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2 **VILLAGE OF QUESTA**  
3 **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
4 **TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023**  
5 **VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
6 **6:00PM**

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7  
8 **I. CALL TO ORDER**

9 Mayor Ortega called the meeting to order at 06:00 pm.  
10

11  
12 **II. ROLL CALL**

13 Valerie Vigil, Village Clerk, called roll; Quorum was present.  
14

15 **Governing Body Present**

16 Councilwoman Louise Gallegos  
17 Councilman Jason Gonzalez  
18 Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales  
19 Councilman Brent Jaramillo  
20

21 **Governing Body Absent**

22  
23 **Others present were:**

24 Chris DeFillippo, Village Attorney  
25 Jacob LaFore, Project Manager  
26 Nadine Herrera, Utility Clerk  
27 Ronald G. Montez Jr, QPD Chief  
28 Sandra Williamson, QPD Officer  
29 Elizabeth Roberts, Village Receptionist  
30 Dylan Crabb, Del Rio News  
31 Max Ortega  
32 Deborah Martinez  
33 Chris Madrid, Taos County  
34

35 **Those present virtually were:**

36 None present virtually.  
37

38 **III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

39 Mrs. Karen Quintana Shannon led the pledge.  
40

41 **IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

42  
43 Village Attorney Chris DeFillippo recommended that an executive session be added to the agenda after  
44 Finance for pending litigation.  
45

46 **Motion:** Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

47 **Second:** Councilman Jason Gonzalez  
48

49 Motion to approve the agenda with changes. Majority voted yes. Motion carried.  
50

51 **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

52  
53 Regular Council Meeting January 10, 2023

54  
55 Motion to approve the minutes with no corrections.

56  
57 **Motion:** Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

58 **Second:** Councilman Brent Jaramillo

59  
60 Majority voted yes. Motion carried.

61  
62  
63 **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS** - *(It is the policy of the Governing Body to accept public comment. Because*  
64 *your issue is not on the agenda the Governing Body cannot respond immediately but may direct staff to*  
65 *address issues at a future Council Meeting. Public comments are limited to a maximum of three minutes.)*

66 Public comments opened at 06:03 pm.

67 Max Ortega spoke during public comment addressing his concerns about the current gas bill increase. He  
68 stated that bills are being “estimated” and is concerned about how citizens will be able to afford their gas  
69 bills without accurate information. Mayor Ortega asked Village Attorney Chris DeFillippo if a letter can be  
70 drafted to be sent out to NM Gas asking that meters be read and for estimations to be halted. Village  
71 Attorney Chris DeFillippo stated he would be able to draft that letter for the Village.

72 Public comments ended at 06:09 pm.

73  
74 **VII. OATH OF OFFICE**

75  
76 Mrs. Sandra Williamson, Village of Questa Police Officer Position. Mrs. Williamson to be sworn in by oath  
77 as the new Village of Questa Police Officer by Chief of Police Ronald G. Montez Jr.

78 Congratulations Mrs. Williamson.

79  
80 Mrs. Karen Quintana Shannon, Village of Questa Administrator. Mrs. Shannon to be sworn in by oath as  
81 the new Village of Questa Administrator by Honorable Judge Ernest Ortega.

82 Congratulations Mrs. Shannon.

83  
84 10-minute recess called by Mayor Ortega at 06:15 pm

85  
86 **Motion:** Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

87 **Second:** Councilman Jason Gonzalez

88  
89 10-minute recess ended at 06:35pm

90  
91 **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

92  
93 **A)** Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Appointment of a member to the Nominating Committee  
94 for Holy Cross Medical Center.

95  
96 Councilman Jason Gonzalez was the nominee amongst the Council Members.

97  
98 **Motion:** Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales

99 **Second:** Councilman Brent Jaramillo

100

101

102 **Roll Call:**  
103 Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES  
104 Councilman Jason Gonzalez YES  
105 Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales YES  
106 Councilman Brent Jaramillo YES

107  
108 Majority voted yes. Motion carried.  
109

110 **B) Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Cancellation of MOU Taos County Sheriffs.**  
111 Mrs. Quintana Shannon and Chief Montez presented to the Mayor and Council the need for cancellation of  
112 the Sheriffs MOU with the Village. Currently, the Questa Police Department is in good standing to sustain  
113 the department and enforce local law enforcement within the Village of Questa. Contract is set to expire in  
114 March of 2023.

115  
116 **Motion:** Councilwoman Louise Gallegos  
117 **Second:** Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales

118  
119 **Roll Call:**  
120 Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES  
121 Councilman Jason Gonzalez YES  
122 Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales YES  
123 Councilman Brent Jaramillo ABSTAIN

124  
125 Majority voted yes. Motion carried.  
126

127 **C) Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Provide the Mayor and the Village Attorney authority to**  
128 **negotiate and enter into a lease agreement with Taos County for the development of the La Cienega property**  
129 **in relation to Grant Agreement A18C5073.**

130 Mr. Chris Madrid from Taos County presented on the La Cienega Senior Center project that will break  
131 down shortly. The initial funding for the project was \$680,000 but according to Mr. Madrid it is a fully  
132 funded project with a total of \$1.4 million from a Geo-Bond. It will be a design/build project so the project  
133 will finish before the end of the year. Mr. DeFillippo also gave some history on the project stating that only  
134 a portion of the building will be used for this design/build. The property is owned by the Village of Questa  
135 and a lease needs to be put in place, so Taos County has access to use the building for the Senior Center.

