



**VILLAGE OF TIJERAS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND ZOOM**

Please turn off cell phones or set to silent.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86191805995?pwd=pvHnRKPYxG3l606nEKyoSpm09EnnvN.1>  
Meeting ID: 861 9180 5995  
Passcode: 364271  
Dial: (720)707-2699

1. **Call to Order**  
Meeting Called to Order by Mayor Bruton.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**  
Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Bruton.

3. **Roll Call/Determination of Quorum**

M.Armenta	✓	E.Barnes	✓	Y.Garcia	n/a	J.Ortiz	✓
<b>Quorum present</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>				

4. **Introduction of Guests**  
Jessica Nixon – Village Attorney

5. **Public Comment**

- Allen Roach
  - i. Newsletter received regarding water suggesting using bottled water – Can we stop using bottled water? (Clerk/Manager A. Caufield – You can. All the water from well 3 has been flushed out and that well is now disconnected.)
  - ii. Regarding the Torres Trail property and that whole ordeal. I read the zoning ordinances and was trying to understand how everything works, at the time I was against I was against that zoning change. But as I've come to kind of learn the process, I think that Mrs. Rhodes might not have got a fair opportunity to present what she wanted to do at the same time. And I don't think it's necessarily anybody's fault or anything like that. I think a lot of it has to do with the workflow in the ordinances. The very top of the ordinances, there's a section on purpose up there. and it says it applies to the entire chapter, but there's not one step in the zoning change process that says, look at that purpose part. So, there's no actual part that the public, as one stakeholder in this, gets to see that, my concerns have been addressed in this. You know, and that doesn't happen in the zoning commission, that doesn't happen in the public council meeting, it happens at the development stage, it seems like that's the first place that documents are provided where you can do this, but even then, it doesn't specify that you must look at that purpose area or even how that would happen. Like it doesn't say use this method for, assessing whether the water usage is consistent for us or not. So, to me, there's a whole lot of specification that would help with transparency and, I know there's a lot of frustration, there's a lot of distrust that came about through this. I remember you mentioning that you were kind of frustrated that people were questioning your integrity, and to me this process is going to produce those kinds of outcomes. (Mayor J. Bruton – Thank you for your statements, I really appreciate it, it's a comprehensive kind of zoning ordinance. To understand it, it sometimes takes a zoning professional or attorney. There's always room for improvement on any ordinances. I appreciate you coming in today and making statements around the fact that maybe this zone change isn't a bad idea because how our ordinances are written. We're doing an assessment based off of other zoning ordinances surrounding us in small communities.) (Councilor M. Armenta – One of the reasons why we didn't go through with this was so that we can look through our zoning ordinance.)
- Betsy Hawkins



- i. Okay, so I guess today I'm here to get your advice about how to proceed because we've been trying to get cooperation from PNM for this issue for three years. And then the fire department complained, and the mayor and Audrey and I met with them in December. And it was my understanding from that day that they would be resubmitting a new plan with their plan on how to fix or how to contribute to the solution of this problem. And I've been trying to follow up with them. I followed up with you, nothing, So I actually on Friday spoke to both Peter and Chris Maestas, the project managers, and Chris very clearly said they have absolutely no plans of any kind to submit anything to the village, to make a change, to contribute to the plan in any way. And then he said, maybe we should meet. And I like, it was very tough because I've met with him what? We've met like dozens of times in the past three years. That's not. So Nathan and I went back there. I mean, we've already moved our fence quarter in 70 feet to, you know, adjust for this giant pipe of water. But we're like, okay, can we fix this solution? Can we fix this, right? but there's wires everywhere. Like the wires run south, north, the water comes right off over the wires, which you heard Chris say right away that was not supposed to be happening. 811 came over and marked all the wires. We've hired a professional survey company, they marked all our lines, and all of the wires are not in the easement, and they're not all at the depths they're supposed to be. So, I'm standing there looking at this water coming out, and if I turn where the water has to go, I mean, you have to cut through the newly graded road to get, it's crazy dangerous. It's crazy dangerous because you don't know where the wires are. Like how deep are they and like how much water's going to now cross them. So, I'm back here because I'm not willing to die over this issue. And it's like, it's not really a me and PNM issue. If we decide, forget it, we're going to just move. I mean, which we could do, we could just not build anything over there. That water is still going to run out of that pipe, cross wires, which will eventually be exposed, because the volume is really how you saw, and it's going to continue to flood the fire station in the school. Like, it's not really a me issue, you know? I mean, we're willing to help, and I told Chris we're willing to maintain any kind of check dams or any kind of, whatever they, but I don't feel like it's on us to dig through their wires, through the road they installed, over the, to account for the pipe that they diverted. So I'm like, where are we at? Like, what do I need to do? Like, do I need to give up? Do we think they might be able to do something at least to get it on the other side of the wire? (Mayor J. Bruton - And so what we're running up against right now, okay, is because both those properties are not owned by the village of Tijeras, right? If we start using our engineers to re-engineer anything, we're coming up against the Anti-Donation Act, right? So we can't spend money towards it, which is why I did my level best to try and discuss with PNM, get PNM to do it. And you're absolutely correct. That same day when we went out, when it was you and me and Maria and like three of their engineers, a couple of people from Mulls and Corbett, like we were out there in a gang that day, right? And we walked and we had our final conversation, right? They did say that they would be willing to work on using their engineers to create a new drainage plan and then everybody come to the table and say who was going to do what to change the drainage, right? So what I have an issue with too is because P&M is its own public entity, is I can't force them to do anything, right? We as a municipal government can't force them to do anything. We have to rely on their word, right? So without them adhering to their word, like they said they would do that day, I really can't do anything about it, right? Like there's no accountability that I can push on to them aside from in this case, it would be just the court of public opinion, right? The PNM is, and that might be your next option, right? Because I can't do that, but that might be your next option to go to the court of public opinion and talk to newspapers and say, look, PNM said they were going to do this. They called me for an interview. I'm going to say, yep, PNM said they were going to do it, and I was going to submit it to my engineers. My engineers had agreed to review it without cost, you know, like, that kind of stuff, but I can't, we can't go much further, I guess is the best way to put this. It's like we are very close to a standstill because we have no authority to force them to do anything. Like they have no authority to force us to do anything. You see what I'm saying?) I guess I misunderstood and thought that you were going to send them aa letter asking them to take action on this situation. (Mayor J. Bruton – I can do that, but I can't force them.) My attorney says that we should sue both the Village and sue PNM for creating a safety hazard. (Attorney J. Nixon – can I just



stop you all for just a second? Council, because there is threatened litigation, I want you all to be very conscientious about what you say, because this can be used against the Village in that litigation.) (Councilor M. Armenta – I was out there; we did some work for you on your septic’s, and I did see, wasn’t their line inside your property?) Yess, when the survey company came out and they mapped the lines, that wire is all over the place. (Mayor J. Bruton - Realistically, we don't have a lot further to go. And that property was purchased before you had purchased your property, and that's when it was approved through zoning for the drainage plan that they had had. It's built to the drainage plant they had. So I know, I feel your pain here, okay? But I'm saying we're running up against a brick wall ourselves right now, right? PNM is a very large entity. They kind of do a whole lot of what they like sometimes, right? Which is very, very bad. Public Regulations Commission, that's another place you could go. Things like that, okay? And get some light shined on them a little bit. If you shine the light on it, well then they might be more apt to come to the table with us, like we had suggested that day, where if you guys come up with a drainage plan, use your own engineers. Mine will review it free of charge, that way I'm not dancing along the side of of any anti-donation, and then we're working basically as a little bit of a mediator between the two property owners. You see what I'm saying? As far as like an easement, whether they're in their easement or not, that is definitely something that you would be... you would be bringing litigation against them to get their lines into their own easements, right? Because certainly they have an easement. But that for certain is like nothing to do with us. That's final for the county. That's, yeah. No, and I just wanted to clarify that, just the tiniest bit, right? Like their easements are their easements, just like our easements are our easements, right? But so if they're outside of their easement, that's definitely something you should work on. It's just like 2 residential property owners. If someone builds a fence 3 foot one way, they have to bring suit against the other property owner. So if they're not within their easement, then I would definitely encourage you to do something about that because they should definitely be inside their own easements. and at correct debts and things like that because the state regulates that as well for them. So that would be my other suggestion. I know that's frustrating. I know I get you, like I said, I'm feeling quite frustrated myself because they said that we would do this and then they didn't do that, right? And they never came back to us with a plan, so we can't do anything if they don't come back to us with a plan. And according to your statement of they say they have no intention of doing it anyway. It's completely false compared to what they said that day when we were standing there. They said they'd come up with something we'd presented to our engineers. Our engineers were standing there that day and said, hey, we'll look at it for your cost. I said, great. And then it never transpired. Again, I have no particularly great mechanism to force them to do that. So I am sorry, but I don't know. (Councilor M. Armenta – Would it be ok to send them a letter?) (Attorney J. Nixon – I that type of letter is perfectly acceptable for the Village to send. I do share the Mayor’s concern about expending funds to help a private property owner, as much as we would love to help mediate the situation, spending money on attorney’s fees on your behalf or engineering fees on your behalf, starts to run into some really serious concerns under the New Mexico Constitution and the anti-donation clause.)

