



MICHAEL NEALEIGH
Mayor

ROBERT WILSON
Mayor Pro-Tem.

VILLAGE OF JEMEZ SPRINGS

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Jemez Springs Village Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday March 17, 2026, 6:00 PM Governing Body Conference Room

1. Call to Order

Mayor Nealeigh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor Michael Nealeigh, Trustees Judy Boyd, Victoria Martinez, James McCue, and Bob Wilson.

Also in Attendance: Interim Clerk Heather Gutierrez, Finance Director Consultant Jim Cox, Police Chief Joe Moreno, Wastewater Operations Manager Rose Fenton, Library Board Chair Barb Stone, P&Z Secretary Talia Michelle, and community members Cheryl Maracich, Susanna Cooper, and Olympia Holliday.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Nealeigh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Certification of Agenda

Mayor Nealeigh certified that the agenda was posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

4. Approval of Minutes - The Council reviewed the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting on 2-17-2026. Trustee Boyd noted that Chief Manolito Sandoval should be Sanchez. A correction was made regarding a sewer line leak on page 2, changing least to leak. Under the Lodgers' Tax Board report, the phrasing was adjusted to state that the board discussed a proposal from Cat Mesa Technologies. Trustee Boyd moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Trustee McCue seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Input

No public input was offered.

6. Court Report

Mayor Nealeigh reminded the Council and public that the Municipal Court is an independent division of the municipal government.

7. Mayor's Report

a. Code Enforcement

Mayor Nealeigh clarified that BP refers to a building permit dispute at Laughing Lizard. The dispute was resolved, the fee was paid, and the Planning and Zoning Commission is scheduled to act on the permit next Tuesday.

b. Administration

i. General - Legislative Update

a. Reauthorization of past year Capital Outlay funds: A \$75,000 capital outlay grant originally appropriated for the community park administrative building was reauthorized for the community center/visitor center building.

b. FY2027 Capital Outlay funding: Two requests were approved--\$250,000 for a playground and shelter at the Community Park and \$150,000 for converting the vault toilets to full plumbing or building a new one.

c. Government Results and Opportunity (GRO) funding: The village received \$180,000 for general operations and \$180,000 for the community/visitor center to be used over two years.

ii. Project Updates

a. Community Park Building

Contractors discovered that the 2-inch PVC supply line was seeping at several bell and O-ring joints due to root action and soil movement. The line is being monitored until infrastructure funding is available for a full replacement.

Mayor Nealeigh also reported that IT Consultant Fred Simmank has installed public access Wi-Fi at the Community Park building and throughout the park. A second emitter will be mounted on the sound booth or a pavilion pole to ensure complete coverage.

b. South Mooney Bridge Transportation Fund Project

A Request for Proposals (RFP) for the plan and design phase of the project is being prepared and should be issued in the coming weeks.

c. Conversion of Stage to Open Air Pavilion

The stage has been removed and the asphalt floor is being patched. An apron of gravel will be installed around the pavillion. Electrical upgrades include a power box with eight plugs and, later, a 50-amp breaker to support events.

d. Broadband

The application for a Grant Writing, Engineering and Planning Grant (GWEP) is still pending waiting for a letter of collaboration from the Pueblo of Jemez JNET. The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) requested that the village collaborate with Windstream or the Pueblo of Jemez. Mayor Nealeigh met with Pueblo of Jemez Governor John Galvan on

3-2-26 and learned that JNET was awarded an \$18 million BEAD grant and intends to bring multi-strand fiber north from the Pueblo. If the Village is granted GWEP funding it will be used in coordination with the Pueblo's build out to design an engineering plan to bring fiber to local homes and businesses within the Village limits.

c. Personnel

i. Court Clerk Position Opening Soon

This will be a 5 to 10 hour per week position.

ii. Employee Recognition

The New Mexico Water Wastewater Association awarded the village's wastewater treatment plant the Most Improved award. Mayor Nealeigh recognized Rose Fenton for this achievement.

d. Community Relations

Mayor Nealeigh reported that at their March 2nd meeting Governor Galvan initiated a discussion of the ongoing appeal regarding their request to place in trust the 23-acre property located in the Village. There was general concensus at this meeting for re-initiating discussion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the new Pueblo administration to formalize the relationship and clarify jurisdictional issues. Mayor Nealeigh noted that the Pueblo administration emphasized that they intended to use the land for light manufacturing, agriculture, or a clinic and that building a casino was not an option.

e. Boards and Commissions

The Council reviewed minutes from the Library Board (March 10) and Planning and Zoning Commission (February 24).

f. Department Reports

Mayor Nealeigh reported that the Village is seeking plan and design money for the North Mooney Bridge and for a park entrance project at Civic Center Lane. The Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) is providing an engineer to help estimate the cost of the planning and design phase of the park entrance project. The construction phase will include a better designed entrance off Highway 4, lighting, curbing, and resurfacing the street and parking lots.

