

Regular Meeting Minutes–August 20, 2025

The Mayor and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tularosa met in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, 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 Deborah Cooksey
Trustee Patrick Garcia
Trustee Robert Sainz
Trustee Manuel Brusuelas
Trustee Mark Garwood-Absent

Also present was Rebekah Bryant Village Clerk

At 6:00 P. M. Mayor Deborah Cooksey 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 Brusuelas seconded the motion. All members voted aye; motion carried.

2. Unscheduled Correspondence: None

3. Leticia Chavez, Presbyterian Medical Center wanted to give an update on the facility changes. Item was tabled as Leticia was no present.

4. Geraldine Martinez, Chief of Police asked for approval of the appointment of Daniel Sepulveda as a certified police officer at a pay rate of \$24.00hr. Geraldine stated that he has about two and a half years of law enforcement experience and is certified. Daniel stated that he worked in Hobbs then in Eunice and now he is here. He stated that he plans to be here for a very long time. Trustee Garcia made a motion; Trustee Sainz seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

5. Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk asked for approval of the appointment of Kimberly Tortalita as payroll clerk at a pay rate of \$16.00hr. Rebekah stated that she is doing a very good job and is catching on quickly. Trustee Garcia made a motion; Trustee Brusuelas seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

6. Linda Zhiel, Red Brick Restoration wants to give an update regarding what is being done with the Red Brick Building. Mayor Cooksey stated that she knows

that they are restoring the building and eventually when the building gets done what are the plans for the building. Linda stated that there are going to be 12 rooms, a lower level and the main thing right now is to tighten up the building, so they don't get any animals or other critters inside. She stated that they are having a problem with bees right now and have had someone look at the problem and they stated that they cannot relocate the bees so they will have to eradicate them. They have been advised to use the building for community use, historical and cultural education from Sites Southwest. Examples are; they want to put art, music, dance, meeting rooms open for the community groups, small museum with local artifacts that have to do with basically our town, history on the school and things that have happened in Tularosa, classrooms reserved for adult education, and the lower level they want to use that for an event hall because it does have a little bit of room and remodel the kitchen so it can be utilized. She also stated that in July they had an Ice Cream Social that they sponsored and it turned out pretty good with the help of Tularosa Taco. Lulac also had games for the kids and Rusty Helton helped with the games. Discussion only

7. Casey Otero, Individual was wanting to discuss the need for recreational facilities for the youth. Casey stated that currently serves as the president currently for the Tularosa booster club and the Tularosa Little League baseball. Along with several dedicated parents in the community she has been working to strengthen and expand the youth programs in Tularosa. When she took over the program for the Tularosa Little League in 2024, they worked very hard to rebuild the program and today it is thriving. Building on that momentum with football season starting a group of parents got together and established the youth booster club to provide support to the youth and pee-wee football programs as well as basketball. These programs have been faced with many setbacks over the past years due to minimum resources and lack of facilities, but parent volunteers have kept it alive through extraordinary efforts. Now, the growing participation demands real investment and proper facilities. They currently see strong engagement across all sports, so she is apart of all of these as her kids are involved in all of them. In 2025 baseball season they had five player pitch teams ranging from seven years old to fifteen years old totaling 73 kids, with an additional 61 come out for T-ball and coach pitch, softball saw roughly 40 players and organizers are confident that they would see an increase if we were able to host games locally. Practice places are extremely limited in the village; there are only a handful of parks large enough and they cannot accommodate all the teams at once. Between softball and all the other teams, they have finally come up with a schedule to accommodate everyone which was tough. For football they have 50 active players and practices are held at the little league baseball field because there are no other available fields with lights. Basketball participation was exceptionally high this year with about 200 kids coming out. They currently rely entirely on the Tularosa schools to use there gym space. While she recognizes getting a community gym would be an ambitious goal, getting one would serve not only the youth programs here in the village but also local travel basketball

and volleyball teams. Looking forward their vision is to secure new baseball fields, softball fields, fields with lighting for youth football and eventually a gymnasium for indoor sports, with the support from the village we can create facilities that not only meet the needs for children but also attract events that would fit the broader community. Mayor Cooksey asked if they were to look into something right now what would be needed immediately. Casey stated that a football field would be great but she knows that is not possible right now but if they could acquire just a bare field with grass just to practice on to get them started. Discussion only, the Village is going to look into a place for a possible practice field.

8. Michael Gruger, Tularosa Arts & History Council asked for barricades and trash cans for the annual Halloween event for the community on Saturday October 25, 2025, from 5-8pm. Trustee Garwood made a motion; Trustee Brusuelas seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

9. Schanen Yates-Unser requested speed bumps on certain streets in the village. Item was tabled as individual did not show up.

10. Old Business: Mark Garwood trustee stated that he has been asked about the sewer on Pilar Chavez Rd. and let them know that it is on our ICIP

11. New Business: Mayor Cooksey stated that she had Ericka Martinez from NMML come down to give some oversight on OSHA and stated that everything went really well and was given compliments on the city yard being one the cleanest yards she had been to. She gave the village a lot of requirements that needed to be implemented.

12. Adjourn: 6:59pm

Deborah Cooksey, Mayor

ATTEST: (seal)

Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk