

1 **VILLAGE OF QUESTA**  
 2 **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
 3 **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 07, 2017**  
 4 **VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
 5 **6:00PM**

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

8 Mayor Gallegos called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.  
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10 II. **ROLL CALL**

11 Mayor Gallegos asked Village Clerk Renee Martinez to take roll.  
 12

13 **Present:**

14 Councilor Lawrence Ortega

15 Councilor John Anthony Ortega  
 16

17 **Not Present:**

18 Councilor Brent Jaramillo

19 Councilor Julian Cisneros  
 20

21 **Also Present:**

22 Village Clerk Renee Martinez

23 Finance Director Karen Shannon

24 Village Attorney Lance Hough  
 25

26 III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

27 Councilor Lawrence Ortega led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
 28

29 IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

30 Motion: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

31 Second: Councilor John Ortega  
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33 In Favor: All

34 Opposed: None  
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36 To approve the agenda as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.  
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 39 V. **ACTION ITEMS**

- 40  
 41 A. Discussion, Consideration & Decision - Resolution No. 2017-23 / Resolution calling for the 2018  
 42 Municipal Election  
 43

44 Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated he is fine with the Resolution but stated there has been some concern with some  
 45 local elections regarding absentee ballots and wants to make sure we keep a good handle on it. Ms. Martinez stated  
 46 that she agrees and thanked Councilor Lawrence Ortega for his comment. Councilor John Ortega requested the  
 47 numbers of absentee voters in the past two elections. Ms. Martinez stated that she would get the numbers together.  
 48 Councilor John Ortega asked if the early voting will be held Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm. Ms.  
 49 Martinez stated it is normally held during regular office hours. Councilor John Ortega would like to see that we  
 50 offer a couple of Saturday's for early voting. Ms. Martinez stated that she would look into this.  
 51

52 Motion: Councilor Lawrence Ortega –Table until the next meeting of December 12, 2017.

53 Second: Councilor John Ortega

54

55 In Favor: All  
 56 ; Opposed: None

57

58 To approve the tabling of Resolution No. 2017-23 / Resolution calling for the 2018 Municipal Election. All voted  
 59 yes. Motion carried.

60

61 **B. Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Questa Land & Water**

62

63 Attorney Lance Hough stated that before them were the QLW Trust By-Laws, the standard land/water rights  
 64 transfer form, map for target area and the Articles of Incorporation. Mr. Hough stood for questions.

65

66 Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked Mr. Hough to summarize how this corporation is going to benefit primarily the  
 67 Village of Questa; he wants to make sure it is going to have the best interest of the Village in mind. Mr. Hough  
 68 stated that the best way to describe it is that the QWL, first of all is going to be a review board to review transactions  
 69 and insure these transactions have some benefit. The biggest tangible component that we can look at right now is  
 70 if someone has a commercial operation, they are going to have to report their taxes through the Village. There  
 71 will also be deed restrictions on transferring water rights out of the target area. Mr. Hough stated that he  
 72 understands the Village's concern. It is important to get a good board in place who are going to make these  
 73 decisions. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if he is correct is saying that in one of our recent meetings, there was  
 74 a discussion that there is a separate amount of water rights that Chevron is considering just for the use of the  
 75 Village. Mr. Hough stated that there is some set aside for settlement and there are some set aside in the remaining  
 76 pool that can be transferred to the Village. He stated that the Village should be able to acquire some of these water  
 77 rights of the QLW also. The Village can apply as its own business, for some of the 400 acre ft.

78

79 Councilor John Ortega asked what is the feasibility that anyone is going to actually lease that property to start a  
 80 business other than agricultural use and there is really no GRT linked to this. There is really no benefit to anyone  
 81 except Chevron and whoever is leasing the water rights on these properties. Mayor Gallegos stated that part of the  
 82 application process is for the applicant to find an operation/business locally in Questa for GRT gain to benefit  
 83 Questa. If the business is selling wholesale, the Village won't benefit except for what the business buys locally  
 84 such as gas or other products. Mr. Hough stated that if it was strictly a wholesale agricultural transaction, not  
 85 benefiting the Village in any way, it would be rejected. Councilor John Ortega stated that he understands this but  
 86 wants to know what the feasibility that anyone is going to actually want to invest in this. Mr. Hough stated that  
 87 there is no way to predict this. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that the benefits have to be more than just the  
 88 GRT. Mayor Gallegos stated that the importance of us supporting this is that one of the Council on the Baard will  
 89 be able to ask the good questions and make decisions. Without the board in place, Chevron could just sell to the  
 90 highest bidder.

91

92 Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if the document lends itself for revision as the process moves on. Mr. Hough  
 93 stated that they are amendable.

94

95 Ms. Louise Gallegos asked if this Board is being formed to oversee and make sure the Village is benefiting from  
 96 this operation. Mr. Hough stated yes. Ms. Gallegos stated that then we would want people on the board who have  
 97 interest in investing in the Village.

98

99 Councilor John Ortega asked, for the record, that he has heard that the composition of this board, aside from the  
 100 Governing Body member has already been made up. Is this true? Mr. Hough stated no; the other component is  
 101 getting board members from the QLW, we don't have their recommendations yet, it is still wide open. Councilor  
 102 Lawrence Ortega stated that in previous discussions, that this Governing Body will select 3 at-large board  
 103 members. Mr. Hough stated that that was the original idea and got pushed back by Chevron; a QEDF member, a  
 4 Village Council member and 3 public at-large members, so 3 recommendations from the Village, one from QEDF-

105 the Attorney's would then get together and make the final selection. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked so there  
106 is 3 selections from the Governing Body and 3 from the QEDF? Mr. Hough stated yes, that is the idea.

107  
108 }  
109 A discussion was held regarding how the 3 at-large members would be selected. Mayor Gallegos suggested that  
110 each member come up with three names to submit. Councilor Lawrence Ortega agreed and stated that we should  
111 make the decision at next Tuesday's meeting. Councilor John Ortega stated that he believes that amongst the  
112 members of the Governing Body, they can narrow the list down to the final 3. Mayor Gallegos stated that he will  
113 submit a couple of names and the Council can make the decision.

114 A discussion was held regarding the appointment of the Councilmember to the board. It was decided to appoint  
115 someone through March 2018. Mayor Gallegos asked Councilor Lawrence Ortega if he would like to serve as the  
116 board member on behalf of the Council. Councilor Lawrence Ortega stated that he would be interested. Mr. Hough  
117 stated that the reaming step would be the selection of the 3 at-large members. The 3 names from the governing  
118 body members will be submitted to Mr. Hough or Marcus Rael by Tuesday.

119  
120 Mr. Hough stated that the approval tonight would be the Corporate Documents of the Questa Land & Water Trust  
121 that consist of the by-laws, with attachments (water rights/land transfer form and map) as well as the Articles of  
122 Incorporation. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked Mayor Gallegos if he has received any feedback from Councilor  
123 Brent Jaramillo or Councilor Julian Cisneros. Mayor Gallegos stated that he believes that Councilor Jaramillo, in  
124 regards to the comments tonight were similar to the last meeting and he is not sure about Councilor Cisneros.

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126 Motion: Councilor Lawrence Ortega  
127 Second: Councilor John Ortega

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129 Mayor Gallegos made the recommendation that can be solidified by the Council at the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting that  
130 Councilor Lawrence Ortega have a seat on the QLW Board as representative of the Village. Also, that the names  
131 of the 3 potential at-large members be submitted.

132 ?  
133 A discussion was held regarding coming up with the short list. Councilor Lawrence Ortega asked if the Attorneys'  
134 have the final say on a possible disagreement or does the Council. Mayor Gallegos stated that the Attorney's do.  
135 It was decided that the Governing Body agree on the 3 names to submit for next Tuesday's meeting. It was agreed  
136 that if their personally submitted names are not chosen, that the Council members will agree to the names that are  
137 decided on by the members.

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139 In Favor: All  
140 Opposed: None

141  
142 To approve the tabling of Resolution No. 2017-23 / Resolution calling for the 2018 Municipal Election. All voted  
143 yes. Motion carried.


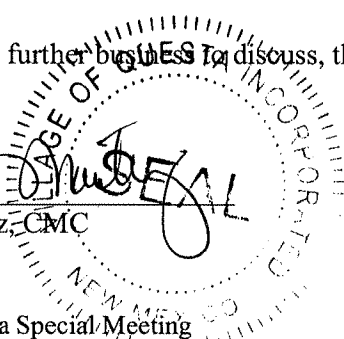
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145 VI. ADJOURNMENT

146 Motion: Councilor John Ortega  
147 Second: Councilor Lawrence Ortega

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149 In Favor: All  
150 Opposed: None

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152 There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52pm.

153  
154 ATTEST:

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156 Renee Martinez, CMC  
157  


APPROVED:

  
Mark Gallegos, Mayor