

**MINUTES
VILLAGE OF LOS LUNAS
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026**

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Los Lunas, County of Valencia, and State of New Mexico met Thursday, April 23, 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 Matthew Chavez. Councilor James Runyon was excused. The meeting was conducted in person and recorded through TEAMS.

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

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

- 1. Public Hearing: Ordinance #487 regarding a loan agreement with the New Mexico Department of Transportation to complete the funding of the construction of the Los Lunas I-25 Interchange and East/West Corridor Phase I Project.**
- 2. Resolution 26-06 Transportation Program Funding (TPF) North Los Lentes Rd**
- 3. Resolution 26-07 Transportation Program Funding (TPF) James Street Hawk Signal**
- 4. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
 - a. Hire (2) Firefighter/EMT – Fire Department**
 - b. Hire Park Ranger II – Open Space Division – Parks & Recreation Department**
 - c. Hire Summer Recreation College Aides – Recreation Division – Parks & Recreation Department**
 - d. Hire Summer Recreation High School Aides – Recreation Division – Parks & Recreation Department**
 - e. Hire Summer Youth Employment Program Participants – Human Resources Department**
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - a. Minutes from April 9, 2026, Council Meeting**
 - b. Minutes from March 28, 2026, Strategic Planning/Pre-Budget Workshop**
- 6. 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 Brittany Armijo 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:

- Mr. Mark Massong thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing him to speak today. He reported that while riding his bicycle on the Rio Grande Bridge the previous Saturday, he was assaulted by an individual experiencing homelessness who also attempted to have a dog attack him. Mr. Massong stated that law enforcement was contacted and that the same individual subsequently directed the dog to attack a responding officer, resulting in the individual's arrest. He expressed concern about what he described as an increasing number of homeless encampments in the area, particularly along the bridge and local trails, and noted that other trail users have shared similar concerns. The Mayor thanked Mr. Massong for his comments and encouraged him to follow up with Police Chief Lucero for further discussion.
- Mr. Daniel Sova addressed the Council and stated that he has lived in Los Lunas for five years and enjoys the community. He expressed concern regarding increasing traffic congestion on the west side of town near Walmart. Mr. Sova proposed that the Village consider adopting an ordinance to restrict 18-wheelers from traveling on NM-6 during peak traffic hours, with violations resulting in fines. He suggested that limiting large truck traffic during these times could improve overall traffic flow. The Mayor thanked Mr. Sova for his comments and encouraged him to follow up with Public Works Director Michael Jaramillo for further discussion.

1. *Public Hearing: Ordinance #487 regarding a loan agreement with the New Mexico Department of Transportation to complete the funding of the construction of the Los Lunas I-25 Interchange and East/West Corridor Phase I Project.*

Mayor Griego called for a motion from the Council to recess the regular meeting and convene in a public hearing. 6:13PM

APPROVAL: Motion to recess the regular meeting and convene a public hearing.
MOVED: Councilor Romero
SECONDED: Councilor Ortiz
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **3 FOR (Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

Public Works Director Michael Jaramillo presented item 1, accompanied by Bond Counsel Dan Opperman, regarding a State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loan to support the Los Lunas corridor project. Mr. Jaramillo provided background on the project and noted the collaborative effort involved in reaching this stage. Mr. Opperman explained that the ordinance authorizes a \$14 million loan at an interest rate of 1.5 percent, to be repaid over 15 years in annual installments. He stated that repayment would be secured solely by state-shared and municipal gross receipts tax revenues, and that the funds would be used for construction engineering and management costs associated with the project. He further outlined key provisions of the ordinance and noted that it would remain in effect until the loan obligations are satisfied. Both presenters offered to answer questions from the Council – there were none. Mayor Griego asked the public if there were any comments on the presented item – there were none.

Mayor Griego asked for a motion from the Council to close the public hearing and return to regular session. 6:18PM

APPROVAL: Motion to close the public hearing and return to regular session
MOVED: Councilor Ortiz
SECONDED: Councilor Chavez
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **3 FOR (Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

Mayor Griego asked for a recommendation regarding Ordinance 487.

