

**MINUTES
VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS
THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Los Lunas, County of Valencia, and State of New Mexico met Thursday, July 9, 2026 in regular session at 6:00PM. Roll call was taken, and the following were present: Mayor Charles Griego, Councilor Gino Romero, Councilor Christopher Ortiz, Councilor James Runyon, & Councilor Matthew Chavez. The meeting was conducted in person and recorded through TEAMS.

Mayor:	Charles Griego
Mayor Pro Tem:	Christopher Ortiz
Council:	Matthew Chavez James Runyon Gino Romero

Also present were: Gregory Martin, Mykayla Moody, Luis Brown, and Craig Donohue. In accordance with Ordinance 114A, the following agenda was prepared and circulated as required:

- 1. Agreement between Valencia County and the Village of Los Lunas to provide housing and care of municipal detainees.**
- 2. Better City Phase II: An Overview of the Village of Los Lunas Economic Development Strategic Plan for Consideration of Adoption**
- 3. Bid Award NM 263 Phase I Improvements**
- 4. Ordinance 488 – Personnel Ordinance Revisions**
- 5. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
 - a. Hire Electrician – Facility Maintenance Division – Parks & Reaction Department**
 - b. Hire Two (2) Parks Technicians – Parks Division – Parks & Recreation Department**
 - c. Hire Two (2) Parks Laborers – Parks Division – Parks & Recreation Department**
- 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - a. Minutes from June 25, 2026, Council Meeting**
- 7. ADJOURNMENT.**

• **CALL MEETING TO ORDER.**

At 6:00PM, Mayor Griego brought the meeting to order and welcomed the audience.

• **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

Mayor Griego asked Jonah Ruybalid to lead the Council and TEAMS participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

• **PUBLIC INPUT FORUM.**

Mayor Griego asked the audience if there was anyone who wanted to address the council that did not have an item on the agenda – there were none.

1. Agreement between Valencia County and the Village of Los Lunas to provide housing and care of municipal detainees.

Mayor Griego called for a motion from the Council to remove this item from its tabled status.

<u>APPROVAL:</u>	Motion to remove item from tabled status
<u>MOVED:</u>	Councilor Ortiz
<u>SECONDED:</u>	Councilor Chavez
<u>CARRIED:</u>	Motion passed on a vote of <u>4 FOR (Councilor Runyon – yes; Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.</u>

Village Administrator Gregory Martin presented the revised Agreement between Valencia County and the Village of Los Lunas for the housing and care of municipal detainees. Mr. Martin reminded the Council that the item had been tabled at the previous meeting to allow additional consultation between the Village Attorney and the County Attorney regarding several provisions of the agreement.

Mr. Martin reviewed the revisions made to the agreement, including clarification and reorganization of the alternate housing section, updates to the medical care provisions, revisions to the liability section referencing the New Mexico Civil Rights Act, and correction of the Village's mailing address in the notice section. He noted that the agreement remained substantially the same as previously presented, with the most significant change being the increase in the daily detention rate from \$120 per detainee per day to \$200 per detainee per day.

Council discussed the estimated budget impact of the rate increase, which was projected at approximately \$50,000 annually based on historical usage. Mr. Martin explained that the estimate was calculated by applying the proposed rate increase to the Village's actual detention costs from the previous fiscal year and noted that sufficient funding had been budgeted for the service.

Council also discussed future rate increases and confirmed that any proposed increase would require County approval and would be brought back to the Village Council for consideration. Additional discussion addressed provisions related to alternate housing costs and medical expenses, including language requiring Village approval for certain medical expenses exceeding the established threshold.

Mayor Griego asked for a recommendation regarding the Agreement between Valencia County and the Village of Los Lunas to provide housing and care of municipal detainees

APPROVAL: Motion to approve the agreement
MOVED: Councilor Romero
SECONDED: Councilor Runyon
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **4 FOR (Councilor Runyon – yes; Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

2. Better City Phase II: An Overview of the Village of Los Lunas Economic Development Strategic Plan for Consideration of Adoption

Senior Economic Developer Victoria Archuleta and Better City CEO Jason Godfrey presented the Phase II findings of the Village's Economic Development Strategic Plan. Ms. Archuleta explained that the strategic plan is the Village's first comprehensive economic development strategy and was developed in response to Council priorities established in 2023. The plan is intended to provide a roadmap for the next five to ten years by guiding business retention, attraction, expansion, workforce development, and long-term economic competitiveness while complementing the Village's Comprehensive Plan.

