



MICHAEL NEALEIGH
Mayor

ROBERT WILSON
Mayor Pro Tem

VILLAGE OF JEMEZ SPRINGS Municipal Office

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JUDY BOYD
Trustee
JAMES MCCUE
Trustee
MANOLITO SANCHEZ
Trustee

Jemez Springs Village Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday May 20, 2025, 6:00 PM Governing Body Conference Room

1. Call to Order

Mayor Nealeigh called the meeting to order 6:02 pm.

Council Members Present: Mayor Nealeigh, Trustees: Judy Body, James McCue, Manolito Sanchez and Robert Wilson

Also in Attendance: Interim Clerk Heather Gutierrez, Finance Director Consultant Jim Cox, IT Consultant Fred Simmank, Planning & Zoning Commissioner Betsy Daub, Library Board Chair Barbara Stone, Police Chief Joe Moreno, New Library Director Andrew Adaryukov and community members Cliff Elliot, Marla Robb, Amanda Lewis, Olympia Holliday, Kimberly Higgs, and Jessica Hilfers.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Certification of Agenda

Mayor Nealeigh certified that the agenda before the Council had been posted at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in all usual public places, online, and on social media, in accordance with public notice requirements.

4. Approval of Minutes--Regular Council Meeting on 4-15-2025

Mayor Nealeigh asked if there were any corrections or adjustments to the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on April 15, 2025. Trustee Sanchez stated he had no corrections. Trustee Sanchez moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Trustee Boyd. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Input

Mayor Nealeigh opened the floor for public input, inviting attendees to speak on any topic not currently on the agenda and noting that opportunities to speak on agenda items would be provided later. After a brief pause, Mayor Nealeigh noted there was no public input.

6. Court Report

Mayor Nealeigh acknowledged the monthly report from the Municipal Court and reminded the Council and guests that the monthly report is for informational purposes only since the municipal court does not answer to the mayor or to the Village Council.

Mayor Nealeigh presented the Mayor's Report.

a. Code Enforcement

Mayor Nealeigh reported that some previously discussed code enforcement matters were still pending adjudication by the Planning and Zoning Commission. He noted that work had ceased on the project on Canyon Court with no further violations. Mayor Nealeigh also reported being made aware of construction on the south side of town. Upon investigation, he found plans for a carport with a foundation and requested that the property owner secure a permit. Interim Clerk Gutierrez confirmed that the permit application had been received via email, though the associated fees had not yet been paid. Mayor Nealeigh affirmed that the matter was in process, and he expected compliance.

b. Administration

i. General

Mayor Nealeigh reported no further activity on the long-standing Open Meetings Act claim or the Inspection of Public Records Act claim. He also noted that a more recent Inspection of Public Records Act concern from a resident had been resolved; the Village provided the information it possessed, stated it had no further information, and had not received additional feedback, which Interim Clerk Gutierrez confirmed.

Mayor Nealeigh informed the Council that the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) list had been circulated and would be included in the next issue of "After the Thunder." He offered extra copies and solicited ideas for additions, explaining that projects on the list must have a life of at least 10 years, a dollar value exceeding **\$5,000**, and be "shovel-ready." Finance Director Consultant Cox confirmed these criteria. Mayor Nealeigh added that projects could span multiple fiscal years but must be able begin in the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Cox noted that multi-year projects could present more challenges. Trustee Sanchez inquired if an engineering report or plan was needed first for the South Mooney Bridge project, and Mayor Nealeigh requested to address this later in the agenda. Trustee Boyd asked how suggestions for the ICIP

should be submitted, and Mayor Nealeigh instructed that they be emailed to him. Trustee Wilson commented that Mission Street and J Garcia Lane, listed under street resurfacing, are private drives. Mayor Nealeigh acknowledged this, stating that items on the ICIP list should be Village-owned streets. He reiterated the invitation for additions to the list.

