



**AGENDA**  
**VILLAGE OF QUESTA**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**  
**6:00 P.M**

~ NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC ~

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

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**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 **1-877-309-2073** and entering access code **710-116-901** or from a computer, tablet, or smartphone at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/710116901>. Those wishing to comment before or during the meeting may also submit comments or questions to Interim Administrator/CMC Renee Martinez at [rmartinez@villageofquesta.org](mailto: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) January 12, 2021 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
  - B) Presentation by Deborah Miller regarding the upcoming Rock Pile Project
- VIII. **ACTION ITEMS**
  - A) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Appointment of member and alternate member to Holy Cross Hospital Board of Trustees Nominating Committee for a 1-Year term
  - B) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Appointment of voting member and voting alternate member to the Northern Pueblos Regional Transportation Planning Organization.(NPRTPO)
  - C) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Resolution No. 2021-02 – Approval of 2021 Legislative Priorities for the Village of Questa
  - D) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Donation of property to Village of Questa by Muriel Machovech
- IX. **MATTERS FROM ATTORNEY** – Mr. Chris DeFillippo, Robles, Rael & Anaya
- X. **MATTERS FROM ADMINISTRATION** - Renee Martinez, CMC / Interim Administrator
- XI. **MATTERS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL**
- XII. **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, JANUARY 26, 2021  
VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
6:00PM**

**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 all 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 call 1-877-309-2073 and entering access code **710-116-901** or from a computer, tablet, or smartphone at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/710116901>. Those wishing to comment before or during the meeting may submit comments or questions to Interim Village Administrator Renee Martinez at [rmartinez@villageofquesta.org](mailto:rmartinez@villageofquesta.org)

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

Mayor Gallegos called the meeting to order at 6:03 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  
Deborah Miller, Miller Geotechnical Consultants  
Michael Tashji, Taos News  
Lynn Skall, Questa Economic Development Fund  
Christian Isely, Chevron Representative  
Chris DeFillippo, Robles, Rael & Anaya

Those present by phone:

Deborah Miller, Miller Geotechnical Consultants ( Caller 01)

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilman Brent Jaramillo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented.

**Motion:** Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

**Second:** Councilman Charlie Gonzales

**Roll Call:**

Councilman John Anthony Ortega	YES
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo	YES
Councilman Charlie Gonzales	YES

Regular Council Meeting Minutes  
January 26, 2021

Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES

A motion to approve the agenda as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 12, 2021**

A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented.

**Motion:** Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

**Second:** Councilman Charlie Gonzales

**Roll Call:**

Councilman John Anthony Ortega YES

Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo YES

Councilman Charlie Gonzales YES

Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES

To approve the January 12, 2021, Regular Meeting 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 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.)***

Christian Isely, Chevron Representative participated in public comments virtually. Mr. Isely had a comment informing the Village Mayor and Council of work that will be done by Entact Contractors near the water treatment plant, across Highway 38, they will be grading and filling in the old retention pond that is there. He stated that it is minor work that will go on from February 1- February 11, 2021 and should have very little traffic involved so no highway impact or stoppage of traffic.

Ms. Renee Martinez stated that she did not receive any prior requests for Public Comment participation.

**VII. PRESENTATION/UPDATE**

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

Ms. Skall Gave an update as follows.

- Light Pole Banners- Kit Carson has offered to assist the QEDF with changing out the light pole banners. She is asking the Village what days and times would be best since this will affect traffic flow and there may be a need for law enforcement assistance with traffic control.
- Vacant Building Spaces in Questa – A project to inventory vacant spaces along Highway 522, she is requesting info from the Village to assist in identifying these properties. Mayor Gallegos encouraged Ms. Skall to reach out to the Village Utility Department and request any information that the Village may have on file. As a part of the inventory project Ms. Skall introduced a proposed mural project idea. The concept would be to paint murals on the boarded-up windows of the vacant properties. Ms. Skall has asked for information regarding any rules and requirements to painting buildings.
- Welding Lab Project - This lab is going to be held at the Questa High School, she stated that all the equipment needed for the course has been purchased and delivered. There is 2 parts to the program, the first being the NC-3 safety and OSHA piece. Currently there are 7 students enrolled for this NC-3 part of the class. A welding instructor is needed to move forward with the welding instruction part of the class. Ideally an instructor would be needed by March if not the focus will be to have an instructor by the fall semester.
- Public Land Solutions- 2<sup>nd</sup> round meeting was held and Ms. Skall felt that the meeting went well and there was good input and feedback regarding recreation from those in attendance. A report is in the

