

Regular Meeting Minutes--August 19,2020

The Mayor and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tularosa met in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 6:00 P. M. in the Court Conference Room of the Public Safety Facility located at 609 St. Francis Drive, Tularosa, New Mexico.

Present: Mayor Margaret Trujillo
Trustee Janie Portillo
Trustee Patrick Garcia
Trustee Robert Sainz
Jeni Alexander

Also present was Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk and Attorney Jefferson Rhodes

At 6:00 P. M. Mayor Margaret Trujillo called the meeting to order asking that all rise and join her in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the Flag of the State of New Mexico.

1. Trustee Portillo made a motion to remove (a.) July 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Trustee Garcia seconded the motion. All members voted aye. Motion carried

2. Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk asking to adopt an ordinance amending sections 50.19 and 50.21 of the Tularosa Code of Ordinances regulating placement, use and maintenance of receptacles and providing penalties. Trustee Garcia motioned, Trustee Portillo seconded the motion, all members voted aye. Motion carried. Roll call

Alexander (present) Garcia (present) Portillo (present) Sainz (present)

3. Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk asking to adopt an ordinance enacting a new section 90.25 of the Tularosa code of Ordinances, providing for regulation of the use of recreational vehicles in the village, providing definitions and penalties. Trustee Garcia motioned, Trustee Portillo seconded the motion, all members voted aye. Motion carried. Roll call

Alexander (present) Garcia (present) Portillo (present) Sainz (present)

4. Billy Artiaga requested answers regarding the sewer fee on the water bill. He was wondering why he was being charged if no one was there using the sewer. Mayor Trujillo explained to him that it was part of our ordinances that if you live within 150ft. of the sewer tap in line you have to have sewer. Mr. Artiaga was satisfied with the answer that was given but requested that the village hall employees be educated on this so he wouldn't have to do this next time.

5. Carolina Moreno addressed the Mayor and Trustees about an issue she's been

having with the police dept. She said that her neighbor is violating her privacy and stealing from her. She says she calls the cops and the cops do not care. She went to the District Attorney to make a complaint and wants an investigation on the police dept. She also stated that her neighbors house is burned down and people are still staying there. Mayor Trujillo said she will make sure to get to the bottom of this situation.

6. Richard Guilez, Maintenance supervisor requested approval of employment status on Jonathan Salazar from part time to full time with a salary of \$12.00. Trustee Sainz motioned, Trustee Portillo seconded the motion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

7. Henrietta Stockel addressed the Mayor and Trustees regarding having the police dept to have them have a training on sensitivity. Mrs. Stockel called to make a complaint on a situation near her home that is disrupting her. She said she spoke with the code enforcer and he was upset with her for calling about the same situation and proceeded to tell her that he could not do anything about the situation and asked if she understood. She says that she personally holds a grudge against him and he needs sensitivity training. Mayor Trujillo explained to Mrs. Stockel that her officers cannot enforce something that is not in our ordinances, but she will make sure this will not happen again and it will be handled.

8. Judge Billy Artiaga, requested for the Village to approve the purchase of municipal court computers to be reimbursed by the court automation fund. Mr. Artiaga asked for the village to front the money for 3 new computers and 2 laptops for video conferencing. All arraignments are done on video now due to Covid-19. Trustee Garcia motioned, Trustee Portillo seconded the motion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

9. Patrick Garcia requested to use the remaining Recreation funds to upgrade the basketball courts for our Community Center and Higuera park. Garcia explained that a great deal of residents are using the courts, and our courts are very old and run a risk of injuries for the people using them. They will convert it so that the community center would have two full courts and Higuera will get new backboards. Trustee Alexander motioned, Trustee Sainz seconded the motion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

10. Rebekah Bryant asked for approval for the Final Fiscal year 2020-2021 budget from the State Dept of Finance and Admin LGD. No action needed, budget has been previously approved, only needing it to be in the minutes.

11. Mayor Margaret Trujillo appointed Stephanie Dubois, Frank Chavez and Deena Montoya to the Planning and Zoning committee. Trujillo said she is still lacking two individuals to complete the group. Trustee Portillo motioned, Trustee Alexander seconded the motion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

12. Removed-No show

13. David Shields from Bohannon Houston was present to give an update on the Village of Tularosa water situation and discuss the sewer plant. David said that our current water project was complete and we have a 1 year warranty with file construction. Although the project is done, it's still being closed out with remaining money on loan being sent back. He said fall is coming up and it's time to think about new projects. Also spoke on the water shortage and stated that due to diversion problems and muddy waters that's why our plant can't run well. He also stated that the village should look into getting something done for a second water source so we don't run into this problem again. It might take years to get done but you have to start somewhere. He also spoke about the waste water treatment plant needing to be improved, looking at costs to maybe fix biolac system but it will cost millions to fix the issue. Recommended to start applying to colonias for funds.

14. Janie Portillo, Trustee is wanting to amend ordinance 270 section 51.02 section A3 to refund customer in 30 days instead of 60. Also to amend ordinance 270 on the \$10.00 fee for outside city limits for sewer. Trustee Portillo motioned, Trustee Garcia seconded the motion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

15. Margaret Trujillo, Mayor asked to approve the Consultant Agreement with Ray Ramos. Trustee Portillo motioned, Trustee Alexander seconded the motion, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

16. Unscheduled Correspondence and public comments (3minutes) Debbie Cooksey addressed the mayor and board regarding an issue with a certain residence that is a nuisance. She said this has been going on for over a year and asked how long is it going to take to get something done. Mayor Trujillo explained that the ordinances that were passed tonight is what is going to help in the situation.

Jen Gruger addressed the Mayor and the Board stating that the annual Halloween event is cancelled this year but that they are still doing the luminarias. She also stated that she was excited about the planning and zoning committee and would like to be a part of it.

Patrick Garcia wanted to thank Richard Guilez and his crew for cleaning out the drains on Sacramento St. so when it rains now it is not a lake.

Mayor Trujillo also thanked Nash Kowatch for all his hard work during our water crisis, he works many tiresome hours trying to keep the village with water and his work does not go unnoticed.

17. Old Business:

18. New Business:

19. Adjourn: 7:24pm

Margaret Trujillo, Mayor

ATTEST: (seal)

Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk