



AGENDA
VILLAGE OF QUESTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING
6:00 P.M

~ NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC ~

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

NOTE This tele-conference meeting will follow the Attorney General's guidelines and observe the Governor and Secretary of Health's public health orders. This format will allow the Village Council to conduct the meeting without Council members being physically present and in accordance with the NM Open Meetings Act. There will be no live audience present. Members of the public wishing to participate can do so by calling **1-866-899-4679** and entering access code **446-768-957** or from a computer, tablet, or smartphone at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/446768957>. Those wishing to comment before or during the meeting may also submit comments or questions to Renee Martinez at rmartinez@villageofquesta.org

- I. **CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR MARK L. GALLEGOS**
- II. **ROLL CALL**
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – A) November 10, 2020 Regular Meeting
- 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. **PRESENTATION/UPDATE**
 - A) Questa Economic Development Fund – Ms. Lynn Skall, Director
- VIII. **PUBLIC HEARING**
 - A) A Public Hearing for public input to the proposed amendments to Village of Questa Ordinance #2015-141 -Village of Questa Water and Sewer Ordinance
- IX. **ACTION ITEM**
 - A) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Approval of amended Village of Questa Ordinance #2015-141 - Village of Questa Water and Sewer Ordinance
 - B) Discussion, Consideration & Decision - MOU between the Village of Questa & Taos County/Taos County Sheriff's Department for Police Services
- X. **MATTERS FROM ATTORNEY** – Chris DeFillippo, Robles, Rael & Anaya
- XI. **MATTERS FROM ADMINISTRATION** - Renee Martinez, CMC / Interim Administrator
- XII. **MATTERS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL**
- XIII. **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 COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020
VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:00PM**

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I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR MARK L. GALLEGOS

Mayor Gallegos called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm

II. ROLL CALL

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

Those virtually present were:

Mayor Mark Gallegos
Councilwoman Louise Gallegos
Councilman John Anthony Ortega
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo
Councilman Charlie Gonzales
Renee Martinez, CMC/ Interim Administrator
Dina Coleman, Deputy Clerk / CPO
Karen Shannon – VOQ Finance Director
Lynn Skall – QEDF Director

Not Present were:

N/A

Those Present by Phone:

Christian Isely – Chevron Representative

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Charlie Gonzales led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Martinez had a request to remove the Public Hearing item VIII. A) and the Action Item for the Water Sewer Ordinance item IX.A) from the agenda. She would like them to be placed on the agenda for the last meeting in December.

Motion: Councilman John A. Ortega
Second: Councilman Charlie Gonzales

Roll Call:

Councilman John Anthony Ortega	YES
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo	YES

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51 Councilman Charlie Gonzales YES
 52 Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES

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

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56

57 **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 10, 2020**

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59 Motion: Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

60 Second: Councilman Charlie Gonzales

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62 **Roll Call:**

63 Councilman John Anthony Ortega YES

64 Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo YES

65 Councilman Charlie Gonzales YES

66 Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES

67

68 To approve the November 10, 2020, Regular Meeting minutes as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

69

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

73

74 Christian Isely – Chevron Representative

75 Mr. Isely gave an update on behalf of Chevron providing information on funding donations that have been
 76 given to several entities from Chevron. See below:

77

78 \$40,000.00 – Taos Behavioral Health Foundation

79 \$10,000.00 – Taos Feeds Taos

80 \$5000.00 - Twirl

81 \$5000.00 – Taos Men's Shelter

82 \$15,000.00 – North Central Food Pantry

83 \$10,000.00 – Community Against Violence

84

85 Mr. Isely also stated that he spoke with Jeannie Masters of the North Central Food Pantry and Ms. Masters is
 86 concerned for the health of her current volunteers and has considered closing the pantry due to the rise in the
 87 COVID pandemic infection rate in our area. Mr. Isely along with Chevron are brainstorming to find ways to
 88 help recruit volunteers that can assist with pantry distribution.

89

90 Councilman Jaramillo asked Mr. Isely if there is an opportunity for other nonprofits such as The Heart of Taos
 91 Women's Shelter to receive funding from Chevron. Mr. Isely explained that currently there are no funds
 92 available through Chevron but recommended that a request for funding be made to the Taos Community
 93 Foundation.

94

95 Councilwoman Gallegos stated that she had been in communication with Harvest Questa Church Pastor Kristi
 96 Gonzales and spoke about the need for volunteers at the pantry. Pastor Gonzales mentioned that she may have
 97 volunteers available to assist with the pantry staff shortage if Ms. Masters is in need.

98

99 Councilman Gonzales asked for Mr. Isely to reiterate if Taos Behavioral Health will be receiving funding from
 100 Chevron, Mr. Isely assured Councilman Gonzales that they would be receiving funds specifically to help with
 101 the need for hot spots in the Questa area.

Councilman John Ortega informed the Council that Vida Del Norte plans to decorate the town and they are in need of decoration donations and also a tree donation.

