

**VILLAGE OF CIMARRON
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 24, 2022 at 6:00pm**

The Governing Body met in Person and via GoToMeeting Application.

Monday, January 24, 2022, 6:00 PM (MDT)

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/870444509>

Village of Cimarron Meetings are open to the public- and Covid Safe Practices are acceptable

I. Pledge of Allegiance- Pledge to the New Mexico State Flag

Mayor Pro Tem Judy B. LeDoux led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge for NM State Flag.

Mayor Pro Tem Judy B. LeDoux announced there is no public comment on the agenda and there will not be any for this meeting.

II. Roll Call

Mayor Pro Tem Judy b. LeDoux Councilor James Gallegos
Councilor Matthew Gonzales Councilor Ernie LeDoux

III. Approval Agenda dated January 24, 2022

Councilor Matthew Gonzales moved to amend the agenda to make item #4 public comment, #5 Filling the vacancy of the Office of the Mayor, and #6 Council Comments/concerns and item #7 adjourn. Councilor James Gallegos seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor James Gallegos-Yes Councilor Ernie LeDoux-No
Councilor Matthew Gonzales-Yes Mayor Pro Tem Judy B. LeDoux-No *Tied- Failed*

Councilor James Gallegos asked Mayor Pro Tem Judy B. LeDoux to explain what had just happened, she explained that due to the votes being tied the motion dies.
Councilor Matthew Gonzales stated the meeting cannot move on without an approved agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Judy B. LeDoux moved to amend the agenda to add #5 Council Concerns and #6 Adjourn. Councilor Ernie LeDoux seconded.

Councilor Matthew Gonzales asked for a point of clarification to Attorney Randy VanVleck, can the Mayor Pro Tem make motions or just receive motions. Mr. VanVleck stated she can make the motion and vote.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor James Gallegos-No Councilor Ernie LeDoux-Yes
Councilor Matthew Gonzales-No Mayor Pro Tem Judy B. LeDoux-Yes *Tied- Failed*

Councilor James Gallegos explained to the public why he voted for public participation and he feels all the Governing body needs to hear from the public.

Mayor Pro Tem Judy B. LeDoux moved to amend the agenda to allow #4 Public Participation, #5 Filling the vacancy of the Mayor, #6 Council Concerns and #7 adjourn. No second.

Councilor James Gallegos asked if the Mayor Pro Tem was now going to allow public participation, she said yes.

Councilor Matthew Gonzales moved to amend the agenda to include #4 Public participation, #5 Council Concerns, #6 Filling of the vacancy of the office of the Mayor, and #7 adjourn. Councilor James Gallegos seconded

Roll Call Vote: Councilor James Gallegos-Yes Councilor Ernie LeDoux-No

Councilor Matthew Gonzales-Yes Mayor Pro Tem Judy B. LeDoux-Yes Approved 3-1

IV. Public Comment

- Colin Tawney commented he would like to know why no public comment was included on the agenda and that it is very important for the community to have a voice for issues like this.
Mayor Pro Tem Judy B. LeDoux responded that it is not a requirement for the Open Meetings Act
- Steve Warner asked if a special election could be an option- Councilor James Gallegos stated that no this is not an issue that would warrant a special election.
- Monty Johnson stated the public should be heard for all issues.
- Louise Johnson stated the people in Cimarron voted for the Council people Mayor and work for the people. She also added its about time the Village moves forward instead of backwards.
- Sherry Bennett stated all people should have the right to provide public input
- Anthony Martinez stated to the public for everyone to attend all meetings not just some of them and express concerns. He expressed the need for people to attend the meetings and to not be discussing things all over the Village but to do it during the meetings where things can be heard.
- Jacob Jaramillo stated the town needs good leaders that help this town move forward. He also added the public deserves to speak up and have a voice. He continued to say the Village needs a positive leader to make this town great for the future generations.
- Barry Harper stated he doesn't know why the Council is in such a hurry to fill the Mayor position as it has only been advertised for a short time. He also added it may be a good idea to wait and advertise the mayor position for around 60-90 days.
- Mr. Elliott asked about the water operator position and if the Village will be hiring someone soon.

Mayor Pro Tem Judy B. LeDoux reported there is an interested individual who seems interested but until the position is filled Mr. Leo Martinez said he would take care of the water until a person is hired. Councilor Ernie LeDoux also mentioned that a person from the NM Environment Department is working with the staff. Admin Shawn Jeffrey reported that Ray Ramos from NM Rural Water is working with staff as well.

V. Council Concerns

Councilor Ernie LeDoux stated the people need to participate in the election process and he encouraged the public to be a part of the election of the Governing Body process. He also added he would like the Village to continue to move forward. He also added its important to retain the young people here so they may move into these positions. He wants the town to move forward, and he does not just want the Village to be a retirement community. People need to put their names on the ballots when the elections.

-Colin Tawney stated there is no communication for the election process and he would like to see more communication.

Councilor Judy B. LeDoux reported the radio station advertised the election dates and process many times.

Councilor Matthew Gonzales reported that any public meeting there should be public comment at all meetings. He also added he has a stern opinion on his issues and he wants people to be accountable

VI. Approve/Disapprove/Discuss Filling the Vacancy of the Office of the Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Judy B. LeDoux announced there are two letters of interest for the position and she asked Councilor James Gallegos if he had any additional letters of interest for the Mayor Position. Councilor James Gallegos said he does not.

Mayor Pro Tem Judy B. LeDoux read the two letters of interest, the first one was from herself for the position, the second letter was from Laura Gonzales for the Mayor position.

She asked if there are any other nominations for the position of Mayor- there was no response.

Mayor Pro Tem Judy B. LeDoux asked for a motion to nominate one of the candidates.

*Councilor Ernie LeDoux moved to nominate Judy B. LeDoux for the Mayor position.
Councilor Judy B. Ledoux seconded.*

Attorney Randy VanVleck spoke to say a second is not required for nominations

Councilor Matthew Gonzales asked for a point of clarification and that the position is a paid position and that it is a conflict of interest for the position.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor James Gallegos- No, Councilor Matthew Gonzales-No, Councilor Ernie LeDoux-Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Judy B. LeDoux-Yes *Tied- Failed*

Councilor James Gallegos moved to nominate Laura Gonzales. Councilor Matthew Gonzales. seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor James Gallegos- Yes, Councilor Matthew Gonzales-Yes, Councilor Ernie LeDoux-No, Mayor Pro Tem Judy B. LeDoux-No *Tied- Failed*

Councilor Ernie LeDoux mentioned the ethics issue with an employee nominating a supervisor is no different than Ernie LeDoux nominating Judy B. LeDoux

Councilor James Gallegos moved to nominate Matthew Gonzales as Mayor for Cimarron.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor James Gallegos-Yes, Councilor Ernie LeDoux-Yes, Councilor Matthew Gonzales-Yes, Mayor Pro Tem Judy B. LeDoux-Yes Approved 4-0

VII. Adjourn

Councilor James Gallegos moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Ernie LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0 6:44 pm

APPROVED THIS 8 DAY FEBRUARY 2022


Matthew Gonzales, Mayor

ATTEST:


Shawn Jeffrey, Clerk-Administrator