

# VILLAGE OF CIMARRON

## MEETING MINUTES REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022 6:00pm

### **The Governing Body met in Person and via GoToMeeting Application.**

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 6:00 PM (MDT)

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

#### **I. Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the New Mexico State Flag**

Mayor Matthew Gonzales led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge for NM State Flag.

#### **II. Roll Call**

Mayor Matthew Gonzales      Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos      Councilor Judy B. LeDoux  
Councilor Ernie LeDoux      Councilor Eloy Brazil

#### **III. Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Matthew Gonzales asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

*Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Judy B. LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0*

#### **IV. Proclamation: Autism Awareness**

Mayor Matthew Gonzales read the Proclamation and signed the document supporting autism awareness. He confirmed the support for the Autism Awareness Proclamation.

#### **V. Approve/Disapprove Minutes**

a. Regular Meeting Minutes: March 9, 2022

Councilor Judy B. LeDoux mentioned she has a few corrections to the draft minutes.

*Councilor Judy B, LeDoux moved to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2022 with corrections as identified. Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos seconded. Approved 4-0*

#### **VI. Comments from the General Public (Limited to 3 minutes)**

- Louise Johnson reported that at the last meeting Councilor Eloy Brazil stated the Village should be cleaning up its own property before we enforce regulations for other people. She stated the easements need to be cleaned up especially by the Veterans Park and also Coco Street. Lastly, she stated she would like to see the Village cleaned up.

#### **VII. Correspondence and Appreciations**

##### **- Certified Municipal Clerk Renee LeDoux**

Mayor Matthew Gonzales read Renee LeDoux letter of acceptance for her certification. Her certificate came from the International Association of Municipal Clerks. He mentioned he is very proud of Renee for obtaining her certification and Cimarron is lucky to have two Municipal Clerks on staff.

- **Certificate of Achievement – Shane McNamara, Mystic McNamara, and Cheyenne LeDoux**  
Mayor Matthew Gonzales presented Cheyenne LeDoux with her certificate of achievement for having her painting “A Dream come True” displayed at Eastern New Mexico University. He also honorably mentioned the other two students that were not present and he stated he would get their certificates for their achievement to them.
- **Appreciation: Public Works Danny Martinez**  
Mayor Matthew Gonzales recognized Danny Martinez for his dedication to his job and for his constant response to calls and doing a great job for the community of Cimarron. He also mentioned Mr. Hickman sent a letter in offering his appreciation for Danny taking care of his service and his parents.
- **Appreciation: Cimarron EMS Ambulance Service**  
Mayor Matthew Gonzales also recognized the Cimarron EMS service for their hard work and dedication to Colfax County he recognized EMS Director Nate Lay he also informed everyone that EMS is total volunteer department, and they serve their community unselfishly. EMS member Cris Coca was also present to receive a certificate of appreciation.

### **VIII. Reports by Department and Boards-**

#### **a. Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Matthew Gonzales submitted his report.

He reported on the Affordable Housing meetings he has been attending, the Cimarron Crime Stoppers, Cimarron Teambuilders and he added the Baseball Field projects that are in the making, the Colfax Youth Job Fair and the HELP program. He also met with Wade Rathke for a location for a public radio station, Mayor Matthew Gonzales is asking each Councilor to identify issues in different parts of the Village that need maintenance and bring him the suggestions. He will be attending the meeting with Teresa Ledger Fernandez next Wednesday in Raton to talk about the VA Clinic closure. Lastly, he and Councilor Ernie LeDoux have been working on a maintenance plan and inspections records for the public works department. He thanked Councilor Ernie LeDoux for his help in getting this going.

#### **b. Village Administrator’s Report**

Report has been submitted

#### **c. Public Works Report**

Work Order report has been submitted

Mayor Matthew Gonzales reported he is having the Public Works department make sure to input every task they take care of into the work order system so each event is documented.

#### **d. Police Department Report**

Chief Ryan Gates submitted his report. Mayor Matthew Gonzales mentioned the vault inventory is almost complete and they will share the final report when it has been completed.

- e. **Fire Department Report**  
Assistant Chief Cris Coca reported for the Department. He reported the department had burned the overgrown vegetation at the cemetery, baseball field, and the lagoons to help reduce the fire hazards. He also added there is word that a County Wide burn ban will go into effect.
- f. **Municipal Judge Report**  
Report submitted
- g. **Ambulance Report**  
EMS Director Nate Lay reported the Cimarron EMS has responded to 61 calls for service this year. He also added they are responding all over the county. They have one ambulance still in the shop and it should be fixed soon. The other two units are running good. He explained the tariff may increase to help with operational expenses and they may be able to increase the charges for services. Nate will submit the contract with UNM for Council consideration as soon as the draft is done.
- h. **Senior Center Report**  
Shot clinic will be April 18<sup>th</sup> from 2-4
- i. **Cemetery Board Report**  
The Cemetery Board met on March 28 and Mayor Matthew Gonzales also attended. President Laura Gonzales reported that Santana will start putting the records together as she gets time, Mr. & Mrs. McBride donated a plot back to the Village and the Cemetery Board will have it available for a hardship case, she explained the Board will be generating a capital plan to have future projects identified. The next meeting will be at the Cemetery. Laura also mentioned the flags for the flagpole need to be replaced. Mrs. Coker is continuing to work on getting the cemetery deemed historical and they are in the process of getting the preliminary application submitted. Lastly she reported they are going to submit the grant application for half of the cost of the ground penetrating machine which is beneficial for locating things underground. The next meeting will be April 25, 2022 at 12pm at the Cemetery
- j. **Beautification Board Report**  
Councilor Judy B. LeDoux reported that a meeting will be scheduled soon.
- k. **Code Regulation Board Report**  
Councilor Eloy Brazil reported he spoke with Officer May about the Ordinances. He spoke with Chief Ryan Gates about the code enforcement, and he concluded the Ordinances must be followed. He recommended the Village write letters to the people identified as violators to the ordinances. Mayor Matthew Gonzales mentioned the Village is in the process of drafting a letter to property owners to clean their debris off Village right of ways.
- l. **Chamber of Commerce Report**  
Erin Tawney reported the Chamber will host an easter egg hunt this year in the park

**IX. Financials- Each Item listed A.-B. will be Considered for Action of Approve/Disapprove:**

a. Check Report and Deposit Register from March 4, 2022 through April 8, 2022  
*Councilor Judy B. LeDoux moved to approve the check report and the deposit register for March 4, 2022, to April 8, 2022. Councilor Eloy Brazil seconded. Approved 4-0*

b. NM Local Government Law Firm bill for 404.48  
*Councilor Ernie LeDoux moved to approve the NM Law, LLC billing for \$404.48. Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos seconded. Approved 4-0*

**X. Discussion Only**

**a. Cimarron Website Update**

Mayor reported the website has been updated and reformatted. We are working on getting the historical data submitted to the site. He encouraged everyone to go to the site and check the updates and to submit any suggestions they may have.

**b. FY23 Budget Requests**

Admin Shawn Jeffrey explained the draft budget will be due soon and she is in the process of starting to get the numbers together. Councilor James Gallegos asked to have \$2000 budget to transfer from General to Cemetery for equipment purchases.

**c. Identifying Maintenance Needs**

Mayor stated he has assigned each member of the Governing Body a different area of the Village to inspect and bring back maintenance suggestions. James Gallegos- South of Hwy 64 to the bridge, Judy LeDoux Mountain Meadows and Old Town, Ernie LeDoux North of Hwy 64, and Eloy Brazil- Lambert Hills

**d. Newly Elected Officials Training Update**

Councilor Ernie LeDoux and Councilor Judy B. LeDoux attend the newly elected officials training. Councilor Ernie LeDoux reported on the different topics they learned about in class. Councilor Judy B. LeDoux also reported on the information she learned during the conference as well.

**XI. New Business- Each Item listed A.-L. will be considered for Action of Approve/Disapprove/Discussion:**

**a. Encroachment-Vacate Sherman Ave**

Jana Sinclair reported she is interested in purchasing the property on the corner of Sherman Avenue and 16<sup>th</sup> street all the way to 17<sup>th</sup> street. The area she will be purchasing is located all along Sherman Avenue. Currently the buildings are encroaching in the Village Street right of way. She would like to purchase 19ft from the property line into Sherman Street from 16<sup>th</sup> street to 17<sup>th</sup> street. This would give room to have driving room down the entire street and no buildings would have to be removed. The Governing body discussed this item and they do not want to vacate the entire street as that area is used for a walking trail and is historic to Cimarron. The Village has 90 feet of right of way for the streets in the Village and this would reduce the street area to 70 ft. Councilor Ernie Ledoux reported the street serves as a second access for people on 18<sup>th</sup> street which would be used if an emergency occurs.

*Councilor Ernie LeDoux moved to vacate 19 ft. of East Sherman Street due to the encroachment of existing buildings and the Village will clean up the remaining 70 ft. area of Sherman Street. Councilor Judy B. LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0*

**b. Appointment of Board Members to the Cimarron Ambulance Board**

Mayor Matthew Gonzales read the list of the recommendations for the appointments.

*Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos moved to approve the appointments of Lorrie Selph and Mike George to the Ambulance Board. Councilor Judy B. LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0*

**c. Garage doors replacement for Public Works Building**

Admin Shawn Jeffrey provided two quotes for the doors at the public works building. The two quotes are to either fix the doors or replace the doors. The Governing Body discussed the conditions of the current doors they would like to see them improved.

*Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos moved to approve the replacement of the garage doors. Councilor Ernie LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0*

**d. Resolution 2022-022 Surplus Equipment**

Admin Shawn Jeffrey explained the equipment on the list is equipment that is either not working or equipment not being used. Councilor Eloy Brazil asked about the estimated cost of the equipment, Admin Shawn Jeffrey explained the values are estimated.

