

Regular Meeting Minutes–March 19, 2025

The Mayor and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tularosa met in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 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

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 accept the agenda, Trustee Brusuelas seconded the motion. All members voted aye; motion carried.

2. Unscheduled Correspondence:

Jeff Trembly-Mr. Trembly stated that he is concerned with the Tularosa Ditch Corporations actions concerning the water rights for the 49 blocks. He stated that the 49 blocks have senior water rights over the farmers, and he has made copies of the decrees and will distribute them to anyone who wants copies. He also stated that he has shared this information with the ditch corporation, the office of the state engineer and the attorney general's office. At the December meeting for the Ditch Corp. the Mayordomo stated that the 49 blocks have senior water rights and must be fully satisfied before the junior water rights are and as everyone knows the proposed irrigation schedule does not satisfy the needs of the senior water rights. In addition, the ditch corp. issued their schedule after they had all paid for their full assessment and they will be getting significantly less water than they are supposed to get. He has addressed a formal letter to the ditch corp. along with the state engineer and attorney general.

Stephanie Dubois-Was thankful for the road being fixed but the sign that reads willow is unreadable and needs replaced.

Joan Price-In case of severe drought like we are in now many residents may not be able to afford to keep their trees, bushes and yards watered. In order to address the severe drought conditions that are impacting this historic oasis in the desert. Any possible agriculture and beneficial water in case of drought is

available through the village of Tularosa municipal system during winter and early spring needs. Thank you for keeping these responsibilities under the decree of 1909 and stipulated decree of 1965. As members of the Tularosa Community Ditch corp., we have now been restricted to 1/3 more or less of our customary time beginning in a few weeks without our informed consent. It is the spring saturation now restricted in April that was the customary time to saturate and replenish soil moisture. If this seasonal saturation is gone the trees may not be able to sustain their full growth. She stated that the village should call an emergency meeting before the new schedule takes effect.

Robert Danke-He agrees that the major problems with the Ditch Corp. is not being informed so he is taking steps to make sure the village is informed. Basically, as most people have heard but don't know specifically that there are three parts to the decree. This is in addition to that a separate lawsuit of Tularosa-to-Tularosa Community Ditch of 1965. There is also a 1972 version of this document to be bonded court case 293 which is the decree of 1904/1905. The good news for the village is that it added another 7.5 water rights to the village on top of the 10.5 that they had before. Another significant part of this in his opinion is the fact that the judge made sure the ditch corp. has full flow for their portion of the water as long as the village provides water for everyone in the village and the ditch corp. also supplies irrigation to the 49 blocks. There is no direct stipulation regarding the farmers, which is what threatening letters or unsigned letters and such trying to manipulate. So, as it has been in the past 60 years, the village gets half the creek water and the ditch corp. and should be distributed evenly from both parties to the village of Tularosa with no specific statements regarding the farmers's water rights. In the previous 5 years, probably the past 15 well most of it anyways it has been the opposite, the farmers have been getting the larger share instead of the 49 blocks against the decree of the judge. He commends the village for posting what they did on their website regarding failure to be able to access the inspection of the water works for the village, that transparency he applauds.

3. Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk asked to approve Resolution #2024-2025-13 requesting the department of finance and administration, State of New Mexico, approve revised budget figures for certain line items in the village's budget for fiscal year 2024-25. Trustee Garcia made a motion, Trustee Garwood seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

Roll Call: Brusuelas-Aye, Garcia-Aye, Garwood-Aye, Sainz-Aye.

4. Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk asked to approve Resolution #2024-2025-14 authorizing submittal of an application for the 2026-2027 New Mexico Department of Transportation's (NMDOT) Transportation Project Fund (TPF). Trustee Sainz made a motion, Trustee Garcia seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

Roll Call: Brusuelas-Aye, Garcia-Aye, Garwood-Aye, Sainz-Aye

5. Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk asked to approve Resolution #2024-2025-15 change in termini for LGRF L200599 administered by the NMDOT. Whereas the Village of Tularosa is also requesting a change in termini of the project from 24' wide paved roadway for approximately 1,000 liner feet from, St. Francis Dr. east on Gallegos Ln. including the intersection of Santa Fe Ln. to 24' wide paved roadway for approximately 1,000 liner feet from St. Francis Dr. east on Gallegos Ln including the intersection of Santa Fe to include Marin Rd. The scope of work shall remain the same. The change in termini is requested to include Marin Road for the purpose of designing to maximize available road funds and address the current safety road issues to Marin Rd.

Trustee Garcia made a motion, Trustee Brusuelas seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

Roll Call: Brusuelas-Aye, Garcia-Aye, Garwood-Aye, Sainz-Aye.

6. Patrick Maturino, Administrative Assistant, is asking for approval of the appointment of Anayeli Ornelas to telecommunicator/dispatcher at a pay rate of \$16.00hr. Trustee Garcia made a motion, Trustee Brusuelas seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

7. Rusty Helton, Keep Tularosa Beautiful asked permission to pick up recycling once a week and to place cameras in the yard to catch anyone dumping illegally. Trustee Garwood made a motion, Trustee Brusuelas seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

8. Michael Gruger, Tularosa Arts & History Council asked for road closure on Encino St. from 1st St through 3rd St. and 2nd St. from Durazno St. through Fresno St. for the 3rd annual Tularosa Duck Race on Saturday May 3, 2025. Trustee Garcia made a motion, Trustee Garwood seconded the motion. All members voted Aye; motion carried.

9. Ashley McDaniel, Rotary Club of Tularosa asked for police presence and trash cans for their annual wine festival on May 3rd & 4th 2025. Did not show up.

10. Old Business: None

11. New Business: None

12. Adjourn: 6:43pm

Deborah Cooksey, Mayor

ATTEST: (seal)

Rebekah Bryant, Village Clerk