



MICHAEL NEALEIGH  
Mayor

ROBERT WILSON  
Mayor Pro-Tem.

**VILLAGE OF JEMEZ SPRINGS**  
*Municipal Office*

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JUDY BOYD  
Trustee  
JAMES MCCUE  
Trustee  
MANOLITO SANCHEZ  
Trustee

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**MINUTES FOR THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED VILLAGE COUNCIL**  
**MEETING: TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.**  
**IN THE GOVERNING BODY CONFERENCE ROOM**

1. **Call to Order** by Mayor Mike Nealeigh at 6 pm
  - a. Members Present: Mayor Mike Nealeigh, Trustee Judy Boyd, Trustee Jim McCue, Trustee Mano Sanchez, Trustee Bob Wilson, Interim Clerk Heather Gutierrez
  - b. Members Absent: NONE
  - c. Others Present: Jim Cox, Fred Simmank, Rose Fenton, Janet Phillips, Barbara Stone, Betsy Daub, Chief Joe Moreno, Talty Robinson, Greg Mertz, and Jenna Grantham
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Mayor Nealeigh
3. **Approval of Agenda** – Trustee Wilson made a motion to reverse old and new business, with unanimous approval the motion passed.
4. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. **Minutes of Special Meeting 5-21-2024**
  - b. **Minutes of Regular Meeting 5-21-2024** - Trustee Boyd pointed out a misplaced sentence on one of the project reports which was corrected.  
Trustee Boyd made a motion to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting as presented and the minutes of the Regular Meeting as corrected, Trustee McCue seconded, unanimous approval.
5. **Public Input** – No input from public
6. **Court Report** – Written report submitted
7. **Mayor's Report**
  - a. **Code Enforcement** – Mayor Nealeigh reported that he enforced the business registration requirement for the vendor who did the emergency plumbing repair at the library. The business registration fee was deducted from the final invoice and the registration application filed when the invoice was submitted.
  - b. **Administration**
    - i. **OMA claim** – Mayor Nealeigh stated that there has been no activity since the last meeting.
    - ii. **IPRA claim** – Mayor Nealeigh explained that there were two claims, one was resolved, and the second required additional action. A letter was sent to the complainant and an IPRA policy statement was added to the Village website.
    - iii. **Project Updates** – Mayor Nealeigh summarized the status of ongoing projects.

1. **River Trail** –There has been no action on this project.
  2. **Modular Units** – Local contractors are in the process of connecting electrical service to the building. Capital Outlay funding for this project will expire on June 30. The Mayor pointed out that for the building to be usable 3 other projects still need to be done--ADA accessible ramps, sewer connection, and connection to water.
  3. **Dark Sky** – There has been no activity on this project.
  4. **Recycling Center Project** – The work on this project is scheduled for completion by June 28<sup>th</sup> 2024
- iv. **4<sup>th</sup> of July Planning Committee** – Mayor Nealeigh reported that the committee met three times over the last 3 weeks and will continue to meet until the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The theme this year is “It Takes a Village”. There are three coordinators: Billy Ehret - publicity and entertainment, Kelly Stokes - Parade and Alicia Weiss – Vendors. Mayor Nealeigh also informed the council that he will MC the plaza event and will recognize the Honor Guard during the flag raising ceremony.
- v. **Village Trim Day** – Mayor Nealeigh reported that the Village Trim Day was a big success as we had 24 truckloads of branches go through the chipper, 30 bags of trash was collected, and 35-40 volunteers participated.
- c. **Personnel Matters** – The Mayor had no personnel matters to discuss other than the one to be discussed under Old Business.
- d. **Community Relations** – Mayor Nealeigh informed the Council that it had been a busy community relations period.
- i. **Teresa Leger-Fernandez—May 28<sup>th</sup>** – Mayor Nealeigh and Trustee Wilson met with Congresswoman Teresa Leger-Fernandez via Zoom. Mayor Nealeigh asked whether the Village was eligible to receive a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) from any of the government entities that have a footprint within the Village. The Congresswoman stated that she would request that the question be researched.
  - ii. **Pueblo of Jemez administration and BIA—May 30<sup>th</sup>** – Mayor Nealeigh met with the Governor of Jemez Pueblo, as well as representatives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. They discussed the appeal submitted by the Village in response to the BIA decision to grant trust land status to the former Handmaidens of the Precious Blood property purchased by the Pueblo in 2014.
  - iii. **NMDOT—Troy Witt—May 30<sup>th</sup>** – Mayor Nealeigh met with Mr. Witt who oversees the Department of Transportation substation in San Ysidro.
  - iv. **Mark Begich—June 5<sup>th</sup>** –Mayor Nealeigh met by phone with Mr. Begich who owns 5 properties within the village and affirmed his commitment to making a difference in the Village.
  - v. **County Manager, Wayne Johnson—June 7<sup>th</sup>** – Mayor Nealeigh met with Mr. Johnson and his team to discuss the Self-Insured Fund claim and the

outstanding American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds owed by the Village. Mayor Nealeigh also reported that he received a call from Mr. Johnson and Commissioner Joshua Jones several days after this meeting informing him that the Commissioner was able to provide a little over \$22,000 to offset a portion of the outstanding \$53,455 in arrears (created when the County inadvertently & incorrectly reimbursed the Village Wastewater for non-qualifying expenses). The Mayor stated that once the Village is able to pay the \$31,350 still outstanding, ARPA funds will once again become available. In addition, the County has agreed to pay for future qualifying projects from the available ARPA funds without requiring the Village to pay and then be reimbursed.

**e. Boards & Commissions**

- i. **Library Board** - Written report submitted
- ii. **Lodgers Tax Board** – Written report submitted
- iii. **Planning & Zoning Commission** - Written report submitted

**f. Department Reports**

- i. **Bath House** – Written report submitted
- ii. **Fire** - No written report submitted
- iii. **IT** – Written report submitted
- iv. **Library** – Written report submitted
- v. **Police** – Written report submitted
- vi. **Public Works** – Written report submitted
- vii. **Wastewater** – Written report submitted

**8. Trustee Reports**

- a. **Trustee Boyd** – Nothing to report
- b. **Trustee McCue** – Nothing to report
- c. **Trustee Sanchez** – Mentioned that his shoulder is healing well.
- d. **Trustee Wilson** - Mentioned that he is looking into ways that Wastewater and the Water Association can coordinate billing systems. He suggested that a taskforce be appointed to address the matter. Mayor Nealeigh asked the Wastewater Operations Manager, the Interim Clerk, and the Village IT consultant to serve on this taskforce, and Trustee Wilson to chair. All agreed to serve.

**9. Finance Board** – Trustee Sanchez moved to convene the Finance Board, Trustee Wilson seconded. The motion passed with no objection and the meeting began at 7 pm

- a. **Interim Clerk's Report** – No written report submitted; Mrs. Gutierrez informed the council that there is nothing new to report.
- b. **Finance Director Report** – Jim Cox, Finance Director/Consultant
  - i. **Prior fiscal year(s)** – Mr. Cox updated the Council on the FY22 audit and stated that once the FY22 audit is complete, finishing the FY23 audit should not take very long, followed quickly by the FY24 audit. Mr. Cox reported that the past due balance of \$237,874 has been paid down to \$192,015 (mostly from insurance claims payments and grant reimbursements). Of this total, \$119,000 is

owed to government agencies or partners and approximately \$72,000 is owed to contractors. He stated that he and the mayor are working on a plan to pay off these debts.

- ii. **Current fiscal year** – Mr. Cox reported that the Village is current on all new invoices and bills. Mr. Cox updated the Council on several end-of-year projects, especially those funded from grants that will expire on June 31<sup>st</sup>. In addition, he is working with various state agencies and fiscal agents to secure necessary approval so that funds may be reimbursed quickly. Mr. Cox also spoke about the funds received from the state Fire Fund and Law Enforcement Protection Fund (LEPF) that must be spent and/or encumbered by the end of the fiscal year. He is working with Chief Moreno and Chief Francois to ensure that these funds are expended according to statutory requirements.
- iii. **Upcoming fiscal year** – Mr. Cox reported that the Interim Budget was approved by the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA). The Village will begin operating on this budget on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The final budget will be presented for approval at the July meeting of the Village Council, along with the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report and the final budget adjustment.  
Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn the Finance Board, Trustee Sanchez seconded, the Finance Board adjourned at 7:11pm.

## 10. New Business

- a. **Resolution 2024-016—Village Council Meeting Schedule FY2025** – Mayor Nealeigh presented the resolution to the Council. Trustee Wilson moved to accept the resolution. Trustee McCue seconded. Mayor Nealeigh read the resolution and summarized the meeting schedule as the third Tuesday of each month, at 6 pm, with the first meeting of the new fiscal year taking place on Monday July 15. Being no discussion the motion passed with unanimous approval.
- b. **Volunteer of the Year**- Mayor Nealeigh reported that a call for nominations was published on Friday June 14 and that 5 nominations were received. An additional 5 names were added by those present. The council narrowed the list to 10 nominees down to the top three candidates--Carlos Alvarado, Debi Peterson, and Jennifer Olson. Mayor Nealeigh mentioned that he was not aware of any requirement that the Volunteer of the Year be a Village resident. The council felt that all the nominees were deserving of being Volunteer of the Year. Librarian Janet Phillips mentioned that the Village has had more than one Volunteer of the Year in the past if the Council wished to take that route. Trustee Wilson made a motion to name Carlos Alvarado as this year's Volunteer of the Year. Trustee Sanchez seconded the motion. Being no further discussion the Mayor called for a roll call vote: Trustee Boyd-Aye, Trustee McCue-Aye, Trustee Sanchez-Aye, Trustee Wilson-Aye.

## 11. Old Business

- a. **Evaluation of Previous Clerk, Christina Holder.** Trustee Wilson moved that the Village Council convene in closed session as authorized by the "limited personnel matters" exception in the Open Meetings Act to discuss the job performance of and possible action against a former employee of the Village. Trustee Boyd

seconded. Roll call vote: Trustee Boyd – Aye, Trustee McCue – Aye, Trustee Sanchez- Aye, Trustee Wilson – Aye. The closed meeting convened at 7:32 pm. The open meeting of the Council reconvened at 8:25. With roll call vote the Council affirmed that the matters discussed in the closed session were limited to those specified in the motion to convene the closed meeting. Trustee Boyd affirmed, Trustee McCue affirmed, Trustee Sanchez affirmed, and Trustee Wilson affirmed.

Trustee McCue moved that Council go on record as taking no formal action against former Clerk Christina Holder at this time but that the option to do so be kept open should additional information come to light that may warrant action. Trustee Wilson seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Trustee Boyd – Aye, Trustee McCue – Aye, Trustee Sanchez- Aye, Trustee Wilson- Aye.

**12. Adjourn** – Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting, Trustee Sanchez seconded, with unanimous approval the meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.