



**AGENDA**  
**VILLAGE OF QUESTA**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019**  
**VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**2500 OLD STATE ROAD 3**  
**6:00 P.M**

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Mayor Mark L. Gallegos  
Mayor Pro-Tem Louise T. Gallegos  
Councilmember Brent P. Jaramillo | Councilmember John A. Ortega | Councilmember Charlie I. Gonzales

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR MARK L. GALLEGOS**
- II. **ROLL CALL**
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – 1) Regular Meeting, April 09, 2019
- 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.)*
- VII. **PUBLIC HEARING** – North Central Regional Transit District - A Public Hearing allowing the opportunity for the public to provide input to the Village of Questa for the consideration of membership into the North Central Regional Transit District (RTD) as a voting member of the district and participate in the affairs of the District.
- VIII. **ACTION ITEMS** -
  - A) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Resolution 2019-08 / A Resolution to join the North Central Regional Transit District
- IX. **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 (§10-15-1(H) (2))** – Village Administrator Position
- X. **ACTION ITEM** –
  - A) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Mayor's recommendation regarding Village Administrator Position
- XI. **FINANCIALS** – Karen Shannon, Finance Director
  - A) Discussion & Review of March 2019 Financial Reports
- XII. **MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL**
- XIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid of service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the Village Clerk at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the Village Clerk at 575-586-0694 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

**VILLAGE OF QUESTA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019  
VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
6:00PM**

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

Mayor Mark Gallegos called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Village Clerk Renee Martinez called roll where a quorum was present.

Those present were:

Councilman Charlie I. Gonzales  
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo  
Councilman John Anthony Ortega

Not Present:

Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Mark Gallegos led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilman Brent Jaramillo suggested Item VII be moved to after Item IX.

Motion: Councilman Jaramillo  
Second: Councilman Gonzales

In Favor: All  
Opposed: None

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

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –**

1) Regular Meeting, April 09, 2019

Motion: Councilman Jaramillo  
Second: Councilman Ortega

In Favor: All  
Opposed: None

To approve the April 09, 2019 meeting minutes 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. Judith Cuddihy, member of the Questa Public Library Expansion Committee, briefly spoke about the committee. They have been working for about two years raising money and are grateful to Senator Cisneros for getting the funding for the expansion.
- Ms. Margaret LeJuste, Board Member and member of the Questa Public Library Expansion Committee, stated that they would like to work with a liaison from the Village to get the architect on line as well as a contractor. They are requesting this evening the name of the liaison that they will be working with.
- Ms. Sharon Nicholson, Library Director, expressed her appreciation for the ladies in the committee for all their hard work. She stated that they would like to be involved in the whole expansion process.
- Ms. Esther Garcia, member of the Questa Public Library Expansion Committee, stated that Senator Cisneros asked if a plaque could be placed in the library stating that he got the funding for the expansion. Ms. Garcia stated that she would like to see the library named after Senator Carlos Cisneros; he has provided the funding for the library.
- Mr. Nicholas Maestas, Village Administrator, stated that it is a pleasure to serve the community of Questa read a statement that he prepared regarding his position and the action item regarding the Mayor's recommendation that will be coming up later on the agenda.

VII. **PUBLIC HEARING** – North Central Regional Transit District - A Public Hearing allowing the opportunity for the public to provide input to the Village of Questa for the consideration of membership into the North Central Regional Transit District (RTD) as a voting member of the district and participate in the affairs of the District.

Mayor Gallegos opened the Public Hearing for comments at 6:19pm.

Taos County Commissioner Jim Fambro, who is also the County representative for the NCRTD stated that this is a fast growing transit system that is one that we can all be proud of. There is a possibility in the next few years that the NCRTD will be available to the entire enchanted circle.

Councilman Gonzales asked how many buses are running now. Mr. Anthony Mortillaro, Executive Director of the North Central Regional Transit District stated that there are now 55 buses in the fleet. There are 16 members (entities) that are part of the district.

Mr. Malaquias Rael, Jr. asked if there is going to be any consideration for weekend services. We have employees at the ski area that need to get to work on the weekends. Mr. Mortillaro stated that the only reference to the expanded weekend services is in our long range strategic plan. He stated that they will be sure to incorporate this in their service plan for consideration. Mr. Rael also inquired about the money that was allocated for Taos Air; are these funds coming from regional transit monies. Mr. Fambro stated that the money that the County pledged for Taos Air came from excess GRT monies that was received this year as well as from our reserves.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Gallegos closed the Public Hearing at 6:44pm.

#### VIII. **ACTION ITEMS** -

- A) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Resolution 2019-08 / A Resolution to join the North Central Regional Transit District

Motion: Councilman Jaramillo

Second: Councilman Gonzales

Roll Call:

Councilman Charlie Gonzales YES

Councilman Brent Jaramillo YES

Councilman John Ortega YES

To approve Resolution No. 2019-08 / A Resolution to join the North Central Regional Transit District. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Anthony Mortillaro stated now that the Resolution has been passed, it will be brought before the NCRTD Board of Directors at their June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. A public hearing will be held and the Resolution will be considered. He will be in touch with the Village after the meeting. The Village will need to appoint a Council member as the representative as well as an alternate.