making and next steps will be to hold a public meeting with the general population that is interested in hearing the results of the report.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Welcome to Questa Sign – this sign is currently being manufactured and painted. The first sign is ready to go and placement has already been located.
- Shop Questa Promotion Program – There are yard signs and decals available for anyone who is interested in having any.
- Information Email – Ms. Skall has important information that businesses should know so she generates a weekly email and disperses this information to them. Ms. Skall has invited the Village to send her information that the Village may want to share with the businesses, and she will send on our behalf.

A question was asked by Councilman Ortega about the placement location of the first Welcome to Questa sign? Ms. Skall stated that the sign will be placed in front of the Village Offices. Councilman Ortega also asked what kind of response Ms. Skall has received from her outdoor recreation emails and conferences? She stated that there have been 10-12 meetings that she felt were a bit disappointing in attendee numbers but the quality input from the attendees was great.

Councilman Gonzales asked if the Welcome Sign would identify Questa as the “Home of the Healing Field”? Ms. Skall stated that this recommendation was not addressed with the first sign but can be suggested for the 2<sup>nd</sup> sign.

Councilwoman Gallegos thanked Ms. Skall for all the hard work that she does for the Village and QEDF.

#### **B.) Presentation by Deborah Miller regarding the upcoming Rock Pile Project**

Dr. Deborah Miller provided a presentation update to the Village of Questa Mayor and Council regarding the upcoming rock pile projects. The PowerPoint presentation is attached.

Mayor Gallegos asked if Dr. Miller knows how long the contractors will be working on this project, how many dozers will be used and how much heavy equipment we can expect to see pass through the Village streets? Dr. Miller responded that she did not have the answer and suggested that Mr. Isely, the Chevron Representative would be best to answer the questions.

Councilman Gonzales had a few questions for Dr. Miller.

- Is there an estimate of how much rock will be moved? Dr. Miller did not have the answer immediately but will look into it and send to Councilman Gonzales at a later date.
- Where is the water from Capulin and Spring Gultch going to be trapped, where is it going to, and how long does Chevron foresee that the water will be running during the construction process? Dr. Miller understands that the Capulin surface water will be going down to Capulin Canyon through several sediment structures. There should be no water getting to the river.
- There are rock piles on the highway going towards Red River, will those rock piles be worked on? Dr. Miller stated that those piles will be worked on in the future but not during this upcoming project.

Councilman Jaramillo thanked Dr. Miller for her thorough presentation.

Councilman Ortega thanked Dr. Miller for her presentation and asked the time frame for completion of this project. Dr. Miller is not sure of the timeline currently. He also asked Dr. Miller if she is aware of other communities that have done deep slope reclamation. She stated that yes there are other places that have done this with the outcomes being successful.

Councilwoman Gallegos was also appreciative of Dr. Millers presentation and the clear information brought forth.

Mayor Gallegos would like to reconvene in 3 months to better understand the logical timing and details of the project expected by the contractors. Dr. Miller suggested that Mayor Gallegos take those questions to Chevron as they are better suited to answer them.

Mr. Isely was available on the meeting and stated that he will get a better idea on the traffic questions and will reach out to the Village with information soon. He would like to emphasize that Chevron is encouraging the need for local suppliers and local workforce and will follow up with the Village on those efforts.

Councilman Ortega asked Mayor Gallegos if there is rock from Moriarty coming in? He stated the 24" riffraff material that will be in place to help slow the water. He believes that some of this rock may possibly come from Raton and Moriarty.

