Brent Jaramillo
287 Second: Councilor John Ortega

288
289 Roll Call:

290
291 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES
292 Councilor John Ortega YES
293 Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES

294
295 In Favor: All
296 Opposed: None

297
298 To approve the lifting of the hiring freeze. All voted yes. Motion carried.

299
300 IX. **FINANCIALS** – Ms. Karen Shannon, Finance Director

301 A. Discussion, Consideration & Decision regarding the approval of Unpaid Vouchers

302
303 Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if the vouchers from the August 8, 2017 meeting approved. Ms. Shannon stated
304 no, they were not approved but they had due dates so they were paid. They were all within the budget. Councilor
305 Lawrence Ortega asked if she planned on bringing them back for ratification; he does realize she had to pay them.
306 Ms. Shannon stated that they will be part of the July and August financial reports.

307
308 Motion: Councilor John Ortega
309 Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

310
311 Roll Call:

312
313 Councilor John Anthony Ortega YES

314 Councilor Julian Cisneros YES
 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES

316
 317 To approve the Unpaid Vouchers. All voted yes. Motion carried.
 318

319 B. Discussion, Consideration & Decision regarding approval of Out of State Travel – EMS Department
 320

321 The travel voucher is for training for the EMS in house billing system which is located in Pennsylvania. It is
 322 currently budgeted. Councilor John Ortega asked if the collections are still going well. Ms. Shannon stated yes.
 323 Councilor John Ortega stated he did not have any problem with sending this person to training he just wants to
 324 make sure we are making the best decision since the collections are currently going well. He does not want to see
 325 the collection rate drop like it did in other municipalities when they brought their billing in house. Ms. Shannon
 326 stated that the plan is to phase in the billing. Councilor Brent Jaramillo questioned the line item. Ms. Shannon
 327 stated it should come out of the ambulance budget.
 328

329 Motion: Councilor John Ortega
 330 Second: Councilor Brent Jaramillo
 331

332 Roll Call:

333
 334 Councilor John Anthony Ortega YES
 335 Councilor Julian Cisneros YES
 336 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES
 337

338 To approve the Out of State Travel – EMS Department. All voted yes. Motion carried.
 339

340 C. Discussion, Consideration & Decision regarding the approval of Resolution No. 2017-12 - Authorizing
 341 the Closing of EMS Account at Centinel Bank
 342

343 Ms. Shannon informed the Council that we have one account left at Centinel Bank. There has been no activity in
 344 this account. Ms. Shannon recommended we move the money from Centinel to the EMS account at People's
 345 Bank.
 346

347 Motion: Councilor John Ortega
 348 Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega
 349

350 Roll Call:

351
 352 Councilor John Anthony Ortega YES
 353 Councilor Julian Cisneros YES
 354 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES
 355

356 To approve Resolution No. 2017-12 - Authorizing the Closing of EMS Account at Centinel Bank. All voted yes.
 357 Motion carried.
 358

359 D. Discussion, Consideration & Decision regarding the approval of Resolution No. 2017-13 - Authorizing
 360 Change of Signers on all Accounts
 361

362 Ms. Shannon stated that now that Mr. Maestas is on board we would like to place him as a signer on all accounts.
 363

364 Motion: Councilor John Ortega
 365 Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

366 Roll Call:

367
368 Councilor John Anthony Ortega YES
369 Councilor Julian Cisneros YES
370 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES

371
372 To approve Resolution No. 2017-13 - Authorizing Change of Signers on all Accounts. All voted yes. Motion
373 carried.

374
375 Ms. Shannon informed the Governing Body that the 4th QTR report was approved DFA as well as the 2017-2018
376 budget. She stated that there is some information on the anti-donation clause. Also the General Fund cash balance
377 is being depleted.

378
379 Councilor John Ortega inquired about the rate study and that he would never vote on an increase in rates without
380 it. Mr. Maestas stated that he is trying to figure out where we are in the process. He plans to follow up on this.

381
382 X. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – (Pursuant to Open Meetings Act)

383 A. Pending and/or Threatening Litigation – (Exemption 10-15-1(H) (7), which allows for discussion of
384 pending or threatened litigation.)

385 1.) Tort Claims Act Notice – Antonio Cintas vs. Police Chief Nicholas Lamendola and Village of
386 Questa

387
388 B. Limited Personnel Matters – (Exemption 10-15-1(H) (2), which allows for discussion of limited
389 Personnel Matters.)

