

**VILLAGE OF QUESTA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 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 6:04pm.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Those present were:

Councilman Charlie I. Gonzales

Councilman John Anthony Ortega

Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo

Councilwoman Louise T. Gallegos arrived at 6:10pm.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Former Councilman Larry Sanchez led the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilman Gonzales

Second: Councilman Ortega

Roll Call:

Councilman John Anthony Ortega	YES
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Councilman Charlie Gonzales	YES
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Councilman Brent Jaramillo	YES
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To approve the agenda as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

- September 24, 2019

Motion: Councilman Ortega

Second: Councilman Gonzales

Roll Call:

Councilman Charlie Gonzales	YES
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Councilman John Ortega	YES
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Councilman Brent Jaramillo	YES
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To approve the September 24, 2019 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. **RECOGNITIONS** – Ms. Sharon Nicholson, Questa Public Library Director - 2019 Taos News Unsung Hero Recipient.

Ms. Nicholson was recognized by the Governing Body for her 2019 Unsung Hero award. Ms. Nicholson was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.

A proclamation was also presented to the Friends of the Library by the Governing Body or their support of the library.

VIII. **PRESENTATIONS**

A) Questa Economic Development Fund Board Update – Ms. Lindsay Mapes

Chairman Malaquias Rael updated the Governing Body on the following:

- Cambalache was a success this year.
- Questa Creative Council worked on getting the permanent history trail signs up.
- Working on getting easements for the welcome signs.
- Lodging Pilot Project received \$100,000.00 grant from Chevron to move forward with the project.
- Pick Your Poison race was held with 70 participants and was very well attended and continues to grow.
- Farmer's Market ended their season in September.
- The QEDF has brought in Mr. Michael Gaillour as their new trustee.
- The QEDF is working on their budget for the next year and hoping for another successful year.

Councilman Ortega asked if there was any data collected during the Pick Your Poison Race regarding the number of people coming into Questa and contributing to the businesses in the community. Chairman Rael stated that he will see if he is able to get some numbers.

B) Veteran's Memorial Dedication Request - Mr. Larry Sanchez

Former Councilman Larry Sanchez requested from the Governing Body that the Veteran's Memorial in town be named after the late Senator Carlos Cisneros. He was instrumental in securing the money for purchasing the property that the memorial is located on today. He progressed the memorial to include the Vietnam wall for the Veterans who were not honored when they came home. The late Senator also helped with the purchase of the Town Clock at the memorial.

Mayor Gallegos stated that this item will be placed on the agenda for the next council meeting for action.

C) North Central Regional Transit District -Transit Service Plan Update – Mr. Chris Cordova

Mr. Chris Cordova and Ms. Delilah Garcia were present to get input from the public regarding possible improvements to the blue bus program as well as identify the things that are working. Some suggested items from the public were:

- 1) Northern stops need some shelters from the inclement weather.

- 2) Weekend service needed
- 3) Parking locations/improvements for bus riders
- 4) Modifications to place stops further off the roadway
- 5) Concern about intoxicated riders on the bus
- 6) Safety concerns at stops and on the bus
- 7) Transportation for Veterans to get to the Veteran's hospital

The Governing Body thanked Mr. Cordova and Ms. Garcia for their presentation.

D) Possible Presentation by Dollar General Store Developers

Copies of the plans were presented to the Governing Body by Mr. Drew Crosby regarding the proposed building. Property was purchased in town. They also stated that they have been speaking with the Mayor regarding the location possibly being located north of Questa at the business park. Some of the concerns from the Governing Body and the public were:

- Councilman Ortega inquired about the building material that will be used. The developers stated that masonry would be used in front, a metal roof and metal sides. Commercial glass on the front and entrance doors. Councilor Ortega asked how many employees will be hired locally. They did not have a definite answer.
- Councilman Jaramillo inquired about why the developers chose Questa with Family Dollar already here; is there enough business in Questa. How were the analytics done? They stated that the Questa location meets their requirement in being successful. Also, how will the lighting affect the homeowner that lives next to the proposed store? They stated that there will be a photometric plan designed. Councilman Jaramillo asked if they have met with the NMDOT. They stated they have not met with them; it comes later on in the process.
- Councilman Gonzales asked what they are looking for from the Village. They stated that the Village will look into the plans being in compliance with Village ordinances that are currently in place. If there is any approval done by the County, it should come before the Village first. He stated that he is not in favor of this store being brought to Questa.
- Councilwoman Gallegos asked when construction would begin. They were not sure; there are more steps that need to be completed. Inquired about if there are plans to hire locals and also regarding the building materials, would they utilize local businesses to purchase the materials. They stated that they will hire locals as much as they possibly can.
- Ms. Betty Richter asked to see the plans because this is going to impact her life. She is concerned about the traffic. She inquired about why she was never contacted about this; she feels like it was being hidden from her. They stated that they do not normally talk with adjoining land owners.
- Mr. Malaquias Rael asked what he hours of operation are. They stated they are usually 8am to 8pm. What is Dollar General's estimated operating sales. They did not know that information. His biggest concern is the traffic study because of the entrance and traffic.
- Ms. Holly Howard asked if there is a regional manager in this area that oversees Northern New Mexico. They did not know that information since they are developers. She stated that she does not agree with this store coming to Questa.
- Mr. Juan Cisneros asked if the Dollar General representatives will come at some point to answer questions. Mr. Crosby stated that he does not believe that they typically answer questions from municipalities. Mr. Cisneros asked if we asked them to come would they? Mr. Crosby stated that he cannot speak for them but they can convey the message to the division they work for.