## **VIII. ACTION ITEM**

### **A) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Appointment of member and alternate member to Holy Cross Hospital Board of Trustees Nominating Committee for a 1-Year term**

As a prior member of the Holy Cross Board of Trustees, Councilor Gonzales provided information regarding the requirements to being a member of said board. After hearing this information Councilwoman Gallegos shared her interest in being the New Member of the board and Mayor Gallegos agreed to be the Alternate Board Member.

**Motion:** Councilman Charlie Gonzales

**Second:** Councilman John Anthony Ortega

#### **Roll Call:**

Councilman John Anthony Ortega	YES
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo	YES
Councilman Charlie Gonzales	YES
Councilwoman Louise Gallegos	YES

A motion to approve the Appointment of a member and alternate member to Holy Cross Hospital Board of Trustees Nominating Committee for a 1-year term as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

### **B) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Appointment of voting member and voting alternate member to the Northern Pueblos Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NPRTPO).**

As a prior board member to the Northern Pueblos Regional Transportation Planning Organization.(NPRTPO), Councilman Jaramillo provided information about the organization. It was recommended that Ms. Renee Martinez be the voting member to the NPRTPO.

**Motion:** Councilman John Anthony Ortega

**Second:** Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo

#### **Roll Call:**

Councilman John Anthony Ortega	YES
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo	YES
Councilman Charlie Gonzales	YES
Councilwoman Louise Gallegos	YES

A motion to approve the Appointment of voting member to the Northern Pueblos Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NPRTPO) as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

There was also a recommendation for Dina Coleman to be the alternate member. It was also suggested that John Rael, VOQ Public Works Director attend the monthly meeting.

**Motion:** Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

**Second:** Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo

**Roll Call:**

Councilman John Anthony Ortega YES

Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo YES

Councilman Charlie Gonzales YES

Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES

A motion to approve the Appointment of voting alternate member to the Northern Pueblos Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NPRTPO) as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

**C) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Resolution No. 2021-02 – Approval of 2021 Legislative Priorities for the Village of Questa**

After a brief explanation was given by Ms. Martinez of Resolution No. 2021-02, a question was asked by Councilman Jaramillo whether the Village is going to amend the current ICIP or leave it as is? Mayor Gallegos stated that the ICIP will be left as is but there will be a written hand delivered document that will go to Senator Bobby Gonzales on behalf of the Village to help attain funds for outdoor recreation / trail projects. Councilman Gonzales asked Mayor Gallegos how much funding there is available now for the trail project and how much will be requested? Mayor Gallegos stated that currently there is no funding available from the Village, however, the Village is in support of this project spearheaded by Carl Colonias and the Enchanted Circle Trails Group. Councilman Jaramillo asked the amount of support that was given in the past by the Questa Economic Development Fund on behalf of the Village of Questa? Mayor Gallegos said that in the past the amount given was \$3750.00.

Councilman Gonzales asked for the numbered order of the request to be changed. Ms. Martinez stated that she can make that change. Councilman Jaramillo also commented that the numbered order does not signify items as priority one over another.

**Motion:** Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

**Second:** Councilman Charlie Gonzales

**Roll Call:**

Councilman John Anthony Ortega YES

Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo YES

Councilman Charlie Gonzales YES

Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES

A motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-02 – Approval of 2021 Legislative Priorities for the Village of Questa as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

**D) Discussion, Consideration & Decision – Donation of property to Village of Questa by Muriel Machovech**

Mayor Gallegos gave some background about this property located at 10 Garcia Road, and how it has become a public nuisance since the owner passed away and left this property to his sister Ms. Muriel Machovech.

Mayor Gallegos and Attorney Chris DeFillippo have been in communication with Ms. Machovech to figure out a solution to correcting the issues at this property. Ms. Machovech felt that it is in the best interest of both herself and the Village to donate the property to the Village.

