



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 August 18, 2026, 6:00 PM Governing Body Conference Room

1. Call to Order - Mayor Nealeigh called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

Also in Attendance: Interim Clerk Heather Gutierrez, Deputy Clerk Tonya Yudzky, Finance Director Consultant Jim Cox, Library Director Andrew Adaryukov, Wastewater Operations Manager Rose Fenton, Fire Department Chief Mano Sanchez, Library Board Chair Barb Stone, Planning and Zoning Chair Pro Tem Cliff Elliott, IT Consultant Fred Simmank, and members of the public Coco Yudzky, Jane House, and Brad House.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Nealeigh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Certification of Agenda

Mayor Nealeigh certified that the 2026-8-18 Council Meeting Agenda was posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

4. Approval of Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes for the regular meeting on July 21, 2026.

Trustee McCue moved to adopt the minutes as presented. Trustee Boyd provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Input

Mayor Nealeigh invited public input for items not on the agenda. No public comments were offered.

6. Court Report

The Council received the written court report. Mayor Nealeigh noted that the Court does not answer to either the Mayor or the Council. There were no questions from the Council.

7. Mayor's Report

a. Code Enforcement: Mayor Nealeigh reported a lot line violation on Madrid Road involving an underground structure built partially on a neighboring property. The property owner agreed to demolish the structure. The demolition is complete, and the ground has been filled and leveled.

b. Administration

i. General

Mayor Nealeigh continues working on the emergency declaration and flood damage inventory. He is currently waiting for a response from USDA Soil Conservation regarding the arroyos. He noted that all potential damages need to be included to reach the Federal Emergency Management Agency threshold of approximately \$773,000. Mayor Nealeigh reported that the grant for signage from the New Mexico Tourism Division Destination Forward program is still pending. Research into eligibility requirements for a grant through the New Mexico Environmental Department for park toilets found the project not eligible. The grant writer funded through the MRCOG capacity building program continues to research recreation and parks funding.

A recent survey regarding park and street names and website functionality received 31 responses. Respondents favored Community Park and Village Center Park as potential names, and the majority preferred the adjacent street name to match the park name. He also reported that the village website domain is transitioning to jemezsprings.gov during the first weekend in September to align with standard Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency(CISA) protocols. Email addresses for Village personnel and leadership will follow a standard first name dot last name format.

Deputy Clerk Tonya Yudizky provided an update on recent public records requests. She is preparing a response for an October 2025 request pending a September 5, 2026 deadline, noting the requestors previously failed to provide required payment for copies and had requested website source code deemed as proprietary. Two other requests from private contractors seeking purchasing information were also recently received.

ii. Project Updates

Mayor Nealeigh reported that only one contractor met the deadline for the South Mooney Bridge Replacement Plan and Design Request for Proposals. The evaluation process has begun. After receiving no responses to two separate Invitations to Bids for the geothermal well, the Village can move from procurement to pursuing direct purchase negotiations with drilling contractors.

The John Deere 3025E tractor was delivered on July 24th. It is equipped with a bucket, backhoe, box blade, auger, snow push, and rotary mower. The library entrance renovations are nearing completion with new composite decking and ADA compliant ramps. The river art installation will be relocated to improve entrance accessibility. The library heating, ventilation, and air conditioning replacement is proceeding with a purchase order following Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) approval. After two unsuccessful bidding rounds for the River Walk, plans are to install covered picnic tables, benches, and to extend the trail. Efforts continue to secure an architect to design the library back patio and the community park toilet facility. A xeriscaping project utilizing rock will begin soon at the primary municipal building entrances. Capital Outlay fiscal agent agreements are ready for execution for community center furnishings, park toilets, and park playgrounds. Mayor Nealeigh noted that consideration is being given to having playground equipment at two locations within the community park.

c. Personnel

Mayor Nealeigh is forming a committee to interview candidates for the Chief of Police vacancy. The committee includes Mayor Nealeigh, a staff member, a fire department representative, two local business representatives, and a trustee. Three applications are currently under review. Mayor Nealeigh has had discussions with county law enforcement officials confirming standard processes for cross commissioning and options for hiring retired officers.

d. Community Relations

Mayor Nealeigh made welcoming remarks at the Jemez Historic Site during Pueblo Independence Day celebrations on Sunday, August 16th.

e. Boards and Commissions

The Council reviewed minutes from the library board and the planning and zoning commission. Mayor Nealeigh announced a September 15 appeal hearing regarding a conditional use permit granted by the Commission for a short-term occupancy rental at 16441 Highway 4.

f. Department Reports

Department reports were reviewed by the Council. Wastewater Operations Manager Rose Fenton reported that the Economic Development Administration has approved the Site Certification which will allow the Wastewater Department to proceed with the system rehabilitation project. Mayor Nealeigh noted that the process to acquire this certification has taken over a year and a half. He commended the work and dedication of Operations Manager Fenton.

8. Trustee's Report

Trustees Boyd, Martinez, McCue, and Wilson had no reports to share.

9. Finance Board

Trustee Wilson moved to convene the Finance Board. Trustee Martinez provided the second. The motion passed unanimously, and the Finance Board convened at 6:52 PM.

a. Interim Clerk Report

Interim Clerk Heather Gutierrez presented a wastewater accounts receivable report detailing delinquent accounts and recent notice activity.

b. Lodgers' Tax Board Report

Lodgers Tax Board Chair Jim McCue reviewed the Board's recommendations to approve \$5,000 for Community Park and Community and Visitors Center signage and \$400 for the Jemez Uncommon Studio Tour. Trustee McCue moved to approve the funding requests. Trustee Boyd provided the second. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

c. Finance Director Report

Financial consultant Jim Cox reported the 2023 audit remains on track for completion by the end of the month. Preliminary August gross receipts tax collections indicate the Village exceeded budget expectations by \$13,084.74, though final categorizations remain pending with the taxation and revenue department. General fund revenue and expenditures are tracking alongside budget projections. Mr. Cox reviewed recent expenditures including a one-time payment to the New Mexico Self Insurers Fund and reported that the Bathhouse required higher general fund transfers during July due to payroll timing and the prolonged issue with the geothermal well. He also noted that an additional massage therapist was recently hired which should increase service revenue.

Trustee McCue moved to adjourn the Finance Board and reconvene the regular meeting. Trustee Boyd provided the second. The motion passed unanimously, and the regular meeting reconvened at 7:05 PM.

10. Old Business

The council considered the Police Department standard operating procedures for chaplains, service animals, and Native American graves protection and repatriation. Trustee Wilson moved to approve the procedures. Trustee McCue provided the second. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

11. New Business

a. Confirmation of Mayor's appointment of Tonya Yudizky as Deputy Clerk

Mayor Nealeigh requested confirmation of his appointment of Tonya Yudizky to the permanent full-time position of Deputy Clerk. Trustee Boyd moved to confirm the appointment. Trustee McCue provided the second. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

b. Confirmation of Mayor's appointment of Jane House as Community and Visitor Center Director

Mayor Nealeigh requested confirmation of his appointment of Jane House to the permanent full-time position of Community and Visitor Center Director. The official start date is pending the finalization of Government Results and Opportunity funding paperwork. Trustee Wilson moved to confirm the appointment. Trustee McCue provided the second. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business, Mayor Nealeigh adjourned the meeting at 7:43pm.