Mayor Gallegos thanked the developers for their presentation.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A) Discussion, Consideration & Decision - Questa Public Library Expansion Project Design

Ms. Martinez stated that at the prior Council meeting Living Design Group presented the plans and design for the project. Ms. Shannon stated that one possible change would be the children's restroom be made ADA compliant.

Motion: Councilman Gonzales
Second: Councilwoman Gallegos

Roll Call:

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

To approve the Questa Public Library Expansion Project Design as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

B) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Resolution 2019-21 – 2020 Municipal Officer Election

Ms. Martinez stated that this Resolution is a State requirement. This Resolution identifies the offices that are up for election as well as candidate filing dates.

Motion: Councilman Ortega
Second: Councilman Jaramillo

Roll Call:

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

To approve Resolution 2019-21 – Re: 2020 Municipal Officer Election. All voted yes. Motion carried.

C) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Council Approval of Records Destruction

Ms. Martinez stated that these records are MVD records that are ready to be destroyed according the NM Taxation and Revenue Department, Motor Vehicle Division.

Motion: Councilman Gonzales
Second: Councilman Ortega

Roll Call:

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

To approve the records destruction list as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

X. FINANCIALS – Karen Shannon, Finance Director

A) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Fiscal Year 2020 Local BARs

Ms. Shannon presented the Fiscal Year 2020 Local BARs for the first quarter of fiscal year 2020.

Motion: Councilman Ortega
Second: Councilman Jaramillo

Roll Call:

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

To approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Local BARs. All voted yes. Motion carried.

B) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Resolution No.2019-22 - Fiscal Year 2020 State BARs

Ms. Shannon presented the Fiscal Year 2020 State BARs for the first quarter of fiscal year 2020. All funds are positive.

Motion: Councilman Ortega
Second: Councilwoman Gallegos

Roll Call:

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

To approve Resolution No.2019-22 - Fiscal Year 2020 State BARs as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

C) Review of September Financials

Ms. Shannon stated that included in the September financials is a cash recap report. All funds are positive. The benchmark is at 25%.

Councilman Gonzales inquired about how we get the insurance quotes? Ms. Shannon stated that we go out on our own for quotes. Ms. Martinez stated that quotes for medical insurance quotes are the same across the board per company for individuals. Councilman Gonzales inquired if there was insurance available for the Governing Body. Ms. Martinez stated no, not medical insurance, but stated she will get more information.

D) Review of 1st Quarter Report

Ms. Shannon stood for any questions. There were none.

Ms. Shannon stated that we received our GRT's for October. Our GRT's for 1/3 of the year are at 90% or more for the budgeted GRT revenue. She asked that we consider putting some of this money into a long term investment. Councilman Jaramillo asked if this was across the board and not in food and medical. Ms. Shannon stated it looked like it was across the board but will look and make sure.

XI. MATTERS FROM ATTORNEY

Attorney Chris DeFillippo stated that we are moving forward with the 40 year water plan. Mr. William Miller will be the engineer and we will be meeting with him soon to move forward.

Councilman Jaramillo stated that we need to address our lack of planning and zoning very soon as well as an MOU with the County. Councilman Ortega stated that we also need to look at the fire code; these stores go up quickly and don't care about the fire code.

Attorney Chris DeFillippo stated that we need to look at all the ordinances that need to be updated.

XII. MATTERS FROM MAYOR, COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Councilman Gonzales informed the Governing Body that he met with people from Economic Development in Santa Fe and Representative Jim Trujillo. They would like to be on site after November 15th to look at the La Cienega School to see if they will be able to help us with additional funding. Councilman Gonzales stated that we have asked for water testing for all households and Chevron has not come through. Also, we need to begin looking for the next step regarding the 2 foot cover; we need to decide if we are going to allow the 2 foot cover for the dam. They are not sticking to the ROD. He does not want to be blindsided by Chevron. We need an update from Dr. Miller. Mayor Gallegos will see what answers he can get.

Councilwoman Gallegos would like to know the status on RECON's project. Mayor Gallegos stated that they are hoping to wrap up the 2 foot cover by the middle of December. They will have to come back after winter and do the seeding. They will do a temporary shutdown with a skeleton crew. They are closer to meeting the deadline. Councilwoman Gallegos stated that she was disappointed that we did not have our last meeting; she would rather come to two meetings for 1 hour each than to have to sit at one meeting for 3 hours.

Vida Del Norte is hosting a Red Ribbon campaign; they want to hold a candlelight vigil at Perovich Park for everyone who has been affected by opioids. It is set for October 29th at 6:00pm. A Haunted Hayride will also be held for Halloween. Councilman Ortega stated that Sergeant Garcia has been very active with this group and he would like to commend him for his efforts. Councilman Ortega also inquired about when the road will get repaired on Cabresto after the last water leak was fixed. Ms. Martinez stated that to her knowledge she believed it was fixed but will look into it. Also, he inquired how the Village went about notifying citizens that the water was going to be shut off. Ms. Martinez stated that once she was made aware that the water was going to be shut off, it was posted on the website and social media. Also employees started making phone calls to people they believed would be affected. Councilman Ortega asked if we ordered jackets for the public works department. Ms. Shannon stated that she is working with Mr. John Rael to get them.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Councilman Ortega
Second: Councilman Gonzales

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

ATTEST:

Renee Martinez, CMC

APPROVED:

Mark Gallegos, Mayor