The presentation summarized the results of Phase II, including recommended target industries, business retention and expansion strategies, workforce initiatives, and implementation priorities. Presenters outlined the use of a customer relationship management (CRM) system to better track business outreach, coordinate efforts with community partners, monitor prospective business leads, and improve reporting to the Council through performance metrics and an economic development dashboard. The plan also identified strategies for targeted business recruitment through participation in state, national, and international trade shows and industry conferences.

Council discussed the importance of maintaining a strategic yet flexible approach to economic development and recognized the value of establishing measurable goals and quarterly performance reporting. Discussion also focused on targeted industry recruitment, the Village's participation in trade shows, and ensuring recruitment efforts align with the industries identified in the strategic plan.

Council members further discussed the importance of creating employment opportunities and community amenities that encourage young professionals and families to remain in or return to Los Lunas. Additional comments emphasized balancing economic growth with infrastructure needs while preserving the Village's quality of life and community character.

The Council thanked Ms. Archuleta and Mr. Godfrey for the comprehensive presentation and expressed appreciation for the work completed on the Economic Development Strategic Plan and its implementation framework.

Mayor Griego asked for a recommendation regarding the Village of Los Lunas Economic Development Strategic Plan for Consideration of Adoption Phase II

APPROVAL: Motion to approve Phase II of the Economic Development Strategic Plan
MOVED: Councilor Runyon
SECONDED: Councilor Ortiz
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **4 FOR (Councilor Runyon – yes; Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

3. Bid Award NM 263 Phase I Improvements

Public Works Director Michael Jaramillo, accompanied by Jonah Ruybalid of Molzen-Corbin, presented a recommendation to award the bid for the NM 263 Phase I Improvements project. Staff explained that the project is intended to address infrastructure needs associated with continued growth in the area while improving traffic operations, utilities, drainage, sidewalks, and roadway access.

Mr. Ruybalid reviewed the scope and construction phasing, explaining that Phase I will focus on improvements along the west side of NM 263, including installation of water and sewer utilities, storm drainage infrastructure, roadway earthwork, curb and gutter, sidewalks, and paving. Construction is anticipated to take approximately four to five months. Traffic impacts will be minimized by maintaining existing traffic patterns during much of the construction, with lane closures scheduled during off-peak hours and nighttime work where required, particularly at the NM 6 intersection.

Council discussed traffic control measures, anticipated construction schedules, storm drainage improvements, and the project's benefits to future development. Staff explained that the project includes installation of utilities that will provide service to future development west of NM 263, as well as extending water and sewer service opportunities to existing residences in the area. It was also noted that the project remains entirely within the Village of Los Lunas and does not extend into Valencia County.

Council inquired about the bidding contractors and project oversight. Mr. Jaramillo stated that both bidding contractors have successfully completed Village projects in the past and expressed confidence in the recommended contractor, noting its extensive experience with utility construction. Staff also confirmed that all work will be inspected and tested to ensure compliance with New Mexico Department of Transportation standards and Village specifications.

Mayor Griego asked for a recommendation regarding the NM 263 Phase I Improvements

APPROVAL: Motion to award the bid to the low bidder of TLC Company Inc.
MOVED: Councilor Romero
SECONDED: Councilor Chavez
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **4 FOR (Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Runyon – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

4. Ordinance 488 – Personnel Ordinance Revisions

Mayor Griego called for a motion from the Council to recess the regular meeting and convene in a public hearing. 7:05PM

APPROVAL: Motion to recess the regular meeting and convene in a public hearing.
MOVED: Councilor Runyon
SECONDED: Councilor Ortiz
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **4 FOR (Councilor Runyon – yes; Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

Village Administrator Gregory Martin presented Ordinance No. 488, amending the Village Personnel Ordinance to incorporate the newly created Village Attorney position. Mr. Martin explained that the ordinance had been properly advertised and the public hearing was being held in accordance with statutory requirements.