APPROVAL: Motion to approve Ordinance 487
MOVED: Councilor Ortiz
SECONDED: Councilor Chavez
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **3 FOR (Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

2. *Resolution 26-06 Transportation Program Funding (TPF) North Los Lentes Rd*

Public Works Director Michael Jaramillo presented Resolution No. 26-06 regarding a Transportation Program Fund (TPF) application for improvements to North Los Lentes (Phase II), extending from Taylor Road to Trujillo. He explained that the resolution seeks Council approval to submit the funding application through the Department of Transportation. Mr. Jaramillo stated that the proposed project would continue improvements completed in Phase I, including ADA compliance upgrades, drainage, sidewalks, restriping, and repaving. He noted that the project scope and estimated costs were included in the Council's meeting packet and offered to answer any questions.

Councilor Romero inquired about maintenance of storm drains along the corridor. Mr. Jaramillo responded that the Village has already begun cleaning the drains, noting that while the work can be costly, a solution has been identified. He stated that some sections have already been completed and that staff will continue the work on a more frequent basis, adding that recent staffing improvements are helping the Village catch up on maintenance.

Mayor Griego asked for a recommendation regarding Resolution 26-06.

APPROVAL: Motion to approve Resolution 26-06
MOVED: Councilor Romero
SECONDED: Councilor Ortiz
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **3 FOR (Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

3. *Resolution 26-07 Transportation Program Funding (TPF) James Street Hawk Signal*

Public Works Director Michael Jaramillo presented Resolution No. 26-07 regarding a Transportation Program Fund (TPF) application for the installation of a HAWK pedestrian signal at James Street along NM 314. He explained that the proposed project is intended to

improve pedestrian safety and accessibility for residents crossing to access the nearby trail system, noting that the Village has received letters of support from area residents. The project would also include sidewalk improvements in the vicinity. Mr. Jaramillo stated that much of the design work has already been completed, making the project “shovel-ready,” with an estimated cost of approximately \$1.5 million. Councilor Chavez asked whether the proposed HAWK signal would be similar to the existing installation and inquired about potential safety improvements in the area. Mr. Jaramillo confirmed that it would be consistent with the existing system and discussed current roadway conditions and speeds in the project area. He noted that the signal would provide pedestrians with a safe and controlled opportunity to cross and referenced prior safety concerns in the area where pedestrians did not use the crossing signal. Mr. Jaramillo explained that multiple funding opportunities exist, including safety grant programs through the Department of Transportation, and stated that the HAWK signal project would be well-suited for such funding. He further noted that the project could be prioritized based on Council direction while remaining eligible for consideration under these grant opportunities.

Mayor Griego asked for a recommendation regarding Resolution 26-07.

APPROVAL: Motion to approve Resolution 26-07 with the amendment designating the James Street HAWK signal as the second priority project.
MOVED: Councilor Romero
SECONDED: Councilor Chavez
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **3 FOR (Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

4. 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. 6:29PM

APPROVAL: Motion to enter into executive session
MOVED: Councilor Ortiz
SECONDED: Councilor Chavez
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **3 FOR (Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

At 7:03PM, Mayor Griego and Council reconvened the meeting following executive session discussion.

Regarding the hiring of (2) Firefighter/EMT – Mayor Griego’s 1st recommendation: Stephanie Hale

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

Regarding the hiring of (2) Firefighter/EMT – Mayor Griego’s 2nd recommendation: Dennis Hayden

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

Regarding the hiring of a Park Ranger II– Mayor Griego recommended Haley Baca

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

Regarding the hiring of Summer Recreation Aides (college and high school students) and participants in the Summer Youth Employment Program, a list of names was created. The list of candidates was provided to the Human Resources Director. Mayor Griego asked for a motion regarding the list of candidates.

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

5. MINUTES

Mayor Griego asked if there were any amendments/corrections to the April 9, 2026 Council Meeting minutes – there were none.

APPROVAL: Motion to approve the April 9, 2026 Council Meeting minutes
MOVED: Councilor Ortiz
SECONDED: Councilor Romero
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **3 FOR (Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

Mayor Griego asked if there were any amendments/corrections to the March 28, 2026 Strategic Planning/Pre-Budget Workshop minutes – there were none.

APPROVAL: Motion to approve the March 28, 2026 Strategic Planning/Pre-Budget Workshop minutes
MOVED: Councilor Ortiz
SECONDED: Councilor Chavez
CARRIED: Motion passed on a vote of **3 FOR (Councilor Romero – yes; Councilor Ortiz – yes; Councilor Chavez – yes) AND 0 AGAINST.**

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:06PM.

Gregory D. Martin, Village Administrator

Charles Griego, Mayor