

Regular Meeting Minutes–JUNE 21, 2023

The Mayor and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tularosa met in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, 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 Patrick Garcia
Trustee Robert Sainz
Trustee Deborah Cooksey
Trustee Mark Garwood

Also present was Rebekah Bryant Village Clerk and Attorney Jeff 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 Garcia made a motion to accept the agenda. Trustee Sainz seconded the motion. All members voted aye; motion carried.

2. Unscheduled correspondence and public comments:

Joan Price-Suggested that we look into the Stogden well and how it would be affected by the upcoming road project that will be done on Eloise Cir.

Ali Kassam-Suggested that we take into consideration to approve money to help Rusty Helton with the Keep Tularosa Beautiful Organization.

3. Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk asked to approve Resolution #2022-2023-15 to enter into a cooperative agreement with the NMDOT for LGRF Project for year 2023-2024 for the planning, design, and construction of roadway from Wildcat Turf North on Eloise Circle. Trustee Garwood made a motion, Trustee Cooksey seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

Roll call was taken: Cooksey-present, Garcia-present, Garwood-present, Sainz-present, Trujillo-present.

4. Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk asked to adopt Ordinance No. 279 Regulating the use of solar panels 154.28 of the Tularosa Code of Ordinances. Trustee Garcia made a motion, Trustee Sainz seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

Roll call was taken: Cooksey-present, Garcia-present, Garwood-present, Sainz-

present, Trujillo-present.

5. Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk requested to open and accept sealed bids for the leasing of 6 of the Village Water Rights to go to the highest bidder on each right. Mayor Margaret Trujillo opened two sealed bid requests. Lawrence and Kim Chavez bid \$805.00 for one and \$810.00 for one. Jim Davis from Davis farms bid \$744.00 for 4 water rights. There were only 2 bidders, so both were able to receive rights. The Chavez's received two rights and Davis farms received 4. Trustee Garcia made a motion, Trustee Cooksey seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

6. Mark Garwood, Trustee asked to address issues with the Tularosa Creek. Mr. Garwood stated that people are using the creek for recreational purposes and there is a lot of trash out there so he would like to put 6 of our city trash receptacles out there to help with that problem. He also wanted to put liability signs out there releasing the village from any lawsuits of someone getting hurt out there. He also stated that the cattle up there are getting in the creek and releasing bodily waste and it is going to cause our water to get e-coli. He said that under state statute it is our responsibility to keep them out. Trustee Garwood also asked if we could put a sign out there that would say use at your own risk so the village would not be liable, and Attorney Jeff Rhodes said no. A special meeting was suggested to get with the Tularosa Ditch Corporation to resolve the issues regarding the creek.

7. Deborah Cooksey, Trustee asked to discuss the contract associated with the background checks for the police dept. Trustee Cooksey stated that she spoke with the agency regarding the contract, and they informed her that the village can add or take off anything that does not need to be on the background check. She also added that maybe at the special meeting they can reconsider what changes they want to make. Mayor Trujillo said that everyone can bring up their concerns or changes they want to make at the special meeting. Discussion only

8. Bruce Ashburn, PNM asked to give informative information regarding accident awareness, scams etc. Mr. Ashburn stated that they have been dealing with a lot of fraud, scams etc. when dealing with their customers. He stated that people are acting like PNM calling individuals using fake phone numbers stating that they owe money, or they will be disconnected which is just one of the scams they are doing. He stated that AI can imitate any voice and act like they are PNM and send messages that sound just like they work for PNM and it's that easy to do a scam. All in all, he just wants the customers to be aware of what is going on so that they can decrease the number of these instances happening.

9. Billy Artiaga, Individual asked to approve the request for closure of roads and portions of Fresno/Durazno around the Catholic Church for the 2023 Fiesta June 24th & 25th. Trustee Garwood made a motion, Trustee Garcia seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

10. Rusty Helton, Keep Tularosa Beautiful asked to consider grant funding to keep the organization going. Mr. Helton stated that he found out that he got a grant from Otero County to buy 271 bags of mulch, 85 rose plants, 50 trash grabbers, 60 bags of garden soil, 15 rose of the week yard signs, 10 bags of rose food and a 1-man auger. The grant was in the amount of \$7,830.27. He stated that in 2024 he wants to try and make watering a little safer, labor intensive or more efficient. If he could possibly get a low powered water pump that is \$479.00 that would help. He also has plans to plant native plants in all the beds that currently do not have roses. He has already started one of them across from Yum Yums, he put in 2 ocotillos and a century plant and 4 yuccas. Right now, he plans on planting 9 of the beds that are empty, which would cost \$1440.00. He said he spoke with Ralph at the recycling center about the bins not having correct signage or lids to distinguish what goes where. The total amount that he is asking for is \$4,399.00. Mayor Trujillo asked the Attorney Jeff Rhodes if that was against the anti-donation clause, Mr. Rhodes stated that you can have them under a contract to do the work but cannot just give them the money to do it. Mayor Trujillo stated that we have village workers who should be the ones maintaining the medians and that is something the board is going to have to think about. No action taken. Decision to be made at the next special meeting.

11. Michael Brinkmeyer, Individual asked for an approval letter to the State of New Mexico stating that the Village agrees to provide water service for his cannabis microbusiness. Mr. Brinkmeyer stated that he has been trying to get his certificate of occupancy for his microbusiness which is a small number of plants. The state wants a letter stating that he can use city water so he started to do research on his own to see how much water he would be using which isn't more than a couple thousand gallons a month. Mayor Trujillo suggested that to give the board more time to think about it they would put this item up for a decision at the next special meeting since there is already an ordinance against it. No action taken.

12. Old Business:

David Shields, Bohannon Huston stated that La luz and Wildcat Turf and Rita Lopez are pretty much complete, and we have some funding left over so he is doing a quick design for the intersection of Rita Lopez and Bookout to go ahead a repave up to central. The monitor wells are also done and complete but just waiting on re-authorization to complete pay request. driving the wrong way.

13. New Business: None

14. Adjourn: Trustee Cooksey made a motion to adjourn, Trustee Garcia seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm

Margaret Trujillo, Mayor

ATTEST: (seal)

Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk