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2 **VILLAGE OF QUESTA**
3 **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**
4 **TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023**
5 **VILLAGE OF QUESTA COUNCIL CHAMBERS**
6 **6:00PM**

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 Jacob Lafore, Project Manager
25 Raynelle Sanchez-Cordova, EMS Director
26 Elizabeth Roberts, Village Receptionist
27 Dylan Crabb, Del Rio News
28 Jaydyn Cintas, QHS Cheer
29 Karla Trujillo QHS Cheer
30 Kiara Arellano QHS Cheer
31 Kaylei Cordova QHS Cheer
32 Aaliyah Piper QHS Cheer
33 Mariana Ortega QHS Cheer
34 Feliz Ortega
35 Karina Rael QHS Cheer
36 Janae Dominguez QHS Cheer
37 Jocelyne Ortega QHS Cheer
38 Alyana Leon QHS Cheer
39 Marissa Ortiz QHS Cheer
40 Maria Medina QHS Cheer Coach
41 Joshlynn Medina QHS Cheer
42 Kamryn Cardenas QHS Cheer
43 Ariana Medina QHS Cheer
44 Angelica Medina QHS Cheer Coach
45 Dwayne Ortega
46

47 **Those present virtually were:**

48 Chris DeFillippo, Village Attorney
49 Rose Romero
50
51

52 **III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

53 Questa High School Cheerleaders

54

55 **IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

56

57 **Motion:** Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales

58 **Second:** Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

59

60 Changes presented: Item X. Questa Highschool Cheerleaders State Recognition to be moved after item V.

61 Approval of the Minutes; Add C) Day Care to item IX. Discussion Items.

62

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

64

65 **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

66

67 Regular Council Meeting February 28, 2023

68

69 Motion to approve the minutes with corrections from Councilwoman Gallegos.

70

71 **Motion:** Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

72 **Second:** Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales

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74 Majority voted yes. Motion carried.

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76 Special Council Meeting March 22, 2023

77

78 Motion to approve the minutes with corrections from Councilwoman Gallegos.

79

80 **Motion:** Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

81 **Second:** Councilman Jason Gonzalez

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83 Majority voted yes. Motion carried.

84

85 **VI. PRESENTATION**

86

87 A) Questa Highschool Cheerleaders State Recognition

88

89 The Questa Cheerleaders were recognized by the Mayor and the Council for their hard work and winning
90 the State Championship during the Cheerleading State Competition. Good job girls!

91

92 Cupcakes and water were provided; Motion to take a 10 Minute Recess. Out at 06:16pm

93

94 **Motion:** Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

95 **Second:** Councilman Brent Jaramillo

96

97 Out of Recess at 06:25 pm

98

99 **Motion:** Councilman Jason Gonzalez

100 **Second:** Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales

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104 **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS** - *(It is the policy of the Governing Body to accept public comment. Because*
105 *your issue is not on the agenda the Governing Body cannot respond immediately but may direct staff to*
106 *address issues at a future Council Meeting. Public comments are limited to a maximum of three minutes.)*
107 Public comments opened at 06:27 pm and ended at 06:27 pm. No one for Public Comment.

108
109 **VIII. PUBLIC HEARING**

110
111 A) Variance Request; Rose Romero, 50 Sage Brush Road
112 Public Hearing began at 06:28 pm.

113
114 Public Hearing ended at 06:31 pm, No comment or discussion for or against in Public Hearing.

115
116
117 **IX. ACTION ITEM**

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119 A) Discussion, Consideration, and Decision – Variance Request; Rose Romero, 50 Sage Brush Road.

120
121 A motion to approve the Variance Request for Rose Romero.

122
123
124 **Motion:** Councilman Brent Jaramillo
125 **Second:** Councilwoman Louise Gallegos

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127
128 **Roll Call:**

129 Councilwoman Louise Gallegos YES
130 Councilman Jason Gonzalez YES
131 Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales YES
132 Councilman Brent Jaramillo YES

133
134 Majority voted yes. Motion carried.

135
136
137 **X. DISCUSSION ITEM**

138
139 A) Village of Questa GRT; Mrs. Karen Quintana Shannon presented to the Council to increase the GRT.
140 The Village of Questa current GRT Tax is 1.5626% and the allotted GRT Tax rate is at 2.5% which allows
141 .9375% to increased within the Village of Questa. Mrs. Karen Quintana Shannon shared a presentation with
142 the Village Council. Mrs. Karen Quintana Shannon proposed that the additional GRT tax be issued for
143 Public Safety including Fire, EMS, and Police. The Mayor and Council agreed. They would like to take
144 this to action as soon as possible. An election is not needed for the amount of tax increase that the Village
145 is proposing.

