



ROGER SWEET
Mayor

DAVID RYAN
Mayor Pro-Tem

VILLAGE OF JEMEZ SPRINGS
Municipal Office

080 Jemez Springs Plaza
PO Box 269, Jemez Springs, NM 87025
Phone (575) 829-3540 • Fax (575) 829-3339

Yvonne Dickey, Clerk/Treasurer

vclerk@jemezsprings-nm.gov

Emili Zapata, Administrative Assistant

Website: www.jemezsprings-nm.gov



BOB WILSON
Trustee
MANOLITO SANCHEZ
Trustee
DR. JULIETTE SWEET
Trustee

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING:
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M.
IN THE LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM**

1. Call to Order-The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. Present were Mayor Sweet, Mayor Pro-Tem Ryan, Trustees Sanchez & Wilson, Police Chief Felix Nunez, Judge Patterson, Librarian Janet Phillips, Bath House Attendant Perian McBee, and Clerk/Treasurer Yvonne Dickey. Also in attendance were community members Randy Peterson and Miroslava Blatch and Olga Appell who co-owns Los Ojos.
2. Pledge of Allegiance-The Mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of Agenda-Trustee Sanchez moved that the agenda be approved. Trustee Wilson seconded and the agenda was unanimously approved. **DRAFT**
4. Approval of Minutes from the 8-21-19 Meeting-One correction was needed clarifying that Mayor Pro-Tem Ryan was NOT at the last meeting. Trustee Wilson moved that the minutes be approved with the one correction. Mayor Pro-Tem Ryan seconded, and the minutes were approved with no opposition.
5. Los Ojos Sign Violations-Mayor Sweet gave a brief timeline of the violations at Los Ojos. It started two months ago with the mobile billboard semi-trailer that has been parked on the side of Highway 4 for several years now, and has escalated to include the 9 signs on the building. Mayor Sweet marveled at how much time and how many resources have been wasted and there has still been no action taken by the Appells to rectify the situation. Trustee Ryan asked why the Council is even involved if this has already been addressed by the P & Z Commission. Judge Patterson explained that Mr. Appell is the one who asked to come before the council.

Her decision regarding the mobile sign is final and cannot be reversed by the Council. The new issues of the excessive signage on the building can be addressed by P & Z.

Mrs. Appell had Mr. Appell on video chat, although he did not participate. She asked why "everyone hates Los Ojos" and why they cannot just do whatever they want with their building. The Mayor explained that there have been formal complaints from many community members and that the excessive signage and particularly the mobile billboard are against Village Ordinances.

DRAFT

Mrs. Appell threatened, "I'll just talk to my lawyer" and started to leave. Mayor Pro-Tem Ryan asked her to stay and explained that legal action is expensive for everyone involved and that would be hurtful to the Appell's business. Mrs. Appell stayed, asking, "Why aren't you enforcing consequences for the Stage Stop's roaming chickens?" Although the discussion was not about the Stage Stop, Judge Patterson explained that there have been court dates and consequences; the Village's laws are enforced equally. Mrs. Appell asked why the Village doesn't do something to make San Ysidro more inviting, but that is a different municipality that our council does not have control over. Mrs. Appell then asked what the Village wants Los Ojos to do. Mayor Sweet explained again that moving the mobile billboard would be a great place to begin. Meanwhile, the excessive signage will have to be addressed by P & Z as a separate issue. In an attempt to mediate, Trustee Wilson stated that Los Ojos may be able to get a variance for the excessive signage from P & Z. Trustee Sanchez also attempted to mediate, explaining that any signs that were on the building prior to 1996 can remain, but that the mobile billboard semi-trailer must be moved. Chief Nunez explained that with regard to the mobile billboard, the Appells have had due process and extra chances to rectify the situation, and that Judge Patterson's decision about the mobile billboard is final.

DRAFT

Mrs. Appell got up and left mid-sentence, missing the rest of the conversation.

The council continued the discussion, and the consensus was that if the Appells had simply cooperated and moved the mobile billboard, the rest of the signage probably wouldn't have become an issue. Judge Patterson added that the mobile billboard was only registered and insured 2 days before Mr. Appell's initial court date, which means it has been sitting on the side of Highway 4 for several years uninsured and unregistered. At this point, due process has been granted and the mobile billboard semi-trailer must be moved by September 26 or the Judge will issue an order and it will be towed away. Additional fines and consequences will be imposed. Meanwhile, Mr. Appell can appear before P & Z at their next meeting to seek guidance on the excessive signage.

DRAFT

6. Short Term Rental Ordinance-Trustee Wilson explained that he has worked with P & Z on the ordinance, which needs a few minor refinements and then can be reviewed by New Mexico Municipal League. Ms. Dickey and Trustee Wilson will follow up before the next Council Meeting.
7. Lodgers' Tax Ordinance-In order for our Lodgers' Tax Ordinance to be in harmony with the State's Laws, we need to remove one sentence from the Lodgers' Tax Ordinance. Trustee Wilson and Ms. Dickey will confirm with the Municipal League so that we can enact this change in time for an effective date of 1/1/20.

8. Reports

DRAFT

- a. Maintenance-Submitted
- b. Bath House-Submitted. Trustee Wilson congratulated Ms. McBee and the Bath House staff for another profitable month, and Ms. Dickey told the council that she has been meeting weekly with Ms. McBee and Ms. Lovato so that we can keep good track of expenses and issues in real time.
- c. Library-Submitted. Ms. Phillips explained that the Library is now offering a caregiver support group and that she is also attending meetings with the "Aging in Place Initiative". The library & Village have joined an app called NextDoor, which enhances communication valley-wide, and there will be a training on 11/7/19. The Volunteer Appreciation Celebration was excellent as well. Ms. Phillips highlighted a few items from the annual report she sends to the State Library, and it

was astounding to hear that our library has over 2,000 library card holders and is visited by over 21,000 people per year! She also let the council know that program participation is up, along with eBook and WiFi use. Trustee Ryan offered his appreciation for the service the library offers to the community as a whole and commended Ms. Phillips and her staff on a job well done.

d. Court-Submitted

DRAFT

e. Wastewater-Submitted

f. Police Chief-Submitted. Chief Nunez still hasn't received cross-commissions from Sandoval County and is considering asking for a State cross-commission instead. Reserve Officer Nancy Donnally is returning, and another female reserve officer has been vetted and offered a position. This gives us three female officers! Chief Nunez is beginning plans for Light Among the Ruins. He was able to obtain three salvage vehicles from the Village of Corrales, which will be stripped and sold. Meanwhile Chief Nunez is also applying for funding for new speed limit signs in the Village.

g. P & Z Commission-Submitted

h. Volunteer Fire Department-Submitted

i. Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board-Not submitted.

9. Clerk/Treasurer's Report-Ms. Dickey explained that revenues are right on track for this point in the fiscal year. Expenditures in Maintenance and Public Safety are a little higher than expected, but will fall back into line in the next few months. Meanwhile, the on-site audit work will occur in the next few weeks and everyday office business is going smoothly.

10. Mayor's Report

DRAFT

a. Mayor Sweet-Mayor Sweet told the council that he has been having very fruitful discussions with all the parties involved in the Spirit Ranch acquisition. Father Fitzgerald seems more at ease now that he knows just how much support there is for this acquisition, and expressed his desire to support the Pope's stand on preserving open spaces and taking care of the land. An anonymous donor has come forward with the offer of \$100,000 earnest money (to be reimbursed later) to hold the land, adding to Father Fitzgerald's comfort with

waiting through the lengthy acquisition process. The process is tedious and lengthy, but each day it looks more and more like the dream will come to fruition.

b. Mayor Pro-Tem Ryan-*Nothing to report*

c. Trustee Wilson-*Nothing to report*

d. Trustee Sanchez-*Nothing to report*

e. Trustee Sweet-*Unable to attend*

11. Adjourn-At 7:35, Trustee Wilson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mayor Pro-Tem Ryan seconded, and the meeting was adjourned unopposed.

DRAFT