

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24TH, 2026 VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

OVERVIEW

The council meeting on June 24, 2026, covered several key points. The Freedom Fest event is progressing with 14 vendors confirmed, including food trucks, face painting, and a watermelon eating contest. The village saved \$2 million in grants, including \$1.5 million for a desalination plant. The council discussed the need for compliance with state audits and the importance of using .gov emails. They approved the hiring of Malcolm Smith as deputy clerk and promoted Officer Chapla to sergeant. The police department is working on grants for additional officers and mental health programs. The fire department is focusing on ISO ratings and training.

ACTION ITEMS

- Set up council members for Municipality League training to satisfy special audit compliance requirements.
- Email the council the interim budget copies for review before the next agenda item.
- Prepare a listing of all past-due water and sewer accounts and amounts, and email the rough draft of the proposed water ordinance to the council before the next council meeting.
- Finalize the new water ordinance so it can be adopted at the next council meeting and used to begin sending past-due notices and offering payment arrangements.
- Contact the attorney the next day to get legal advice before proceeding with the proposed bank account change.

OUTLINE

- Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call
 - o Mayor Herrera calls the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and requests everyone to rise for the pledge of allegiance.
 - o Roll call is conducted with all council members present: Mrs. Martinez, Mayor Denny Herrera, Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez, Councilmember Salazar, Councilmember Sandoval, and Councilmember Olivas.
 - o Approval of the agenda is moved and seconded, with a roll call vote confirming approval.
 - o Public comment is opened, with no immediate comments from the audience.
- Public Comment and Event Updates
 - o Council Member Sandoval provides an update on the Fourth of July celebration, Freedom Fest, mentioning 14 vendors, various activities, and a need for donations and volunteers.
 - o Patricia Martinez adds that one-day vendor registrations or permits are available through Manuela at the library.
 - o Marlena Jasso introduces herself as the new clerk treasurer of the Village of Cuba and discusses the need for council members to take a class from the municipality league for compliance with state requirements.
 - o Marlena Jasso emphasizes the importance of using .gov emails for official communication and highlights the successful saving of \$2 million in grants, including a \$1.5 million grant for a desalination plant.
 - o Discussion on Compliance and Audit Findings
 - o Marlena Jasso explains the need for the council to comply with special audit recommendations to avoid losing village status.
 - o The council is urged to start using .gov emails and to review the audit report for transparency and accountability.

- Marlana Jasso stresses the importance of working together to identify and fix compliance issues, noting that the village has 270 pages of out-of-compliance items.
 - The council is encouraged to ask questions and hold the administration accountable for compliance efforts.
- Approval of Minutes and Monthly Warrants
 - The council approves the minutes from the regular council meeting held on May 27, 2026, and the special council meeting held on June 5, 2026.
 - Discussion on the monthly warrant for the village of Cuba for May 2026, with specific questions about various line items, including self-insurance fund payments and emergency expenditures.
 - The council approves the monthly warrant after addressing questions and concerns.
 - The council also approves the monthly warrant for the Cuba Housing Authority, with a motion to table the approval until the next meeting due to missing warrants.
- Payroll Register Approvals
 - The council approves the payroll register for the Village of Cuba for the period of 5/16/2026 through 5/29/2026 and 6/1/2026 through 6/12/2026.
 - Discussion on specific payroll items, including overtime hours and the need for comp time to reduce overtime costs.
 - The council approves the payroll register for the Cuba Housing Authority for the same periods.
- Approval of Resolutions and Contracts
 - The council approves the resolution to temporarily suspend the enforcement of the Village of Cuba Fireworks Ordinance for a designated community event.
 - The council approves a one-year contract with Hinkle and Landers for accounting services for the Village of Cuba.
 - The council also approves a one-year contract with Hinkle and Landers for accounting services for the Cuba Housing Authority.
 - The council approves the operating budget for the Cuba Housing Authority.
- Discussion on Hiring and Promotions
 - The council discusses and approves the promotion of Officer Chapla to sergeant, with a motion and second.
 - The council discusses the hiring of Malcolm Smith for the position of deputy clerk, with concerns about the job offer letter not including a contingency for council approval.
 - The council tables the hiring of Larell Cunningham for the position of certified police officer due to concerns about the hiring process.
- Updates from Police and Fire Departments
 - Chief Michael Huckaby provides an update on the police department, including ongoing grants for additional officers and mental health and wellness programs.
 - The Cuba Volunteer Fire Department provides an update on their ISO inspection, training efforts, and cooperation with the village clerks.
 - Discussion on the need for an evacuation plan for the village, with the fire department noting the importance of having a comprehensive plan.
- Meeting Adjourned
 - The council discusses the need for an evacuation plan and the importance of having a strategic operational plan for emergencies.
 - The meeting is adjourned at 7:20 p.m. with a reminder of the next regular council meeting scheduled for July 29, 2026.

Mayor Herrera 00:15

Like to call the meeting order at 6:03 p.m. Please rise for the pledge of allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance 00:26

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mayor Herrera 00:48

Roll call, Mrs. Martinez.

Patricia Martinez 00:51

Mayor Denny Herrera.

Mayor Herrera 00:52

Here.

Patricia Martinez 00:53

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 00:55

Here.

Patricia Martinez 00:56

Council Member Salazar.

Council Member Salazar 00:57

Here.

Patricia Martinez 00:58

Council Member Sandoval

Counsel Member Sandoval 00:59

Here.

Patricia Martinez 01:00

Council Member Olivas

Counsel Member Olivas 01:01

Here.

Mayor Herrera 01:02

Next item is the approval of the agenda.

Council Member Olivas 01:04

Make a motion.

Council Member Sandoval 01:07

I second.

Mayor Herrera 01:12

Roll call vote, Mrs. Martinez.

Patricia Martinez 01:14
Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 01:16
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 01:17
Council Member Salazar.

Council Member Salazar 01:18
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 01:19
Council Member Sandoval.

Council Member Sandoval 01:20
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 01:21
Council Member Olivas.

Council Member Olivas 01:22
Yes.

Mayor Herrera 01:24
Next item on the agenda is public comment. Two minutes limit. Is there any public comment from anyone?

Council Member Sandoval 01:35
I got something real quick. So me and my wife through Cuba Health Hustle, we're still moving forward with the Fourth of July celebration, the Freedom Fest. We're calling it, so we are up to 14 vendors that have told us that we're going to show up. We're going to have everything from food trucks to face painting, lemonade stands. We got a jumper coming in. Mobile barber shop, coffee. The cottage bakery, which is one of the locals that does like baked goods with the sourdough bread and stuff. We're still moving forward, trying to get a watermelon eating contest. We got the cornhole tournament, horseshoe tournament, and then the fireworks in the evening. So we're moving forward with all that stuff still. And if anybody is interested in donating, we're still you know going around and taking whatever because we still got to buy watermelons, all that stuff. Trish, I still got to get with you with the final paperwork on that stuff, which I got to tie in with Monique and you guys at your office, and got to tie in with you guys for the evening stuff. But yeah, and if you don't want to donate, if you still want to be involved and want to volunteer, and just help putting a hand towards any of it, we are completely open to it. So, oh, and a dunk tank. We're gonna not going to do a dunk tank but a dunk bucket.

Patricia Martinez 03:16
If I can just add to that, the one-day vendor registrations or permits are available with Manuela. They're at the library, so if anybody's wanting to do a one-day vendor permit, our business registrations are also available through Manuela at the library. They will be available. Kyle will be taking in the date of the event as well.

Council Member Sandoval 03:36

So the 5k starts at eight, and then we're telling everybody else just to be set up by night to be there by night. So, and the sign up for the cornhole and horsey tournament starts at night, opens up at night. So, yeah, and if you know anybody that wants to be a vendor, even like informational booths, stuff like that. Just they can contact me. We've been putting flyers throughout town, been blasting it all over Facebook. So we're just trying to make it, trying to bring something new and you know involve as many people throughout the whole community. This last weekend, I was able to get out to Moyardi, and from donations from everybody throughout town-or not everybody, but a lot of local businesses-I was able to pick up a little over \$2,200 worth of fireworks. So it's a lot more than what we had last year, and so yeah, just so everybody knows.

Marlena Jasso 04:43

I have something before we go for it. I'm not on the agenda yet, so I could. I'm going to do this during the public summit. Just nice to meet you guys all. I am the new clerk treasurer of the Village of Cuba. My name is Marlena, and I do have a couple of things to give you guys. I'm sure most. We went to the special audit meeting, and the things that we need to do as a village and as the council to start being in in line with what we're supposed to be doing for the state. Okay, so one of the things that that we were asked to do by the special auditors is have the council members take a class from the municipality league? I was just curious: have any of you taken that class yet? It's the training. Has anybody done that yet? We would like to get you guys set up with that to make sure that that happens, so we're in compliance with what they're asking of us, and all the board knows what they're supposed to be doing and all of that. It's supposed to be great training, so we'd like to get you guys set up with that. I'm going to ask another thing. Can you guys please start using your .gov email? We really were. It's something that we pay for, and it would be helpful for me to be able to email you guys individually if you could start using that email. We do have Jeanette's not here tonight, so I'm just going to quickly tell you guys, we were able to save \$2 million in grants for Cuba this month. Patricia and Jeanette worked extremely hard to ensure we did not lose those grants, and one of them is 1.5 million dollars for the desalination plant. So we are super excited about that. As we know, we need to get good water again here. So, really, really great job. So, shout out to these ladies. And I want to speak just a second about: Does everybody know and understand what happens if we don't get compliance from this special audit. Because I've been doing a lot of talking to the attorneys, to the municipal league and to the special auditors, if Cuba doesn't comply as soon as possible and start getting everything in order and doing everything the right way and what we're supposed to do, they could literally make us not a village anymore. We wouldn't have we would be an unincorporated place. So it's really important that we start identifying and start fixing anything that we were out of compliance with. And as we know, we had 270 something pages of out of compliance from years and years and years. So it's really, really important that we all start really paying attention and working together on what the money is being spent on, what is coming out of, that we have a good record of it and all of those things. So part of my job and what I'm here to do is to make sure we get into compliance with every single one of those items. So I just want to put that out there. Let you guys know what my work is going to be doing. Working with the council really hand in hand to make sure that we start identifying every single one of these areas. It's going to be a lot of work. It's a huge undertaking, but it's not undoable. Like we could definitely do it. We could definitely get there. And as long as everybody starts, you know, ask questions, pay attention, tell your neighbors, like what is happening. Ask us. We're here. We want you

to ask these questions of us. We want you to know what's going on, and it's incredibly important. I'm sure to the council and to me that we are transparent with everyone and what's happening. So please ask questions, whatever you want. It's public prefer. So if you guys have a question about something in that audit, you're free to ask. It's in there. So I highly recommend you review it, look at it, write questions down, and that way it will help hold us accountable. We're all here to serve you guys and the entire community of Cuba, and I think that we need to just make sure that we keep that really, really at the top of our minds, so we can start complying with everything we're supposed to be compliant with, and we start. Becky likes to say, "So we're in the good, for so we're in the news for good, right? We want to be in the news for good things and making the village a happy, wonderful place to visit, to open a business, all of those things. So thank you very much. Probably went over the two minutes. I apologize. Sorry. Bing, ding, ding. Sorry.

Mayor Herrera 08:59

We'll count Jeanette. We'll count, Jeanette's minutes towards yours. Okay. Next item on the agenda is: Is there any more public comment? Okay. Next item is, which is old business.

Patricia Martinez 09:15

There's no old business.

Mayor Herrera 09:15

Okay. And now we'll move on to item number six: presentation of the use of Non-Traditional Waters to Support Freshwater Sustainability by Emilio Maduno. Next item is discussion, consideration, and action of the approval of the minutes for the regular council meeting held on May 27, 2026.

Counsel Member Olivas 09:42

Make a Motion.

Counsel Member Sandoval 09:43

I second.

Mayor Herrera 09:47

Any discussion from the council on this matter?

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 10:03

Can we back up a little bit to item number six? Presentation of Non-Traditional Waters to Support Freshwater Sustainability by Emilio Maduno.

Patricia Martinez 10:09

He did not show up.

Marlena Jasso 10:11

Yeah, he's not here.

Mayor Herrera 10:11

No, he didn't show up. No further discussion from the council on this matter. Roll call vote, Mrs. Martinez.

Patricia Martinez 10:24

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 10:28
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 10:28
Council Member Salazar.

Council Member Salazar 10:30
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 10:31
Council Member Sandoval.

Council Member Sandoval 10:32
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 10:33
Council Member Olivas.

Council Member Olivas 10:34
Yes.

Mayor Herrera 10:42
Motion carries. Next item on the agenda is the discussion, consideration, and action of approval of the minutes for the special council meeting held on June 5, 2026.

Council Member Olivas 10:51
Make a motion.

Council Member Sandoval 10:53
I second.

Mayor Herrera 10:56
Any discussion from the council on this matter? No further discussion from the council.
Roll call vote Mrs. Martinez.

Patricia Martinez 11:18
Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 12:30
Hold on.

Patricia Martinez 12:43
Mayor, can you see how the speaker covered? That should be too bad.

Mayor Herrera 12:49
Oh no, it's not covered.

Patricia Martinez 12:49
Okay, thank you.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 13:01
I believe you guys in this meeting that there was a motion made, and I think was it you called the meeting, and Council Salazar second it. It didn't say when not when there's a motion made. Would you please write exactly what the motion is, so we know what it is.

Council Member Olivas 13:27
Well, we usually make the motion after he says what's the item on the agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 13:32
Yeah. Okay. Okay. Not. I'm not referring to the agenda. During the meeting, there was a motion made, but either you or Mr. Sandoval, I don't know one of you guys. I know another one second, but he didn't say what the motion was.

Council Member Sandoval 13:48
That right there, where it says Council Member Sandoval makes a motion. Council Member Salazar seconds. What's the motion to uphold the mayor's decision? What you wrote on there, Council Member Sandoval, I make a motion to uphold the mayor's decision.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 14:13
Yeah, that's a concern I had. Just when there's a motion, you gotta make sure that it's word by word what motion is. So we tested any amendments to the motion.

Mayor Herrera 14:29
You're saying just be more specific on what motion what the motion is then. Correct. Any further discussion from the council on this matter? Roll call vote, Mrs. Martinez.

Patricia Martinez 14:50
Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 14:52
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 14:53
Council Member Salazar.

Rod Herrera 14:54
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 14:55
Council Member Sandoval.

Council Member Sandoval 14:56
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 14:57
Council Member Olivas.

Counsel Member Olivas 14:58
Yes.

Mayor Herrera 14:59
Motion carries. Next item is discussion, consideration, action, and approval of the monthly warrant for the village of Cuba for the month of May 2026.

Council Member Olivas 15:07
Make a motion.

Council Member Sandoval 15:09
I second.

Mayor Herrera 15:12
Any discussion from the council on this matter?

Council Member Salazar 15:32
Page six of the fire protection fund. What is NMSIF?

Patricia Martinez 15:43
Page 66.

Council Member Salazar 15:48
Yes.

Mayor Herrera 15:51
Is it six or 66?

Council Member Salazar 15:53
Self insurers. Is that what?

Mayor Herrera 15:56
Yeah, self-insurance fund.

Patricia Martinez 16:00
Yes, it is the New Mexico Self-Insurance Fund, the village pays the overall insurance for property, assets, and equal persons to self-insurance fund, and then they reconcile it, and then each department pays for the total amount due. So the 13,004.52 that was up until end of June 2025. So we're trying to get them all caught up on paying those past due payments with that payment agreement.

Mayor Herrera 16:38
And we try to reconcile. Well, we worked on reconciling our assets also for the insurance company to see if we can get our policy reduced because we had some stuff that were that was on there that that was that we're no longer using and stuff. So hopefully, our policy when it's renewed will be a lot lower.

Council Member Sandoval 16:54
On page two of the fire protection fund, Don Chalmers for \$12,667. That like a repair?

Linda Morales 17:13

No, that was actually the money that went to get the truck decaled.

Mayor Herrera 17:24

End up with the sirens and stuff, right?

Linda Morales 17:25

Get the sirens, get the everything.

Council Member Sandoval 17:29

Updated with the whole thing. Exactly. Would it be possible to in our in the monthly warrants for the water and sewer department? Would we be able to get like a list of how many like noted like past due notices have gone out, and how many have been paid? Because I know that was one of the things on the audit.

Patricia Martinez 18:14

We have not sent out any past due notices for several years. We are working on a new water ordinance, which outlines when they're going to start getting sent out, offering payment arrangements. So that should be available by the next council meeting, so we can adopt it and put that in place and start with submitting notices and then giving the community options on how many days you have to pay and how much the payment arrangements can be set up. Okay, we can provide you guys a listing of all the past due accounts and the amounts.