VII. PRESENTATIONS/ UPDATE

A) Questa Economic Development Fund – Ms. Lynn Skall, Director

Ms. Skall informed all that the Questa Del Rio News is also going to support the need to recruit volunteers by placing an ad in the paper expressing the need to help NCFP.

Ms. Skall also gave updates as follows.

Public Lands Recreation Assessment – first round of public meetings needed for the assessment was held. The next step is to categorize the needs such as motorized, hiking, mountain biking, horses and have breakout sessions via zoom to try to find out specific information from each sports person and talk about the where, the what, the how and any concerns they may have. She will keep the Village Mayor and Council posted on round two of meetings. She has hopes that there will be a stronger participation from community members to join the discussion.

Ms. Skall mentioned that she has applied for a grant from the LOR Foundation regarding Entrepreneurship Promotion for QBEN meeting. She also applied for a grant to target Shop Questa local shopping initiative.

Ms. Skall informed that the light pole banners will be switched out and installed in the near future. Also, the Welcome to Questa sign finally received approval from NMDOT so that sign will be installed soon as well.

Ms. Skall shared that QEDF has recently contracted with PivatoINM and Terry Brunner to assist with grant writing services. Mr. Brunner will be working on finding grants and funding for our food sustainability and agricultural initiatives he's working with the farmers market and the food pantry they are trying to connect farmers with land. Ms. Skall so we're really excited about elevating the agricultural aspect of the community.

A few other updates are as follows.

- Website development and improvement is underway.
- Welding Class has been postponed until January
- Entrepreneur class is underway

Ms. Skall was available for questions.

Councilwoman Gallegos asked how often Ms. Skall meets with the LOR Foundation. Councilwoman would like to be invited to those meetings.

Councilman Gonzales had a question regarding an article he saw in the Taos News QEDF and Public Land Solutions, he is trying to better understand the name change if there is one. Ms. Skall stated that the Public Land Solutions is the nonprofit that was hired out of Utah to facilitate the recreational assessment. PLS will put the plans and the reports together, they will also be making recommendations about what direction they think would be most advantageous for Questa to optimize our recreational assets.

Councilman Jaramillo asked Ms. Skall to explain the purpose of her meeting with LOR Foundation. Ms. Skall responded by giving some background to the foundation and reiterating what the LOR Foundation does. The LOR Foundation supports the economies of rural western states and they have a group of states that they really focus on. There is a meeting every two weeks with the focus on Questa to find out how the LOR Foundation can help Questa, what initiatives that the town and the community are working on and how can we all work together to move those forward. Ms. Skall put out an invitation for the Village to attend.

Councilman Jaramillo welcomed the invitation to have Village representation at these meetings as well as representation by the local business community. Ms. Skall will be inviting all the Mayor and Council to the meeting every two weeks.

Councilman Gonzales asked if the LOR Foundation can assist with acquiring funding to help with La Cienaga site as well as help with getting 3 modular units that have been donated by RR Charter School, the Village would need help with placement of these units.

Councilman Ortega asked if LOR would be willing to donate to Vida Del Norte's Christmas decorating efforts as well as an anti-vaping campaign. Ms. Skall feels as though these are items that LOR would support.

Councilwoman Gallegos shared that the LOR Foundation donated \$100,000.00 to the SARCHP home restoration projects. Councilwoman Gallegos expressed her appreciation to the LOR Foundation and the support they have given.

IX. ACTION ITEM

A.) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Approval of amended Village of Questa Ordinance # 2015-141 Village of Questa Water and Sewer Ordinance

B.) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – MOU between the Village of Questa & Taos County/ Taos County Sheriff's Department for Police Services.

Regarding the MO, Mr. DeFillippo stated that most of the concerns that the Village had were addressed. These specific concerns were related to insurance coverage if allowing the Sheriff's Department to utilize the Village's property and the Ford F-150 truck. Mr. DeFillippo stated that the last offer made by Taos County regarding the truck was \$25,000 and basically how that would be paid to the Village is that it would come out of the initial payment of the contract for Taos County to provide services. And as addressed in the MOU the services are currently for \$200,000 per year for two years, \$25,000 would be taken off for the first year as payment to VOQ for the Ford F-150

Councilman Gonzales asked if the Village is bound to the 2-year contract. Mr. DeFillippo stated that the Village is not bound to the contract and the contract has language to support both parties dissolving the contract if necessary, with proper notification.

Councilman Gonzales also asked about the Cares Act funding – can the Cares Act Funding be used for the employment of Police Officers. Mayor Gallegos stated that the question can be asked. But there also needs to be further conversation regarding the future budget funding for the hiring of officers.

Councilwoman Gallegos was complimentary to Mr. DeFillippo and Ms. Martinez and all the hard work that they have put into getting the MOU finalized.

Councilman Ortega had a concern and did not feel prepared to vote on the MOU since he had not received a copy of the current version for his review. He asked Mr. DeFillippo about the outcome on the use of the PD building and Mr. DeFillippo stated that the insurance representatives stated that basically it would work is the Taos County Sheriff's Officers can use the building as a general office but at no time can any suspects or prisoner be housed in or on that property. Ms. Martinez explained that we will continue to carry property insurance and that supports the MOU and contract provisions. Councilman Ortega also asked then how big of a sticking point is the truck if the Village decided not to add it into the contract, would the TCS Department be willing provide police services for us? Mr. DeFillippo stated that it has been an ongoing conversation for the last two days, however, he feels that the Sheriff does feel somewhat strongly that the F-150 should be included in here, however it is still up for debate. Mayor Gallegos does feel that the truck may be a sticking point, but he feels that \$25,000.00 is a small amount to pay to have coverage for our community. Councilor Ortega agreed with needed coverage but was not comfortable with how the amount of \$25, 000. value came

about and he has not reviewed the contract. He wanted to know how the Village was going to move forward on the truck issue. Councilman Jaramillo is conflicted on the issue and will abstain from the subject. Councilman Gonzales asked Mr. DeFillippo what his recommendation would be? Mr. DeFillippo stated that there had been lots of going back and forth regarding the MOU and he believes that this is a finalized version that included the truck info. The estimate for the truck value came from the Kelley Blue Book, however, the Village did need to outfit the truck to current law enforcement standards so that does increased the value. He does believe that the Village needs to secure the services with the Taos County Sheriff's Department with this final version of the MOU as presented. Councilwoman asked for clarification regarding the Ford F-150, she asked that if the Village took the truck back can it only be used for the Police Department? Mr. DeFillippo clarified that yes, that is correct. So, with that knowledge Councilwoman Gallegos wanted to move forward on the approval of the agreement with Taos County Sheriff's Department. Mr. DeFillippo wanted to reiterate and clarify the motion. As a point of clarification, he would like to make sure that all parties understand exactly what amount is being approved for the truck. Councilwoman Gallegos amended her motion to include the \$25,000 reduction in the first-year contract with the Taos County Sheriff's Department.

Motion: Councilwoman Louise Gallegos
Second: Councilman Charlie Gonzales

Roll Call:

Councilman John Anthony Ortega	NO
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo	Abstain
Councilman Charlie Gonzales	YES
Councilwoman Louise Gallegos	YES

Councilor Ortega stated that for the record he is voting no because he did not have an opportunity to review the current proposed contract.

A motion to approve the MOU between the Village of Questa & Taos County/ Taos County Sheriff's Department for Police Services as presented. Motion carried.

IX. MATTERS FROM ATTORNEY - Chris DeFillippo, Robles, Rael & Anaya

Mr. DeFillippo received an email regarding the Red River Contract and the scope of work from WHPacific. He has not had a chance to review but is hopeful that the changes are minimal.

X. MATTERS FROM ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Martinez provided the following updates.

- Informed the Mayor and Council that she received an email from the Tax and Revenue Department regarding our motor vehicle department. Ms. Martinez has been advised that MVD offices will re-open County by County depending on COVID activity in each County. Ms. Martinez was hoping to open on the 1st, however, the State Motor Vehicle Department will notify her as to when the Questa office can re-open.
- Advised Councilman Ortega and the Council know that the Village was given a donation to pick up a tree for the corner and there are also decorations available. Councilman Ortega asked for approval on behalf of Vida Del Norte to be able to decorate the Veterans Corner. He had much support with his request.
- Bixby Electric has been scheduled to do street light repair and will be out soon.

Ms. Martinez asked Ms. Shannon to give an update regarding the ongoing audit.

Ms. Shannon stated that the Village has been working on the Audit remotely for a few weeks now. The Auditor Deaun Willoughby believes that the Village is pretty close to being finished with the audit soon. She has been working on the final report and will be able to send the Village a draft in a few days.

Councilman Jaramillo inquired about when the audit was due to the state, Ms. Martinez stated that it is due December 15th. Counselor Jaramillo and Councilor Gonzales were very complimentary of the project report.

XII. MATTERS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

Councilwoman Gallegos wanted to pass along a Thank you to our public works Department and her utmost appreciation at all their hard work and diligence they did and replacing the well. Councilman Gallegos appreciates the formats of the Capital Projects Reports and GRT Reports. She also praise the Village employees for all their hard work.

Councilman Gonzales would like to hear from the Questa Health Center and learn what they are doing in our community regarding the COVID numbers in Questa.

Councilman Ortega shared his concerns regarding COVID and encourage people to reach out to each other because we are all in this together.

Councilman Jaramillo agreed with the discussion.

Mayor Gallegos proposed the idea of a curfew for businesses due to COVID.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Councilman John Anthony Ortega

Second: Councilman Charlie Gonzales

Roll Call:

Councilman John Anthony Ortega YES.


Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo YES

Councilman Charlie Gonzales YES


Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm.

ATTEST:


Dina Coleman, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED:


Mark Gallegos, Mayor