Mayor Nealeigh discussed the Request For Expressions of Interest (RFEI) for leasing 080 Jemez Springs Plaza, explaining it as a strategy to determine marketable rental possibilities, which was the initial assumption for securing the building for the community park. He detailed Village investments in the building, including placing it on a foundation, connecting utilities, adding two decks, and upgrading interior lighting. The RFEI was submitted statewide, regionally, and locally. Interested parties who provide a formal response will receive an application form to gather information about them and their business viability. Mayor Nealeigh emphasized this was a data collection phase. Trustee Sanchez inquired if the lease included the municipal court, police department, or conference room. Mayor Nealeigh, referring to the floor plan, confirmed these areas were not included, noting significant investment in the conference room as an emergency management communication center. Trustee Wilson then asked if the office formerly used by Interim Clerk Gutierrez was included, which Mayor Nealeigh confirmed.

Trustee Sanchez asked if it would be prudent to also seek expressions of interest for the office building at the community park. Mayor Nealeigh acknowledged it was a valid idea and stated he could pursue a similar document but had not yet had time. Trustee Wilson questioned if there would be restrictions on the community park office, given it was funded with public money for an office purpose as stated on the ICIP. Mayor Nealeigh agreed this was an obstacle. Mr. Cox concurred, stating there was likely a restriction as it was legislatively appropriated for administrative offices and suggested an inquiry to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) and the Legislative Finance Committee, if necessary. He added that if general fund appropriated, it would be easier, but if bonds were sold, a change in purpose might not be allowed. Mayor Nealeigh then clarified to Trustee Sanchez that they would have to pursue options if no interest was shown in renting the current facility. Trustee Boyd asked if proposing a switch from administrative use to a Village purpose like a community center might be better received by funders. Mayor Nealeigh suggested deferring deeper discussion until the response to the current RFEI justified it. Trustee Sanchez mentioned that approximately five people had expressed a preference for Village offices to remain in their current location and wondered about consulting the broader Village community. Mayor Nealeigh responded that the initial action was by the Village Council and altering it would require another Village Council action.

Mayor Nealeigh announced the call for Volunteer of the Year nominations. He explained that a nominee could be an individual, organization, or group volunteering within the valley, not exclusively within Jemez Springs. Nominations should be emailed directly to him. He advised that previous nominations would be considered. This phase is for data gathering, with the decision to be made at the June Village Council meeting. The selected volunteer will be recognized by participating in the parade and receiving an award following the flag ceremony on July 4th.

ii. Project Updates

Mayor Nealeigh stated there was no current activity on the office building at the community park as funds remained frozen. The item will remain on the agenda pending fund release.

Mayor Nealeigh reported progress on the Dark Sky lighting project. The arms connecting the lights to the poles had been received, approved by the installers (Jemez Mountain Electric Co-op), and paid for, with the Village awaiting grant reimbursement. The light fixtures are expected by the first week of June. The co-op is prepared to install them upon arrival. This project involves 31 streetlights, primarily on the highway, Mooney Boulevard, and the Plaza.

Mayor Nealeigh addressed the Mooney Boulevard Bridge projects. He recounted visiting the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) District 6 office in Grants on May 3rd to present the Village's project requests: \$2.75 million to replace the South Mooney Bridge and \$1 million for the design and plans for the North Mooney Bridge. He stated that the grant committee was concerned that the \$2.75 million for the South Mooney Bridge might not be enough to complete the project and the shortfall would fall to the Village. They recommended that the Village rework the application to request \$1 million for planning and design. Mayor Nealeigh reminded the Council that **\$50,000** in 2022 capital outlay funds were used for a bridge replacement study, not engineering, planning, or design. Consequently, he resubmitted the application for a plan and design for the South Mooney Bridge. He stated that two steps remained: a resolution to be passed by the Council confirming the revised request, and NMDOT's determination of funding. Once the resolution passed, it would complete the application package. Trustee Sanchez asked if the **\$50,000** spent in 2022 was now useless. Mayor Nealeigh confirmed it could not be used for current requirements but noted it was spent and reimbursed, albeit with a two-year delay.

iii. Events:

Mayor Nealeigh provided updates on upcoming events:

June 7 - Farmers Market and Trim and Chip Day: The second annual Trim and Chip Day will coincide with the Farmers Market. A U.S. Forest Service chipper and crew will be at the community park from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Residents are to bring branches to the chipper; no piles will be created.

June 21 - Christine Chandler Town Hall: Mayor Nealeigh corrected the agenda; Representative Christine Chandler's Town Hall, initially requested for June 14, has been rescheduled to June 21, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the conference room.