Counsel Member Sandoval 18:44

Yeah.

Patricia Martinez 18:45

We would so we can get that over to you.

Counsel Member Sandoval 18:46

Okay.

Mayor Herrera 18:47

Or they could also maybe get them a I think a rough draft of the of what we're proposing to that they can look at ahead of time before.

Patricia Martinez 18:54

Yeah, we can email you all those who think about that. Yeah.

Mayor Herrera 19:05

Any further discussion from the council on this matter?

Council Member Salazar 19:07

Page one of the law enforcement protection. I see supplies, but what is Advanced T?

Police Chief Huckleby 19:18

Need to be more specific.

Council member Salazar 19:23

That's what it says. Advanced T.

Police Chief Huckleby 19:26
Advanced T. Oh, probably training.

Council Member Salazar 19:28
Training. Okay.

Council Member Salazar 19:32
No. T.

Police Chief Huckleby 19:33
Well, we didn't hire the Avengers, so.

Council Member Salazar 19:35
\$9,950.

Police Chief Huckleby 19:38
Can you say the price?

Council Member Salazar 19:39
\$9,950.

Patricia Martinez 19:41
So, Chief, that was part of that reimbursement to the general fund.

Police Chief Huckleby 19:46
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 19:46
They had. We had advanced technology for the \$9,950.

Police Chief Huckleby 19:53
I thought you said Advanced Team.

Police Chief Huckleby 19:53
Whatever date is there?

Patricia Martinez 19:55
Yes. So it was an invoice because LEPF didn't have funds at the beginning of the year, so the Village covered an invoice firm, so they were paying the village back for that amount.

Mayor Herrera 20:07
That was the total due owed on the invoice, correct?

Patricia Martinez 20:11
No, so whatever they were lacking on the invoice that the general fund covered.

Mayor Herrera 20:14
Yeah.

Patricia Martinez 20:15
So the total invoice is like 13,000, but 9000 came out of the general fund, and they're reimbursed.

Mayor Herrera 20:20
They reimburse us, but it was due from the police department to the general fund.

Patricia Martinez 20:24
Correct.

Council Member Salazar 20:26
Okay. Page five of the Village Water and Sewer Fund. TLC came out for \$6,612.61.

Mayor Herrera 20:41
TLC.

Patricia Martinez 20:44
TLC. That was one of the emergencies where that Austin then worked on with that new company.

Mayor Herrera 20:53
Oh, okay. That's the that was for the vac truck that that's built under TLC, correct?

Patricia Martinez 20:57
Yes.

Mayor Herrera 20:58
Okay, that was for Highway one night, whenever we have an issue with a source.

Patricia Martinez 21:05
That was that night, I believe, over there on 550.

Mayor Herrera 21:08
550.

Police Chief Huckleby 21:10
We have emergency everywhere.

Mayor Herrera 21:11
Well, that's it.

Council Member Salazar 21:12
This was this was in April.

Patricia Martinez 21:13
It's probably when we paid it. We're kind of past due on paying everything.

Mayor Herrera 21:18

And then it was for a back truck, not for so they had to build the TLC.

Council Member Salazar 21:22

Do we have our own back truck?

Mayor Herrera 21:28

No we don't have a back truck. They're right about half a million dollars.

Council Member Salazar 21:31

The ones that like the Lindrith does. Do we have one of those?

Mayor Herrera 21:36

No.

Council Member Salazar 21:38

No.

Mayor Herrera 21:39

I had already talked to Austin actually maybe a couple weeks ago go to get some prices together for evacuator or the jetter, so we could ask for capital money all day now for the next session. So he's getting that together.

Council Member Salazar 21:51

Okay. And then page eight of the Water and Sewer Fund V Bar Construction for maintenance.

Patricia Martinez 22:01

That was the emergency on 197 for back health services and their operator.

Council Member Sandoval 22:08

They helped us to serve that also. Yeah, they did.

Patricia Martinez 22:22

So with that, and then also Lindsay Pumping Services, we paid them for that emergency on 197. I think we got an original quote from P and D to do that work for over \$50,000, but we used local because they weren't so expensive. And then, if you guys noticed too, on that water and sewer fund, I did include the water and sewer deposits. I don't believe those were in past packets, so it is from July 1 to make to the end of May on all of the deposits and payments that have come out of that fund.

Mayor Herrera 23:07

Any further discussion from the council on this matter? Roll call vote, Ms. Martinez.

Patricia Martinez 23:22

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 23:23

Yes.

Patricia Martinez 23:25
Council Member Salazar.

Council Member Salazar 23:26
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 23:27
Council Member Sandoval.

Counsel Member Sandoval 23:29
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 23:29
Council Member Olivas.

Counsel Member Olivas 23:30
Yes.

Mayor Herrera 23:32
Motion carries. Next item on the agenda is the discussion, consideration, action, and approval of the monthly warrant from the Cuba Housing Authority for the month of May, 2026.

Counsel Member Olivas 23:45
Make the motion.

Council Member Salazar 23:47
Second.

Mayor Herrera 23:55
Any discussion from this matter from the council? Do you have a phone?

Mayor Herrera 24:45
On the warrant for the housing authority, Patricia, what the I guess they have

Council Member Salazar 24:49
Just the bank statement.

Rod Herrera 24:52
Oh, here it is.

Counsel Member Sandoval 24:58
Yes, payroll. Yeah.

Patricia Martinez 25:04
Yeah, it looks like the [inaudible] has been up. I know it didn't get in the packet. That was my fault.

Rod Herrera 25:17
As far as it, there's nothing out of the ordinary. It's payroll company for pay, electricity, water, fuel. There's the only thing is Perry Supply Company. There's a thing for \$342. We

use that. We had to get that because we had our inspection and we had to update our water heater's temperature relief valve system, so we had to get the supplies and we did it ourselves, and we had our inspection on June 8, which we passed flying thunders, so we should still be a high performer after this. So, other than that, everything's the same on the warrants. Nothing out of the ordinary.

Council Member Salazar 25:58
Thank you.

Mayor Herrera 25:59
Yep. Should we table this till we actually have the warrants? Like to table the approval of the monthly warrants for the Cuba Housing Authority for the month of May 2026.

Council Member Salazar 26:18
Make a motion.

Counsel Member Olivas 26:19
Second.

Mayor Herrera 26:23
Any discussion from the council on this matter? Roll call vote.

Patricia Martinez 26:32
Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 26:34
No.

Patricia Martinez 26:37
Council Member Salazar.

Council Member Salazar 26:40
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 26:42
Council Member Sandoval.

Council Member Salazar 26:43
Yes.

Council Member Salazar 26:44
Councilmember Olivas.

Counsel Member Olivas 26:45
Yes.

Mayor Herrera 26:59

Motion to table was passed. Next item is discussion, consideration, action of the of the approval of the payroll register for the Village of Cuba for the period of 5/16/26 through 5/29/26, and pay period 5/30/26 and 6/12/26.

Counsel Member Olivas 27:18

Make a motion.

Counsel Member Sandoval 27:19

Second.

Mayor Herrera 27:27

Any discussion from the council on this matter?

Council Member Salazar 27:33

On the payroll for 5/16 through 5/29 for Austin, it's kind of hard to tell if he was clocked out for the kindergarten promotion, and the same for Miguel. How would we know?

Patricia Martinez 27:57

The 27th.

Council Member Salazar 27:57

It was on 5/27. Rough 9:30 or 10 o'clock. The ceremony was from 10 to 11.

Mayor Herrera 28:14

Do you know what the length of the event was?

Council Member Salazar 28:16

The ceremony was from 10 to 11 is when I was there, and I left before them.

Counsel Member Sandoval 28:43

Are we working towards any way of like getting comp hours versus overtime hours to help try and like bring down some of these overtime hours? Because I notice like on almost every pay period, almost every employee is taking like a day off, whether it's holiday or sick, or like some of these that are racking up a lot of overtime hours. If we could give them comp hours, that would save them in the long run, right?

Marlena Jasso 29:18

Yeah. So what I'm doing currently is having one-on-ones with each employee and making sure they understand the expectations that they are not that overtime is for overtime when something has happened and it's an emergency. It's not to replace hours that you took during the week because you were sick or whatever vacation, and I'm making sure that we have sign-up on understanding, and then we will definitely be working for something to put something in place for that. Okay.