390 1.) Questa Police Department Vacancies

391 2.) Wastewater Treatment Plant and Water System Vacancy

392 3.) On-Call Engineer Personnel Issue

393
394 A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Councilor John Ortega, seconded by Councilor Lawrence
395 Ortega.

396
397 Roll Call:

398
399 Councilor John Anthony Ortega YES
400 Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES
401 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES

402
403 Mayor Gallegos stated that the Governing Body will go into Executive Session to discuss only the items listed.
404 The Governing Body entered into Executive Session at 8:46pm.

405
406 A motion was made to reconvene from Executive Session at 10:08pm by Councilor John Ortega, seconded by
407 Councilor Lawrence Ortega.

408
409 Roll Call:

410
411 Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES
412 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES
413 Councilor John Ortega YES

414
415 Attorney Lance Hough stated that the items discussed were:

- 417 • Pending and/or Threatening Litigation regarding a Tort Claims Act Notice from Antonio Cintas vs.
Police Chief Nicholas Lamendola and Village of Questa – Examined potential exposure and how this
418 will be addressed.
419
420 • Limited Personnel Matters –
421 1.) Questa Police Department Vacancies –potential changes in employment in the department.
422 2.) Wastewater Treatment Plant and Water System Vacancy – potential changes in employment.
423 3.) On-Call Engineer Personnel Issue – involving the approach to the RFP process regarding the on-
424 call engineer, the RFP process involving personnel and the execution of the RFP process, and/or address
425 potential protests.
426 • A possible employee retirement – how to address the void it may create.
427

428 Mayor Gallegos called for a motion to accept our attorney's report.
429

430 Motion: Councilor John Ortega

431 Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega
432

433 In Favor: All

434 Opposed: None
435

436 To accept Attorney Lance Hough's report regarding Executive Session. All voted yes. Motion carried.
437

438 XI. **ACTION ITEM**

439 A. Possible Action regarding Police Department employee positions
440

441 Mr. Maestas stated that the recommendation is for the full-time employment position to be divided into two part
time 40 hour/week positions as well as the consolidation of two 10 hour/week positions into one part time 20 hour/
442 week position.
443

444 Motion: Councilor John Ortega

445 Second: Councilor Brent Jaramillo
446

447 In Favor: All

448 Opposed: None
449

450 To accept Mr. Maestas recommendation as stated above regarding the Police Department employee positions. All
451 voted yes. Motion carried.
452

453 B. Discussion, Consideration & Decision regarding the approval of an On-Call Engineer – RFP 2017-01
454

455 Mr. Maestas stated that this item is on the agenda for the reason that our in house CPO has convened a committee
456 to review the submitted nine RFP's and have made their determination based on the criteria and tallied up all
457 scores. The Council can make the decision on how to proceed with the determination of the committee. The
458 selection is not public information until the decision has been made and agreed upon.
459

460 Councilor John Ortega sked Ms. Shannon what the budget is for the on-call engineer. Ms. Shannon stated that it
461 is not budgeted.
462

463 A Motion to table this item until next year's budget was made by Councilor John Ortega.
464

465 Councilor John Ortega if the Village is in need of an on-call engineer. Mr. Maestas stated that when the village
466 has projects coming up, they help with various engineering services under one contract. They assist with locating
467 funds and getting contractors to carry out the services. Councilor John Ortega asked if we need one. Mr. Maestas
468

469 stated that when he took this position he knew there a big need for infrastructure. He is not sure that an on-call
 470 engineer is the answer but he believes there is a need for this type of service. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated
 471 that we need help with seeking money and providing technical assistance from an engineering standpoint, but to
 472 do full-fledged design for all our projects, we may have to consider doing it on a per project basis. A discussion
 473 was held.

474
 475 Ms. Dina Coleman, CPO, stated that because it is an active RFP a determination has to be made. We can either
 476 cancel and start over or move forward with it. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if it can be postponed and hold
 477 the proposals for 2-3 months. Ms. Coleman stated that protest has to be addressed.

478
 479 Councilor John Ortega made a friendly amendment to his motion to table this item indefinitely. The motion was
 480 seconded by Councilor Lawrence Ortega.

481
 482 Mr. Maestas stated that he would then ask our Attorney to help draft a letter to the bidders explaining the situation.

483
 484 Roll Call:

485
 486 Councilor Lawrence Ortega YES
 487 Councilor Brent Jaramillo YES
 488 Councilor John Ortega YES

489
 490 To approve the tabling the above referenced RFP indefinitely. All voted yes. Motion carried.