June 28 - Surplus Auction: A surplus auction sale will be held at the community park office building to dispose of small-dollar surplus items. An inventory will be circulated beforehand.

July 4 - Independence Day Celebration: The celebration falls on a Friday. The committee has planned morning and evening activities. A flyer is pending approval at the committee's next meeting. Mayor Nealeigh highlighted a "mayoral dunking tank," noting that he and Trustee Wilson had been enlisted, and Monique Alton had also volunteered. The cost will be **\$5** for three balls, with a policy allowing a successful dunker to use remaining balls or walk away.

c. Personnel

i. Introduction of JSPL Director Andrew Adaryukov

Mayor Nealeigh introduced Andrew Adaryukov, the new Jemez Springs Public Library Director, and his wife, Marla Robb. He expressed anticipation for a positive working relationship. He noted Marla would return to Indiana to fulfill duties before rejoining Andrew in Jemez Springs.

ii. Clerk/Finance Director Search Update

Mayor Nealeigh reported that there was not yet a sufficient pool of qualified applicants for the Clerk/Finance Director position. He mentioned an upcoming report on his meeting with Rebecca Martinez from the New Mexico Municipal League, who is advising the Village. He has asked the search committee to pause efforts temporarily. Marla Robb inquired if Mayor Nealeigh would be interested in free websites run by displaced federal civil servants that match individuals with suitable state, county, and municipal government jobs. Mayor Nealeigh expressed strong interest and requested a list, which Marla agreed to provide.

d. Community Relations

i. Local request for Wastewater billing audit

Mayor Nealeigh reported that an account holder with the wastewater sewer system had requested an audit due to concerns about differing bill amounts among friends. Mayor Nealeigh conducted an internal audit by taking a random sample of 14 out of 138 active residential accounts. He verified the bills against the formula (base rate, plus usage divided by 1000 multiplied by \$12, totaled, then appropriate tax applied) and found it correct in every case. He communicated these findings and the formula to the concerned resident and has not heard back.

ii. Meeting with Pueblo of Jemez Administration re: Mary Mother of Priests Chapel demolition permit

Mayor Nealeigh reported meeting with representatives from the Pueblo of Jemez administration regarding the demolition permit request by the Servants of the Paraclete for the Mary Mother of Priests Chapel. He noted that since it is an archaeological site additional state permits will be required. He stated that he will be contacting Christopher Toya, the Pueblo's archaeologist. The property owner's representative is reportedly moving forward to secure necessary state permits and seeking a qualified archaeologist from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The Village's role, delegated to the Planning and Zoning Commission, is to grant or deny the permit.

iii. Follow-up from meeting with Teresa Leger Fernandez

Mayor Nealeigh reported follow-up from his meeting with Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez and her staff. AJ Pacheco, her constituency relations person, contacted him with follow-up connections. As a result, Mayor Nealeigh has a meeting scheduled for May 27 with

the Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions to discuss housing for workers and those wishing to age in place.

iv. Meeting with New Mexico Municipal League

Mayor Nealeigh discussed his meeting with three members of the New Mexico Municipal League: Rebecca Martinez, one of her assistants, and Alan Fugler from the self-insured fund. Rebecca Martinez provided advice on clerk and finance director roles, a lead to a possible candidate, and a salary survey. Alan Fugler discussed the Village's insurance, noting the current fiscal year cost of **\$44,000** and an initial projected premium for FY2026 of **\$233,000**, a topic to be revisited during the budget discussion.

Mayor Nealeigh also shared that he was invited to attend the graduation ceremonies for Jemez Valley Public High School on the preceding Saturday. He was greeted, seated on the dais, introduced, and participated in the congratulations line. He considered it an honor. Trustee McCue inquired about the number of graduates, and Mayor Nealeigh replied 30, their highest graduating class in decades. The guest speaker was former superintendent Dr. Sue Passell.

e. Boards & Commissions

i. Library Board

Mayor Nealeigh stated that the Library Board minutes from April 8 (approved) and May 3 (draft) were available. The chair of the Library Board was present to field questions. Hearing none, he proceeded.