Council Member Salazar 29:53

Officer Mario Acedo, 80 hours administrative leave. Wasn't he already terminated by this time?

Patricia Martinez 30:03

No, ma'am. That didn't pass until June.

Council Member Salazar 30:06
Okay.

Council Member Sandoval 30:24
So for the same that same employee, hard to tell what page exactly. So it shows. Is that just like the payout from the hours from annual payout? That's right. Okay, it's on a separate check after the. Okay, I kind of figured that, but I just wanted to make sure.

Council Member Salazar 30:49
And it's only annual leave that you get paid out.

Police Chief Huckleby 30:51
Yep.

Council Member Salazar 31:00
Over time, your officers are still getting that overtime.

Police Chief Huckleby 31:04
They couldn't take a lot more, but they are taking a lot of comp time than what cops have. Some of the events that have happened, there have been some after-hours events that have required emergency attention. So there is some of that. But what's good is that the budget for last year we had about \$50,000 in the line item for the overtime budget. The police department only spent 20,000 of that out of 50 for the entire year. So because of that, I lowered the overtime budget and the line item for the PD to account.

Council Member Salazar 31:38
For this next year's budget.

Police Chief Huckleby 31:40
Yes.

Council Member Sandoval 31:47
The other thing with like the comp hours too is like it helps the employees out because then they don't have to use their vacation time or and they're able to build that up more in the event that they you know actually have to use it before you know emergencies or you know whatever.

Patricia Martinez 32:06
The only exception with that with that right there is the water department. So they do have to cover the rounds on the weekends. So they do rotate every other weekend between the two water department and buildings. So it's we are budgeting for that overtime. It's kind of hard to give them comp time because they're high school and there's always emergencies with water. So one's making a lot more overtime than the other, though.

Council Member Sandoval 32:33
If there's emergencies and if it's a legitimate overtime hours.

Patricia Martinez 32:37

They do have overtime justification sheets for any overtime that they're doing, so it has to be pre-approved, or we're aware of it. So it's not just them staying late or working overtime without approval.

Council Member Sandoval 32:48

Okay.

Police Chief Huckleby 32:51

No, that was that in reference to an officer would be water.

Council Member Salazar 32:54

Water department.

Mayor Herrera 33:05

Any further discussion from the council on this matter? Roll call vote, Ms. Martinez.

Patricia Martinez 33:17

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 33:18

Yes.

Patricia Martinez 33:19

Council Member Salazar.

Council Member Salazar 33:21

Yes.

Patricia Martinez 33:21

Council Member Sandoval,

Council Member Sandoval 33:23

Yes.

Patricia Martinez 33:23

Councilmember Olivas.

Council Member Olivas 33:24

Yes.

Mayor Herrera 33:25

Motion carries. Next item is a discussion, consideration, and action of the approval payroll register for the Cuba Housing Authority pay period 5/16/26 through 5/29/26, and pay period 5/30/26 through 6/12/26.

Council Member Salazar 33:42

Make a motion.

Council Member Olivas 33:44

Second.

Mayor Herrera 33:46
Any discussion from the council on this matter?

Mayor Herrera 33:55
Roll call vote, Mrs. Martinez.

Patricia Martinez 33:58
Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 34:00
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 34:01
Council Member Salazar.

Council Member Salazar 34:02
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 34:03
Council Member Sandoval.

Counsel Member Sandoval 34:04
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 34:04
Council Member Olivas.

Counsel Member Olivas 34:05
Yes.

Mayor Herrera 34:07
Motion carries. Next item is the discussion, consideration, and action for the approval of the resolution number VLC-06-24-2026-1 to temporarily suspend the enforcement of the Village of Cuba Fireworks Ordinance for a designated community event.

Council Member Olivas 34:25
Make a motion

Council Member Salazar 34:26
Second

Council Member Sandoval 34:33

So I can speak to this one. I worked with Patricia to get this in place. I know the last two years. I believe this is the third year that we've done this, the third or fourth year, and the light your own fireworks basically just started where some people wanted stuff on the fourth versus the week after. So a group of us just got together and we started pitching in, buying. Fireworks and through the council and the village, we would lift the ordinance of the aerial fireworks at the park, only the park for specific like time lock. And then once that time was over or we were done, then the ordinance put back into effect, and it was to help both the PD and the fire department because everybody was lighting fireworks anyways. And rather than everybody lighting on every end of town and every corner, nook and cranny, trying to get away, just bring everybody in one spot that's a little more controllable, and rather than having a fire on every side of town, you know, it was easier to keep, you know, control of everything. So, and it's been, I think, it's been a huge success. Adriana and Councilmember Salazar's-they've been part of it. And I mean, every year it seems like it gets a little bit better. We get a little bit more The community-it's good for the community engagement. I think last year's show ended up being like right around close to 40 minutes. So it's just a way of bringing, again, something to the community, getting community to be part of you know everything, and so it's just to lift that ordinance instead of going through it every year like we have been. It would just the ordinance states that it would happen annually on on July 4th from 7:30 to 10 p.m. or until the event is declared over, or if the PD or fire department say you know it's unsafe, and we need to shut it down.

Mayor Herrera 36:47

Any further discussion from the council on this matter?

Mayor Herrera 36:54

Roll call vote, Mrs. Martinez.

Patricia Martinez 36:56

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 37:00

Yes.

Patricia Martinez 37:02

Council Member Salazar.

Council Member Salazar 37:03

Yes.

Patricia Martinez 37:04

Council Member Sandoval.

Council Member Sandoval 37:05

Yes.

Patricia Martinez 37:05

Council Member Olivas.

Council Member Olivas 37:06
Yes.

Mayor Herrera 37:07
Motion carries. Next item is discussion, consideration, and action for the approval of the contract with Hinkle and Landers for accounting services for the Village of Cuba.

Council Member Olivas 37:16
Make a motion.

Council Member Sandoval 37:18
Second.

Mayor Herrera 37:23
Any discussion from the council on this matter? And this is just a one-year contract, correct, Mrs. Martinez?

Patricia Martinez 37:34
Yes, that's correct. So this would be January 1, 2026, through December 31 of 2027.

Council Member Salazar 37:43
It's two years.

Mayor Herrera 37:47
This is the last year of the contract, though, correct?

Council Member Salazar 37:49
October 26 to December 2027.

Patricia Martinez 37:55
So January 1, 2026 to December 31 to 2027 is what the contract does, so it's two years.

Mayor Herrera 38:03
Any further discussion from the council on this matter?

Council Member Salazar 38:19
Was it intended to be two years?

Mayor Herrera 38:22
Yes, we were wishing for one. And there, there's, there's ways to get out of this contract, correct, Mrs. Martinez? If we, if we wanted to switch bookkeepers, correct?

Patricia Martinez 38:42
Contract shall not be altered, changed, or amended except by a written agreement executed by the parties hereto. If we want to get out of our information.

Mayor Herrera 39:01
Any further discussion from the council on this matter? Roll call vote, Ms. Martinez.

Patricia Martinez 39:11
Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 39:13
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 39:14
Council Member Salazar.

Council Member Salazar 39:15
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 39:15
Council Member Sandoval.

Council Member Sandoval 39:17
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 39:18
Council Member Olivas.

Council Member Olivas 39:18
Yes.

Mayor Herrera 39:21
Motion carries. Next item is the discussion, consideration, and action for approval of the contract with Hinkle Landers for account service for the Village of Cuba Housing Authority.

Council Member Olivas 39:32
Make a motion.

Council Member Sandoval 39:33
I second.

Mayor Herrera 39:36
Any further discussion from the council on this matter?

Council Member Salazar 39:39
Same contract.

Rod Herrera 39:40
Same contract. The only thing I want to say is, I we needed approved because I don't care about Hinkle and Lenders. All I care about is the accountant. I've known her since for eight years. When she when I started, we were a Treble Housing Authority. She helped get all the financials in order and everything. If she was with another. Company, I'd be saying let's go with that company. So that's why I say yeah, she's there. Let's go.

Mayor Herrera 40:14
Any further discussion on this matter? Roll call vote. Ms. Martinez.

Patricia Martinez 40:19
Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 40:20
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 40:22
Council Member Salazar.

Council Member Salazar 40:23
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 40:24
Council Member Sandoval

Council Member Sandoval 40:25
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 40:26
Council Member Olivas.