Mr. Martin stated that the Council had previously approved funding for the Village Attorney position in the current fiscal year budget. The proposed ordinance makes minor revisions to the Village's Personnel Ordinance and Municipal Code by adding the Village Attorney position in the appropriate sections, bringing it into alignment with the Village's other appointed positions.

Council discussed the appointment process for the position. Mr. Martin explained that the Village Attorney would become the fourth appointed position within the Village organization, joining the Village Administrator, Police Chief, and Fire Chief. He further noted that once a candidate is selected, an employment contract will be presented to the Council for consideration and approval.

Mayor Griego opened the public hearing. No public comments were received.

Mayor Griego asked for a motion from the Council to close the public hearing and return to regular session. 7:08PM

APPROVAL: Motion to close the public hearing and return to regular session
MOVED: Councilor Runyon
SECONDED: Councilor Chavez
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **4 FOR (Councilor Runyon – yes; Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

Mayor Griego asked for a recommendation regarding Ordinance 488

APPROVAL: Motion to approve Ordinance 488
MOVED: Councilor Ortiz
SECONDED: Councilor Runyon
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **4 FOR (Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Runyon – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

5. Executive Session.

Mayor Griego requested a motion from the Council to enter into executive session pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H), for discussion of matters authorized to be considered in a closed session. 7:09PM

APPROVAL: Motion to enter into executive session
MOVED: Councilor Ortiz
SECONDED: Councilor Romero
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **4 FOR (Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Runyon – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

Prior to entering Executive Session, Councilor Ortiz stated for the record that he would recuse himself from the discussion regarding the hiring of a Park Technician due to a potential conflict of interest.

At 7:45PM, Mayor Griego requested a motion from the Council to reconvene the meeting following executive session discussion.

APPROVAL: Motion to reconvene regular session
MOVED: Councilor Runyon
SECONDED: Councilor Romero
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **4 FOR (Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Runyon – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

Regarding the hiring of an Electrician – Mayor Griego recommended Santos Griego

APPROVAL: Motion to approve the hiring of Santos Griego
MOVED: Councilor Romero
SECONDED: Councilor Chavez
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **4 FOR (Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Runyon – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

Regarding the hiring of Two (2) Park Technicians – Mayor Griego's first recommendation: Joshua Ortiz

APPROVAL: Motion to approve the hiring of Joshua Ortiz
MOVED: Councilor Runyon
SECONDED: Councilor Romero
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **3 FOR (Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Runyon – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes) AND 0 AGAINST. Councilor Ortiz – Recused**

Regarding the hiring of Two (2) Park Technicians – Mayor Griego's second recommendation: David Renteria

APPROVAL: Motion to approve the hiring of David Renteria
MOVED: Councilor Chavez
SECONDED: Councilor Runyon
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **3 FOR (Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Runyon – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes) AND 0 AGAINST. Councilor Ortiz – Recused**

Regarding the hiring of Two (2) Park Laborers – Mayor Griego's first recommendation: Steven Benavidez

APPROVAL: Motion to approve the hiring of Steven Benavidez
MOVED: Councilor Chavez
SECONDED: Councilor Runyon
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **4 FOR (Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Runyon – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

Regarding the hiring of Two (2) Park Laborers – Mayor Griego’s second recommendation: Richard Sanchez

APPROVAL: Motion to approve the hiring of Richard Sanchez
MOVED: Councilor Ortiz
SECONDED: Councilor Chavez
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **4 FOR (Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Runyon – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

6. MINUTES

Mayor Griego asked if there were any amendments/corrections to the June 25, 2026 Council Meeting minutes – there were none.

APPROVAL: Motion to approve the June 25, 2026 Council Meeting minutes
MOVED: Councilor Ortiz
SECONDED: Councilor Romero
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **4 FOR (Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Runyon – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

7. ADJOURNMENT.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:48PM.

Gregory D. Martin, Village Administrator

Charles Griego, Mayor