

Approved Minutes for April 27, 2022

**Village of Cuba
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 27, 2022 6:00 p.m.
Municipal Court Chambers**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge was recited.

Roll Call

Mayor Herrera	present
Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez	present
Council Member Herrera	present
Council Member Delgado	present
Council Member Olivas	absent

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Delgado made the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez seconds. There was no discussion. Motion carries

Introduction: Representative Susan K. Herrera of District 41

Ms. Herrera spoke of her intentions to better her district. She said her district is small communities. She said she ran on Land and Water Reform, Educational Reform, and Economic Development Reform in Rural Areas, which she feels is what New Mexico needs. She said she wants to discuss what happened in session. She said for Land and Water Reform, one of the big things they did is a tax program for land grant communities. She said they will now get a sustaining revenue of \$50,000.00 per year for a land grant percent. She said there is now 5 million more for acequias, which is hard work to keep up, and she is pushing for water infrastructure money. She said there is 40 million in the Water Trust Fund, which is a big water fund where local communities can go for a grant or a loan for infrastructure projects on water. She said if Cuba has an aging water system that needs to be revised, now is the time to put that plan together. She said she is trying to get communities ready for the big infrastructure funds that will come down from the federal government. Ms. Herrera said this was the best year for educational reform. She said the pay for teachers went up plus a 7% raise on top of the increase will be given in July. She said in addition a retired teacher can come back to teach without it effecting their pension. She said they received 10 million for rural libraries, which the Village of Cuba is on a list to receive some of that. She said hopefully in the future that will increase. She said New Mexico is the leading state for affordable college now. She said she has watched a lot of kids from poor families with the struggle to go to college. She said they get enough money for the first year and then can't afford it the next and return home but what she wants to see is the young students to go to school and graduate, and do it without a crippling student loan, or any loan. She said now there is no college tuition and there are grants available to assist the education. She said, with the Economic Develop reform, she found out loan

company could charge up to 175% for a small loan. She said a law was passed that all loans will have to be capped at 33% in New Mexico, which is one of 22 states that have done that, and it will begin on January 1, 2023, but on May 14th, in Espanola, the Credit Unions in the area, have been invited to a meeting which anyone who is in a high interest loan can see if one of the Credit Unions can help refinance their loan and get them out of that interest rate. She said her job isn't only about legislation but about community organizing, and working with communities so they bring together their thoughts. She said sometimes people feel guilty about having one of these loans, but they should not because they take the loans when mostly needed, car repairs, medical reasons or funerals. She said these are emergencies that every family may have and if the family is poor, they just don't have the money and they need it. She said to tell people they know about this meeting and they can go and see if one of the Credit Unions can help them. She said she is proud of that bill. Ms. Herrera said there were people asking about the drug problem. She would tell them that wasn't her background but under her watch, they got one million from the Governor and opened "Darren's Place", in Espanola that can help. She said it is a six-month program that Medicaid will pay for, so anyone can get into drug treatment at an affordable rate. Mrs. Alexandra Herrera asked if the program already started. She was told yes, and they have 60 employees and around 80 people in the program. Mrs. Herrera asked if someone can go check themselves in. She was told yes. Ms. Herrera said that mothers with children will not go into treatment. She said she got another million to help out mothers with their children, and this is a 2-year program. She said the mothers will get their GED or college and after 2 years they can go out and get a job. Mrs. Alexandra Herrera asked if they have housing during this time. She was told yes and also there is child care and the children will go to school, and the patients will also go to school. She said the girls will have a good pathway through life as moms. Mrs. Alexandra Herrera asked if this is for dads too. She was told no; it is just for mom's now. She said it is hard for someone to get off an addiction, and rather than make it a "jail" thing, they made it a "medical" thing. She said another thing, state income tax will no longer have to be paid on social security if the person is single with an income of less than \$100,000.00 per year or a married couple or family with an income of less than \$150,000.00 per year. She said there is also a veteran's tax that they will not have to pay state income tax on the majority of their retirement. She said in special session, they passed that everyone who pays taxes will get \$500.00 per family or \$250.00 for a single person in May or June 2022 and then another one in September to help with the rising price of gas. She said the gas market cannot be fixed but some of the money can be given back to help with the price of gas. She said what she does is try and come out before the legislative session and get the ICIP or Strategic Plan for the community and work together to figure out how she and Senator Shindo, who is high up in the Senate, can produce for the community. She said she will fix a problem if she can and if not right away, a 2 – 5-year plan will be done to hopefully get it done. Mayor Herrera asked if there were any question. Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez asked if there is a deadline for the ICIP. Ms. Herrera said the capital outlay requests are due in the middle of session, so a two-month session will be in 2023, and she has to win first, but she will start to meet with the communities in September, October and November to together the request from the state, but she said that there is also the County, and Sandoval County has a lot of money. She said she is not sure how much of that comes to Cuba but they do have money. She said she will work with Cuba and like she does with other places she represents, is come and meet with the staff and council to see what is needed. She will say what can be done or not done and go from there. Mrs. Alexandra Herrera said there almost zero money coming to Cuba from the county. Ms. Herrera said they will figure that out together. Ms. Herrera said thank you to Mayor Herrera and council.

