

VILLAGE OF CIMARRON

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024 6:00pm

Location: Cimarron High School
Media center
165 N. Collison Avenue
Cimarron, New Mexico

I. Pledge of Allegiance, Salute to the New Mexico State Flag & Invocation

The Mayor and Council led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge for NM State Flag. Pastor Ellen Swain officiated the invocation.

II. Roll Call

Mayor Eloy Brazil Councilor Colin Tawney Councilor Ernie LeDoux
Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia Councilor Miriah LeDoux

III. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia moved to approve the agenda for October 9, 2024. Councilor Ernie LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0

IV. Approve/Disapprove Minutes

a. Regular Meeting Minutes September 11, 2024

Councilor Ernie LeDoux moved to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of September 11, 2024, as presented. Councilor Miriah LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0

b. Special Meeting Minutes September 19, 2024

Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia moved to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of September 19, 2024, as presented. Councilor Miriah LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0

V. Comments from the General Public (Limited to 3 minutes)

- Pastor Ellen Swain asked to have some children at play signs installed at Maxwell & 6th street. She commented there are children playing near the streets and traffic does not slow down much in that area and for the safety of the children she is requesting to have signs installed along the roadway.

VI. Correspondence and Appreciations

Councilor Ernie LeDoux thanked all the staff for their hard work.

VII. Council Comments (Limited to 3 minutes)

Councilor Miriah LeDoux moved to approve paying the NM Government Law Firm bill in the amount of \$984.77. Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia seconded. Approved 4-0

X. Old Business- Each Item listed will be considered for Action of Approve/Disapprove/Discuss:

- a. None

XI. New Business- Each Item listed will be considered for Action of Approve/Disapprove/Discuss:

a. Water Treatment Plant- Update

Mayor Eloy Brazil reported there was a walkthrough conducted and three agencies were present for the walk through and deadlines for completion were discussed. He thanked Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia, Councilor Ernie LeDoux, and Councilor Colin Tawney for attending the walk though for the project. Councilor Ernie Ledoux added the Village will require all outstanding items to be completed before the water plant project will be accepted. Discussion only

b. Recycle Program between Village of Cimarron and Philmont Scout Ranch

Mayor reported Admin Shawn Jeffrey met with Derek Shiney and another young lady to discuss a recycling program for Cimarron. He explained Philmont and the Village would go into a COOP agreement for the disposal. Cimarron would provide the containers and Philmont staff would pick them up and empty them and bring them back. Mr. Shiney asked in return that Village Admin assist them in finding grant funding for recycling. Admin Shawn Jeffrey explained the Village would apply for funding for equipment and trailers to help grow the recycling program.

Discussion only

c. FY25 Capital Outlay Requests

Admin Shawn Jeffrey presented the ICIP for the Governing Body to review and she explained the Governor has let out a capital request opportunity for projects to be considered through her own Governors funding. Admin Shawn Jeffrey said she would like to apply for five million in funding to get the Dam planning a design done so the project would be shovel ready. She also added the crossing replacement project will begin this winter and planning will start next month to start getting everything in place for the project. The Governing Body discussed the ICIP projects and Councilor Ernie LeDoux asked about 9th street rehabilitation project. Admin Shawn Jeffrey explained funding was not approved from NMDOT and we can request funding through the capital outlay process. The capita outlay requests will be due in January for the legislature to consider.

Discussion only

d. Cemetery Mapping- Drone Imaging

Admin Shawn Jeffrey explained this project is being requested by Utility Clerk Cynthia Granado. She takes care of the Cemetery records and she is asking to have the Cemetery recorded from drone footage so the footage could be used to locate the plots and graves at the Cemetery from an aerial view. She also explained Tim Freeman the janitor for the Village is a

yard. Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia mentioned the Boy Scouts of America may be interested in helping so they could get some community service hours.

d. Police Department Report

Deputy John Rodarte presented the report for Colfax County Sheriff's office. He reported they have the phones wired at the Cimarron office to be transferred to the Raton office, the TRAX ticket system has been updated and will be active soon, they have taken the graphics off the black truck and removed the cage for the public works. He also reported they submitted the response blogger to the Village. Deputy Rodarte explained they have a staff shortage and they are trying to adhere to the schedule they submitted. Cases in Cimarron are being investigated. They do have a patrol plan in place for coverage for the schools. They are working to get additional officers hired and working to obtain a destruction order so the evidence in the Police Department can be destroyed.

e. Fire Department Report

Chief Cristobal Coca reported they had five calls last month they responded to two vehicle accidents, two public assists, and one commercial response. He reported they will be having their ISO inspection on October 17 he explained currently the Cimarron FD has an ISO rating of 4 and they are hoping to increase it to a 3. Chief Coca extended an invitation to the Governing Body to attend if they have time, it starts at 8:30am. Councilor Ernie LeDoux asked if they will be planning to burn the branches at the transfer station. Chief Coca responded after the ISO inspection they will be planning to burn the branches in the next week or two.

f. Ambulance Report

Louise Johnson reported the Cimarron EMS is staying very busy responding to calls all over. She also added they did receive the \$200,000 grant for the new ambulance and they are starting the process of obtaining specifications and pricing.

g. Cemetery Board Report

Mayor reported he has had some individuals ask him how they can help to clean up the Cemetery. He responded that he will be planning a clean up event this fall so in the Spring Mayor Eloy Brazil also reported with the pipe that was purchased for the Cemetery fence he would like to have a barrier railing put up along the roadway to keep motorists on the road. He will be peaking to the High School shop teacher to see if the class would be interested in doing the project. He would like to get rid of the rocks and put the railing. Councilor Ernie LeDoux mentioned he would like to see the road widened some so at least a concrete truck could get in the area. He also added the delineators that are by the culverts need to be moved to the outside of the culvert. Mayor Brazil said he would let public works know.