136  
137 **Motion:** Councilwoman Louise Gallegos  
138 **Second:** Councilman Jason Gonzalez

139  
140 **Roll Call:**  
141 Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES  
142 Councilman Jason Gonzalez YES  
143 Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales YES  
144 Councilman Brent Jaramillo ABSTAIN

145  
146 Majority voted yes. Motion carried.  
147

148 **IX. DISCUSSION ITEM**  
149

150 **A) Village of Questa Request List to Chevron - Chevron has asked the Village of Questa to turn in a list of**  
151 **priorities that the Village would like funding for. The Council discussed changes to the list. This discussion**  
152 **will be placed on the agenda for action at the next meeting scheduled for February 7, 2023**

153  
154 **B) Water and Sewer Rate increase** – Mrs. Quintana Shannon presented the urgency of needing to increase  
155 the water and sewer rates within the Village of Questa. The Council discussed changes. Any  
156 modifications/changes to the Water and Sewer Rate Increase ordinance that are suggested by the Council,  
157 need to be submitted by February 1, 2023. The public hearing will be scheduled for February 28, 2023.  
158

159 **X. FINANCE**

160  
161 **A) Discussion, Consideration, and Decision** – Resolution 2023-03 State BAR FY 2023 Q2

162  
163 Motion to improve Resolution 2023-03 State BAR FY 2023 Q2

164  
165 **Motion:** Councilman Jason Gonzalez

166 **Second:** Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales

167  
168 **Roll Call:**

169 Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES

170 Councilman Jason Gonzalez YES

171 Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales YES

172 Councilman Brent Jaramillo YES

173  
174 Majority voted yes. Motion carried.

175  
176 **B) Discussion, Consideration, and Decision** – Local BAR FY 2023 Q2

177  
178 Motion to improve Local BAR FY 2023 Q2

179  
180 **Motion:** Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

181 **Second:** Councilman Jason Gonzalez

182  
183 **Roll Call:**

184 Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES

185 Councilman Jason Gonzalez YES

186 Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales YES

187 Councilman Brent Jaramillo YES

188  
189 Majority voted yes. Motion carried.

190  
191  
192 **XL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

193 *(The governing body may convene into Executive Session at this time pursuant to the NM Open Meetings*  
194 *Act NMSA 1978 10-15-1)*

195  
196 **A) Pending Litigation-** 10-15-1 (H)(7)

197  
198 Into Executive Session at 07:22 pm

199  
200  
201 **Motion:** Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

202 **Second:** Councilman Jason Gonzalez

203

204 **Roll Call:**  
205 Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES  
206 Councilman Jason Gonzalez YES  
207 Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales YES  
208 Councilman Brent Jaramillo YES

209  
210 Out of Executive Session at 07:33 pm

211  
212 **Motion:** Councilman Brent Jaramillo  
213 **Second:** Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales

214  
215 **Roll Call:**  
216 Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES  
217 Councilman Jason Gonzalez YES  
218 Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales YES  
219 Councilman Brent Jaramillo YES

220  
221  
222 **XII. MATTERS FROM THE VILLAGE ATTORNEY**

223  
224 No matters from the Village Attorney

225  
226 **XIII. MATTERS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR**

- 227
- 228 • Mrs. Quintana Shannon presented on the new LIHWAP assistance program to help pay for their  
229 water bill if they qualify.
  - 230 • The Business Park grant from the EDA has been accepted and closed.
  - 231 • The Taos Bakes lease for the Business Park expires in March of 2023. The contract and lease will  
232 be revisited to ensure new needs are met. The building expansion planning will start soon.
  - 233 • The Village of Questa needs to replace the server. There are two options available at this time for  
234 purchase; the server has to be replaced every 5-7 years; the cloud is a one-time fee. This will be set  
235 for action at the next meeting.
  - 236 • Regular Council Meeting scheduled for February 14, 2023, has been cancelled. A special meeting  
237 will be scheduled for February 7, 2023.

238  
239  
240 **XIV. MATTERS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS**

- 241
- 242 • Councilman Gonzalez asked about the skatepark project and where it stands. Funding is still being  
243 pursued.
  - 244 • Councilman Gonzalez presented The Community Watch meetings will halt until March as the  
245 crime has halted to a minimum.
  - 246 • Councilman Gonzalez stated there will be self defense classes at The Sala.
  - 247 • Councilman Gonzalez would also like to have a beautification committee to keep The Village of  
248 Questa clean.
  - 249 • Mayor Ortega talked about the percentage of GRT's that the Village will be able to share with the  
250 EMS and the Police Department. There is a COLA due in July, it will have to reviewed to see who  
251 will be able to get the COLA.
  - 252 • Mayor Ortega stated Robert Romero is at the Legislature; Funding is being pursued for all the  
253 Village projects lacking funding. Current projects are moving along nicely at the Village.

- 254 • Mayor Ortega would like to see what type of security the Village can obtain to ensure that Molycorp  
255 Field stay in good shape after the clean up done by Chevron.  
256

257  
258 **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

259  
260 There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 07:59 pm  
261

262  
263  
264 ATTEST:

265  
266  
267 *Valerie Vigil*  
268 Valerie Vigil, Clerk



APPROVED:

*John Anthony Ortega*  
John Anthony Ortega, Mayor