Council Member Olivas 40:27
Yes.

Mayor Herrera 40:28
Motion carries. Next item is the discussion, consideration, and action for approval resolution number CHA-20262406 of operating budget for the Cuba Housing Authority.

Council Member Sandoval 40:45
Make motion.

Council Member Salazar 40:47
Second.

Mayor Herrera 40:49
Any discussion from the council on this matter?

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 41:13
Rod, did you have to make any major changes from last year's budget?

Rod Herrera 41:17
No, not really. Everything pretty much stayed the same as far as one payroll, it went completely decreased because the new maintenance guy makes a little less than the old maintenance guy. Other than that, they pretty much stay the same. If you guys ever want to dig deep into it, you could go to my office. We could pull up Excel, and I could explain stuff with you guys how we change stuff compared to last year and stuff like that. But I already submitted it to HUD. It won't get approved by HUD until it's approved by you guys, and that has to be put in by the by June 30th. Which, if it gets approved, I'll put it in tomorrow.

Mayor Herrera 42:00
Any further discussion from the council on this matter? Roll call vote, Mrs. Martinez.

Patricia Martinez 42:08
Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 42:09
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 42:11
Council Member Salazar.

Council Member Salazar 42:12
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 42:13
Council Member Sandoval.

Council Member Sandoval 42:14
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 42:14
Council Member Olivas.

Council Member Olivas 42:15
Yes.

Rod Herrera 42:16
I just want to say that the mayor has to sign that one form, the 5252574, I did that one time, so we're capable. Any committees get a copy of that? Please fill the copy of that for. Oh yes. So there. Oh yeah. Once he signs it, I'll just make the clock or the rise and give it to you.

Mayor Herrera 42:51
Motion carries. Next item on the agenda is item number 17. The discussion considering well, I wanted to table this item because I spoke to the state auditor today, and he suggested to us only right 20 tables. We had a meeting. Well, Marlana and Patricia had a meeting with him for about an hour today, and he said we need to speak to attorney because changing the bank account could cause a violation in oversight and internal protocols, and if we do not put the proper controls in place, we could each be held liable to the board of finance ethics committees, everybody that's on the council.

Council Member Sandoval 43:23
That was talking to Robert.

Mayor Herrera 43:42
The what? You talked to Robert? No, we talked to the state auditor.

Counsel Member Sandoval 43:46
The state auditor?

Mayor Herrera 43:46
Yeah.

Counsel Member Sandoval 43:47
Okay.

Mayor Herrera 43:49
So we need to seek legal advice on this, I think, before we adapt on it. So I'd like to table this item.

Council Member Salazar 43:56
Have you got in contact with the HUD?

Rod Herrera 44:00
Yeah, they called them.

Mayor Herrera 44:01
Yeah, we can have a meeting.

Marlena Jasso 44:02
We've been speaking with Ted as well, but we were told today by the auditor that the council has oversight over this, and if we don't listen to like what the attorney says and his recommendation as far as being able to switch bank accounts or not, we could each person could be held liable and responsible if something were not done exactly properly where the waiver's recommended. So we're just seeking legal advice before we vote on it, basically.

Rod Herrera 44:34
And how long is this going to take?

Marlena Jasso 44:36
We will get in touch with the attorney tomorrow and see if we can discuss it.

Rod Herrera 44:42
So when you guys have the meeting, because I'm gonna be part of the meeting either tomorrow or Friday at HUD, I need you guys to bring this up to them.

Mayor Herrera 44:51
Oh yeah, we're because yeah. Because we're having a meeting with us too.

Rod Herrera 44:51
We're going on and on. Yeah I mean, from your auditors, Wells Fargo, from one. Auditor Robert told me Wells Fargo is the worst institutional financial institution there is. He told me don't use the credit card, don't do this. I have a village or Cuba credit card which I did not use because it's going to be in violation of you guys. So I can't go buy a quart of oil. I have to charge it, write a check for \$5, stuff like that. I could be using that for fuel. I got to use a Wex card, which is part of the village of Cuba, which is an audit line supposedly because you guys are letting you use your cards.

Mayor Herrera 45:30
This came from the state auditors, not from Robert.

Rod Herrera 45:33
I'm just saying, you know, I'm just trying to make a point too.

Mayor Herrera 45:34
Well, we got to have a meeting.

Rod Herrera 45:37
Like I said, I mean, if the state auditor wants to get involved too, he could be on the phone.

Mayor Herrera 45:46
We have a motion for tabling this item.

Council Member Salazar 45:49
Make a motion to table item number 17.

Counsel Member Olivas 45:54
Second.

Mayor Herrera 45:58
Roll call vote, Mrs. Martinez.

Patricia Martinez 46:01
Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 46:02
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 46:04
Council Member Salazar.

Council Member Salazar 46:05
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 46:06
Council Member Sandoval,

Counsel Member Sandoval 46:07
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 46:08
Council Member Olivas.

Counsel Member Olivas 46:08
Yes.

Mayor Herrera 46:12
Well, motion to table for resolution number CHA-07012026. Next item is a discussion, consideration, and action of the approval of promotion of Officer Chapa to sergeant?

Counsel Member Olivas 46:26
Make a motion.

Council Member Salazar 46:27
Second.

Mayor Herrera 46:32
Any discussion from the council on this matter?

Council Member Salazar 46:34
Are you sure?

Police Chief Huckleby 46:39
I asked twice.

Council Member Salazar 46:42
Third time's a charm.

Police Chief Huckleby 46:43
That's true.

Council Member Sandoval 46:47
And is this just to have the basically the two leadership roles to be able to?

Police Chief Huckleby 46:52
Yeah. So as we know that especially with all these projects that we got coming up, and we're you know fixing the way we operate and doing things properly, Cuba's going to grow a little bit. With that, we're going to get more officers. With more officers, we need more leadership and we need more guidance. Without proper leadership, accountability for the officers, and the right amount of leadership that we have, things are going to fall through the cracks. And you know, at the end of the day, that'll be on me. So I'd rather things not fall through the cracks, and we have the proper amount of leadership and accountability so that we can keep operating in a straight and narrow path. So, with that, my recommendation was to have a sergeant's position and turn one officer's position into sergeant. Officer Chapa applied for it. I had two very strong candidates. The other candidate did not desire it. Officer Chapa has been doing it lately as the acting sergeant. He has a lot of roles on his plate. I've given him a lot.

Council Member Salazar 47:49
It's not that he didn't desire it; it's that he wasn't approved.

Police Chief Huckleby 47:54
No, toward the end, I think in that council meeting, and I can quote verbatim is that we were going to hold him and approve it for whenever he was going to come off of probation, and that was agreed upon by the council. But he desired not to do it, and I had a conversation. I'm going to keep that conversation between me and him. I don't think we need to get into personal matters in a political environment. So with that, Officer Chappa was only capable of doing it. I ran him through the ringer for least last month. He's done very well, so I have completed 100% pay. Anything?

Mayor Herrera 48:36
Any further discussion from the council on this matter?

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 48:38

Yes, I've got a question. Does this include a pay raise?

Police Chief Huckleby 48:42

No, right now it does not include a pay raise because due to previous fiscal management by the former chief, I am unable to give any of the officers raises this year. But this is something I hope to rectify next year.

Mayor Herrera 49:04

Thank you.

Council Member Sandoval 49:05

Anything?

Officer Chapa 49:07

I've been working under Chief Hubbard for the past four, five months now, and I see where he wants to go, and I have the same ideas as long as where he wants this village to go towards, and I appreciate the dreams where he wants to go, or the ideals where he's leading to, and I'm going to try to fulfill it or go in the same directions that he's trying to lead us to. Thanks.

Council Member Salazar 49:36

Thank you.

Police Chief Huckleby 49:38

That was very good for him. He doesn't like public speaking, so I think everybody here should give him a round of applause.

Council Member Salazar 49:48

You just turned him red.

Council Member Sandoval 49:55

I think it. I think it shows like huge improvement. On our department, where we were at, and where we're at now, and just having officers like you step up into these roles, you know I know Officer Lopez is part of the EST. Yes, correct. So it's like having officers getting more training, more capability, more knowledge. It only makes the department better, which in turn makes the community better and safer. So, I think it's, you know, I think it's a good stroke to go this way.

Police Chief Huckleby 50:32

Thank you. Good job, Officer Lopez. Thank you. Everybody, give them a hand

Mayor Herrera 50:41

No further discussion from the council on this matter. Roll call vote, Mrs. Martinez.