Mayor Matthew Gonzales asked Ernie Ledoux to go through the equipment and see if in fact the listings are equipment the Village would like to surplus.

*Councilor Judy LeDoux moved to table Resolution 2022-022 surplus equipment until the next meeting. Councilor Ernie LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0*

**e. NM State Procurement- Surplus Auctions**

*Councilor Judy B. LeDoux moved to postpone this item until the next meeting. Councilor Eloy Brazil seconded. Approved 4-0*

**f. Resolution 2022-023 Land Preservation Goal**

Mayor Matthew Gonzales reported the goals for this proclamation is to support the land preservation goal.

*Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos moved to approve Resolution 2022-023 Land Preservation Goal. Councilor Ernie LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0*

**g. Resolution 2022-024 Budget Adjustment**

Admin Shawn Jeffrey reported the budget adjustment ifs for the TPF and CDBG funding

*Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos moved to approve Resolution 2022-024 budget adjustment. Councilor Judy B. LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0*

**h. Resolution 2022-025 US Energy Independence**

The governing Body discussed this item. Councilor Eloy Brazil stated this subject is too political for the Village Governing Body to decide. Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos explained the resolution in more detail.

*Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos moved to approve Resolution 2022-025 US Energy Independence. Councilor Judy B. LeDoux seconded. Approved 3-1 Councilor Eloy Brazil - No*

**i. Resolution 2022-026 Condemn 7<sup>th</sup> & Hamilton Property**

Admin Shawn Jeffrey explained the property owners have been sent letters and there has not been any response. The property is a fire and safety hazard.

*Councilor Judy B. LeDoux moved to approve Resolution 2022-026 Condemn 7<sup>th</sup> & Hamilton property. Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos seconded. Approved 4-0*

**j. Vacate Collison Street through Apache Ridge**

There was no presentation for this request. Mayor Matthew Gonzales asked to have the property owner attend the council meeting so the governing body has all the information for the request.

**XII. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LITIGATION AND LIMITED PERSONNEL MATTERS AS PER NEW MEXICO OPEN MEETINGS ACT 10-15-1 SECTION H SUBSECTIONS 2 & 7:**

**Limited Personnel Matters-**

- A. Contract Leo Martinez for Water/Wastewater Certified Operator
- B. Public Works Employees
- C. Hire Public Works Positions

*Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos motioned to adjourn to executive session to discuss the items listed. Councilor Judy B. LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0 7:35pm*

*Roll Call Vote: Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos-Aye, Councilor Judy B. LeDoux-Aye, Councilor Eloy Brazil-Aye, Councilor Ernie LeDoux-Aye*

**XIII. Return to Regular Session**

*Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos moved to return to open session at 7:47pm. Councilor Judy LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0*

Mayor Matthew Gonzales reported the only items discussed were those listed on the agenda and no decisions were made.

Roll Call: Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos, Councilor Judy B. LeDoux, Councilor Ernie LeDoux, and Councilor Eloy Brazil- All are present

- XIV. Approve/Disapprove/Discuss Contract Leo Martinez for Water/Wastewater Certified Operator**  
*Councilor Judy B. LeDoux moved to approve to pay Leo Martinez a \$700 plus NM GRT a month contract amount for the position of water/wastewater certified operator. Councilor Eloy Brazil seconded. Approved 4-0*

- XV. Approve/Disapprove/Discuss Hire Public Work Positions**  
*Councilor Judy B. LeDoux moved to hire Cris Coca at 13.00 an hour. Councilor Eloy Brazil seconded. Approved 4-0*

*Councilor Eloy Brazil moved to hire Alex Martinez at 17.50 an hour. Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos seconded. Approved 4-0*

**XVI. Council Concerns:**

-Councilor Judy B. LeDoux asked about 13<sup>th</sup> & Columbus and why can't we do something to fix the road, Mayor Matthew Gonzales explained that area is private property, and the Village cannot maintain it- if we get an easement in place then the Village could fix the road. Admin Shawn Jeffrey also mentioned the surveyor has been contacted to survey the area, so we know exactly where the Village Street is.

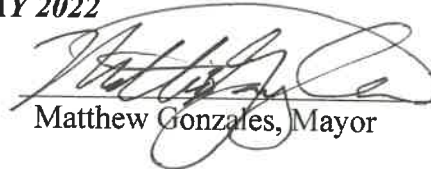
-Councilor Eloy Brazil asked about watering the park- is there a plan for water conservation and the times the Village is watering is during the heat of the day and his concern is the water being wasted. Mayor Matthew Gonzales explained he has been in contact with the Chamber group and xeriscaping could be an option. He also mentioned he would like to see canopies over some of the tables as well.

**XVII. Items for Next Agenda**

**XVIII. Adjourn**

*Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Judy B. LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0 8:06 pm*

**APPROVED THIS 25 DAY OF MAY 2022**

  
Matthew Gonzales, Mayor

Attest:

  
Shawn Jeffrey, Clerk-Administrator