ii. Planning & Zoning Commission

Mayor Nealeigh indicated that draft minutes from the Planning and Zoning Commission's April 17 meeting were available, and the chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Betsy Daub, was present for questions. Ms. Daub noted that the Planning and Zoning Commission was holding a special meeting on June 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the governing body conference room as part of their code review. She encouraged attendance for discussion on two topics: short-term occupancy rentals within Village limits and the Village code regulation limiting RV occupancy to 14 days a year.

f. Department Reports

i. Bath House

Mayor Nealeigh stated the bathhouse report was available. Bathhouse Manager Anna Lovato was not present.

ii. Fire Department

The fire department report was available. Mayor Nealeigh noted that Trustee Sanchez, newly elected Fire Chief for the Jemez Springs Volunteer Fire Department (JSVFD), was present. Chief Sanchez indicated he had nothing to add to his report. Mayor Nealeigh then commended former Chief Craig Francois, detailing his career starting in 1988, including work with an elite search and rescue crew, structural firefighting with Los Alamos Fire Department, and volunteering in Jemez Springs since 2004. He served as Chief of the JSVFD since 2015. Mayor Nealeigh thanked Chief Francois for his 21 years of volunteer service in the area and his 10 years as chief.

iii. Information Technology

The Information Technology report was available. IT Consultant Fred Simmank of Cat Mesa Technologies was present and indicated he had nothing to add to his report.

iv. Library

Mayor Nealeigh introduced the library notes produced by Acting Director Amanda Lewis. He thanked Ms. Lewis for her work in keeping the library operational and positive.

v. Police Department

The police department report was available, and Police Chief Moreno was present. Chief Moreno thanked Amanda Lewis for bringing attention to the need for a crosswalk between the library conference room and Fitzgerald Park. A pedestrian sign was purchased from the traffic safety fund and a crosswalk will be installed soon. Mayor Nealeigh added that the crosswalk will be located outside the meeting room door. One parking slot will be marked off, potentially for a future loading zone, and the concrete barrier removed. The crosswalk will run diagonally, be four or five feet wide, yellow striped, and include plastic reflector bumps. A prominent sign will be placed in the street to alert drivers when children are at the library.

vi. Public Works

The public works report was available. Mayor Nealeigh mentioned that Chad Bell has finished replacing the tile damaged earlier this year requiring work on multiple Saturdays. Trustee Boyd inquired about community park maintenance, specifically a rotted dog bag holder. Mayor Nealeigh acknowledged this had been noted and would be addressed, likely by replacing the wooden post with a metal one.

vii. Streets

Mayor Nealeigh stated that work was ongoing on items under new business, including opening access from Jemez Springs Plaza to Mooney Boulevard and making the Brewhouse entry one-way only, deferring detailed discussion.

He reported on the Adopt-A-Sidewalk program, which will be publicized once all 10 sections are adopted. Four sections remained open: Jemez Mountain Electric Co-op to Canyon Court, Lucero to Armenta, Armenta to the yellow hydrant, and from the yellow hydrant to the post office. Interim Clerk Gutierrez shared details. Trustee Boyd volunteered for the Lucero to Armenta section, and Trustee McCue volunteered for the Armenta to the yellow hydrant section, leaving two sections open. Mayor Nealeigh encouraged swift adoption of the remaining spots. A meeting will be held with volunteers once all sections are adopted, with the first cleanup hoped for June 7.

viii. Wastewater

Mayor Nealeigh reported that the Village's wastewater operator was in training in Española and would test for level three certification, having met the five-year field experience requirement. If successful, the Village could consider reducing reliance on the consultant and hiring another full-time person.

He then discussed recent Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs). He recalled several small SSOs, a large one at the hot springs, and a couple near forest service housing that did not affect the river. On May 9, a very large SSO, ongoing for several days, was discovered. Mayor Nealeigh notified the Forest Service, sent a text alert, and informed the Pueblo of Jemez. The Pueblo volunteered equipment and personnel (for a nominal charge), who, along with Village consultants and the wastewater operator, dislodged the blockage by that evening. A rumor of a non-sewer related, tar-like substance in the system at the time is under investigation.

Mayor Nealeigh also reported being interviewed by Channel 13 in Albuquerque concerning the sewer overflow. He felt the aired segment was a decent production, emphasizing the age of the system and that the Village was addressing the issue, with hope of beginning rehabilitation in the next six months. Trustee Sanchez commended Mayor Nealeigh's handling of the interview.

