



MICHAEL NEALEIGH
Mayor

ROBERT WILSON
Mayor Pro-Tem.

VILLAGE OF JEMEZ SPRINGS

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JUDY BOYD
Trustee
VICTORIA MARTINEZ
Trustee
JAMES MCCUE
Trustee

Jemez Springs Village Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday September 15, 2026, 6:00 PM Governing Body Conference Room

1. **Call to Order** – Mayor Nealeigh convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor Michael Nealeigh, Trustee Victoria Martinez, Trustee James McCue, and Trustee Robert Wilson.

Council Members Absent: Trustee Judy Boyd,

Also in Attendance: Interim Clerk Heather Gutierrez, Deputy Clerk Tonya Yudizky, Finance Director Consultant Jim Cox, Library Director and Planning and Zoning Chair Andrew Adaryukov, Wastewater Operations Manager Rose Fenton, Community Visitor Center Director Jane House, Library Board Chair Barb Stone, Congressional Constituent Representative Anthony Pacheco, Jr. and members of the public Olympia Holliday, Peg Froeloch, James Colovos, and Greg Mertz.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **Certification of Agenda** – Mayor Nealeigh confirmed the agenda was posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.
4. **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes of the August 19, 2026 meeting of the Village Council were reviewed. Trustee Wilson moved to approve the minutes as presented. Trustee Martinez seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
5. **Public Input** – Anthony Pacheco, Jr. Constituent Services Representative for Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez discussed federal funding. He emphasized the Congresswoman's work on the Radiation Exposure

Compensation Act and outlined the availability of community project funding for long-term infrastructure projects.

6. Court Report - The Court did not submit a report.

7. Mayor's Report

a. Code Enforcement Mayor Nealeigh reported that the lot line violation on Madrid Road remains open waiting for the property owner to fill the hole left by the removed earthen structure. In addition, Mayor Nealeigh reported that following a public hearing held at 5pm September 15th the Council affirmed the decision of the Planning and Zoning Commission to grant a the short-term rental conditional use permit to property owners at 16443 Highway 4.

b. Administration

i. General

1. Emergency Declaration and Flood Damage Inventory: Mayor Nealeigh reported that he is still waiting on a response from the USDA Soil Conservation office regarding what can be done to mitigate damage from water flowing down arroyos. He is not optimistic that any federal or state funds will be available.

2. Transition of Village domain: Mayor Nealeigh reported that the web domain transition to *jemezsprings.gov* over the first weekend of the month went well. Although, there is still some work to be done with regard to Village email addresses.

3. Dark Sky Certification application: Mayor Nealeigh noted that the pre-application and fee for Dark Sky Community status was submitted to the International Dark Sky Association. He is working with Tonya Yudizky and Fred Simmank to complete the application process, which may take up to a year or more.

4. Comprehensive Plan Development: Representatives of the Mid-Region Council of Governments will attend the October 20 Council Meeting and the October 27 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting to discuss the comprehensive plan process.

ii. Capital Projects

1. Transportation Projects: Mayor Nealeigh reported that he is negotiating engineering costs with Bohannon Huston for the South Mooney Bridge replacement plan and design project.

2. He also announced that the Village secured planning and design funding for the community park entrance.

iii. Capital Outlay Projects: Mayor Nealeigh announced that the library entrance project is complete and the library HVAC project is waiting scheduling with TLC. He also noted that picnic tables, benches and trash

receptacles will be installed at the River Walk. In addition, he noted that an architect will be contracted to design a ground-level patio for the library to avoid building over the sewer line. He pointed out that pending projects include equipping the Community Visitor Center, constructing Community Park toilets, and installing Community Park playgrounds.

3. Other Capital Projects: Mayor Nealeigh reported that he is continues to seek a contractor to drill the geothermal well. In addition, picnic tables and landscaping rock have been purchased as part of the Park and Garden project.

c. Personnel – Mayor Nealeigh announced that Jane House Director of the Community Visitor Center began work on September 1, 2026. He also advised the Council that he has established an interview committee to review four applicants for the police chief position.

d. Community Relations – Mayor Nealeigh informed the Council of “Office Hours” held by Congresswoman Theresa Legar Fernandez’s representative between 3 and 4:30 that afternoon. Further, he announced that Representative Christine Chandler will hold a town hall at the Community Visitor Center on December 5. He also noted that he met with County Commissioner Joshua Jones earlier in the day and that he is continuing his participation in the committee to save Soda Dam. .

e. Boards and Commissions - The mayor referred the council to the provided reports for the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Library Board.

f. Department Reports – The Council reviewed the departmental monthly reports. There was some discussion about how to refer to the Community Park Building now that it will house a visitors’ center and a community center. Mayor Nealeigh suggest the Community Visitor Center but emphasized that this was a description and not an official name.

g. Deputy Clerk's Report – Deputy Clerk Yudizky reported that the Village is participating in a tourism cooperative program that will host four travel influencers. She also reported that the Department of Justice approved the procedures used for the emergency meeting held in June. She noted that the Village has received nine Inspection of Public Records Act requests in the past month.

8. Trustee's Report – There were no Trustee Reports.

9. Finance Board – Trustee McCue moved to convene the Finance Board with Trustee Martinez seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the Finance Board convened at 6:54 p.m.

- a. Sewer Billing Report: Interim Clerk Heather Gutierrez reported that her office maintains active payment plans and files property liens for accounts over 90 days past due.
- b. Lodgers' Tax Board Report – Board Chair Jim McCue reported that the Board did not hold a meeting this month.
- c. Finance Director Report – Finance Director Consultant Jim Cox reported that the 2023 audit balances are complete. Gross receipts tax collections for July and August exceeded the budget. In addition, he provided the check register and reviewed departmental budgets. Mr Cox then introduced **Resolution 2026-020** recommending budget adjustments to transfer **\$20,000** to the bathhouse and to recognize new grant revenues, Trustee Martinez moved to approve Resolution 2026-020 and Trustee Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried by a roll call vote with all trustees voting aye. Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn the Finance Board, and Trustee Martinez seconded the motion. All trustees voted aye and the Finance Board adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

10. Old Business

- a. **Resolution 2026-021:** Authorizing Participation in Transportation Project Funding Program Administered by the New Mexico Department of Transportation. Trustee McCue made a motion to approve the resolution to accept transportation funding for the community park entrance. Trustee Martinez seconded the motion. The motion carried by a roll call vote with all trustees voting aye.
- b. **Resolution 2026-022:** Authorizing Participation in Transportation Project Funding Program Administered by the New Mexico Department of Transportation (Waiver Request. Trustee Wilson made a motion to approve the resolution requesting a waiver for the local funding match for the community park entrance project. Trustee McCue seconded the motion. The motion carried by a roll call vote with all trustees voting aye.
- c. **Approval of Police Department SOP** for police facility security, extreme risk firearm protection orders, and immigration violations. Trustee Wilson made a motion to approve the standard operating procedures and Trustee McCue seconded the motion. The motion carried by a roll call vote of aye by Trustees Martinez, McCue, and Wilson.

11. New Business – There was no New Business on the Agenda

12. Adjourn – There being no other business Mayor Nealeigh adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.