



AGENDA

VILLAGE OF QUESTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019
VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2500 OLD STATE ROAD 3
6:00 P.M

Mayor Mark L. Gallegos
Mayor Pro-Tem Louise T. Gallegos
Councilmember Brent P. Jaramillo | Councilmember John A. Ortega | 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, April 23, 2019
2) Special Meeting, May 07, 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. **PRESENTATIONS**
 - A) Presentation by Questa Police Department
 - B) Vida Del Norte Coalition - Ms. Maria Gonzalez, Program Coordinator
- VIII. **ACTION ITEM** –
 - A) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Mayor’s recommendation regarding Village Administrator Position
- IX. **MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL**
- X. **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.

1 **VILLAGE OF QUESTA**
 2 **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**
 3 **TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019**
 4 **VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS**
 5 **6:00PM**

6
 7 I. **CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR MARK L. GALLEGOS**

8
 9 Mayor Gallegos called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

10
 11 II. **ROLL CALL**

12
 13 Village Clerk Renee Martinez called roll where a quorum was present.

14
 15 Those present were:

- 16 Councilwoman Louise T. Gallegos
- 17 Councilman Charlie I. Gonzales
- 18 Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo
- 19 Councilman John Anthony Ortega

20
 21 III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

22
 23 Mr. Cody Hicks led the Pledge of Allegiance

24
 25 IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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 27 Village Clerk Renee Martinez requested that the minutes of May 07, 2019 be removed from the agenda.

28
 29 Motion: Councilwoman Gallegos
 30 Second: Councilman Jaramillo

31
 32 In Favor: All
 33 Opposed: None

34
 35 To approve the agenda as amended. All voted yes. Motion carried.

36
 37 V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** –

38
 39 1) Regular Meeting, April 23, 2019

40
 41 Councilwoman Gallegos stated that she has submitted her corrections to the Clerk.

42
 43 Motion: Councilwoman Gallegos
 44 Second: Councilman Jaramillo

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 46 In Favor: All
 47 Opposed: None

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 49 To approve the April 23 2019 meeting minutes with corrections. All voted yes. Motion carried.

50
 51 2) Special Meeting, May 07, 2019

52
 53 **Removed from agenda

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

- 58
- 59 • Mr. Tommy Lyles / Policy, Government and Public Affairs Manager – Questa Mine updated the
- 60 Governing Body on the pipeline removal project on SR 38. They will begin after the Memorial
- 61 holiday. Some of the work will require a pilot car.
- 62

63 VII. **PRESENTATIONS**

64 A) Presentation by Questa Police Department

65

66 Chief Lamendola presented the plaque for fallen officer Ronald Shores who lost his life in the line of duty
 67 on November 3, 1977. He asked where the Governing Body would like this memorial to be displayed.

68

69 Councilwoman Gallegos stated that her friend Mrs. Chapman who was a former dispatcher for the Village
 70 had requested this for Officer Shores and thanked Chief Lamendola for getting it done. Councilman Ortega
 71 stated that it is fitting since tomorrow is National Police Officer Memorial Day. Councilman Jaramillo also
 72 thanked Chief Lamendola and knows it means a lot to Mrs. Chapman as well as Councilwoman Gallegos.
 73 Councilman Gonzales thanked Chief Lamendola for this memorial as well as for all of the department's hard
 74 work. Mayor Gallegos thanked the department for their work and dedication.

75

76 It was decided that the memorial plaque be set up in the Motor Vehicle department where it is visible.
 77 Councilman Ortega stated that he would like to the write up on Officer Shores story included with the
 78 memorial as well as that his badge number that has been retired.

79

80 B) Vida Del Norte Coalition - Ms. Maria Gonzalez, Program Coordinator

81

82 Ms. Maria Gonzales, Program Director for Vida Del Norte Coalition informed the Governing Body about
 83 the 2014 creation of the coalition. The coalition also targets the surrounding areas.

84

85 Vida Del Norte was created in 2014 after a Questa toddler suffered permanent brain damage from ingestion
 86 of his parent's illicit buprenorphine tablet. The horrific effects on this child awakened the community. Prior
 87 to this event, several key partners had come together and informally partnered to lay the foundation for a
 88 drug free coalition. The group expanded with its first official meeting in June of 2015 and organized as Vida
 89 Del Norte. The group then chose as its mission "to reduce and prevent substance abuse among Northern
 90 Taos County youth. In October of 2015, VIDA held its first Strategic Planning retreat. During this time
 91 VIDA recruited more members from the community to sit on the coalition and fill all 12 sectors of the
 92 community. The Coalition began implementation of its strategies in 2016, and worked toward its vision and
 93 mission.

94

95 Some goals the Coalition would like to see for our community is a decrease in underage drinking and
 96 substance misuse, productive youth working within our community that will benefit the communities for
 97 years to come. The Increase in high school graduation rates, community unity and collaboration. An
 98 increase in youth and family serving organizations that could provide support for families who are having
 99 difficulties making these connections. The Coalition continues to seek partners and stakeholders to address
 100 the issue of substance misuse amongst our youth in our communities. We were able to collect data that shows
 101 a big percentage of our youth ages 6-12 who are drinking alcohol on a regular basis.

