AGENDA

VILLAGE OF QUESTA
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018
VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2500 OLD STATE ROAD 3
6:00 P.M.

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

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, October 23, 2018
   2) Regular Meeting, November 13, 2018

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. ACTION ITEMS
   A) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Local Election Act
   B) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Resolution 2018-31 / 2019 Open Meetings
   C) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – 2019 Legislative Priorities

VIII. MATTERS FROM ADMINISTRATOR, MAYOR AND COUNCIL

IX. 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.
Mayor Gallegos stated that a meeting with the EPA is scheduled for January 24, 2019. Councilman Jaramillo suggested we hold it at the Youth Center. Councilman Ortega suggested we have a retreat before that meeting. Mayor Gallegos asked if Ms. Shannon can have a draft of the mid-term budget by then. Councilman Jaramillo stated that he would like to see the financials presented more as a conversation. Councilman Ortega stated that we need to spend more time on our budget meetings and not rush through them.

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 motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Councilwoman Gallegos. Seconded by Councilman Ortega.

Roll Call:

- Councilman John Ortega: YES
- Councilman Charlie Gonzales: YES
- Councilman Brent Jaramillo: YES
- Councilwoman Louise Gallegos: YES

Mayor Gallegos stated that the Governing Body will now go into Executive Session. The Governing Body entered into Executive Session at 7:47pm.

A motion was made to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:04pm by Councilman Jaramillo, seconded by Councilman Ortega.

Roll Call:

- Councilman Brent Jaramillo: YES
- Councilman Charlie Gonzales: YES
- Councilman John Ortega: YES
- Councilwoman Louise Gallegos: YES

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Councilwoman Gallegos
Second: Councilman Ortega

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

ATTEST:

[Signature]

Renee Martinez, QMC

APPROVED:

[Signature]

Mark Gallegos, Mayor

Village of Questa Special Meeting
December 04, 2018
VILLAGE OF QUESTA
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2018
VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:00PM

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR MARK L. GALLEGOS

Mayor Pro-Tem John Ortega called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro-Tem John Ortega asked Village Clerk Renee Martinez to take roll:

Present:
Councilman Charlie I. Gonzales
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo
Councilwoman Louise T. Gallegos

Not Present:
Mayor Mark Gallegos arrived at 6:10 pm. **

Also Present:
Administrator Nicholas Maestas
Village Clerk Renee Martinez
Finance Director Karen Shannon

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro-Tem Ortega let the Pledge of Allegiance.

** Mayor Gallegos arrived at this time.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Maestas requested an Executive Session item be added to the agenda.

Motion: Councilman Ortega
Second: Councilwoman Gallegos

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1) Regular Meeting, October 23, 2018

Motion: Councilwoman Gallegos
Second: Councilman Jaramillo

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

Village of Questa Special Meeting
December 04, 2018
To approve the October 23, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

2) Regular Meeting, November 13, 2018

Motion: Councilman Gonzales
Second: Councilwoman Gallegos

In Favor:  All
Opposed:  None

To approve the November 13, 2018 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.)

There were no public comments.

VII.  ACTION ITEMS

A) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Local Election Act

Ms. Martinez stated that Taos County Clerk Anna Martinez was supposed to be present but was not able to attend. She stated that a draft ordinance was provided to them with the two options that would need to be decided on in the event that the Village was to opt-in. If the Council decides to not opt-in, the Secretary of State’s Office is recommending that we pass a Resolution that states we will be continuing to conduct our own elections.

A motion to opt-in to the Local Election Act under Option 2 was made by Councilman Gonzales with discussion. The motion was then seconded by Councilwoman Gallegos.

Councilman Ortega asked if the Village chooses to continue to conduct their own elections, would Ms. Martinez continue to run the election. Ms. Martinez stated that she believes that she will continue to have most of the duties that she has now; but does not know for certain. Councilman Ortega asked where the elections would be held if we opted-in. Ms. Martinez stated that since the school board would be on the same ballot as the Village, there is a possibility that the elections would be held at the school. Councilman Ortega stated that to him, it is not about the length of the terms but about having our own election and not be intertwined with the other elections.

Councilman Jaramillo stated that he would rather keep our election separate from the school election. Councilwoman Gallegos stated that the reason she voted to opt-in at option 2 was the cost savings. Councilman Gonzales stated that he likes the work we are doing now with the group we have and would like to keep the continuity and with the situation we have going on with Chevron; that is why he would like to opt in with option 2.

Mayor Gallegos called for a vote on the original motion to opt-in under option 2.

Councilman Charlie Gonzales    YES
Councilman John Ortega    NO
Councilwoman Louise Gallegos    YES
Councilman Brent Jaramillo    NO

Due to a tie vote, Mayor Gallegos votes to break the tie:

Village of Questa Special Meeting
December 04, 2018
Mayor Mark Gallegos  

Motion was carried to keep the continuation of Village of Questa elections in March of even numbered years and not opt-in to the local Election Act.

Mayor Gallegos stated we are a pivotal time and believes this group will make good strides. He hopes that he and the Council can continue to work together.

Councilman Ortega stated for the record that this is showing a vote of confidence for our Clerk in how she runs our elections.

B) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Resolution 2018-31 / 2019 Open Meetings

Motion: Councilman Jaramillo  
Second: Councilwoman Gallegos

Councilman Gonzales asked if there were any changes. Ms. Martinez stated that there were no changes made.

Roll Call:

Councilman Brent Jaramillo  
Councilwoman Louise Gallegos  
Councilman John Ortega  
Councilman Charlie Gonzales

To approve Resolution 2018-31 / 2019 Open Meetings. All voted yes. Motion carried.

C) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – 2019 Legislative Priorities

Mayor Gallegos stated that the following items presented are listed as the top 5 priorities:

1. Water System Improvements  
2. Cabresto Road Improvements  
3. Business Park / Economic Development Projects  
4. New Fire department building  
5. Library expansion

If additional funding:

- 50,000.00 public works department equipment  
- Fencing and gates at well houses 2 and 4

Councilman Gonzales stated that there is some property for sale next to the EMS building that can be used for parking. Two lots are available; one for $10,000.00 and one for $18,000.00. We don’t have the money right now to purchase it but he would like to see if we can get it from the legislature this next year. It is a safety issue.

Councilman Gonzales also asked if the top 5 priorities will be needing matches and are if they will be phased. Mr. Maestas stated that the Cabresto Road Improvements consists of a match. Water System Improvements projects are phased.

Councilman Jaramillo stated that he would like the Village to purchase that property also but would like to wait and see if we have a good amount come in from Small Cities to purchase it. He stated that we also have

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to be clear about the additional funding items and how they only get funded after the top five have been; unless there is a trade-off.

Mayor Gallegos stated that we have to review our mid-term budget to see where we are with GRT’s. Councilman Gonzales suggested that we meet with our legislators to see if they are being reported properly. This has to happen immediately.

Councilman Gonzales again stated that he would like the purchase of the property next to the EMS building added to the priorities. A discussion was held regarding the current parking situation.

A motion was made by Councilman Gonzales to approve the top five priorities and also add the purchase of property to the list.

Motion dies due to lack of a second.

A motion was then made by Councilwoman Gallegos to approve the top 5 priorities as originally presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ortega, with discussion. Councilman Ortega asked if we could go back to the secondary additionally funded list if necessary. Mayor Gallegos stated yes.

In Favor: Councilman Jaramillo, Councilman Ortega and Councilwoman Gallegos

Opposed: Councilman Gonzales

To approve the top 5 priorities for the 2019 Legislature as presented. Motion carried.

VIII. MATTERS FROM ADMINISTRATOR, MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- Councilman Gonzales stated that the Llano Ditch Irrigation Invoice has been on the Village records for some years now and would like to see it resolved. Councilman Gonzales also asked Mr. Maestas about the list of items he had turned in to him that still have not been addressed.

- Councilman Jaramillo stated that since Mr. Maestas takes direction from the Governing Body we need to have a retreat and bring out our issues there.

- Councilman Ortega stated that the budget needs to be a priority.

- Mayor Gallegos stated we should have a good retreat as well as review the mid-term budget in January. Also, the QEDF had their preliminary budget meeting. The proposal is to fund the Village at about $130,000.00. Also, the local newspaper costs about $30,000.00 a year for QEDF to run it. The QEDF is proposing to put in $18,000.00 and hope that the remaining balance will come through advertisements. He believes it grew too big too fast. Councilwoman Gallegos stated that she believes too many copies are printed; if they are being put in every post office box, then they don’t need so many copies at the stores and other public places. There are things they can do to cut back on the costs. She stated that she loves the paper and is a big supporter of it but does believe there is a lot of waste regarding all the copies that are printed and distributed. Councilman Ortega stated that he is not sure how much economic development is being generated by the paper. Also, he has heard concerns that the paper is not promoting Questa. Mayor Gallegos stated we could probably suggest that they minimize the amount of generated papers. Councilman Jaramillo stated that we could also have them offer a free subscription to the paper. Councilman Gonzales stated that he believes that paper has lost its original intent; it is too lengthy. Councilman Gonzales stated that the intent of the QEDF was to help the Village. Mayor Gallegos stated that a draft of the budget will be available tomorrow and he will get a copy out to the Council.

- Councilwoman Gallegos stated that she has a request from constituents that the police officers be in town earlier in the morning. There is a lot of speeding and passing on double lanes; it is a dangerous time.

- Councilman Gonzales stated that he will ask again about applying for a COPS grant; has it been looked into. Mr. Maestas stated that he has looked into it.