Patricia Martinez 50:46

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 50:47

Yes.

Patricia Martinez 50:48
Council Member Salazar.

Council Member Salazar 50:49
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 50:50
Council Member Sandoval.

Council Member Sandoval 50:52
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 50:52
Council Member Olivas.

Council Member Olivas 50:53
Yes.

Mayor Herrera 50:54
Motion carries. Next item on the agenda. Thank you. Next item on the agenda is discussion, consideration, and action for the approval of the hiring of Malcolm Smith for the position of Deputy Clerk with an effective date of July 20, 2026.

Council Member Olivas 51:09
Make a motion.

Council Member Sandoval 51:10
I second.

Mayor Herrera 51:15
Any discussion from the council on this matter?

Council Member Olivas 51:17
Well, you've got everything together.

Council Member Salazar 51:22
Actually, I understand that the job offer letter was given, although they didn't state on there that there's a contingency. They stated two of them out of the three that need to be stated on there. The contingency is successful completion and passing of background check, drug screening reference check, etc. and signing required employment agreements. Example: confidentiality, no compete. If act. if applicable. The third one that should have been on here is upon approval of council

Mayor Herrera 52:10
On 4.5 on our policy post. The council is only approving positions for budgetary consideration.

Council Member Salazar 52:17
New Mexico State Law of Municipality states that, regardless if it's in the budget or not, it's the letter has to state that it's contingent upon the approval of the council. Yes, it's in the budget, but the letter has to state that.

Mayor Herrera 52:36

Has to state that it's in the budget.

Council Member Salazar 52:38

No, it has to state that

Patricia Martinez 52:39

That was not included in the job offer that group, but I did talk to Mr. Smith and the email correspondence. He was clear that it was contingent upon the council approval. So not in the letter, but it is email.

Police Chief Huckeby 52:54

That's documented, right?

Marlena Jasso 52:55

Yes. It should be on. You're right, but they were spoken to about it.

Mayor Herrera 53:06

I guess to Mrs. Salazar's thing is every you're trying to say that everything should always be the same every time, every time.

Council Member Salazar 53:13

Oh yeah, for every hire, every new hire

Mayor Herrera 53:16

Every first person or the last person, correct?

Council Member Salazar 53:18

Whether it's you, whether it's you, you, it has to be the same every time, every time, because this will bring that publicity that we're trying to get away from, and it's nothing to do with you not being qualified, or I sat in the interview. I know it has to be right.

Mayor Herrera 53:54

No further discussion from the council.

Council Member Salazar 53:56

How? I mean, we could fix it by giving him a letter and fixing the contingency.

Patricia Martinez 54:06

Sure.

Council Member Salazar 54:06

And then have a special meeting to approve it, like you know.

Marlena Jasso 54:13

Are you guys okay to vote on it tonight? And we say we will fix it tomorrow. Like give you guys the we'll send it to you that we sent it

Council Member Salazar 54:20

No I'm not.

Marlena Jasso 54:22

Okay, I guess you have to vote on to table or whatever.

Council Member Salazar 54:25

So we can table and then have like a special session to approve, because it's not a it's not the fact that we're not going to approve. Because I'm pretty sure we're all going to approve. It's just it has to be done right.

Mayor Herrera 54:36

Or we can wait till the next council meeting.

Council Member Salazar 54:38

But then that will push his. That's it'll push his start date back, and if he's relocating, we don't want to do that, but we want to do it right.

Mayor Herrera 54:50

Or if we're not going to have another meeting, though, we can just push him back.

Council Member Salazar 54:51

So can't we have a special one?

Mayor Herrera 54:53

I guess

Council Member Salazar 54:54

To not push him back.

Mayor Herrera 54:55

What the schedule is? When he can be scheduled for it now, because he's here.

Council Member Salazar 55:01

Well, you don't have to be here.

Council Member Sandoval 55:05

The other guys were, but and the whole contingency is understanding. It's through email. It's not in the letter, but it's documented.

Marlena Jasso 55:12

Correct.

Patricia Martinez 55:14

And Mr. Malcolm, that was your understanding as well. It had to go through council, through our email correspondence. So you understood if this all had to be approved by council, and that's why the start date was kind of pushed out.

Police Chief Huckleby 55:26

If I may, because I was part of the hiring panel. Now I wasn't part of the letter, whatever. But what I can speak to is the email correspondence. And actually, I think the initial plan was to give them an earlier offer date. But Mr. Malcolm here did say that I want to wait until the council gives approval before I get here, before I start, and I agree with you. That's a concern that everybody should have when they're hiring. On is like before I say yes or you know commit to this move, I want to make sure I have the job. So I think it's not only just from the email correspondence said by Patricia, but Mr. Malcolm himself said I want to wait until the council approves. If that may not be verbatim, but I believe that's a brief synopsis. You are correcting that.

Marlena Jasso 56:10

I would say that it is in writing. It's just not on the software letter. So that's my that's only my that's my cabinet. And that's the same thing with item.

Mayor Herrera 56:17

Is that the same thing with item number 20 also correct?

Marlena Jasso 56:19

Correct. Yes.

Mayor Herrera 56:23

Okay. Yeah. Okay. It has to be done right. Can we table two items at a time, or do you have to go individually? Okay. So item number, if you like, go ahead.

Council Member Sandoval 56:34

Well, I mean, understand it. I understand get the process and everything, but I also understand that we're in a hole that we're trying to dig ourselves out of, you know what I mean. And I 100% agree with you, but in this case, I mean, if it's documented through email, now I can't speak to number item number 20 because I don't know if that's documented through email because of course or whatever. But you know, I just I understand, but I also hate putting things off and tabling and tabling and tabling. You know what I mean.

Council Member Salazar 57:07

But the thing about tabling is, we can't continue to keep on saying we're going to do things right and continue to do them wrong.

Council Member Sandoval 57:16

I know, but that's also why we're hiring. We're in this process of hiring.

Patricia Martinez 57:23

We are aware of the HR Document. So we are rebuilding each and every form from the ground up, and yeah, there's room for improvement on everything right now.

Council Member Salazar 57:33

On everything, even us, but we have to do it right. We have to do it the same way every hire.

Council Member Sandoval 57:41

In all reality, technically, I mean, we haven't even taken the classes, but we're sitting up here. Right.

Council Member Salazar 57:48

That's what I said. We have room for all of us to just come out. But

Mayor Herrera 57:54

No further discussion on this matter. Roll call vote, Mrs. Martinez.

Patricia Martinez 58:00

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez,

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 58:02

I'm not clear. What are we voting on?

Mayor Herrera 58:03

To hire Mr. Malcolm Smith for the Deputy Clerk Position.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 58:07

Who was in this panel interview panel?

Council Member Salazar 58:11

I was.

Police Chief Huckleby 58:12

I was.

Council Member Salazar 58:13

And I didn't get any other further information or correspondence other than sitting in the interview. So I don't know. Well, we don't. None of us do. None of us do. It was me, him, and Patricia, and Denny.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 58:49

Did you consult with anybody who would be in this town? Did I consult with what? With anybody?

Council Member Salazar 58:52

It was the same ones that did the first ones.

Police Chief Huckleby 58:55

Same panel that did all the hiring.

Council Member Salazar 58:57

The ones for the clerk and the deputy clerk. Yeah, except for Masterson was not here for his own.

Mayor Herrera 59:03

Got a had a schedule conflict to be here for Malcolm's interview, and I just sat on Malcolm's interview because I wasn't here for the other interviews.

Police Chief Huckleby 59:18

If I might be able to give you some information as part of the hiring panel, if you allow it, sir. So Becky is right. Everything has to be done correctly. I think we all acknowledge that. But one thing where we are going to get ourselves hung up on, and I'm just going to speak. This is just me. I mean, advice is free. Take what you want, do it through whatever you want. But as a leader, one thing that we can get ourselves caught up on is hyper technicalities. Now, I made plenty of mistakes, and I admit them. I got to move on from those mistakes and then correct it for the future. I have full faith in this. Here to do the job until we do it well. What I think we may do is we might get ourselves in a hole one day where we're so focused on the hyper technicalities that we eventually deter people from wanting to apply here to begin with because they're afraid of small town bureaucracy. Now, here's what I here's what Michael Huckabee would do. Chief Fucking DF files hiring an officer, and this came up. Document it. Make sure it was known. This was brought up. Here's how it was. This is what was brought up. We are in the middle of a change. We are developing and changing the entire way the village operates. Mistakes are bound to happen. We're going to make them. But the only way we can improve is by identifying these mistakes. Now, I have full faith that he can do it, and if everybody agrees to, I say that we make the vote or however you want it, and then we identify the mistake, and then turn around tomorrow and work on correcting that mistake to make sure it doesn't happen again in the future. But if we become hyper technical about all our hiring processes, unless it involves something that is an ethical or moral or legal concern, then we will get caught up in the bad juju or the bad stigma of small town politics in bureaucracy.