A question was raised regarding wastewater easements. Mayor Nealeigh confirmed that many historical easements exist and that new easements are being sought for those properties for which historical easements cannot be found.

8. Trustee's Report Trustees Boyd, Martinez, McCue, and Wilson had nothing further to report.

9. Finance Board Trustee Wilson moved to convene the Finance Board at 6:40 p.m., Trustee McCue seconded, and the motion carried.

a. Interim Clerk Report: Interim Clerk Gutierrez reported that she will attend Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) recertification on the 14th of next month.

b. Lodgers' Tax Board Report: Board Chair McCue reported that work continues on the .org website; advertising will begin once the site is published.

c. Finance Director Report

i. Prior Fiscal Years - 2023, 2024, 2025

a. All seven prior-year capital outlay grant agreements have been executed and are ready for action. The \$75,000 reauthorization for the Community Park will still need to wait until July. Prior year funds include \$100,000 for the Riverwalk, \$100,000 for a tractor, \$330,000 and \$270,000 for EDA match, \$130,000 for library improvements with a \$1,300 Art in Public Places (AIPP) carve-out, and \$20,000 for library/office HVAC. Mr. Cox noted that \$1,500 also remains from the Community Park building grant for AIPP.

b. Review of 2023 audit samples is ongoing. Draft statements should be ready within two weeks which will wrap up the 2023 audit before moving to 2024.

ii. Current Fiscal Year-2026

a. Record of revenue and expenses: The Council was proved the Febraury cash register. In addition, Mr. Cox reported that February saw a cash increase of \$153,890.21 in the General Fund. This included a \$90,000 Small Cities Assistance payment and a second \$64,099 tranche of Fire Funds.

b. GRT and Budget Actuals: Through February, GRT collections totaled \$280,556.71, slightly ahead of budget but down roughly 2.73% from 2025. General fund collections are at 71.17% of the year total, while expenditures are at 55.72%. Operating adjustments to the budget are anticipated for the next meeting.

c. Future Planning: The FY2027 budget must be presented to the DFA by June 1. The Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) is due in July.

Trustee Boyd moved to adjourn the Finance Board at 6:53 p.m., Trustee Martinez seconded, and the motion carried.

10. Old Business There was no Old Business

11. New Business

a. RESOLUTION 2026-007 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE JEMEZ SPRINGS COMMUNITY CENTER/WELCOME CENTER AT 25 CIVIC CENTER LANE Mayor Nealeigh read the resolution and noted the 2025 public interest survey which supported the creation of a community and visitors center. He also pointed out that funding to operate the center for up to two years will come from GRO funds. Trustee McCue moved to approve the resolution, Trustee Boyd seconded, and the resolution passed unanimously by roll call vote.

b. RESOLUTION 2026-008 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF COMMUNITY CENTER/WELCOME CENTER DIRECTOR Mayor Nealeigh read the resolution establishing a full-time permanent position with a salary range of \$16 to \$22 per hour. Trustee Wilson moved to approve the

resolution, Trustee Boyd seconded, and the resolution passed unanimously by roll call vote.

c. RESOLUTION 2026-009 AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR AND SUPPORT OF THE 2027-2028 NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NMDOT) TRANSPORTATION PROJECT FUND (TPF) FOR THE NORTH MOONEY BRIDGE REHABILITATION PLAN AND DESIGN PHASES 1-4 PROJECT

Mayor Nealeigh read the resolution requesting \$1,000,000 (\$950,000 NMDOT share; \$50,000 Village match). Trustee Wilson moved to approve the resolution, Trustee McCue seconded, and the resolution passed unanimously by roll call vote.

d. RESOLUTION 2026-010 AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR AND SUPPORT OF THE 2027-2028 NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NMDOT) TRANSPORTATION PROJECT FUND (TPF) FOR THE COMMUNITY PARK ENTRANCE PLAN AND DESIGN PHASES 1-4 PROJECT

Mayor Nealeigh noted that the Village is requesting \$250,000 with a 5% Village match. Trustee Wilson moved to approve the resolution, Trustee McCue seconded the motion. After some discussion Trustee Wilson moved to amend the motion to allow the requested amount to be adjusted based on forthcoming counsel from MRCOG consultant Bohanon Houston. Trustee McCue seconded the amendment, which passed unanimously. The amended resolution was then approved unanimously by roll call vote.

e. APPROVAL OF THE JEMEZ SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY ON MISSING PERSONS

Chief Moreno presented the 20-page Standard Operating Procedure based on state and federal guidelines. Trustee McCue moved to approve the policy, Trustee Boyd seconded, and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mayor's Additional Report - Status of Geothermal Well: Contractors and experts from New Mexico Tech and the Bureau of Geothermal Studies and other agencies in the geothermal field are evaluating the well and will have recommendations in the next few weeks. Bath House personnel are managing the change in flow and continue to provide services.

12. Adjourn There being no other business before the Council the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.