



AGENDA
VILLAGE OF QUESTA
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 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. **ACTION ITEM** –
 - A) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Mayor’s recommendation regarding Village Administrator Position
- VI. **BUDGET WORKSTUDY SESSION** – Karen Shannon, Finance Director
 - A) Review and Discussion of FY 2020 Interim Fiscal Budget
- VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

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**VILLAGE OF QUESTA
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 07, 2019
VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:00PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR PRO-TEM LOUISE GALLEGOS

Mayor Pro-Tem Louise Gallegos called the meeting to order at 6:06 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
Mayor Pro-Tem Louise Gallegos

Not Present:

Mayor Mark Gallegos

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Attorney Chris DeFillippo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilman John Ortega stated that since Mayor Gallegos is not present, Item V. A) should be removed from the agenda.

Motion: Councilman Ortega
Second: Councilman Gonzales

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

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

V. ACTION ITEM –

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

**Removed from agenda.

Mr. Nicholas Maestas asked for a point of clarification and what this means for him since no action has been taken. Mayor Pro-Tem Gallegos stated that he will remain on administrative leave with pay until the next council meeting.

VI. BUDGET WORKSTUDY SESSION – Karen Shannon, Finance Director

B) Review and Discussion of FY 2020 Interim Fiscal Budget

Ms. Karen Shannon went over the following:

- Medical Insurance will be increasing by 8% beginning September 1, 2019
- CPI for solid waste services will increase by 3.5%
- PERA contributions for the employer will increase 2.5%
- Court fines have gone down. Not very many citations are coming in.

Councilman Gonzales asked if the contractors that are in town need to get a NM license plate.

- Small Cities came in higher than expected
- A lease for a new copy machine was added
- Election budget was doubled; not knowing what the election will cost
- Chief Lamendola requested budgeting another officer; three full-time and one part-time. The part-time officer is the addition.
- Library Director Sharon Nicholson requested the library hours increase to Monday-Friday, 8am to 5pm and that the general fund cover the cost. The friends of the library have been paying the last couple of years for the library to be open on Fridays. This would be an increase to the general fund of \$4,314.62.

Councilman Ortega stated that there is a custodian still budgeted; do we have a custodian? Ms. Shannon stated that this position has been vacant since February. It has been included this year because we need one. It is budgeted for 8 hours per week at \$15.00 an hour. A discussion was held.

- Correction fees will remain in the Court budget.
- Fire department has been sharing their expenses with the EMS when it was housed at the fire house. Since it is not any longer, the fire department will take on all the expenses on their own.

Councilman Ortega asked if the \$39,000.00 budgeted for the roof at the fire department includes the money we received from the legislature. Ms. Shannon stated that they would like to use that \$50,000.00 from the legislature but we need to make sure we can.

- A discussion was held regarding the LEPF funding.
- Municipal Street fund budget is declining; we need to be more conservative.
- Lobbying Services in Oversight Fund – She has billed QEDF for \$40,000.00. A discussion was held.
- Mayor requested money be put into other marketing and events for the Capital Christmas Tree. The only event added is Christmas in July.
- Rapid Action Fund- Requested the \$25,000.00 from QEDF

Councilman Ortega asked how the collections are going for the utility bills. Ms. Shannon stated that they are still pretty high but Ms. Herrera is working on property liens and is working hard on collecting. Councilman Ortega state it would be great if we could recover some of that debt.

- Temporary employee added to the budget for public works for the summer.
- Ms. Shannon stated that we may have to really think about raising the utility rates in order to cover expenses in the water and solid waste.
- Our cell phone costs were cut in half since we switched from Verizon to T-Mobile.
- EMS Billing services will no longer be billing on our behalf; we will be taking over as of July1, 2019.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Gallegos requested training money be budgeted for MVD clerk.
- Business Park: Mayor Gallegos asked we budget for the natural gas conversion to help with expenses.
- Water Rights/Hook-Ups: Councilmember Jaramillo asked for the number of hookups in the budget to be increased.
- Cost of Living increases at 2.8%

- A discussion was held regarding the pay for a certified officer and a non-certified officer. Councilman Ortega stated that it does not sit well with him that the non-certified is budgeted more than the certified officer. He doesn't want to take money from any employee, he would rather give.
- A discussion was held regarding the pay step increases and if they are a part of our Personnel Policies. The policy should include this so we know what the amount of a raise will be when certifications and levels are completed. Councilman Ortega stated that the EMS Coordinator should be paid more; not sure what the number should be but it should be higher, maybe to \$16.50.

Councilman Ortega stated that he is proud that the employees are getting the cost of living raise; two years ago we had to fight to get them the 0.25 cent raise. It had been 8 years that they had not received any raise. Mayor Pro-Tem Gallegos thanked Ms. Shannon for her work on the budget. Councilman Gonzales thanked the staff for their hard work since the Administrator has been out and he would like to see them compensated.

Ms. Shannon stated that she will have changes made and meet with the Mayor about his changes and have it as a handout on Tuesday to take home.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Councilman Ortega
Second: Councilman Gonzales

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm.

ATTEST:

Renee Martinez, CMC

APPROVED:

Louise Gallegos, Mayor Pro-Tem

Mark Gallegos
Mayor