6. Approval of Agenda for Monday, May 4, 2026

<b>A C T I O N</b>	<b>Motion To:</b>	Approve Agenda for Monday, May 4, 2026.		
	<b>Made by:</b>	M. Armenta	<b>Councilor Armenta- Yes Councilor Barnes- Yes Councilor Garcia- n/a Councilor Ortiz- Yes</b>	
	<b>Second by:</b>	E. Barnes		
	<b>Motion carried?</b> Yes	<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>	

7. Council to Review and Approve Regular Council Meeting Draft Minutes for April 13, 2026  
[Attachment A – Regular Council Meeting Draft Minutes for April 13, 2026](#)

- Councilor E. Barnes



- i. This is in reference to Representative Lord's comments, I noticed there's some asterisks in place off a would. Could I have that word? (Mayor J. Bruton – The word is “Bullshit”.) Could we enter it into the record that it was “Bullshit” instead of asterisks? (Mayor J. Bruton – If you would like that, during the motion just mention amendment.
- ii. Item 8 – I voted Yes and there's nothing next to my name, it also shows motion failed, even though the motion was made to deny the sone change. (Mayor J. Bruton – That should be Passed because everyone agreed. Thank you, Councilor Barnes for catching that.)

<b>A C T I O N</b>	<b>Motion To:</b>	Approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes for April 13, 2026, with amendments/corrections as discussed.		
	<b>Made by:</b>	J. Ortiz		<b>Councilor Armenta- Yes Councilor Barnes- Yes Councilor Garcia- n/a Councilor Ortiz- Yes</b>
	<b>Second by:</b>	E. Barnes		
	<b>Motion carried?</b> Yes	<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>	

8. **Council to Review and Approve Income Statement Ending March 31, 2026**

[Attachment B – Income Statement as of March 31, 2026](#)

<b>A C T I O N</b>	<b>Motion To:</b>	Approve Income Statement Ending March 31, 2026.		
	<b>Made by:</b>	M. Armenta		<b>Councilor Armenta- Yes Councilor Barnes- Yes Councilor Garcia- n/a Councilor Ortiz- Yes</b>
	<b>Second by:</b>	J. Ortiz		
	<b>Motion carried?</b> Yes	<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>	

9. **Council to Review and Approve Prodigy Quote for SCADA Mission – Booster D**

[Attachment C – Prodigy Quote for SCADA Mission – Booster D](#)

<b>A C T I O N</b>	<b>Motion To:</b>	Approve Prodigy Quote for SCADA Mission – Booster D		
	<b>Made by:</b>	E. Barnes		<b>Councilor Armenta- Yes Councilor Barnes- Yes Councilor Garcia- n/a Councilor Ortiz- Yes</b>
	<b>Second by:</b>	J. Ortiz		
	<b>Motion carried?</b>	<b>PASSED</b>	<b>FAILED</b>	

10. **Updates**

- a. Prior Meeting Items Discussions - None
- b. Mayor J. Bruton
11. Budget Workshops: Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup> and Monday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.
12. Summer Concert Series: June 13<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup> with Route 66 Centennial Celebration on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. We plan to have Triple X for our August 22<sup>nd</sup> celebration along with a car show and a few other things, if any of you have ideas or suggestions, please let us know.
  - c. Councilors  
Councilor E. Barnes
13. Audrey, Maria, and I attended the Senior Center Volunteer Recognition on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. They had 35 volunteers and handed our 23 certificates to those present.
14. Pine View road project – NM Gas Company out working on gas meter relocations. When is the next Pine View meeting with Molzen Corbin? Residents asking if Molzen Corbin has a rendition of what this is going to look like when complete? (Mayor J. Bruton – Bedrock will stay in place versus putting milling as that cost proposal was close to \$85,000.00 to remove/grade bedrock to place millings.) (Councilor M. Armenta – We may want to ask Vanessa to see if maybe there might be something like silt dams to angle the water away or gabion wire to protect the shoulder of the road.) Next meeting Wednesday at 11AM. No rendition only drawings.





*“If you are an individual with a disability who needs a reader, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the office of the Village Clerk at (505) 281-1220 at least four (4) calendar days prior to the meeting. Public documents including the agenda and minutes can be provided in digital or hardcopy format. The Village of Tijeras strictly prohibits any form of unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, sex, national origin, age, disability, or political affiliation in any program, activity, or service sponsored by the Village.”*

DRAFT