Councilman Jaramillo asked Mr. DeFillippo if research was done through Taos County for a title search on this property making sure that there is a good chain of custody. Mr. DeFillippo acknowledged that the proper procedures with Taos County were taken and Ms. Machovech does have the valid paperwork to support her ownership. Mr. DeFillippo has created warranty deed and letter that will be sent to Ms. Machovech for her signature, however, he is asking for the approval of Council before he moves forward.

**Motion:** Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

**Second:** Councilman John Anthony Ortega

**Roll Call:**

Councilman John Anthony Ortega	YES
Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo	YES
Councilman Charlie Gonzales	YES
Councilwoman Louise Gallegos	YES

A motion to approve the donation of property to Village of Questa by Muriel Machovech as presented. All voted yes. Motion carried.

**IX. MATTERS FROM ATTORNEY – Mr. Chris DeFillippo, Robles, Rael & Anaya**

Mr. DeFillippo gave an update on the Red River Aquatic Restoration contract stating that a meeting was held with ONRT, NMED, WHPacific, Riverbend Engineering and the Village on January 19, 2021. This meeting was a success. Currently WHPacific is updating the scope of work and intend to have it completed within the next week. Mr. DeFillippo also stated that he will work with Chevron to get answers to the questions that the Mayor and Council have regarding the upcoming rock pile project.

Councilman John Ortega inquired about the status of the EMS debt collection letter that was being created by Mr. Beaty? Mr. DeFillippo stated that Mr. Beaty is no longer with the firm, however, he would investigate it. Mayor Gallegos asked Councilman Ortega if he is wanting to use legal counsel to collect on those outstanding accounts. Councilman Ortega stated that legal counsel is needed to create that letter on behalf of the EMS to assist with collecting. Mr. DeFillippo clarified that the letter is necessary as a 1<sup>st</sup> step in the collection process per state statute.

Mayor Gallegos requested a rough draft of the land lease agreement for potential businesses that are interested in leasing property at the Business Park. Mr. DeFillippo stated that he does have a basic draft that he has provided to Ms. Martinez and he will send to Mayor and Council for review.

**X. MATTERS FROM ADMINISTRATION– Ms. Renee Martinez, CMC /Interim Administrator**

Ms. Martinez provided a written report in the packets to the Mayor and Council, she was available for any questions they may have had. She also stated that she had information to send to Mayor and Council that was sent to her by the New Mexico Municipal League regarding House Bill 4.

Councilman Gonzales asked if Ms. Martinez was able to get ahold of the NMDOT regarding the heavy truck road study for State Road 522 and Highway 38. He would like to see this done considering that the upcoming rock pile project and the contractors will use these roads with heavy loads.



**XI. MATTERS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL**

Councilman Jaramillo asked the status on DFA reimbursing the Village funding from the CDBG grant of the Business Park. Mayor Gallegos stated that DFA is not going to be reimbursing for funding that has already been spent. DFA would consider funding construction needs from this point forward to completion. Mayor will meet with DFA and North Central and bring an update to the Council on any progress that has been made.

Councilman Ortega asked Ms. Martinez if there will be a public meeting before the ordinance changes. Ms. Martinez said that there will be an upcoming meeting, possibly in February.

Mayor Gallegos gave an update on the landfill meeting that he and Ms. Martinez attended. The recycling committee has requested funding from the Village of Questa to support the landfill, however, Mayor believes that in order for the Village to consider supporting this recycling program the Village would need a strong campaign marketing the benefits of the recycling program in our community.

Mayor asked if anyone was aware of the Governors update and Mr. DeFillippo responded with brief update of what the Governor covered. Mayor then asked Councilman Jaramillo about Taos Counties current COVID status, are we near the yellow? Councilman Jaramillo stated that the positivity rate is below 5% so that puts the County in the yellow, the testing numbers have increased and that is a positive thing.

Councilwoman Gallegos thanked Ms. Shannon for the Financial packet and GRT report.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** Councilman John A. Ortega

**Second:** Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo

**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 7:55 pm

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

*Dina Coleman*  
Dina Coleman, Deputy Clerk

*Mark Gallegos*  
Mark Gallegos, Mayor