Council Member Salazar 1:01:05

Well, for 40, 50 years, it's been done the same way over and over and over and over again. Why can't we get it right? Why can't we do it right if we know it's wrong?

Police Chief Huckleby 1:01:15

If we don't have help, and to be honest with you, it's because we didn't identify these things that, in the past I assume just based on the audit that people knew mistakes were happening, but nobody identified it, and that nobody chose to correct it in the future.

Marlena Jasso 1:01:29

Now you're working extremely hard to correct these mistakes, and you're not going to do it overnight. That's right, and but we are. I mean, we have already made huge triads and improvements on speaking to the correct people to help us out with this, making sure that we're following everything we're supposed to do. Working with the municipal league, working with the attorney, working with the auditors to ensure that moving forward, it's not done like it's been done for the past 40, 50 years. And I wholeheartedly agree with what you've just stated. I agree with you, Becky, that this was a mistake, but it's a mistake that was also handled in writing with him. So we still have it in writing. It's just not on that piece of paper. So I think that this is something that you guys can vote on tonight. You can vote no. You can vote yes. But I think it's something that can definitely be voted on because we do have it in writing, and he did have the understanding, and he admits that. So I think that going forward, even if somebody were to question us, we still have it in writing, so we wouldn't get in any trouble. Is what I say. So that's just my opinion.

Patricia Martinez 1:02:30

And in the past, what was provided to you guys as the council? I mean, I put the job offer letter in your packets, but I know in previous meetings we had hired people before was it even approved through council? So we are trying to make those steps on saying make sure council approves it because we don't want to bring somebody on board and get denied through council. And then what do we do if somebody ups and leaves their lives and thinks they have a new job and they start all over? So we are trying to improve by getting it approved by council prior to their start dates.

Council Member Salazar 1:03:01

Yeah, yeah, and I'm sorry, but I've been the no queen here.

Police Chief Huckleby 1:03:06

It's very much needed

Council Member Salazar 1:03:08

I've been doing it since the hire in April of 2024.

Marlena Jasso 1:03:21

And that's how we're going to get better by you continuing to like every time we make a mistake, we need to have it solved out. You guys just have to decide if the mistake is egregious enough to vote the vote. That's I think that.

Police Chief Huckleby 1:03:32

And I think Becky does have a good point, and I can understand why you're frustrated. I would be too. It's very frustrating. It's very frustrating

Council Member Salazar 1:03:39

It is very frustrating that, I mean, Mr. Malcolm came here to say I'm going to start my job. I got my offer letter. It was done wrong, but last month it was done right. Make that make sense.

Police Chief Huckleby 1:03:55

Which thing was done right?

Council Member Salazar 1:03:57

The hiring.

Police Chief Huckleby 1:03:58

The hiring

Council Member Salazar 1:03:59

The hiring of our two employees that we just hired, it was done right because you didn't get a disagreement from me or from any other of the council.

Police Chief Huckleby 1:04:06

Well, I don't think anybody's wants to disagree.

Council Member Salazar 1:04:08

So and it's not about disagreeing; it's about doing it right. It's not ill intention. It's not that I don't think you're, you can do the job. I know you can, I know you will. And my vote wasn't going to be a no vote. It's gonna. It was a, the letter has to have that contingency. And if it's on email, I'd like to see it.

Police Chief Huckleby 1:05:02

I mean, I can bring it to you. I keep so I keep my government on the phone, so I can show you right now.

Council Member Salazar 1:05:07

Show it. I don't get service here.

Police Chief Huckleby 1:05:07

Luckily, I do.

Malcolm Smith 1:05:08

I also have a copy of that email that can provide to the council.

Mayor Herrera 1:05:12

How do we know that Mr. Malcolm is going to even want the job after if we have a special meeting.

Council Member Olivas 1:05:40

Lets just vote.

Council Member Salazar 1:05:40

Yes vote. Yes vote. Yes. Yeah, it's gonna be yes. Okay.

Mayor Herrera 1:05:43

Go ahead and read that back in and whatever.

Council Member Sandoval 1:05:51

Mr. Smith, do you have anything as far as you know your perspective on the town, like what your you know, your commitment to being here, to helping the community improve, and to make this a great place for people to live.

Malcolm Smith 1:05:52

I have made the effort. I took the day off of work. I made the hour and a half drive down to be present at this meeting. I, as everybody has mentioned, I have formally said that I am willing to accept the job after the council makes the vote. If the council votes yes, I am more than happy to sign an amended job offer letter with all the credit for retained.

Mayor Herrera 1:06:38

Any further discussion from the council on this matter. Roll call vote. Mrs. Martinez.

Patricia Martinez 1:06:45

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 1:06:47

Well, I'm still skeptical about the interview process, so we'll have to vote no. Okay.

Patricia Martinez 1:06:58
Council Member Salazar.

Council Member Salazar 1:07:02
Yes, after we. reading that,

Patricia Martinez 1:07:07
Council Member Sandoval.

Counsel Member Sandoval 1:07:08
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 1:07:11
Council Member Olivas.

Counsel Member Olivas 1:07:12
Yes.

Mayor Herrera 1:07:13
Motion carries. Next item on the agenda is the discussion, consideration, action of approval of the hiring of Larell Cunningham for the position of certified police officer with an effective date of June 29, 2026.

Counsel Member Olivas 1:07:27
Make a motion.

Counsel Member Sandoval 1:07:28
I second.

Mayor Herrera 1:07:30
Any discussion from the from the matter from the council on this? And this is exactly the same thing that we just went through. Correctness.

Council Member Salazar 1:07:39
Do you have the same correspondence?

Police Chief Huckleby 1:07:42
No, if the council wishes, go ahead and table it, and I'll be more than happy to work with you on how you feel will be best on hiring in the future.

Council Member Sandoval 1:07:48
I make a motion to table item number 20.

Council Member Olivas 1:07:55
Make a motion.

Council Member Salazar 1:07:56
He already did.

Council Member Olivas 1:08:00
I second.

Mayor Herrera 1:08:03
Roll call vote for the to table the hiring of Larell Cunningham for the position of certified police officer. Roll call vote, Mrs. Martinez.

Patricia Martinez 1:08:12
Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 1:08:13
Is this to table it or to table it?

Patricia Martinez 1:08:15
Yes, sir.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 1:08:16
No, let's get on with it. No.

Mayor Herrera 1:08:23
No, to not table. Correct. Okay.

Patricia Martinez 1:08:26
Okay. Council Member Salazar.

Council Member Salazar 1:08:28
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 1:08:29
Council Member Sandoval.

Council Member Sandoval 1:08:31
Yes.

Patricia Martinez 1:08:32
Council Member Olivas.

Council Member Olivas 1:08:33
Yes.

Mayor Herrera 1:08:35
Item is tabled then for the hiring of the Layrelle Cunningham. Next item on the agenda is a review of the municipal court report for the month of May 2026.

Council Member Olivas 1:08:46
Make a motion to review with it. Over with [inaudible].

Council Member Salazar 1:09:01
Welcome to the village. You made it. You did.

Council Member Sandoval 1:09:11

Chief, I know I had asked you in the business watch meeting or whatever, but. Our municipal judge is he backs you and your officers as far as if you guys go in and recommendations as far as people you're arresting, fines, community service, whatever you guys are getting the support on the judicial side.

Police Chief Huckleby 1:09:40

Yes, I think he operates fairly, so I have no complaints about the judgmental.

Mayor Herrera 1:09:51

Next item is the well, Mr. Nimble is not here, and next item is a brief update from the Cuba Volunteer Fire Department to Brian.

Fire Chief 1:10:01

It'll be brief. The updates we have is we're working with village clerks, which has been nice for us. A lot of back and forth cooperation and a lot of good open communication. So that's been good for us. Had an extremely busy month, so we're doing the best we can on the internal side, right now we're focusing on our ISO. We've been told we've got an ISO inspection coming up this year. We're currently at Class Four, and right now we are nine points away from Class Three. If we really push it, we could hit it to about 18 points away.

Mayor Herrera 1:10:40

So we're class four right now, and that'll help our insurance rates and everything as the rating goes up. Correct.

Fire Chief 1:10:46

And then of course it'll help with additional funding to the fire department as well. So that's our primary focus. Which, as we all know, the water system is big on that. We have a usage agreement with the Higgin Apache Tribe out there for the water system that's on the casino property, which is about 100,000 gallon six hydrants. So we've tied that in with our existing water storage. The other side is training and response. So we're doing pretty good with apparatus. We've got a lot of good equipment. We're working on the new gear for this year, and then we're really stepping up the training, and we're working closely with the state fire marshal's office and the ISO as well. We've incorporated things like ISO Mitigate, which is a platform that lets us communicate with them throughout the year. So they're seeing real time our training upticks, our responses, everything like that in real time. So this actually helps to those points and actually see. Tentatively, they got that scheduled for the later part of the year, and I think we'll be on track with that. But we can request an extension so that when we get that extension, we're ready.

Mayor Herrera 1:11:56

Well, hopefully, we'll get the rating, and hopefully, the state takes into consideration the village's insurance policy, and which affects every entity within the village. And on our end, we're working. Jeanette's still working to get the match grant for the hydrants. Okay, so we haven't forgotten. Yeah. Okay. And I'm working with AJ on the other end because it's on the other. Okay.

Council Member Salazar 1:12:20

Would be nice to have a new list of officers for our next meeting or email. Fire Department will have to email Patricia and then she could send it to me because whatever else you need, and then if you

Council Member Sandoval 1:12:33

Want to get together after this, yeah. And your guys' next business meeting is next week, right? So the seventh. Okay.

Mayor Herrera 1:12:46

Next item is the brief update from the Cuba Police Department, Chief Michael Huckaby.

Police Chief Huckleby 1:12:53

So today I had a Commissioner Jones was in town, so I went and spoke with the commissioner. We had a good conversation. There's some good updates, not just for the police department. It affects us in the long run, but it has a direct effect on the village. So he spoke to Senator Heinrich, and him and Senator Heinrich are looking at economic development in Cuba, and we're looking at a federal grant for the Colonial Trail. The reason why it involved me is because it's going to bring in more traffic, and with more traffic and more people, potentially more product. But that is something that Commissioner Jones is right now working on. But not only that, I think in the future you and I are going to be working close. They're working on a plan that they did in Placitas of Sanibel County to increase response by police departments or the sheriff's office in their case and the fire department for wildland fires for like emergency response, shut down roads, fire go out there and do their thing, and then we sit down and close roads, make sure nobody gets hurt while they're over there fighting the fire. So that is a plan that's coming up in the future as well. The police department has several grants being worked on by Jeanne Renville right now. One was a cops grant, and we'll hire three additional officers. The grant will pay 75% of the salary and the fringe benefits of those officers. And we are also working on a grant in regard to mental health and wellness for honestly the PD. It'll cover both the mental and the physical well-being of the officers. So I'm working on a program now for the officers, that if they take a PT test of my design, don't cringe. Twice a year in the past, I hope to come to the council and bring a fourth substitute where they would be granted 10 hours of leave added on for being able to be physically fit and maintain physical readiness to be able to respond to any emergency that the pollution keeper may need.

Council Member Salazar 1:14:41

Other than that, are you going to take that test too?

Police Chief Huckleby 1:14:43

I'm going to I'm going to be the leading example of that test.

Mayor Herrera 1:14:47

Kyle, I'm happy to hear that you guys are working with other entities within the village, and that's how it should be.

Police Chief Huckeby 1:14:54

Okay, you know, one two way one fight, and you know, kind of like this little thing that we had just a minute ago in regard to. The thing at the end of the day, we're all here for the same purpose, and that's to see the village keeper flourish. We may have different ideas about how it goes, but at the end of the day, we all have the right heart and mind and how we want to do it. And that's one thing that we all need to make sure we focus on. But the PD is moving forward with that. I'm excited for you all to see the budget. I was able to knock down some payments, or work with the county on knocking down the overtime budget for it, taking away money that we didn't really need and put it towards something that's actually needed.

Patricia Martinez 1:15:31

We are working on the interim budget, so that'll be on the next agenda to be turned in and approved. But I will get you guys over the copies of the interim budgets to your emails, so you guys can review those. And if you have any questions, you can get with Marlene and myself as well.

Mayor Herrera 1:15:48

On this, Patricia, the thing for Beasley and Company, it's going to be on the next agenda because they didn't show up for the meeting or they didn't schedule call in. Is that what happened?

Patricia Martinez 1:15:57

They wanted it remotely, and right now we don't offer that. So let me see if we can.

Mayor Herrera 1:16:02

Is there a time frame that we need to have that fulfilled by

Patricia Martinez 1:16:05

Yeah, we need to get that approved. Okay. So the annual audit needs to be approved to council too. So we just got the books in, so we included in your packet for you guys as we go.

Mayor Herrera 1:16:16

The next regular council meeting is scheduled.

Counsel Member Sandoval 1:16:19

Quick question for both PD and fire department. Does Cuba have any kind of evacuation plan? The reason I thought about it was because of the fire in Jemez, and they evacuated Sierra Los Pinos, and they were under that whole go thing. Is there anything for Cuba?

Council Member Sandoval 1:16:37

Yeah. No.

Police Chief Huckeby 1:16:40

That's something that needs to come out. That's one thing that comes up with the commission talking about is that operational plans. Now plans like that are of large scale, and they take time and they take a lot of.

Council Member Salazar 1:16:52

We should have the schools do.

Mayor Herrera 1:16:55

They have a plan. That's they put that other road on.

Mayor Herrera 1:16:57

They have an evacuation plan. The schools do, so the village should.

Council Member Sandoval 1:17:00

Yeah, I mean, just especially because there's, I mean, there's a bridge on the north end of town. There's a bridge on 197. So, kind of, that's where people come in.

Police Chief Huckleby 1:17:11

We'll have to talk about proper way to escape. But also, that's going to come down to how everybody exits those. Depends upon where the fire is or where, whatever kind of threat it comes up, whether it's a fire, if Al Qaeda decides to invade Cuba for all its natural resources for some reason, I don't know. But no, that's something that we'll get on.

Mayor Herrera 1:17:29

And contacting the community members more importantly than anything.

Fire Chief 1:17:32

Yeah, we'd everybody find out existing in place, but they're pretty outdated. Okay. So that's part of our review too. And one of my like main things that I think to consider or whatever is like a hazmat situation because of 55 going through town and there's way more you know big trucks was Cuba than but there was money even 10 years ago to your point

Police Chief Huckleby 1:17:55

Mountainair just saw about four individuals passed out like a couple died due to exposure to narcotics out of a single residence, so those are things that will be all-encompassing in an operational plan. So these operational plans, strategic is long-term. So strategy means hey, this is covering everything and everything. Tactical is going to be more small, and it takes it doesn't take me as long. But these strategic operational plans take time and it takes a lot of logistics and work, but it is something that can be done, and you know we'll work together on making sure that comes that comes to fruition.

Mayor Herrera 1:18:29

Thank you. So meeting adjourned.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez 1:18:33

I got a question. How many officers do we have here?

Police Chief Huckleby 1:18:36

We have five right now, pending one for Mr. Cunningham, anything else's decision after a special meeting or annual review session?

Council Member Salazar 1:18:48

Five on the street.

Police Chief Huckeby 1:18:51
Five total in the department.

Council Member Sandoval 1:18:54
And one sergeant.

Mayor Herrera 1:18:59
Do you want us to hold on to these Ms. Martinez, look at them till whenever we have the

Patricia Martinez 1:19:04
Those are your copies to keep. I have made copies for everybody.

Mayor Herrera 1:19:08
And the information on the contract is inside for reasons.

Patricia Martinez 1:19:12
No, that's just the final audit. That's just the audit. We're still working on obtaining the contract for next to this year.

Mayor Herrera 1:19:27
Next regular council meeting is scheduled for July 29 2026 at 6p.m. effective July six, 2026. The Village of Cuba Water and Sewer Department will relocate to the Sandoval County Fairgrounds AMI building located at 20 Pond Road. Meeting adjourned 720 3p.m. Thank you, everybody.

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