

# VILLAGE OF CIMARRON

## MINUTES REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023 6:00pm

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

Mayor Matthew Gonzales led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge for NM State Flag. Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos officiated the invocation for the meeting.

### II. Roll Call

Mayor Matthew Gonzales      Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos-Absent      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.

*Councilor Judy LeDoux moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Eloy Brazil seconded.  
Approved 3-0*

### IV. Approve/Disapprove Minutes

#### a. Regular Meeting Minutes January 11, 2023

*Councilor Judy B. LeDoux reported she submitted three small corrections to Admin Shawn Jeffrey and those have been changed in the minutes.*

*Councilor Judy B. LeDoux moved to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2023, meeting as amended. Councilor Ernie LeDoux seconded. Approved 3-0*

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

- Thomas Vargas informed the Governing Body that he sent an email to each of the Governing Body.

### VI. Colfax County Update- Bret Weir

- Commissioner Bret Weir announced that Colfax County has 2 million dollars left from the American Recover Funds allocation. This funding was allocated to the County for Covid recovery. He added that the County Manager will be hosting three town hall meetings for comments and suggestions for spending the funding. The meetings will be held in March in three locations Raton, Springer, and Angel Fire. Commissioner Weir also reported the County has applied for a CWDG restoration of Forests grant. He explained if funded they will be planning community education events for some of the admin component of the grant. Those meetings will be held in April and there will be one scheduled in Cimarron. This grant will be used for wood thinning and to help property owners get their properties Firewise compliant.

Councilor Ernie LeDoux asked Commissioner Weir if this funding can be used for things like the hospital Eagle Nest is trying to create, Commissioner Weir responded that a small portion of this funding could be eligible for that project. The funds have to be used for Covid recovery projects, he explained there are a lot of rules and regulations tied to this funding and only certain things it can be used for.

#### **Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos arrived at the meeting at 6:15**

Mayor Matthew Gonzales asked if the commission is looking to disburse the funds equitably to all Municipalities or put it all into one project? Commissioner Bret Weir responded that right now they are keeping an open mind and trying to figure how best to support the constituents of Colfax County.

Mayor Gonzales also stated that it may be a good idea to schedule the community meetings just before the local Council meetings so there is a good turn out of community members. Mayor Matthew Gonzales also asked for a meeting in Cimarron as well. Commissioner Bret Weir said he would check on the schedule to see if it can be done.

## VII. Proclamations – Cimarron Rams Day

Mayor Matthew Gonzales presented the Proclamation for the Cimarron Rams. Councilor Judy B. LeDoux read the proclamation out loud. The proclamation Proclaims Saturday February 11, 2023 Cimarron Rams Day.

Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos asked that a copy of the proclamation be sent to the school so it could be read prior to the game on Saturday.

## VIII. Correspondence and Appreciations

- Councilor Judy B. LeDoux spoke to say she would like to publicly congratulate Coach Eloy Brazil on his 664<sup>th</sup> winning basketball game. She went on to praise the job Coach Brazil has done and wished luck for the next games.
- Councilor Ernie LeDoux spoke to say he would like to thank Admin Shawn Jeffrey, staff, Council and all that was involved in getting the new water plant here and constructed. He explained he was at the site when the plant went online and he learned some good information on the water processing and the operations of the new plant.

## IX. Reports by Departments and Boards-

### a. Mayor's Report

Mayor Matthew Gonzales reported the new plant has replaced the old plant of 49 years old. He explained how the Village has improved in audits and operations and has become eligible for the funding opportunities like USDA. He thanked Admin Shawn Jeffrey for getting the funding and project. He also explained the projects have been submitted to the Legislature for funding but not all are eligible. The top two projects that could be funded are the Cimarroncito Dam rehabilitation for \$5,000,000 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Wastewater Improvements Project for \$570,000. He also reported the 5 million has been requested from the Governors funds and the \$570,00 has been requested from Capital outlay.

Mayor also reported the Village received an award for being a exemplary employer by the Department of Defense. Officer Matthew Dean nominated the Mayor and Village for this award. The Village was recognized as being a patriotic employer by the Army National Guard. Mayor Matthew Gonzales read the certificate of award. He will hang the award on the wall for the Village to see. He also explained he will start drafting a list of accomplishments for the year. He also explained he has worked hard to build the staff. He reported LeAndra Garcia and Jerrid Turner have quit and will be moving on to other employment opportunities. He added he will be advertising the positions and hopes to fill them soon. Councilor Eloy Brazil asked what is the status on the lobbyist Eric Martinez and the goals at the legislature that he is working on? Mayor Matthew Gonzales responded that Mr. Martinez has been working on the \$5 million dollar project to get it funded.

### b. Village Administrator's Report

Admin Shawn Jeffrey submitted her report. Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos asked about pothole repairs. When will the schedule of repair begin? Mayor Matthew Gonzales responded that they are working on a maintenance calendar for the public works and this item will be scheduled.

### c. Public Works Report

Service Order report submitted. Councilor Ernie LeDoux commented he is glad the water lines are not bursting all the time messing up the streets like they were. Mayor commented that the low pressure at the plant is easier on the system. Councilor Eloy Brazil asked if Jerrid Turner was a level one and he was on the water system what happens now? Mayor Matthew Gonzales answered him to

say that Alex Martinez is the level one and Anthony and Billy are working towards their water level. He also added that Billy and Danny have been monitoring the plant.

d. Police Department Report

Officer Anthony LeDoux submitted report.

e. Fire Department Report

Chief Anthony Martinez reported the department has been busy training and they have some young members. They have been training for wildland fire call outs and he has 7 new members. Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos asked if the right of ways at Mountain Meadows could be burned to eliminate the over growth on the sides of the road. Chief Anthony Martinez responded that due to liability the Fire Department would have to get releases signed by the property owners and he would have to figure out the process they would have to go through to get that done. Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos said he would help with the process. Chief Anthony Martinez also commented that he is so happy with the water levels. Mayor Matthew Gonzales reported the floats have been fixed in the tanks so the levels should be visible.

f. Municipal Judge Report

Collections report has been submitted. Mayor Matthew Gonzales reported Cynthia Granado is working with Judge Duran to get the tickets and work caught up in the Courts.

g. Ambulance Report

No report

h. Senior Center Report

No report

i. Cemetery Board Report

Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos reported for President Laura Gonzales. He reported on the Cemetery balances, they have purchased some flags for the graves, no progress in Caselle due to the turnover in the Village Utility office, working to get the Cemetery mapped, they will be scheduling a walk through of the old part of the Cemetery, fix the outer fence, drainage and culverts, millings for the roads, access to plots, parking lot and rocks for the roads. They will be having a training with Reynaldo for the operation and understanding of the ground penetrator machine. They will need to submit a report for the expenditures of the grant funds that were used to purchase the ground penetrator. It was also reported there is decorations flying all over the area and there has been some defacing of graves. The next meeting is February 27<sup>th</sup>. Vice President Roger Smith also presented a report on behalf of the Cemetery Board. He expressed his concerns of the cemetery records and how he would like to see a person hired that could input the records into the system and the lack of administration for the deeds and transfers. He ended saying if they are to be only a beautification board he does not wish to continue to volunteer his services. He stood for questions, there were none. Councilor Ernie LeDoux asked if there is a module separate from our financial program. Mayor responded that no they are all combined. Mayor Matthew Gonzales stated the Board has stepped up and tried to get things straightened out and he appreciates the efforts in their work. He also reported the new Utility Clerk will be a big asset to this department in getting things done. He also added all their efforts have not gone unnoticed and are very much appreciated. Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos read a 2<sup>nd</sup> letter from President Laura Gonzales she stated the things they have done and the issues that still need to be resolved. Mayor Matthew Gonzales stated he will look into hiring a part time person to take care of the records and input the data.

j. Beautification Board Report

Admin Shawn Jeffrey reported she will be scheduling a meeting soon to get the NM Clean & Beautiful grant project administered.  
Councilor Judy B. LeDoux said she would continue to serve on the Board.

k. Code Regulation Board Report

Mayor Matthew Gonzales asked to have the pet ordinance reviewed again and the junk vehicles law so code enforcements laws can be examined and comments/updates for changes can be considered.

l. Chamber of Commerce Report

No report

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

- a. Check Report and Deposit Register from January 7, 2023 through February 3, 2023  
*Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos moved to approve check report and deposit register from January 7, 2023, to February 3, 2023. Councilor Judy B. LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0*

