

Minutes
VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 8, 2021, 5:30 PM
PLANNING COMMISSION CHAMBERS
409 NORTH PASEO DE OÑATE ESPAÑOLA, N.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Javier E. Sanchez calls meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ MOMENT OF MEDITATION/ INVOCATION

Mayor Javier E. Sánchez lead the pledge of allegiance and Councilor Peggy Sue Martinez led the moment of mediation.

III. ROLL CALL/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The following are in attendance:

Mayor:	Javier E. Sanchez
Mayor Pro Tem:	Dennis Tim Salazar
Councilors:	Peggy Sue Martinez
	Justin Salazar Torrez
	John Ramon Vigil
	Manuel J Martinez
	John L. Ricci
	Denise D. Benavidez
	Dorothy "DeeDee" Valdez

City Manager Xavier Martinez - *residing*
City Clerk Angelica M. Serrano - *residing*
Contract Attorney Jonas Nahoum - *residing*

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Peggy Sue Martinez motioned to approve April 8, 2021 Agenda; Second by Councilor Justin Salazar Torrez.

Mayor Javier E. Sánchez requested a Roll Call vote:

<i>Mayor Pro Tem:</i>	<i>Dennis Tim Salazar- in favor</i>
<i>Councilors:</i>	<i>Peggy Sue Martinez – in favor</i>
	<i>John L. Ricci – in favor</i>
	<i>Justin Salazar-Torrez – in favor</i>
	<i>John Ramon Vigil – in favor</i>
	<i>Manuel J. Martinez- in favor</i>
	<i>Denise D. Benavidez – in favor</i>
	<i>Dorothy DeeDee Valdez- in favor</i>

V. ITEMS PROPOSED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION/DISCUSSION ITEM(S)/ACTION ITEM(S)

*Councilor John Ramon Vigil motioned to approve Appointment of Temporary Municipal Judge.
; Second by Councilor Dennis Tim Salazar.*

Mayor Javier E. Sanchez asked if there were any other nominations that the Council wished to appoint with no response.

Under discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Tim Salazar expressed that it was an honor to support Mr. Martin Martinez as the temporary Municipal Judge.

Councilor John Ramon Vigil also expressed appreciation toward Mr. Martinez's qualifications and hoped he will consider becoming the Interim Municipal Judge in the future.

Councilor Peggy Sue Martinez expressed her appreciation to Mr. Jose Sandoval for his efforts in presenting Martin Martinez as a viable candidate for nomination.

Councilor Denise D. Benavidez showed appreciation for "stepping up to the plate" being how difficult it is to find someone with Mr. Martinez's background and experience.

Councilor Justin Salazar Torrez stated he looked forward to Mr. Martinez's leadership followed by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Tim Salazar taking the opportunity to thank Mayor Sanchez for his leadership and hard work to make the appointment happen on behalf of the City.

Councilor Manuel J. Martinez echoed Mayor Pro Tem Salazar's statements in thanking Mayor Sanchez for finding someone who was highly qualified for the position and looked forward to seeing Mr. Martinez entering his role.

Councilor Peggy Sue Martinez asked if it would be possible for Martin Martinez to continue as a successor to the Municipal Judge position. Mayor turned City Attorney Jonas Nahoum for clarification to Councilor Peggy Sue Martinez's question. Mr. Nahoum stated that the language of the Ordinance stated that "the City Council may appoint a temporary judge to serve until a successor Municipal judge has been duly appointed by the City Council." Mr. Nahoum continued to stated that it would be discretionary to the body and didn't see any issue of pointing Martin Martinez as the successor Judge. Mayor Sanchez followed up with two questions. The first being due to the April 9th, 2021 Agenda showing as "Appointment of Temporary Municipal Judge", could the Council bypass that technicality, followed by Mayor Sanchez asking Martine Martinez if that would be a suitable option for him. Mr. Martinez answered that would be acceptable to him. Mr. Nahoum that it would be suffice being that the public did have notice that there would be an appointment of a Judge at the April 9, 2021 Meeting while also stating that "temporary" and "Successor" are both interim positions in which they will stand until the next election of a Municipal Judge.

Mayor Sanchez asked Councilor John Ramon Vigil if he wished to amend his original motion with Councilor Vigil stating he would like to amend his motion. Mayor also wanted to clarify that there was

Councilor John Ramon Vigil stated there is a vacancy in the office of Municipal Judge and motioned to appoint Martin Martinez as Interim Municipal Judge for the City of Española until the March 2022 Municipal Elections; Second by Mayor Pro-Tem Dennis Tim Salazar.

Mayor Javier E. Sánchez requested a Roll Call vote:

**Mayor Pro Tem:
Councilors:**

***Dennis Tim Salazar- in favor
Peggy Sue Martinez – in favor
John L. Ricci – in favor
Justin Salazar-Torrez – in favor
John Ramon Vigil – in favor
Manuel J. Martinez- in favor
Denise D. Benavidez – in favor
Dorothy DeeDee Valdez- in favor***

Motion carried 8-0


Mayor Javier E. Sanchez thanked Judge Alexandra Naranjo for her guidance in his efforts to get to this point in the meeting and also thanked the Council for their support. Mayor Sanchez congratulated Mr. Martin Martinez on becoming Interim Municipal Judge.

Honorable Judge Alexandra swore in Martinez as the Interim Municipal Judge in the City of Espanola in the state of New Mexico.

Mr. Martin Martinez stated that I was an honor and privilege to stand before the Council as their Municipal Judge and promised to fulfil all of his duties to the City and looked forward to achieving their goals. Mr. Martinez then turned his attention to the citizens of Espanola stating that he will be “fair and impartial” to every individual that comes before him.


VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.



Javier E. Sánchez, Mayor, City of Espanola

ATTEST



Angelica M. Serrano, Interim City Clerk