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.
VILLAGE OF QUESTA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019
VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:00PM

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR MARK L. GALLEGOS

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

II. ROLL CALL

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

Those present were:
Councilwoman Louise T. Gallegos
Councilman Charlie I. Gonzales
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo
Councilman John Anthony Ortega

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Cody Hicks led the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion: Councilwoman Gallegos
Second: Councilman Jaramillo

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1) Regular Meeting, April 23, 2019

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

Motion: Councilwoman Gallegos
Second: Councilman Jaramillo

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

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

2) Special Meeting, May 07, 2019

**Removed from agenda

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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.)

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

VII. PRESENTATIONS

A) Presentation by Questa Police Department

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**VIII. ACTION ITEM**

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

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

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

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

Roll Call:

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

Because of the tie vote, Mayor Gallegos voted YES.

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

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

**IX. MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Councilman Gonzales requested an update on the Healing Field by Ms. Renee Martinez. Ms. Martinez stated that it is moving along and Entact will be setting up the display on Wednesday.
Mayor Gallegos stated that there is a meeting set up with DFA, EDA, Chevron, Village of Questa and WH Pacific for the buildout of the Business Park infrastructure. We were successful in getting the CDBG funding. He stated that we are moving forward.

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

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

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

X.  ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Councilwoman Gallegos
Second: Councilman Ortega

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

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

ATTEN:

APPROVED:

Mark Gallegos, Mayor

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