491
 492 Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that he wants to make sure that the proposers know that we are not abandoning
 493 this RFP; it is just being put on hold.

494
 495 XII. **MATTERS FROM ATTORNEY** – Attorney Lance Hough

496 A. Discussion regarding CDBG Public Hearing

497
 498 Mr. Hough informed the Governing Body that he has been working with the Administrator and Clerk in getting
 499 the proper notices out for the public hearings. He stated that he will make sure to present the final version to the
 500 Council.

501
 502 XIII. **MATTERS FROM ADMINISTRATOR** – Mr. Nicholas Maestas

503 A. 2019-2023 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP)

504
 505 Mr. Maestas informed the Governing Body that he has requested an extension to the original September 1st
 506 deadline, and was approved. The deadline will be September 15, 2017.

507
 508 Mr. Maestas presented the ICIP from last year for Council review and will have it for approval at the September
 509 12, 2017 regular meeting.

510
 511 Councilor John Ortega asked if the ICIP had any impact on the LEDA finding.

512
 513 B. Discussion regarding employee Recruitment & Advancement

514
 515 Mr. Maestas stated that he would like to talk about his observations since he has been here. He's met with the
 516 directors and leaders trying to get good ideas about what works and what does not. Recognizing staff is something
 517 he plans to do and to continue to do. He wants to encourage staff and recognize those who want to take on new
 518 opportunities and challenges. He is planning an appreciation BBQ for the staff and invited the Mayor and Council.
 519 He would like to get to know the employees in a different setting. Also, in addition he would like to support higher
 520 education and getting certifications for our employees. Cross training is important with a small staff.

521 Councilor John Ortega stated that we have been talking about cross-training and pay advancements. It is good to
 522 promote from within. There should be something in writing regarding the raises and how they are given.

523
 524 Mr. Maestas stated he met with Wilson & Co., to get updated on projects; it was very helpful and informative.
 525

526 Councilor Lawrence Ortega inquired about the CDBG project and that there are a couple of manholes that the lines
 527 did not pass the testing. He requested a project breakdown regarding the total costs and all change orders;
 528 construction and engineering costs.
 529

530 Mr. Maestas requested feedback and direction from the Council on a possible retreat in the near future. Councilor
 531 John Ortega stated that the key is getting everyone together at the same time. Councilor Lawrence Ortega suggested
 532 having it in October sometime. It was decided that Mr. Maestas get some dates together and send them to the
 533 Council.
 534

535 **XIV. MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL**
 536

537 Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked how many locals are employed at Taos Mountain Energy Foods. Mayor
 538 Gallegos stated that there are about five. They are working on a grand opening for the public. Councilor Lawrence
 539 Ortega asked what the status was on the beautification project. Ms. Martinez stated that it was complete. He asked
 540 if there was a final inspection held. Ms. Martinez stated that there was not a formal one. He asked that one be
 541 scheduled. He also asked that the discussion items he requested at a previous meeting be included on the agenda
 542 for the September 12th meeting.
 543

544 Councilor John Ortega asked that on the corner of 522 and Embargo Rd. across from Berlina Trujillo's residence,
 545 there was a diversion ditch there; the road got redone and the pipe was not put back in. Mr. Maestas stated that he
 546 can talk with Mr. Rael. He also inquired about the vacant MVD position. Mr. Maestas stated that interviews were
 547 held and a recommendation will come to him from Ms. Trujillo and HR tomorrow. Councilor John Ortega asked
 548 about the street lights. A discussion was held; Mr. Maestas stated that they have looked into it and are continuing
 549 to work on it.
 550

551 Councilor Brent Jaramillo inquired about Molycorp Park and heard there was graffiti after the RMYC worked on
 552 it. Mr. Maestas stated yes, that was true. He also requested a calendar be created for the Council for all events
 553 and meetings.
 554
 555

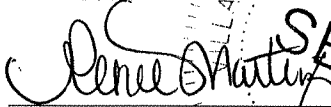
556 **XV. ADJOURNMENT**
 557

558 Motion: Councilor John Ortega
 559 Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega
 560

561 In Favor: All
 562 Opposed: None
 563

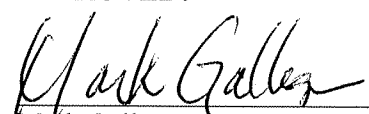
564 There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:43pm.
 565
 566

567 **ATTEST:**

568 
 569 Renee Martinez, CMC
 570



APPROVED:


 Mark Gallegos, Mayor