102

103 Ms. Gonzales asked a member of the Active Eight to speak on the coalition's behalf and what they have
 104 learned. Kaylee Piper stated that they are trying to prevent opioid and underage drinking. The Active Eight
 105 are helping mentor younger youth and would like to hold a summer camp this summer.

106 Ms. Gonzales stated that Councilman Ortega, Chief Lamendola and Officer Garcia have been very active in
 107 the Coalition. A projected timeline was presented.

108

109 Councilman Ortega stated that he tries to attend these meetings every month and when he saw the numbers
 110 he was shocked. There is a cultural problem that underage drinking is somewhat accepted. We need to put
 111 some policies in place to help. He stated that one of his passions, sitting on this council, is to take care of the
 112 youth and the substance abuse and underage drinking problems in our community. It is going in a positive
 113 direction. He thanked Ms. Gonzalez for her presentation. Councilwoman Gallegos also thanked Ms.
 114 Gonzalez for her work with the coalition. Councilman Gonzales thanked Ms. Gonzalez and stated that she
 115 should promote it with the NM Attorney General's Office; we are proud of the kids in Questa and want them
 116 to succeed. Councilman Jaramillo stated that we need to change the cultural mindset that it is acceptable for
 117 underage drinking at family parties or weddings, etc.

118
 119 They are looking to raise about \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00 for 9 youth members to attend a training in Dallas.
 120 There are several workshops they will attend and come back and implement it.

121
 122 Mayor Gallegos stated that the Village of Questa is very supportive of the coalition and is willing to help in
 123 way. Ms. Gonzalez thanked the Council for their support and use of the Youth Center.

124
 125 **VIII. ACTION ITEM –**

126
 127 **A) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Mayor's recommendation regarding Village Administrator**
 128 **Position**

129
 130 Mayor Gallegos stated that his recommendation again is to terminate the position that is currently filled by
 131 Mr. Maestas and advertise in the future for a new administrator.

132
 133 Councilman Gonzales motioned to approve the Mayor's recommendation. Mayor Gallegos then asked for
 134 a second. Councilwoman Gallegos then seconded the motion and requested to make a comment.
 135 Councilwoman Gallegos stated that as in any relationship, when trust, respect and communication are broken
 136 - whether is personal or professional, it is really hard to get back on track. There seems to have been a lack
 137 of communication and trust over the past few months; this is the reason for her vote.

138
 139 Mayor Gallegos asked if there was any other discussion. There was none. Mayor Gallegos then asked Ms.
 140 Martinez to take a roll call vote:

141
 142 Roll Call:

143
 144 Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES
 145 Councilman Charlie Gonzales YES
 146 Councilman John Ortega NO
 147 Councilman Brent Jaramillo NO

148
 149 Because of the tie vote, Mayor Gallegos voted YES.

150
 151 To approve the Mayor's recommendation for the termination of Mr. Maestas as Village of Questa
 152 Administrator. With a 3-2 vote, motion carried.

153
 154 Councilman Ortega requested to make a statement. He stated that he feels that Mr. Maestas was not given
 155 due process; he wasn't given a fair shot. He told Mr. Maestas that he appreciates the work he did here at the
 156 Village of Questa and for the community and good luck in the future.

157
 158 **IX. MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

159
 160 Councilman Gonzales requested an update on the Healing Field by Ms. Renee Martinez. Ms. Martinez
 161 stated that it is moving along and Entact will be setting up the display on Wednesday.

162

163 Mayor Gallegos stated that there is a meeting set up with DFA, EDA, Chevron, Village of Questa and WH
164 Pacific for the buildout of the Business Park infrastructure. We were successful in getting the CDBG
165 funding. He stated that we are moving forward.

166
167 Councilman Ortega stated that he would like to see a timeframe on filling the administrator position. He
168 stated that he will not approve a budget that has a salary for the Administrator position unless there is a
169 recommendation on the table for us. He stated that the girls in this office are too stretched. We lost out on
170 a reimbursement for a grant the last time this happened; we went 6 months without an administrator. He
171 asks that it be held in a timely manner so we don't end up losing grant money again.

172
173 Mayor Gallegos stated that he will not be bullied and forced by the Governing Body to make a
174 recommendation unless he feels comfortable doing so. He stated to Councilman Ortega that it is his
175 recommendation to make and unfortunately the last time we were looking for someone he was getting
176 pressured by yourself and Councilor Ortega to fill the position. He stated we were fortunate to work with
177 Mr. Maestas and it is unfortunate that we have to part ways with him. He stated that he will pursue looking
178 for an Administrator and in this time he is letting the Council know that in our budget there is money to
179 compensate the employees who are going to take on more work.

180
181 He stated that this is his responsibility. He stated that these are the duties he can carry out as Mayor. He is
182 going to take all the time he needs and feels it is unfortunate that Councilor Ortega will not approve the
183 budget without an administrator in place. Councilman Gonzales thanked the Mayor and Ms. Martinez for
184 the work in keeping the Village afloat.

185
186 X. ADJOURNMENT

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188 Motion: Councilwoman Gallegos

189 Second: Councilman Ortega


190
191 In Favor: All

192 Opposed: None

193
194 There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01pm.

195
196 ATTEST
197 
198 Renee Martinez, CMC
199 
200

APPROVED:


Mark Gallegos, Mayor