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

a. Check Report and Deposit Register from September 7, 2024 through October 4, 2024

Councilor Ernie LeDoux moved to approve the check report and deposit register from September 7, 2024, through October 4, 2024. Councilor Colin Tawney seconded. Approved 4-0

b. NM Local Government Law Firm Bill for \$_____

- Councilor Ernie LeDoux reported he and Councilor Miriah LeDoux attended a workshop in Raton for elected officials. He explained there was some great information presented such as duties of the Mayor, Governing Body, rolling quorums, ethics, and nepotism. Councilor Ernie LeDoux also commented that it had been reported that he has been unethical as far as signing checks because his sister Deputy Clerk Renee LeDoux is generating to checks. He explained Ms. LeDoux has approx. 40 years in finance and she is accountable to the annual audit process and to her supervisors. Councilor Ernie LeDoux commented to those in attendance that he has never been unethical in all his 45 years throughout his working career. He also noted he has never been put on administrative leave and has never been under investigation nor been questioned on his integrity or ethics.
- Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia announced the work sessions for the pay plan, personnel policy, and the purchasing policy will be scheduled for Thursdays from 5-7.

VIII. Reports by Departments and Boards-

a. Mayor's Report

Mayor Eloy Brazil reported he has had a staff shortage, so he has been helping the public works department with mowing and the water treatment plant. Mayor Eloy Brazil thanked Mayor Boe Lopez for sending his water operator when there was a sudden vacancy in the Cimarron public works. Public Works Supervisor Craig Eppler came to help the staff at the Cimarron water plant to keep the plant in operation. Mayor Eloy Brazil also thanked Danny Martinez for his hard work during the transition of employees. Mayor Eloy Brazil also thanked Tom Serna for volunteering his new mower to work for the village. Mr. Serna has mowed all over the Village with his new mower.

b. Village Administrator's Report

Submitted

Admin Shawn Jeffrey reported there will be a violation added to the water billing this month for Lead and Copper sampling that was not done. The sampling had not been done due to a change in the schedule the operators were not aware of which had been changed to twice a year. Lastly, she informed the Governing Body the wastewater project bids came in over a million dollars more than our funding and the project will be rebid. The available funding is \$2.4 million, and bids came in at \$3.9 million and \$3.2 million. Councilor Colin Tawney asked about the lead and copper inventory and reporting that each state is requiring and if we had our inventory. Admin Shawn Jeffrey explained each service has been examined and the inventory has been submitted to the State. There are no lead pipes in our system. Mayor Eloy Brazil reported he attended the water treatment plant walk through with Councilor Ernie LeDoux, Councilor Colin Tawney, Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia, and staff from the Village, Anchorbuilt Construction, USDA, and Forsgren. He reported there are some deadlines for completing a few items at the plant and those should be taken care of in the next 30 days.

c. Public Works Report

Mayor Eloy Brazil reported there will be two new employees starting work next week for the public works department. He has a list of projects he drafted, and the projects will start at the water treatment plant. Once staffed he will be working to fix the road to the plant, complete securing the water plant and keeping it organized, clean up the Cemetery, and clean the Village

certified drone operator and he provided a quote for this service for \$323.70. Councilor Ernie LeDoux mentioned the Cemetery board purchased a ground penetrator for \$20,000 and it is still in the closet and nobody knows how to use it.

Councilor Miriah LeDoux moved to approve the drone mapping of the cemetery for \$323.70 by Tim Freeman. Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia seconded. Approved 4-0

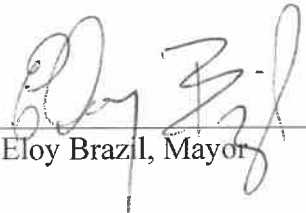
XII. Items for Next Agenda

Councilor Ernie LeDoux mentioned in the future he would like to see the Village apply for NMDOT auction for a compactor and a roller. Mayor Eloy Brazil also said he would like to surplus some of the equipment at the yard. A resolution will be drafted once a list has been generated for consideration. Funding from the sale of the equipment could go towards the purchase of these items.

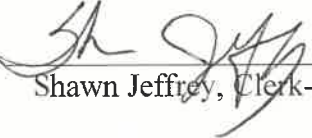
XIII. Adjourn

Councilor Ernie LeDoux moved to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia seconded. Approved 4-0 6:45 pm

APPROVED THIS 13th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024



Eloy Brazil, Mayor

Attest: 

Shawn Jeffrey, Clerk-Administrator