

Regular Meeting Minutes–May 18, 2022

The Mayor and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tularosa met in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, 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-Absent
Trustee Robert Sainz
Trustee Deborah Cooksey

Also present was Trisha Brewer filling in for 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 Portillo made a motion to accept the agenda, Trustee Sainz seconded the motion. All members voted aye; motion carried.

2. Unscheduled correspondence and public comments.

Jackie Hullet-Spoke about a facebook post she had made regarding a past audit and a letter from the mayor posted on the Village of Tularosa website regarding her comment and she said she was wrongfully accused. She said that it was up for several months and asked Rebekah the village clerk to take it down.

Joann Vullo-Spoke about a letter she had received from the mayor regarding her being removed from Planning and Zoning. She said that she was removed from planning and zoning and would like to be on the next agenda to discuss this removal and to be officially removed.

Chris Rupp-Spoke regarding the Mayor using village vehicles for personal use. He said that the mayor was dropping her kids off at school and at the laundry mat. He presented pictures of the mayor and stated that she is violating state statute about using govt vehicles and is violating her own policy on using village vehicles. Debbie Cooksey Trustee asked if Chris was the one taking the pictures of the mayor and he said that no that they were given to him by other people that were afraid that they would be retaliated against if they were named.

Katherine Tyler-Spoke saying that she was proud of her Village and all the police officers and their work. She doesn't understand why there is so much anger

towards the mayor. She said that some water users are being bullied and if that is an issue to please let her know.

Mark Lawn-Thank them for procuring and providing the six signs that were placed along the creek. He thanked the Mayor, Trustees, past and current chiefs, and Richard Guilez for keeping the creek clean. They would like to extend their commitment to keep the creek pollution free.

Patricia White-Thanked Mayor Trujillo for addressing an issue she had regarding the police officers not patrolling the school zone areas enough. Just asking for more patrol in the area if possible.

Monica Davalos-She stated the creek is flowing freely and there is adequate amounts of water in the creek. The day the village complained about a water shortage that there wasn't a shortage. She also asked the board to reconsider their stance regarding the lawsuit with the Tularosa Ditch Corporation.

Joan Price-Spoke regarding the Tularosa Ditch Corp and recommended a water advisory group regarding the Acequia so that they can get away from these lawsuits. Try to spend the money better than using it on lawyers. Asking the board for their help as they are as much involved as anyone else.

3. Juan Garcia, representing Auditors Beasley, Mitchell and Co. Certified Public Accountants, asked to approve Resolution#2020-2021-14 approving the FY 2021 annual audit. Juan Garcia did not show up

4. Cynthia Prelo, Individual asked to address the issue of a hog next door to her house that poses a health risk from the smell of feces and hog slop. She would like the Police Chief to enforce the village ordinance 95.17. Cynthia explained that the smell is so horrific, and she cannot even enjoy her outside area as the smell is so bad. The stench and the flies are a nuisance, and she can't enjoy being outside because that's all you can smell is the pig. She said she has spoken to the police chief, and he said that they do not have an ordinance regarding the pig. She says that the police officers need to be enforcing these ordinances. She also stated that the animal control officer says that ordinance 95.17 does not reference smell that is why they are not cited for that. She also stated that it is cruelty to animals as that pig is in the sun in all day and the pen is not cleaned. Mayor Trujillo assured her that this issue will be taken care of immediately. Trustee Portillo made a motion for the animal control officer to take care of this situation, Trustee Cooksey seconded the motion. All members voted aye; motion carried.

5. Joseph Vincent, Individual asked for full reimbursement of a new water line he had installed due to the main water line at 1004 Central being destroyed by Titan

Electrical. Mr. Vincent explained that Titan electrical did some work on the highway and drilled through his water main due to wrong line locates. Trustee Cooksey made a motion to pay half the cost being \$625.00 and Trustee Portillo seconded the motion. All members voted aye; motion carried.

6. Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk requested to open and accept sealed bids for the leasing of the 6 of the Village Water Rights to go to the highest bidder on each right. 5 bids were opened and 2 of the water rights went to Lawrence and Kim Chavez for \$725.00 per right and 4 of the water rights went to Jim Davis for \$729.00 per right. They were the highest bidders. Trustee Portillo made a motion, Trustee Cooksey seconded the motion. All members voted aye; motion carried.

7. Margaret Trujillo, Mayor asked for an executive session per section 1-15-1(H) of the open meetings act to discuss a pending water right litigation. Trustee Portillo motioned; Trustee Sainz seconded the motion. All members voted aye; motion carried. Roll call: Cooksey-present, Garcia-absent, Portillo-present, Sainz-present, Trujillo-present. No decisions were made during executive session. All members returned to regular session after about 21 minutes. Trustee Portillo motioned to return to regular session, Trustee Cooksey seconded the motion. All members voted aye; motion carried.

8. Old Business:

Trustee Sainz explained that he met with David Shields and Diana Gomez regarding Granado St. Trustee Sainz stated that Mr. Shields looked at Granado St. and said that they agreed that the street is narrow and are going to look at it and see if it is possible to add it to the 1st street project coming up. The earliest would be 2023 to try to fix this issue.

Mayor Trujillo reminded everyone that there will be a Memorial Day Service on May 30 and would appreciate if everyone would come.

Mayor Trujillo also stated that there was a comment on facebook regarding the Trustees not showing up to county meetings regarding funding appropriated for the village. She explained that we had contacted the county and spoke with Susana Peralta and Janice and there has been no reason for us to show up to these meetings as they are funds for 501c nonprofit funding. She also explained that there were accusations that the village is embezzling funds and she explained that there is only 100 cash drawer in the village and everything else has to be accounted for with receipts and requisitions or such. She just wants everyone to know that what you read on social media is not always true and unless you come to the village to find out what is true, and everyone has the

right to come and ask questions and request records. She explained that Chris Rupp is not right with everything he states and is not doing it for the betterment of the village but for his own good. She also stated that Chris is not totally wrong for bringing up stuff regarding herself. She said he is right about her taking her kids to school and she owns up to it. Her vehicle was broken, and she now has 3 children she has to look after. She also stated that wasn't her at the laundry mat and that the reason she has the door marked off is not to hide but that it is not a city worker vehicle and people would try to stop her to tell her stuff about the water, so she marked it off. He also stated that he seen her on Riata Rd with an unknown person, which the Mayor said was Stephanie Dubois from planning and zoning and they were going to check a 3-mile radius for the village. She said that he is misinforming people.

Trustee Cooksey says she believes that he needs to come and ask us before and ask who did this or who did that before posting on facebook relaying information that some may misconstrue. She believes there is a lack of communication. Also, she states that the mayors' actions are a look of impropriety and the mayor said she understands but he is out there looking to attack her at every time she turns around. The mayor said that they could have communication, but the bottom line is she does not want anything to do with Chris Rupp. Trustee Cooksey addressed the mayor and told asked her if she realizes that that cuts off communication.

9. New Business:

Joan Price asked the board to write a protest regarding an impairment to the water supply regarding drilling north of Tularosa.

10. Adjourn: Trustee Cooksey motioned to adjourn; Trustee Portillo seconded the motion. All member voted aye; motion carried meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Margaret Trujillo, Mayor

ATTEST: (seal)

Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk