



ROGER SWEET  
Mayor

DAVID RYAN  
Mayor Pro-Tem

## VILLAGE OF JEMEZ SPRINGS *Municipal Office*

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Christina Holder, Clerk/Treasurer

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BOB WILSON  
Trustee  
MANOLITO SANCHEZ  
Trustee  
MONIQUE ALTON  
Trustee

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### AGENDA FOR THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE PLAZA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were Mayor Sweet, Mayor Pro-Tem Ryan, Trustees Sanchez, Wilson, and Alton. Also present was Greg Mertz, Cliff Elliott, Matt Dyer, James Cooper, Betsy Daub, Chief Craig Francois, Mark Michael, Fred Simmank, Carlos Alvarado, Chief Felix Nunez, Officer Joe Moreno, and Clerk/Treasurer Christina Holder.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Sweet led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Sweet requested to strike items 6 and 9. Judge Patterson will be in at another council meeting for discussion after she and her clerk do additional research. Mayor Sweet spoke with the Water Association President and received clarification on that they have a septic system. Mayor Pro-Tem Ryan moved to approve the agenda with changes. Trustee Sanchez seconded, and the agenda was approved without opposition.

4. Approval of Minutes from 07/19/2023, 07/24/2023, and 07/29/2023

Mayor Sweet mentioned in the July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting that after executive session it was mentioned that only agenda items were discussed before the meeting was adjourned.

5. Guest – James Cooper with Jemez Springs Community Presbyterian Church

Mr. Cooper explained that the Jemez Springs Community Presbyterian Church has a budget to plan. He was wondering if the Wastewater Rate structure was intentionally including non-profits. The Council explained that was not the intent behind the rate schedule. Mayor Sweet mentioned that the Council can look at creating an amendment for non-profits in the future.

6. Guest – Judge Ana Patterson Discussion on Separating Court Bank Accounts - Struck

7. Review of Governing Body Code of Ethics

Trustee Wilson asked if the Council has adopted a Code of Ethics. Mayor Sweet explained that the Code of Ethics has been standardized through the U.S. Trustee Sanchez explained the need to hold each other accountable.

8. Planning & Zoning Board appointment

Mayor Sweet stated he would like to nominate Sean Kridlin for the Planning & Zoning Board. This would fill the board to capacity since the Board is allowed two additional members. Trustee Sanchez moved to accept the appointment. Trustee Wilson seconded and the appointment was unanimously approved.

9. Jemez Springs Water Association Wastewater Account - Struck
10. Acknowledging Police Chief Nunez's Resignation and Appointing Interim Police Chief  
Mayor Sweet explained that the Council and Village will miss Chief Nunez. Chief Nunez thanked the Council and Community for embracing and including him. Officer Joe Moreno spoke to the council and gave a brief background on himself. Mayor Sweet asked for a motion to acknowledge Chief Nunez's resignation and to promote Officer Moreno to Chief. Trustee Wilson noted that he was not sure we could promote without advertising the position. Mayor Pro-Tem Ryan stated it wouldn't hurt to advertise the position. Trustee Alton stated why would Officer Moreno leave his previous position if this wasn't guaranteed and would like to promote from within the department. Trustee Sanchez doesn't see a problem from promoting within.

The Council decided that beginning the Chief position would be posted and advertised beginning August 17<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>. On September 1<sup>st</sup> Officer Moreno would be promoted to Interim Chief and interviews for any applicants would be held at that time. During the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting the Council would vote on the hiring of the permanent Chief. Mayor Pro-Tem move to approve the resignation of Chief Nunez, the posting of the Chief position, and promoting Officer Moreno to Interim Chief on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Trustee Wilson seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

11. Discussion on Jemez Springs Volunteer Fire Department  
Chief Francois mentioned that a rumor he allegedly said about La Cueva Chief Taylor has been being passed around that Chief Taylor didn't want to help with fireworks and that he doesn't like to work. He wants it to be clear he never said those things.

Greg Mertz noted that the statements made by Chief Taylor were when he was upset by hearing the rumors. Chief Francois made a decision based on information that was available on fire spread which is why there were no fireworks. He is upset no Council member made a personal outreach to the Fire Department to let them know La Cueva would be at the August meeting. He is also concerned about the text made to Chief Taylor. Anyone that knows Chief Taylor knows that what was in the rumor is absurd. Chief Francois looks up to Chief Taylor and false accusations destroy kinship between departments.

Mayor Sweet stated he was also surprised with Chief Taylor was at the August meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Ryan had requested the executive session be on the agenda in an email to the Council.

Trustee Alton mentioned that trainings need to be scheduled and maintained. The Fire Department should be independent and not run by the County. When La Cueva was at the last meeting giving information to the Council no one from the Jemez Springs Fire Department was here to refute their statements.

Carlos Alvarado stated that maybe the Council doesn't understand everything the Fire Department did within the last decade and listed several items the Fire Department has

worked on and received that last 10 years. They passed a surprise inspection in December. He also mentioned that he believes Chief Francois is the most qualified person for the Fire Chief Position.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ryan brought up that there is a lot of equipment for the Fire Department with nobody to respond to calls. There are no EMT's on the roster other than Dr. Mertz.

Mark Michael explained that he believes public record is distorted about what Chief Francios said to/about Chief Taylor. There have been a number of malicious statements about the department and Chief Francois. The department passed the anonymous tip to the Fire Marshal with flying colors.

Trustee Sanchez said he felt ambushed and bullied at the last meeting. He doesn't always check his emails for the agenda and if he had realized that the Fire Department was being discussed in executive session he would have asked the department members to be there.

12. Resolution 2023-008 Authorizing Submission of Application to the Water Trust Board  
Rose Fenton included an email she had sent to the Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer in regards to requesting \$800,000 from NMFA. She stated it should be a grant but if it isn't we don't have to accept. Mayor Pro-Tem Ryan motioned to approve moving forward with the application, Trustee Alton seconded and the motion passed without opposition.

13. Discussion and Selection of Priorities for Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan, Resolution 2023-005

After looking at the requests from department heads the Council decided on the following ICIP requests and the priority for them.

1. Jemez Springs Police Department
  - a. Body Camera - \$20,000
2. Library
  - a. Steal Access Ramps - \$30,000
  - b. Stuccoing of Building - \$35,000
  - c. Study Room - \$16,000
  - d. Shade Structure - \$50,000
3. Waste Water
  - a. Pickup Truck - \$65,000
4. Village
  - a. Leyba Land Office - \$150,000
  - b. Remodel of Current Office - \$100,000

Mayor Pro-Tem Ryan moved to accept the above ICIP requests and priorities. Trustee Wilson seconded. Roll was called:

Mayor Sweet – Aye

Mayor Pro-Tem Ryan – Aye

Trustee Wilson – Aye

Trustee Sanchez – Aye

Trustee Alton – Aye

The motion passed unanimously.

14. Reports

- a. Maintenance- submitted
- b. Bath House- submitted
- c. Library-submitted
- d. Court- submitted
- e. Wastewater- submitted
- f. Police Chief- submitted
- g. P & Z Commission- not submitted
- h. Volunteer Fire Department- submitted
- i. Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board- not submitted

15. Clerk/Treasurer's Report-

Ms. Holder mentioned that Donna Sanchez was able to switch propane delivery from AmeriGas to Canon Via. Ms. Sanchez was also able to speak with the Local Government Liaison and straightened out the cannabis excise tax so the Village would be begin receiving it. The first payment would include the prior months that had not be received yet. Ms. Holder also explained that Jemez Sustainable Solution was awarded \$35,500 that the Village is their fiscal agent.

16. Mayor's Report

- a. Mayor Sweet – none
- b. Mayor Pro-Tem Ryan – Code of Ethics and this position needs to be taken seriously.
- c. Trustee Wilson – Hope at this point we can stop pointing fingers and can do better.
- d. Trustee Sanchez - none
- e. Trustee Alton – apologize for pouring fuel on the fire

17. Adjourn

Mayor Sweet adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.