**XI. Discussion Only**

- a. None

**XII. Old Business- Each item listed will be considered for Action of Approve/Disapprove/Discuss:**

a. Pavilion Location

Councilor Judy B. LeDoux reported she contacted over 200 people to poll them for the desired location of the pavilion. 80 people responded.  
*Councilor Judy B. LeDoux moved to center the pavilion in the middle of the park. No second. Councilor Eloy Brazil responded that he has taken people to the park and it should be located in front of the swings North to South.*  
*Councilor Judy B. LeDoux asked to amend her motion to locate the pavilion kinda center facing north to south. Councilor Ernie LeDoux seconded the motion.*  
*Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos asked for clarification of the motion. Mayor Matthew Gonzales asked Councilor Judy B. LeDoux to restate her motion.*  
*Councilor Judy B. LeDoux repeated she amended her motion with additional specifics to put the pavilion on the north side of the swings with the 60ft. length facing North and South. It would be located on the East side of the Gazebo and the bathrooms. Councilor Ernie LeDoux seconded.*  
Mayor Matthew Gonzales explained this debate is the reason he wanted to just make the decision. Councilor Ernie LeDoux stated him and the Mayor put the red dots in the park to mark the location. Mayor Matthew Gonzales asked for project details and he recommended to hold off for one more meeting on the location. Mayor asked Councilor Judy B. LeDoux to once again state her motion for clarification. She did.

*Mayor Matthew Gonzales asked for a roll call vote*

*Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos- Abstain*

*Councilor Ernie LeDoux-yes*

*Councilor Eloy Brazil-yes*

*Councilor Judy B. LeDoux-yes*

*Approved 3-1*

Mayor Matthew Gonzales told Mayor Pro Tem he cannot abstain unless it is a conflict of interest. Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos stated with all the motions and amendments stated and restated he does not believe they were correct. He abstained for the procedural error he believed happened.

b. Ordinance 278 Amendment- Mayor Compensation

Mayor Matthew Gonzales explained the cost would be approx. ten thousand dollars a year. He read the monthly wages of the area Mayor and he reported on the zip recruiter wages for the nation which come in as high as \$70k per year. Councilor Eloy Brazil asked if Mayor had gotten wage information for small municipalities like Cimarron. He also added that to have the mayor wage at \$10k would provide a bigger pool of candidates for the position. He would like to incentivize the



position. Councilor Eloy Brazil asked if rules and designated work time could be designated for the position. Mayor Matthew Gonzales answered that work hours could be designated.

*Councilor Judy B. LeDoux motioned to approve to pay the Mayor position \$500 per month. Mayor responded he doesn't want to have a vote for this item yet as there is plenty of time for consideration before it has to be acted on. He would also like to gather additional data to report to the Governing Body. Motion died for lack of a second.*

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

a. Purchase Land from Vermejo for Wastewater Project

*Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos moved to approve to purchase land from Vermejo for the wastewater project for \$59,000. Councilor Judy B. LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0*

b. Resolution 2023-013 Budget Adjustment

*Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos moved to approve Resolution 2023-013 Budget Adjustment. Councilor Ernie LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0*

c. Agreement with Dennis Engineering to install game fence at Wastewater/Transfer Station

*Councilor Judy B. LeDoux moved to approve the agreement with Dennis Engineering to install game fencing at the wastewater/transfer station. Councilor Eloy Brazil seconded. Approved 4-0*

d. Fair Housing Proclamation

*Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos moved to approve the Fair Housing Proclamation. Councilor Judy LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0*

e. Resolution 2023-014 Drinking Water Loan Fund Application Submission

Mayor Matthew Gonzales reported this application will be for \$150,000 to complete the water treatment plant project. Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos expressed his concern over accruing debt when the Village is still in the NM Tax and rev pay back plan. He explained this program could have a subsidy or grant component along with loan.

*Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos motioned to approve Resolution 2023-014 Drinking Water Loan Fund Application Submission for the amount of \$150,000. Councilor Judy B. LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0*

**XIV. 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**

None

**XV. Return to Regular Session**

**XVI. Items for Next Agenda**

Pavilion Placement, Mayor Compensation


**XVII. Adjourn**

*Mayor Pro Tem James Gallegos moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Ernie LeDoux seconded. Approved 4-0 7:33 pm*

**APPROVED THIS 23 DAY OF MARCH 2023**

  
Matthew Gonzales, Mayor

Attest:

  
Shawn Jeffrey, Clerk-Administrator