8. Trustee's Report

a. Trustee Boyd stated she had nothing to report.

b. Trustee McCue stated he had nothing to report.

c. Trustee Sanchez stated he had nothing to report.

d. Trustee Wilson expressed his opinion that the Village's messaging system was of high value, appreciating that essential information, both good and bad news, is disseminated effectively without irrelevant content. He encouraged interested individuals to sign up. Mayor Nealeigh added that the system was funded by a grant in June of the previous year from County Commissioner Joshua Jones. Trustee Sanchez commented on the lack of spam from the system. Mayor Nealeigh affirmed that only essential information would be sent, and only phone numbers would be collected for texting purposes.

9. Finance Board

Trustee Wilson moved to convene the Finance Board, seconded by Trustee Sanchez. Upon a voice vote where all present voted aye, Mayor Nealeigh declared the Council was convened as the Finance Board at 7:01 p.m.

a. Interim Clerk Report

The interim clerk's report was available, and Interim Clerk Gutierrez was present. Interim Clerk Gutierrez noted that information regarding elections in her written report was slightly inaccurate due to new information received shortly after its completion; this would be fully discussed later under new business. There were no questions from the Trustees regarding her report.

b. Lodgers' Tax Board Report

Mayor Nealeigh turned to the Lodgers' Tax Board Chair, Trustee McCue, who reported that the board had not met since the last Council meeting.

c. Finance Director Report

Mayor Nealeigh introduced the Finance Director's report from Finance Director Consultant Jim Cox.

i. Prior Fiscal Year(s) –2022, 2023, 2024

Mr. Cox reported that work on the FY22 audit continues. Additional documents requested by auditors have been submitted. He has drafted the financial statements and, barring adjustments from the auditors, these will be reviewed by them, and their opinions and findings added, to which the Village will respond. He anticipates that there will be numerous findings. The draft template developed for FY22 is expected to expedite the FY23 audit. Additionally, the Village received a notice from the IRS requesting copies of filed 941 forms from September 30, 2020, through March 31, 2023. Staff is working to locate and submit these documents to address IRS inquiries and hopefully avoid an audit.

ii. Current Fiscal Year -2025

Finance Director Consultant Cox stated that the third-quarter financial report for FY25 had been successfully submitted to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) and is currently under review. Regarding Gross Receipts Tax (GRT), the May payment has been received. As of May's collections, the Village is 31.73% above the budgeted GRT revenue for FY25 (budgeted **\$334,000**, received **\$407,000**). Mr. Cox attributed the increase to an increase in the GRT rate and several events within the Village and noted that the excess cash helped pay off prior debt, achieve required cash reserve levels, and cover expenses until the state aid payment of **\$90,000** arrived mid-year. He noted continued positive performance in FY25 and emphasized ongoing monthly budget monitoring.

iii. Coming Fiscal Year –2026

Mr. Cox presented the budget packet for the FY26 interim budget, which is due to DFA by June 1. DFA reviews and approves this temporary budget by June 30, and the Village operates on it until the final budget (based on actual year-end cash balances and other known factors) is adopted. The final budget is due to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) by the end of July, with DFA approval expected by September 6. He requested adoption of the interim budget, noting ample opportunity for changes later.

iv. Resolution 2025-006 - Adoption of FY2026 Preliminary Budget

Trustee Wilson moved to adopt Resolution 2025-006, the FY2026 Preliminary Budget as presented, seconded by Trustee Boyd.

Mr. Cox reviewed key assumptions for the general fund (and some enterprise funds) that includes a 3% pay increase and the final half-percent Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) contribution increase for both employees and employers. For employees on the health plan, there is an increase on the employee side, while the employer rate remained the same. In addition, he assured the Council that the proposed budget includes funds needed to pay for three additional audits and meets the state's 1/12th expenditure budget cash reserve requirement and exceeds it by **\$38,000**.

