

VILLAGE OF QUESTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2022
VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:00PM

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR JOHN ANTHONY ORTEGA

Mayor John Anthony Ortega called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Valerie Vigil, Clerk called roll where a quorum was present

Governing Body Present

Mayor John Anthony Ortega
Councilman Jason Gonzalez
Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales arrived at 6:15
Councilwoman Louise Gallegos
Councilman Brent Jaramillo

Governing Body Absent

Others present were:

Jacob LaFore, Project Manager
Ronald Montez Jr. Appointed Chief of Police
Sharon Nicholson, Library Director
Dylan Crabb, Del Rio News
Maggie
Max and Monica Ortega
Christian Isely, Chevron Mine
Lori and Larry Archuleta
Larry Sanchez
Bobby Ortega

Those present virtually were:

Chris DeFillippo, Robles, Rael & Anaya
Arvind Patel, NV5
James (unknown last name)
Geoffrey Plant

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ronald Montez Jr. led the pledge

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

Second: Councilwoman Brent Jaramillo

Mayor Ortega asked item 9A moved to 8D as well as 9B be tabled for the next meeting. With the recommendations, motion to approve agenda. Motion Carried

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting July 26, 2022

Councilwoman Gallegos presented some typographical errors
Edits were made and changed.

Motion: Councilman Brent Jaramillo

Second: Councilman Jason Gonzalez

Approval of the minutes with edits. Majority 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.)*

Public Comment open at 06:07 pm

- A) Max Ortega presented during public comments to express his concern EMS Tower located on Flag Mountain. He states that the Tower belongs to the Village of Questa. The Communications agreement was for Taos County use but the physical tower belongs to the Village of Questa and he would like clarification on ownership.
- B) Larry Archuleta brought his concerns to the Council about Cabresto Road newly paved area. He stated that the road is about 17ft, no drainage, and not enough room for two cars. Mayor Ortega asked Jacob, Project Manager to look into the issue and see if there is anything the Village can do to fix it.
- C) Larry Sanchez thanked Mayor Ortega and Councilwoman for helping him to get barriers placed on the road (Embargo Road) to help out the Head Start, Food Pantry, and Anciano Center road of entry. He also expressed concerns about the Verizon tower and the service that is lacking in Questa. He expressed concerns about possibly having an emergency and it was a concern to not have service. Mr. Sanchez also commented on his thoughts about possibly getting paving and fixing for Embargo Road to be included in the ICIP.
- D) Bobby Ortega shared his thoughts about the ICIP and Embargo Road. He expressed concerns about Embargo Road being neglected, the use of trucking from Chevron Mine, and he would like it to be prioritized. There is a lot of wear and tear from vehicles using the road. There was a prior agreement that Chevron would be utilizing a different road for heavy equipment. Mr. Ortega expressed his concern on the neglect of Embargo Road and feels that Chevron Mine should give some money to help fix/pave Embargo Road.
- E) Christian Isely presented on the Acequias Concert scheduled for September 3, 2022, to help out the Acequias. Chevron has donated \$90,000 to restore and clean up Moly Corp Field and he ensures that all EMS and Fire will have access to hydrants and private houses. He also addressed the concerns of the citizens that were present in the Council Meeting and shared that Chevron has donated \$107,000 towards Embargo Rd. and will look into getting more donations after hearing the citizens concerns. He understands that concerns being that he has also driven down that road. Mayor Ortega stated that we have about ¼ of the funding and we still currently need about \$700,000.00

Public comments closed at 06:30 pm

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION - *(The Governing Body may convene into Executive Session at this time pursuant to the NM Open Meetings Act NMSA 1978 10-15-1)*

- Village Administrator
- Police Chief

Motion: Councilwoman Louise Gallegos
Second: Councilman Jason Gonzalez

Roll Call:

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| Councilwoman Louise Gallegos | YES |
| Councilman Brent P. Jaramillo | YES |
| Councilman Jason Gonzalez | YES |
| Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales | YES |

Motion to come out of Executive Session

Motion: Councilman Brent Jaramillo
Second: Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales

Entered in at 6:31 pm Out at 6:45 pm

VIII. ACTION ITEM

A) Discussion, Consideration, & Decision- Appointment of Police Chief, Ronald G. Montez Jr.. Mayor Ortega Presented his recommendation for appointment of Police Chief. Motion Passed

Motion: Councilman Brent Jaramillo
Second: Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

Roll Call:

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| Councilwoman Louise Gallegos | YES |
| Councilman Brent Jaramillo | YES |
| Councilman Jason Gonzalez | YES |
| Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales | YES |

B) Discussion, Consideration, & Decision, Approval of Travel; Caselle Conference for Nadine and Elizabeth. Majority Voted Yes. Motion Passed.

Motion: Councilwoman Louise Gallegos
Second: Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales

Roll Call:

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|-------------------------------|-----|
| Councilwoman Louise Gallegos | YES |
| Councilman Brent Jaramillo | YES |
| Councilman Jason Gonzalez | YES |
| Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales | YES |

C) Discussion, Consideration, & Decision- ICIP, Mayor Ortega presented the ICIP is due August 19th. The Council had the ICIP in their packets to look over. It was agreed to have a special meeting to finalize the ICIP. Date will be determined at a later time before August 19, 2022

Motion: Councilwoman Louise Gallegos
Second: Councilwoman Jason Gonzalez

Roll Call:

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| Councilwoman Louise Gallegos | YES |
| Councilman Brent Jaramillo | YES |
| Councilman Jason Gonzalez | YES |
| Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales | YES |

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Award of Contract for Red River Restoration Project, Valerie Vigil, CPO and Arvind Patel presented on the Award of Contract. The award went to Andamo Excavation and Trucking as he also presented to be the lowest bid. The project is scheduled for early September.

X. MATTERS FROM VILLAGE ATTORNEY- Chris DeFilippo advised he will reach out to Verizon to better the service for the Village of Questa. A meeting will be held August 15th with ONRT to start on the Sewer Project and Water Well Supply project as there is funding and expiration dates are quickly approaching. Councilor Gallegos asked for an update on the water rights and payment from the Hondo Acequias. Chris will follow up with them. Chris also

XII. MATTERS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

Councilman Jason Gonzalez invited newly appointed Police Chief to attend the Community Watch meeting that is being held on Monday August 22, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Mayor Ortega thanked the community that attended the meeting and was happy there was a room full of community members.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

ATTEST:

Valerie Vigil
Valerie Vigil, Clerk



APPROVED:

John Anthony Ortega, Mayor