

VILLAGE OF CIMARRON

MINUTES REGULAR-Special MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024 6:00pm

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

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

II. Roll Call

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

III. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia moved to approve the agenda for February 14, 2024. Councilor Ernie LeDoux seconded. Approved 3-0

IV. Appointment of Council Member

Mayor Eloy Brazil presented the names of the candidates who submitted letters of interest for the vacant position they included Judy B. Ledoux and Miriah LeDoux. Mayor Eloy Brazil reported Miriah LeDoux did not have a complete packet she was missing a certified voter registration. The Council discussed the candidates and requested Admin Shawn Jeffrey to continue to advertise for the position and they will revisit the candidate list at the next meeting for possible consideration of a recommendation.

Councilor Ernie LeDoux moved to postpone the appointment of Council member and it will be considered at the next meeting. Councilor Colin Tawney seconded. Approved 3-0

V. Confirmation of Cimarron Fire Chief

Mayor Eloy Brazil explained that during the January meeting the fire chief position was confirmed by Council in the routine confirmation of all appointed positions. Chief Anthony Martinez did state in the January meeting that the Council does not appoint the Fire Chief position, but the membership of the department votes the officers in including the fire chief position. Mayor Eloy Brazil reported that after the January meeting the Cimarron Fire membership conducted an election and unanimously elected Cris Coca as the new Fire Chief. Mayor Brazil recommended to confirm Cimarron Fire Chief Cris Coca.

Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia motioned to approve the confirmation of Cris Coca as the newly elected Cimarron Fire Chief. Councilor Colin Tawney seconded. Mayor Eloy Brazil called for a roll call vote:

Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia- Yes, Councilor Ernie LeDoux- Yes, Councilor Colin Tawney- Yes Approved 3-0

VI. Approve/Disapprove Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting Minutes January 17, 2024

Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia moved to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of January 17, 2024. Councilor Ernie LeDoux seconded. Approved 3-0

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

- Steve Warner reported he has had some stray dogs around their property at the Cimarron Inn. He added he is afraid these dogs will hurt his cats and animals they have on their property. He asked that a notice be put in the monthly Communicator to remind residents to keep their pets on a leash and restrained.

VIII. Council Comments (Limited to 3 minutes)

Councilor Colin Tawney and Councilor Ernie LeDoux thanked the public works department for their hard work.

Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia reported the website needs to be updated, she asked who the administrator is for the Facebook page, Admin Shawn Jeffrey responded that it is not any of the staff in the office, and lastly she asked to get a copy of the current budget and strategic plan for the Village so she can review the information.

IX. Reports by Departments and Boards-

a. Mayor's Report

Mayor Eloy Brazil announced that he is available to meet with the public he asked they call the office and set up an appointment. He also reported he met with Sheriff Leonard Baca and had good conversation about different options for law enforcement coverage for the Village. He also thanked the Public Works Department personnel for doing a great job in trimming the branches and chipping them all. He also commented that the trees came out very nice and trimmed on Tiger Hill. Mayor Brazil also asked to have it published in the communicator that if the elderly need assistance to call Village Hall.

b. Village Administrator's Report

Submitted

c. Public Works Report

Submitted

d. Police Department Report

None

e. Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Cris Coca reported they would be burning the baseball field soon to get it ready for the 2024 season.

f. Ambulance Report

Nate Lay reported they have 8 to 10 scheduled to take the EMS classed and this year the classes will be held in Cimarron.

g. Cemetery Board Report

Lorraine Vargas reported the flags for Veterans Day were put up in the Cemetery by the local 4H school kids. She also added sections at the Cemetery have been marked, fencing projects are being planned with the pipe that has been obtained. They have an 80x60 parking lot being planned as well planning to lay rocks along the roadway to keep traffic in the correct right of way of the Cemetery.

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

a. Check Report and Deposit Register from January 12, 2024, through February 9, 2024

Councilor Ernie LeDoux moved to approve the check report and deposit register from January 12, 2024, through February 9, 2024. Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia seconded. Approved 3-0

b. NM Local Government Law Firm Bill for \$ 738.31

Councilor Colin Tawney moved to approve the NM Local Government Law Firm bill for \$738.31. Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia seconded. Approved 3-0

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

a. Village Pay Schedule Modernization Scale

The pay schedule and modernization schedule were discussed. Mayor Eloy Brazil stated he will meet with Admin Shawn Jeffrey and Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia to go over the pay scale to see what changes could be made. Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia reported on the updates that she had been working on with Admin Shawn Jeffrey. She explained the years of service, years of experience, along with the wage rates that are modern to today as opposed to the rates that were put in the plan years ago. The Governing Body asked to have this item postponed until more research has been done on wage rates and a budget workshop has been scheduled. Councilor Colin Tawney recommended having more discussion on this item.

Discussion only

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

a. Resolution 2024-004 Update Bank Signature

Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia motioned to postpone action on this resolution until there is another Board member appointed to the vacancy. Councilor Colin Tawney seconded. Approved. 3-0

b. Amendment 2 Cemetery Contract Extension- Lorraine Vargas

Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia motioned to approve amendment 2 contract extension for Lorraine Vargas commencing February 15, 2024, and ending May 15, 2024. Councilor Colin Tawney seconded. Approved. 3-0

c. Resolution 2024-008 Variance 401 E 9th street- David & Mary Serna

Councilor Colin Tawney motioned to approve resolution 2024-008 variance 401 E 9th Street for David and Mary Serna. Councilor Ernie LeDoux seconded. Approved. 3-0

d. MOU Agreements Colfax County and Cimarron EMS

Councilor Ernie LeDoux motioned to approve MOU agreement between Colfax County and Cimarron EMS for the \$40,000 for operations. Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia seconded. Approved. 3-0

e. Retract Drinking Water Loan Fund Program

Admin Shawn Jeffrey explained the reason to retract this funding for the water plant is because there are federal requirements of the drinking water loan program that were not required through the USDA program requirements and the Village is not eligible to use the CWLF funding for this project. For this reason, Admin Shawn Jeffrey has applied for the Rural Infrastructure Program funding which the requirements are compatible with the USDA program.

Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia motioned to retract the drinking water loan fund program funding in the amount of \$150,000. Councilor Colin Tawney seconded. Approved. 3-0

f. Rural Infrastructure Program – Funding Water Plant

Admin Shawn Jeffrey explained the RIP funding program is compatible with the USDA requirements for the water treatment plant funding. This funding is necessary for the remaining balance on the project. The Village has been offered a \$100,000 loan and \$50,000 grant funding. The term of the loan is 1% interest for 20 years.

Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia motioned to approve resolution 2024-001 open meetings act. Councilor Colin Tawney seconded. Approved. 3-0

g. Pavilion Guidelines

Mayor Eloy Brazil explained he asked Admin Shawn Jeffrey to draft some guidelines for the pavilion use and scheduling. The Governing Body reviewed and discussed the guidelines as presented and would like additional time to review and to present comments.

Councilor Colin Tawney moved to table the pavilion guidelines pending further review of the Council. Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia seconded. Approved 3-0

h. Resolution 2024-009 Pavilion Policy Guidelines

Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia moved to postpone Resolution 2024-009 until the guidelines have been accepted. Councilor Ernie LeDoux seconded. Approved 3-0

i. Resolution 2024-010 Budget Adjustment

Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia motioned to approve resolution 2024-010 Budget Adjustment. Councilor Ernie LeDoux seconded. Approved. 3-0

j. Resolution 2024-011 NMDOT MAP- Crossings

Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia motioned to approve resolution 2024-011 NMDOT MAP- Crossings. Councilor Colin Tawney seconded. Approved. 3-0

k. Resolution 2024-012 NMDOT TPF 9th Street

Councilor Ernie LeDoux moved to approve resolution 2024-012 NMDOT TPF 9th Street. Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia seconded. Approved. 3-0

l. Resolution 2024-013 NMDOT COOP Program

Councilor Colin Tawney motioned to approve resolution 2024-013 NMDOT COOP program. Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia seconded. Approved. 3-0

m. RFP Street Projects- Proposal award

Admin Shawn Jeffrey explained the Request for Proposals had been advertised for engineering for street projects. The proposals were evaluated and the firms with the highest points were the recommended firm. The two firms that responded were Stantec and Dennis Engineering. DEC received 229 points and Stantec received 218 points. The recommendation to the board is Dennis Engineering for the Street Projects.

Councilor Ernie LeDoux motioned to approve Dennis Engineering for the award of the RFP Street projects. Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia seconded. Approved. 3-0

n. RFP Water Projects- Proposal Award

Admin Shawn Jeffrey explained the Request for Proposals had been advertised for engineering for water projects. The proposals were evaluated and the firms with the highest points were the recommended firm. The two firms that responded were Water Works Engineers and Dennis Engineering. DEC received 234 points and Water Works Engineers received 143 points this was mostly due to an incomplete proposal. The recommendation to the board is Dennis Engineering for the Water Projects.

Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia motioned to approve Dennis Engineering for the award of the RFP Water projects. Councilor Ernie LeDoux seconded. Approved. 3-0

XIII. 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. Hire Police Officer

Councilor Ernie LeDoux motioned to adjourn to executive session to discuss the item listed. Councilor Colin Tawney seconded. Approved 3-0

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Ernie LeDoux-Aye, Councilor Colin Tawney-Aye, Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia-Aye 7:08pm

XIV. Return to Regular Session

Councilor Ernie LeDoux moved to return to open session at 7:22pm. Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia seconded. Approved 3-0

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

Roll Call: Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia-Yes, Councilor Ernie LeDoux-Yes, Councilor Colin Tawney-Yes

XV. Approve/Disapprove Hire Police Officer

The Governing Body discussed the officer position and Mayor Brazil will reach out to Mr. Cox with an offer of \$28 per hour for the officer position. Mr. Cox is not certified in New Mexico and Mayor Eloy Brazil will speak to him to see if he is firmly interested in coming to Cimarron Police Department.

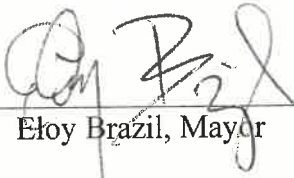
Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia moved to table the hire of a police officer until it has been confirmed of acceptance. Councilor Colin Tawney seconded. Approved 3-0

**XVI. Items for Next Agenda
Pavilion guidelines-**

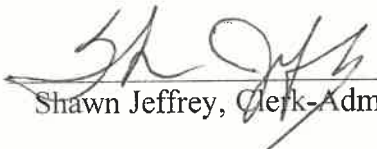
XVII. Adjourn

Mayor Pro Tem Valorie Garcia moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Ernie LeDoux seconded. Approved 3-0 7:22 pm

APPROVED THIS 18 DAY OF MARCH 2024



Eloy Brazil, Mayor

Attest: 

Shawn Jeffrey, Clerk-Administrator