Regarding the self-insured fund premium, an initial proposed rate was arbitrarily reduced from **\$233,000** to **\$116,993**. He noted that this premium amount was further reduced by that portion attributed to law enforcement coverage (quoted at **\$15,000**) being moved to the Law Enforcement Protection Fund. Mayor Nealeigh provided an update from his meeting with Alan Fuglar from the New Mexico Self-Insured Fund (NMSIF). Mr. Fugler indicated that NMSIF leadership is planning to recommend a policy change to their board of directors. This change would index property coverage to increases in GRT, thus capping property coverage at no more than double the previous year's premium. For the Village of Jemez Springs this policy would mean that last year's property coverage premium of just over **\$11,000** would double to around **\$23,000**, with the total overall premium coming in at under **\$70,000**.

Mr. Cox projected an 18% increase in total general fund revenue proposing **\$641,869** compared to **\$531,652** from the prior year. General fund expenditures are budgeted with a 15% increase, to **\$693,244** from **\$602,418**, mainly due to insurance premiums and audit fees.

Mr. Cox then briefly went over the two Village Enterprise funds--the Wastewater and the Bath House. The Wastewater fund has a balanced budget (thanks mostly to grant activity) with an increase in cash of **\$2,686**. The Bathhouse fund estimates no cash and budgets a cash transfer from the general fund to supplement operations, aiming for a net zero balance.

Mr. Cox then stood for questions. Trustee Wilson inquired about a limited distribution report from Taxation and Revenue detailing GRT payments by category and if the Village had reviewed it. Mr. Cox responded that while such reports are beneficial, the data is confidential. He noted that monthly RP500 reports break down GRT by industry and offered to prepare a

comparison report. Mayor Nealeigh added that a report by business type would be helpful.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nealeigh called for a roll call vote. Interim Clerk Gutierrez conducted the roll call: Trustee Boyd voted aye, Trustee McCue voted aye, Trustee Sanchez voted aye, and Trustee Wilson voted aye. Mayor Nealeigh announced the motion carried.

Trustee McCue moved to adjourn the Finance Board, seconded by Trustee Boyd. The motion passed unanimously. The Finance Board adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

10. Old Business

a. Resolution 2025-007: Authorizing the Submission of an Application for the 2026-2027 New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) Transportation Project Fund (TPF) for Plan and Design of the South Mooney Bridge

Mayor Nealeigh presented Resolution 2025-007, referencing his earlier report on the discussions with NMDOT and the revised application for the South Mooney Bridge project focusing on plan and design. Trustee Sanchez moved to approve Resolution 2025-007, seconded by Trustee Wilson. Mayor Nealeigh called for a roll call vote. Interim Clerk Gutierrez conducted the roll call: Trustee Boyd voted aye, Trustee McCue voted aye, Trustee Sanchez voted aye, and Trustee Wilson voted aye. Mayor Nealeigh announced the motion carried.

11. New Business

a. Approval of section 900 of Police Department Standard Operating Procedures

Mayor Nealeigh presented section 900 of the Police Department's Standard Operating Procedures, concerning the treatment of juveniles, for Council approval. Trustee Boyd moved to approve section 900, seconded by Trustee McCue. Police Chief Moreno commented that the policy was taken directly from federal and state guidelines with no changes made by him. Mayor Nealeigh confirmed he also made no changes. Trustee Wilson and Trustee McCue found the section informative. Mayor Nealeigh emphasized the importance of the governing body's knowledge and approval of these procedures. Hearing no further discussion, he asked for a roll call vote. Interim Clerk Gutierrez conducted the roll call: Trustee Boyd voted aye, Trustee McCue voted aye, Trustee Sanchez voted aye, and Trustee Wilson voted aye. Mayor Nealeigh announced the motion carried.

b. Approval to designate Jemez Springs Plaza north entrance One Way (entry only)

Mayor Nealeigh introduced the proposal to designate the Jemez Springs Plaza north entrance as one way (entry only). Trustee Wilson moved for approval, seconded by Trustee Sanchez. Mayor Nealeigh explained the rationale, citing the dangerous nature of exiting the plaza's north entrance onto the main road, particularly when the Brewhouse is busy, due to visibility issues. He stated this change would involve replacing the existing stop sign with a wrong-way sign and adding a one-way sign. Trustee Wilson agreed, reiterating the danger. Mayor Nealeigh also noted

potential Village liability in the event of a collision. Police Chief Moreno commented he was surprised there had not been any road rage incidents related to this exit. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Nealeigh called for a roll call vote. Interim Clerk Gutierrez conducted the roll call: Trustee Boyd voted aye, Trustee McCue voted aye, Trustee Sanchez voted aye, and Trustee Wilson voted aye. Mayor Nealeigh announced the motion carried.

