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2 **VILLAGE OF QUESTA**  
3 **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
4 **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022**  
5 **VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
6 **6:00PM**

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8 **I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR JOHN ANTHONY ORTEGA**

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

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12 **II. ROLL CALL**

13 Valerie Vigil, Clerk called roll where a quorum was present

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15 **Governing Body Present**

16 Mayor John Anthony Ortega

17 Councilman Jason Gonzalez

18 Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales

19  
20 **Governing Body Absent**

21 Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

22 Councilman Brent Jaramillo

23  
24 **Others present were:**

25 Karen Quintana Shannon, Finance Director

26 Jacob LaFore, Project Manager

27 Ronald G. Montez Jr, VOQ Chief of Police

28 Elizabeth Roberts, Receptionist

29 Dylan Crabb, Del Rio Newspaper

30 Max Ortega

31  
32 **Those present virtually were:**

33 Erika Rael

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35 **III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

36 Councilwoman Gonzales led the pledge

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38 **IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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40 **Motion:** Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales

41 **Second:** Councilman Jason Gonzalez

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43 **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 44  
45
  - Regular Council Meeting August 23, 2022

46  
47 **Motion:** Councilman Jason Gonzalez

48 **Second:** Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales

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50 Councilwoman Gallegos was not present but presented some corrections for the minutes beforehand to  
51 Village Clerk.

52  
53 Motion to approve the minutes with corrections of typographical errors. Majority voted yes. Motion carried.  
54

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

58 Public Comment open at 06:01 pm Ended at 06:03 pm  
59 No one for public comment  
60

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62 **VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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64 **A)** FY 2023 America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Expenditures, Mrs. Quintana Shannon presented some  
65 recommendations for the ARPA Expenditures for FY 2023. She included the ARPA list in the council  
66 packet that was presented in the previous regular Council Meeting. Mrs. Quintana Shannon went over the  
67 expenditures again to further explain the list. Changes and recommendations are as follows.

- 68 • Councilor Gonzalez recommended Vida Del Norte Coalition get an additional \$5,000 from last  
69 year for a total of \$10,000
- 70 • Karen Quintana Shannon recommended money allocation for a security fence for the Village of  
71 Questa to ensure Village property is not stolen or gas taken from VOQ vehicles.
- 72 • Mayor Ortega recommended \$2,000 to CAV
- 73 • Mayor Ortega recommended \$2,500 Non-Violence Works

74 Final decision and approval of ARPA will be held at the next Regular Council Meeting  
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77 **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

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79 **A)** Discussion, Consideration, & Decision- Command Vehicle for EMS Director/Deputy Fire Chief  
80 Valerie Vigil, CPO presented to the Council the need and cost for a new vehicle for Raynelle  
81 Sanchez-Cordova who is the EMS Director and Deputy Fire Chief for the Village of Questa. Quotes and  
82 proposals were submitted within the packets of the Council for them to look over prior to the Council  
83 meeting. It was recommended to the Council for Mrs. Cordova to obtain a 2023 Tahoe outfitted for the  
84 amount of \$43,796.00 not including decals and outfitting. The funding will be coming out of General Fund  
85 Majority Voted Yes, Motion Carried

86

87 **Motion:** Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales

88 **Second:** Councilman Jason Gonzalez  
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90 **Roll Call:**

91 Councilman Jason Gonzalez YES

92 Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales YES  
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95 **IX. STAFF REPORTS**

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97 **A)** Chief Montez reported to the Council the progress that is being made in the Police Station to ensure that  
98 it is being properly equipped and follows all regulations and guidelines before Chief can begin patrolling  
99 the streets of Questa. His unit will be outfitted within the next 2 months, some equipment has been ordered

100 such as body cams, patches, some uniform items, etc. There have been some interest in applicants applying  
101 for the Police Officer Position. Councilwoman Gonzales asked about the need for Certified Officers and if  
102 non-Certified would be ok, Chief Montez did state at this time he would like to hire Certified Police officers  
103 to ensure that the Police Station get started within a reasonable amount of time, instead of hiring and sending  
104 out applicants to the Academy. Chief Montez has also been working on updating the Policy Manuel as it is  
105 the same since 1997. He is working diligently and is looking forward to patrolling in the near future; no  
106 date set at this time

107 **B)** Jacob LaFore reported to the Council the updates on the Red River Restoration Project. Boots were in  
108 the water September 20, 2022 and began south of bridge at the intersection of South Kiowa and Old red  
109 River Road. The Project is so far doing great and great progress has been made. Mr. LaFore shared some  
110 photos and explained to the Council and attending members of the meeting to show different areas of the  
111 project and its progression.

112 **C)** Valerie Vigil, Village Clerk reported to the Council the new grant award for a VISTA Volunteer to help  
113 with economic projects for the Village of Questa. She stated the Village is currently in the recruiting process  
114 and will update once a VISTA is hired. Mrs. Vigil also presented on upcoming events for the Village  
115 including the participation in the Homecoming Parade as well as an update on the Trunk o Treat. Mrs. Vigil  
116 stated there are about 21 “Trunks” that will be participating in the event. The event will be held on October  
117 28<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm at the Business Park

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119 **X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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121 **A)** Limited personnel matters (Section 10-15-1(11)(2))

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- Village Administrator

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124 **Motion:** Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales

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**Second:** Councilman Jason Gonzalez

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127 **Roll Call:**

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Councilman Jason Gonzalez YES

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Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales YES

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131 Out of Executive Session;

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133 **Motion:** Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales

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**Second:** Councilman Jason Gonzalez

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136 **Roll Call:**

137

Councilman Jason Gonzalez YES

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Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales YES

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140 **XI. MATTER FROM VILLAGE ATTORNEY**

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142 Village Attorney Chris DeFillippo was not present at the meeting.

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Motion to table matters from the Attorney.

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145 **Motion:** Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales

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**Second:** Councilman Jason Gonzalez

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151 **Roll Call:**  
152 Councilman Jason Gonzalez YES  
153 Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales YES

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155 Majority voted yes; Motion carried  
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157 **XII. MATTERS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS**

158 Mayor Ortega asked Mrs. Quintana Shannon to present on the need for a new Village Vehicle for Staff.  
159 The current Village car is standard and not all Village Personnel can drive the vehicle. The car is also  
160 getting old and used and needs to be replaced. Councilor Jason Gonzalez stated the NM Flag in the middle  
161 of town is getting worn out and needs to be replaced. Councilor Katrina Gonzalez asked about needing  
162 more police support on Lama Road and presented on the concerns the Head Start and Ancianos are facing  
163 having to share the same kitchen. It was recommended that the Village look into the VFW and see where  
164 the status of restoration is on the kitchen remodel. Mayor Ortega updated on Taos Bakes and the desire of  
165 the Company for more space. The option for Taos Bakes to use the La Cienega Gym for storage throughout  
166 the winter is on the table to discuss. The Council discussed for Taos Bakes to use it temporary but not  
167 permanently.

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170 **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

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172 There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

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179 ATTEST:

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183

*Valerie Vigil*  
Valerie Vigil, Clerk



APPROVED:

*John Anthony Ortega*  
John Anthony Ortega, Mayor