

Regular Meeting Minutes–SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

The Mayor and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tularosa met in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, September 20, 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-Absent
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 Garwood seconded the motion. All members voted aye; motion carried.

2. Unscheduled correspondence and public comments:

Ali Kassam- Stated that he would like to speak on agenda item #10 in regard to him offering a place for them to put their mural.

Joan Price- Stated that she would like to speak on agenda item #7 and #10. Joan stated that she and many others have done a lot of research regarding the history of Tularosa and that we need a museum or proper space to put one.

3. Brandon Boyle, Chief of Police, is asked to approve the appointment of Tabitha Harrington to the position of Telecommunicator at a pay rate of \$15.00/hr. Trustee Garwood made a motion, Trustee Garcia seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

4. Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk asked for the approval of the Supplemental Attachment 1A to the HELPNM contract dated July 1, 2022, that is adopted as Attachment A referred to in paragraph 1. Rebekah explained that this room will be utilized as another program for head start and pre-k classes that are already being held there. She also stated that they will be charged the same rental and

utility/maintenance charges that they already pay for the 1 room. Trustee Sainz made a motion, Trustee Garwood seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

5. Mark Garwood, Trustee asked for approval to start the process to obtain a Master Drainage Plan. Trustee Garwood stated that he would like to get this started as soon as possible and that he has been talking with the NMDOT concerning highway drainage. He stated that Mr. Sanchez from NMDOT would be coming down for a meeting regarding this and also maintenance of the rail that needs to be replaced on Old Mescalero. He stated that they are looking for a way to use South Bookout as an alternative route that we could possibly get funding for as it is on google maps as a detour route. The mayor stated that that road belongs to the county, and we are not responsible to maintain. Trustee Garwood stated that he is just trying to get money for the village in all ways possible, that is why he wants to get this master drainage plan implemented to get federal funding. Trustee Garwood stated that all he is asking is to get in touch with the right people to start the process. Trustee Garwood made a motion, Trustee Sainz seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

6. Rusty Helton, Keep Tularosa Beautiful asked to continue to maintain the medians. Mr. Helton stated that it is his understanding that there is concern with him walking into the medians and getting hit by a car and the village would be liable. He stated that he drafted a liability release waiver that removes the village as being liable if anything does happen to him while he is taking care of the plants in the median. Trustee Sainz stated that he sees our village workers maintaining the medians. Trustee Garcia asked what exactly he will be doing in the medians. Mr. Helton stated that he has been watering all living roses and takes care of the flower beds that are already there, and he has planted native plants in some of them. He has received funding from Otero County to plant living plants and get mulch. He stated that he goes out a couple of times a week to pick up trash and remove weeds and trim trees or whatever needs to be done. Trustee Garcia stated that he understands what he is trying to do but that is a liability. Trustee Sainz asked Attorney Jeff Rhodes if this waiver would be adequate to relieve us from liability. Mayor Trujillo stated that NMDOT has told us that the village is the only one to maintain the medians but if we wanted to have someone else maintain them then that would be up to us. Rebekah Bryant Village Clerk asked if we do approve him to maintain the medians does that mean he is responsible for them or our employees still going to maintain them. The mayor stated that the employees would still be responsible for maintaining them. Mr. Guilez Utility Supervisor stated that Mr. Helton would be maintaining the flower bed boxes and roses and his guys will still be maintaining the medians how they have been. Mr. Helton signed the waiver and presented it to be filed at the

village. Trustee Garwood made a motion, Trustee Garcia seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

7. Stephanie Dubois, President of the Red Brick Building Restoration Foundation wanted to give an update on the progress and vision for the restoration of the historic school building. Ms. Dubois stated that she came to address the question of what's being done with the school. They have done the north and south doors and put a roof on it, even though some work doesn't show they have done a few things. She also stated that they are trying to acquire the front lawn from the school and there is a new superintendent so they will be going to address that issue soon. They are also in the works for someone to do grant writing for proposals for the Red Brick restoration. Mrs. Carr stated that they have a website on where to donate, the history of the school and the architect who built it. They also put together a community calendar that will be published in 2024.

8. Agenda item was not discussed as the individual was a no show

9. Trae Hale, Individual asked for help replacing tires that were flattened when hitting a pothole. Mr. Hale was not present during his time but showed up after agenda item #10. Mr. Hale explained that he was driving up Higuera St. and hit a pothole on the road on the corner of Higuera and it popped two of his tires. He stated that he has 3 little boys and can't afford to replace them. The mayor asked the attorney if that was not anti-donation to replace his tires. The attorney stated that he would need to make a tort claim and present it to the village. The attorney also asked the state of his tires and Mr. Hale said they were not new. He stated that he is not trying to get money from the village but just get his tires replaced. Trustee Garcia stated that he thinks that if they do this then it would open it for everyone else to do the same. Trustee Garwood made a motion, no second motion made. Motion died.

10. Jen Gruger, Tularosa Arts and History Council asked for approval to move forward with issuing a call for artists to work on a mural in/near Tularosa w/100% Otero's parameter. Mrs. Gruger introduced her colleague Ms. Krim who stated that they are a non-profit whose mission is to eliminate childhood trauma so that 100% of our kids can grow up healthy and strong and supported by those who will be led to be productive adults. The reason they are working on murals is because they are visible, and they really bring communities together. They did one in Chapparel at the fire station and the kids were able to have their input into the mural and was a very positive thing. Also, there is one in Alamogordo on the corner of 10th street done by Kevin Baker of the Tularosa High School. They now have the opportunity to do one in Tularosa. Jen Gruger said their interest is to engage the community and get everyone involved. The Tularosa Arts and History

council has offered to help with their connections to find locations around Tularosa to place the mural. Also, to find artists in the area to do the mural. She stated that they just want the villages' support and not specifically the approval. She stated that they are looking for somewhere visible and have gotten approval for a few places, but they have not decided on that yet. They want to make sure it will last for a long time and need somewhere that is not going to be sold and repainted over with a new owner. Trustee Garwood made a motion, Trustee Garcia seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

11. Old Business:

Mark Garwood stated that 18 wheelers are going down by the travel center and by the cottonwood gin then by the high school. He asked if we could put up some signs that say no heavy trucks beyond this point and also a detour sign to go the other way.

Mayor Trujillo also wanted to state that she keeps getting calls stating that things are not getting done around town and village workers are sitting around. She stated that things are getting done but not always done when other people think that they should be. She informed everyone about the budget and how there is a time frame where we cannot spend no money until our budget gets approved. During that time, there are things that need to be done but no money is to be spent so that holds things up, also when parts are needed it takes a lot of time to get them because things are not available or on back order.

12. New Business:

None

13. Adjourn: Trustee Garcia made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Trustee Sainz seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.

Margaret Trujillo, Mayor

ATTEST: (seal)

Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk