



# Town Council Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2023

## 1. Call the Meeting to order

Mayor Amy Gutierrez called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

## 2. Roll Call

Present were Mayor Amy Gutierrez, Mayor Pro Tem Ron Smith, Councilor Leisha Joiner, and Councilor Paul Ramirez.

In attendance were Police Chief Kevin Gutierrez, Town Attorney Patrick McMahon, Library Director Crystal Weigel, Librarian Pamela Dallas, Public Works Director Joe Garcia, Police Department Administrator Lisa Joiner, Fire Department Chief Curry Pruitt, Lea County Sheriff Corey Helton, Lea County Commissioner Dean Jackson, Lea County Commissioner Pat Sims, New Mexico State Police Sergeant Verdugo, New Mexico State Police Patrolman, Tim Thomas, Virginia Cunningham, Jerilyn Dunlap, Martha Joiner, Janice Joiner, Ashley Sanchez, Steve Taylor, Lyndell Taylor, Becky Alexander, Joe Kalisek, Kim Stinson, Tami Ebert, Jeremy Hogue, Cashmere Belcher, Amy Garcia, Nicole Garcia, John Burns, Marilyn Burns, Ray Manly, Robn Hogue, Rusty Ramirez, Arnold Ramirez, Raymond Derrick, Janice Derrick, David Jiron, Mary Jiron, Lila Robinson, Vasshawn Robinson, Jerry Parkinson, Lexie Montez, Krista Daley, Carla Haggerton, Butch Haggerton, Chris Patterson, Kylie Patterson, Tiffany Lambert, Dennis Shelton, Judy Dorado, Garrett Flowers, Gloria Jones, Greg Jones, Herminia Dorado, Peter Carmany, JW Grady, Noelani Daley, Manuel Santini, and Teresa Grady.

## 3. Approval/Disapproval of the Agenda

Councilor Leisha Joiner made the motion that the order of items be changed to 8A, Closed Session, 8D, 8B, and then 8C and stated for the record that she did not list "Paid Administrative Leave" to her agenda request for 8B and 8C. Councilor Paul Ramirez seconded the motion. Motion passes.

## 4. Approval/Disapproval of the Meeting Minutes from the regular meeting on February 14, 2023.

Councilor Leisha Joiner noted that the minutes did not include the public's comments and requested that the Clerk continue listing the public's comments. Mayor Gutierrez stated that it is not required.

Mayor Pro Tem Ron Smith made the motion to approve the meeting minutes. Councilor Paul Ramirez seconded the motion. Motion passes with Councilor Leisha Joiner in opposition.

## 5. Departmental Reports

Councilor Leisha Joiner made the motion to approve the Ambulance Department Report. Councilor Paul Ramirez seconded the motion. Motion passes.

## 6. Financial Reports

Councilor Leisha Joiner made the motion to approve the Financial Reports for the month of January 2023. Mayor Pro Tem Ron Smith seconded the motion. Motion passes.



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## 7. Public Comments

Public comments made by Fire Department Chief Curry Pruit, Raymond Derrick, Mayor Amy Gutierrez, Lea County Commissioner Dean Jackson, and Councilor Leisha Joiner.

## 8. Discussion with Possible Action

A. Carl Tennison Resignation from Town Council.

No action taken.

## 9. Closed Session

Mayor Pro Tem Ron Smith made the motion to go into Closed Session at 5:39pm. Councilor Paul Ramirez seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ron Smith – Yes, Leisha Joiner – Yes, Paul Ramirez – Yes. Motion passes. No action was taken.

## 10. Open Session

Councilor Leisha Joiner made the motion to return to Open Session at 6:32pm. Mayor Pro Tem Ron Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ron Smith – Yes, Paul Ramirez – Yes, Leisha Joiner – Yes. Motion passes.

## 8. Discussion with Possible Action (Cont.)

D. Transition of Tatum Police Department to Lea County Sheriff's Office.

Action taken: A plan was developed. The plan states that for the next three months the Lea County Sheriff's Office would assume the law enforcement duties for the Town of Tatum, utilize the Tatum Police Department building, and the overhead for the building would be covered by the Town of Tatum. A committee of qualified people was discussed for recruitment purposes. Mayor Amy Gutierrez stated she would request to be on the next Lea County Commission Meeting agenda to present the plan.

Councilor Leisha Joiner made the motion to enact the plan listed above. Mayor Pro Tem Ron Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ron Smith – Yes, Leisha Joiner – Yes, Paul Ramirez – Yes. Motion passes.

B. Status of Tatum Police Department employee Lisa Joiner as per February 14, 2023, Town Council decision, options; resignation, layoff, reassigned to another position with the Town of Tatum or paid administrative leave.

Mayor Pro Tem Ron Smith made the motion to open this item for discussion. Councilor Paul Ramirez seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Mayor Pro Tem Ron Smith made the motion to layoff Lisa Joiner effective the end of business on March 1, 2023. Councilor Paul Ramirez seconded the motion. Motion passes, with Councilor Leisha Joiner abstaining due to relation to the employee.



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C. Status of Tatum Police Department employee Kevin Gutierrez as per February 14, 2023, Town of Tatum Council decision, options; resignation, layoff, reassigned to another position with the Town of Tatum or paid administrative leave.

Councilor Leisha Joiner made the motion to layoff Kevin Gutierrez effective the end of business on March 1, 2023. Councilor Paul Ramirez seconded the motion. Motion passes, with Mayor Pro Tem Ron Smith in opposition.

### 11. Adjournment

Councilor Leisha Joiner made the motion to adjourn at 8:02pm. Mayor Pro Tem Ron Smith seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Read and approved the 14th day of March, 2023.



Mayor Amy Gutierrez



City Clerk Amanda Thomas