**IX. PRESENTATION - Questa Economic Development Fund Board Update**

Mr. Malaquias Rael, Board Chairman, updated the Governing Body on the following:

- They are looking for locations for the gateway signs. The NMDOT has some restrictions on the type of signage. We will have to meet regarding this.
- The first set of banners are done. The mounting brackets are in need of repair. The hardware was purchased and need to be out up. Our budget for this project was \$10,000.00. He is willing to do the work to install the banners but need a bucket truck or lift and requested traffic control from the Village. He is hoping to do this by memorial weekend.
- Hired a news ad sales manager.
- The cutthroat festival was a success. It was a great event with more locals participating this year.
- Would like to coordinate events around the national Christmas tree.
- Lodging project moving forward
- Chevron has granted QEDF with a \$30,000.00 grant for two promotional videos of Questa to be used for marketing.

Councilman John Ortega informed Chairman Rael that he received numerous complaints about the April fool's article in the April edition of the newspaper where the people of Questa were misrepresented. He felt his constituents were misrepresented. He believes that there should be some accountability. He stated that he is not a member of the fund board but constituents hold him accountable. He is not telling the board how to handle it but at the very least, the people of Questa deserve an apology; it was done in bad taste. Chairman Rael apologized that Councilman Ortega had to face criticism for it. He stated that he did hear a few comments and there was some confusion about it. He stated that they will learn and grow from this experience; we don't want to offend anyone, but sometimes a newspaper does this. He will see how it can be addressed and thanked Councilman Ortega for bringing this issue up. Councilman Gonzales stated that he was also disappointed with the article. We all try to promote Questa in a positive way and this did not help us. Chairman Rael stated that all humor is not funny to everyone. People are allowed to write to the editor and express their views. It was all in fun and if it crossed the line; our sincerest apologies the community and to the Governing Body. He stated that despite this, he believes that the newspaper is a positive thing for Questa; our goal is not to offend people.

Mayor Gallegos thanked Chairman Rael for the update and for addressing their concerns.

**X. 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 (§10-15-1(H) (2)) – Village Administrator Position**

A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Councilman Ortega. Seconded by Councilman Gonzales.

Roll Call:

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Councilman Ortega           | YES |
| Councilman Charlie Gonzales | YES |
| Councilman Brent Jaramillo  | YES |

Mayor Gallegos stated that the Governing Body will go into Executive Session to discuss only the items listed.

The Governing Body entered into Executive Session at 7:13pm.

A motion was made to reconvene from Executive Session at 7:43pm by Councilman Gonzales, seconded by Councilman Ortega.

Roll Call:

Councilman John Ortega YES

Councilman Brent Jaramillo YES

Councilman Charlie Gonzales YES

Mayor Gallegos stated that only the Executive Session Item regarding Limited Personnel Matters (§10-15-1(H) (2)) regarding the Village Administrator Position was discussed.

# XI. **ACTION ITEM** –

## A) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Mayor's recommendation regarding Village Administrator Position

Mayor Gallegos stated that his recommendation for the Village Administrator position is to relieve Mr. Maestas of his duties by termination.

There was no motion.

Councilman Gonzales made a motion for this item to be tabled.

There was no motion; motion dies.

Councilman Jaramillo asked Mayor Gallegos if this means that this same action item will be on the next council meeting agenda. Mayor Gallegos stated yes.

Councilman Gonzales then made a motion for this item to be tabled until the next council meeting.

Councilman Ortega requested a point of clarification. He asked Attorney DeFillippo if we should have tabled this item before any motion was made on the item. Mr. DeFillippo stated that there was no motion made on the actual item. There was motion made on the recommendation to either accept or deny, a motion was made; at that point a motion was made to table the item; this will push back the item to the next council meeting.

Councilman Jaramillo stated that even if there is no vote on the motion to table, the item could still be on the next meeting agenda. Mr. DeFillippo stated yes, it will have to because there is no majority vote at this point.

Mayor Gallegos stated that Councilman Gonzales has made a motion to table this item until the next council meeting. He asked if there was a second. There was no second. Motion dies.

Mayor Gallegos informed the Council that he will continue with Mr. Maestas administrative leave with pay until the next council meeting.

# XII. **FINANCIALS** – Karen Shannon, Finance Director

## A) Discussion & Review of March 2019 Financial Reports

Ms. Shannon stated that the financial reports were included in the packet.

Councilman Ortega asked Ms. Shannon if there was anything she was concerned with. Ms. Shannon stated that the only item she is concerned with is that the lobbying services has not been fully funded by QEDF this

year; \$43,000.00 was paid out and we were funded with \$25,000.00. Councilman Jaramillo asked if an invoice was submitted to QEDF for the remaining balance. Ms. Shannon stated that she invoiced for the full amount and they sent only a portion of it. She has submitted it again. A discussion was held. Mayor Gallegos stated that he will sit down with the Chairman to discuss this item.

Ms. Shannon supplied the Governing Body a copy of the preliminary budget for their review. A discussion was held regarding the dates for the budget review.

### XIII. MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilman Ortega asked what the status is of the mobile home at the mud bog pit. Mayor Gallegos stated that there is no service that is willing to touch it. We do have the title for it. We are looking for someone to pick it up and move it out. Councilman Jaramillo stated that we should maybe eat the cost and have it hauled to the landfill in Taos. Councilman Ortega also stated that the river behind the sewer plant needs to be fixed.

Councilman Jaramillo asked Ms. Martinez for an update on the Healing Field. Ms. Martinez stated that we have contacted the National Guard; the tents and chairs have been ordered. Entact will again be putting up the flags and taking them down. We will begin work on the Rael property very soon. She stated that we need to finalize the program and speakers for the ceremony.

### XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Councilman Ortega  
Second: Councilman Gonzales

In Favor: All  
Opposed: None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.

ATTEST:

Renee Martinez, CMC



APPROVED:

Mark Gallegos, Mayor