c. Approval to create roadway access to Jemez Springs Plaza from Mooney Blvd

Mayor Nealeigh presented the proposal to create roadway access to Jemez Springs Plaza from Mooney Boulevard. Trustee McCue moved to create access from Jemez Springs Plaza to Mooney Blvd, seconded by Trustee Boyd. Mayor Nealeigh presented the rationale for this request from discussions with Street Superintendent Scott Johnson as a stepped transaction to possibly eliminate the direct access to Highway 4 from Jemez Springs Plaza. He expressed concern that Mooney Blvd and Jemez Springs Plaza enter the highway side by side presenting unnecessary signage confusion and limiting access to both streets. Also, the south entrance to Jemez Springs Plaza has contributed, in his opinion, to the breakdown of the retaining wall next to the skate park. He went on to say that the existing entrance could be maintained as a pedestrian access should it be closed at a future date. Mayor Nealeigh's current recommendation is to open Jemez Springs Plaza to Mooney, in part, to reduce the use of the south entrance and to determine if one access point to Highway 4 was feasible. Mayor Nealeigh noted that he had asked the driver of the Express bus if exiting via Mooney would be a problem and he was told that if the new roadway section was wide enough it would not be an issue. Several people commented that this section was once open, probably in the early 1990's. Mayor suggested that the anticipated change could be accomplished with volunteer labor and only a slight cost for signage. Trustee Wilson raised a question as to where the property line may be on that section of Mooney. Discussion of the issue of property lines and street location along Mooney Blvd followed. Trustee Wilson then commented that the narrow nature of Mooney Blvd may be a problem for large vehicles but concluded that the problem may not be any worse than the existing issue with the south Jemez Springs Plaza entrance. Mayor Nealeigh commented that this proposal does not resolve all possible issues, but it does allow the Village to test the viability of a possible solution with only a small investment of funds and effort.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nealeigh called for a roll call vote. Interim Clerk Gutierrez conducted the roll call: Trustee Boyd voted aye, Trustee McCue voted aye, Trustee Sanchez voted aye, and Trustee Wilson voted aye. Mayor Nealeigh announced the motion carried.

d. Consideration of opting-in to Regular Local Elections for Village officer elections

Mayor Nealeigh moved to the consideration of opting-in to regular local elections for Village officer elections. Trustee Boyd moved to opt in to regular local elections, seconded by Trustee McCue.

Mayor Nealeigh initiated discussion, explaining the main decision was whether to hold Village elections in March of even-numbered years (conducted by the Village Clerk) or in November of odd-numbered years (conducted by the Sandoval County Bureau of Elections). This decision would affect term lengths of current and future officers, with options to either reduce terms (e.g.,

from March 2026 to November 2025) or lengthen them (e.g., from March 2026 to November/December 2027) if opting in. Discussion centered around the extent to which local control vs county control of the election process would change the nature and feel of the election elections. After lengthy discussion on both sides of the issue a roll call vote was requested by Mayor Nealeigh. Interim Clerk Gutierrez conducted the roll call: Trustee Boyd voted aye, Trustee McCue voted aye, Trustee Sanchez voted no, and Trustee Wilson voted aye. Mayor Nealeigh announced the motion carried.

Mayor Nealeigh then called for a motion on whether language in the ordinance to be considered in June should specify whether the officer terms would be extended or shortened. Trustee Boyd moved to include language indicating that the officer terms would be extended, seconded by Trustee Wilson. Following some discussion on the matter, Mayor Nealeigh suggested that if the Council wished to have both term length options (lengthening or shortening) included in the public notification for the ordinance, they should vote no on the current motion. This would allow the Council more time to decide on the specific term adjustment option prior to the June meeting. Mayor Nealeigh clarified that a "no" vote would ensure that both lengthening and shortening options were included in the ordinance notification. Interim Clerk Gutierrez conducted a roll call vote: Trustee Boyd voted no, Trustee McCue voted no, Trustee Sanchez voted no, and Trustee Wilson voted no. Mayor Nealeigh announced the motion did not carry.

12.Adjourn

There being no further business on the agenda, Mayor Nealeigh declared the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.