146 B) Village of Questa Lodgers Tax; Mrs. Karen Quintana Shannon presented and shared a presentation on
147 Lodgers Tax to the Council and the benefits that it would bring to the Village of Questa. Lodgers tax can
148 be used for Police, Fire Protection, Sanitation, Tourist Sanitation Facility, and events. It does not pay for
149 Police Salaries, but it does cover their salaries if they cover an event. A commission with 5 board members
150 needs to be put together, an ordinance, and a public hearing. Councilwoman Gallegos stated she would like
151 the Planning and Zoning Board to be finished before the Lodgers Tax. Discussion will continue.

152 C) Daycare; Inspire Daycare from Taos has received a grant to help with a facility in Questa. They will be
153 using the mobile units that the Village of Questa acquired from the Red River Charter school. The Council

154 discussed proposed locations and one of them being next to the Library. The Council and Mayor would like
155 to take this to action on the next meeting agenda.

156
157

158 **XI. MATTERS FROM THE VILLAGE ATTORNEY**

159

160 Chris DeFillippo stated they had their quarterly meeting with Chevron and updated the Council. Councilor
161 Gonzalez asked a question about property within the Village of Questa and Chris DeFillippo was able to
162 answer his question.

163

164 **XII. MATTERS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR**

165

- 166 • Mrs. Karen Quintana Shannon presented the Village Easter Egg hunt was a success and everyone
167 was very happy and excited.
- 168 • Living Word Ministries Men’s Group volunteered their time and were able to color code all of the
169 flags for organization and preparation for the Annual Healing Field Ceremony
- 170 • The phone line at EMS is currently not working. Mrs. Karen Quintana Shannon has reached out to
171 Century Link to switch over to them to ensure that all our communication lines are working.
- 172 • The budget workshop is scheduled for April 22, 2023, from 9-4 at the Village Chambers.
- 173 • The Village of Questa has been looking in changing the liability and employee benefit insurance.
174 Upon further review, the decision at this time is the NM Municipal League as well as the State
175 Insurance
- 176 • There was a minor fire near the Village of Questa Park property. There was an issue with a locked
177 gate. Mrs. Karen Quintana Shannon presented to the Council the learning experiences and changes
178 that the staff will be implementing to ensure that any and all emergencies are handled accordingly,
179 and all communication is upfront immediately. A fire ordinance will be in the works to ensure that
180 safety and accountability will be held.

181 **XIII. MATTERS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS**

182

- 183 • Councilor Jaramillo expressed gratitude to Valerie Vigil for the Easter Egg Hunt and Councilor
184 Gonzalez for his clean up.
- 185 • Councilwoman Katrina Gonzales stated she attended the Fiesta Planning Committee. At this time,
186 it is unclear if it will move forward. The proposed date is June 10, 2023. There is also a Fish Fiesta
187 and a Car Show on the same day.
- 188 • Councilor Gonzalez will have his last Friday clean up day on April 14, 2023. The Clean up days
189 will then move to Saturdays; Dates are pending.
- 190 • Councilor Gonzalez requested information on the Corrals for possible leasing. Further information
191 needs to be obtained.
- 192 • Councilor Gonzalez would like to ensure that the Village of Questa Properties are being rented out
193 at market value to ensure that everyone is getting charged relatively the same.
- 194 • Councilor Gonzalez spoke on the NPRTPO projects. 11 projects were submitted and 7 of those
195 were from Questa. The projects need to be condensed to top 3 and presented again in May for a
196 decision at the NPRTPO meeting.
- 197 • There will be a Community Clean up Day April 20 with the Honor Society.
- 198 • Councilor Gallegos inquired about the MVD Position opening. She asked that a letter be sent to
199 any recipients that do not get the job.
- 200 • Mayor Ortega stated our Officers are busy and out on the streets. Many compliments are being
201 made towards our new Police Officers.

- 202 • Mayor Ortega and Mrs. Karen Quintana Shannon met with the Taos Soil and Water Conservation.
203 They are looking for a fiscal agent and would like to partner with the Village of Questa. Fire
204 Prevention is the goal.
205

206 **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

207
208 There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 08:06 pm
209

210
211
212 ATTEST:

213
214 *Valerie Vigil*
215 _____
216 Valerie Vigil, Clerk

APPROVED:

[Handwritten Signature]

John Anthony Ortega, Mayor