Employee Recognition: Recommended Award (Meritorious Service Medal) Certified Police Officer Mario R. Acedo. (Also covered): Employee Recognition: Recommended Award (Meritorious Service Medal) for Certified Officer, Isaac D. Martinez and Employee Appreciation of an Individual.

Chief Manuel Romero said he has multiple awards. He said he feels it is important as a director to recognize their employees. He said he has 2 letters for the Former Executive Secretary Ms. Loretta Jacquez. She said she was there with him since day 1 and read the letter to the crowd. Chief Romero suggested the letter be placed in Ms. Jacquez personal file. Next, a letter was for Ms. Casados, Village Clerk. Chief Romero read the letter to the crowd.

Chief Romero recommended Officer Mario Acedo for the Meritorious Service Metal. Chief Romero said Officer Acedo has been with the department for almost 2 years and the work he does is amazing. Chief Romero read the letter to the crowd.

Chief Romero recommended Lieutenant Isaac D. Martinez for the Meritorious Service Metal. Chief Romero said Officer Martinez has been with the department 2 years and read the letter to the crowd.

Chief Romero said the Officers have done a good job and he is amazed with what they do, with what they have. Chief Romero said there are not enough officers to cover all the shifts but the ones they do have, he feels their hearts are with the Village of Cuba and he wanted Mayor and Council to know his appreciation.

Discussion, Consideration and action of the minutes for the Regular Meeting held on March 30, 2022

Council Member Delgado made the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez seconds. Mayor Herrera asked if there was any discussion. There was none. Mayor Herrera asked for a roll call vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez	yes
Council Member Herrera	yes
Council Member Delgado	yes

Motion carries.

Discussion, Consideration and Action of the monthly warrants for the Cuba Housing Authority for April 2022

Council Member Delgado made the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez seconds. Mayor Herrera asked if there was any discussion. There was none. Mayor Herrera asked for a roll call vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez	yes
Council Member Herrera	yes
Council Member Delgado	yes

Motion carries.

Discussion, Consideration and Action of the monthly warrants for the Village of Cuba for April 2022

Council Member Delgado made the motion. Council Member Herrera seconds the motion. Mayor Herrera asked if there was any discussion. There was none. Mayor Herrera asked for a roll call vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez	yes
Council Member Herrera	yes
Council Member Delgado	yes

Motion carries.

Discussion, Consideration and Action of the Budget Adjustment Resolution No. BAR-HR-04-27-22 for the Presbyterian Medical Premium Increase and due to the Pandemic Cost of Living Increase, to submit to the Department of Finance and Administration for the 3rd Quarter Report due on April 30, 2022

Council Member Delgado made the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez seconds. Mayor Herrera asked if there was any discussion. Council Member Herrera asked if this is based on last year or if it is for the new fiscal year. Ms. Casados said it is for this year and the beginning of the next fiscal year. Council Member Herrera asked if it is rolling over from last year. Ms. Casados said yes, that is why they have to do a budget adjustment resolution to the Department of Finance. Council Member Delgado asked what the increase was. Ms. Casados said 15.8%. Council Member Herrera asked if that is for hourly and salary employees. Ms. Casados said yes. Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez said it has been a few years since the employees have been given a raise and they have been working on it for a while. Council Member Herrera asked if this 15% is for hourly and salary, how it is benefiting the hourly employees if the salary employees will get an even higher pay increase. Ms. Casados said one would automatically be given during the election and some may choose Presbyterian Healthcare so that is why it applies to everyone.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez	yes
Council Member Herrera	yes
Council Member Delgado	yes

Motion carries.

Discussion, Consideration and Action of the Budget Adjustment Resolution No. ARPA-04-27-2022, the American Rescue Plan Act to submit to the Department of Finance and Administration for the 3rd Quarter Report due on April 30, 2022

Mayor Herrera asked if there was any discussion. Council Member Delgado asked what kind of funding this is. Ms. Casados said it is Federal funding. Mayor Herrera asked for a roll call vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez	yes
Council Member Herrera	yes
Council Member Delgado	yes

Motion carries.

Discussion, Consideration and Action of the Ordinance NO. CRO-04-27-2022 (Cannabis Regulation Ordinance) an ordinance adopting the Legislative Intent, findings and purpose relating to the Regulation of Cannabis: setting forth violations; and providing for enforcement and penalties

Council Member Delgado made the motion. Council Member Herrera seconds. Mayor Herrera asked if there was any discussion. There was none. Mayor Herrera asked for a roll call vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez	yes
Council Member Herrera	yes
Council Member Delgado	yes

Motion carries.

Discussion, Consideration and Action for the Public Notice Animals Running at Large 7-1-5 (B) Chapter 7 to conduct neighborhood patrols addressed by Chief of Police Manuel Romero

Council Member Delgado made the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez seconds the motion. Mayor Herrera asked if there was any discussion. Chief Romero said they have put out flyers and memos regarding the animal control. He has reached out the Sandoval and San Juan Counties which have given him ideas on where to go, so in the meantime, they will start with education to the public which is fair before they start siting anyone. He said they will be having meetings at the Police Department and then they will begin to write citations. He said once this starts, he hopes this will start to help with the animal problems. He said hopefully they can get a cost agreement with one of the adjoining counties to get this started. Chief Romero asked if there were any questions. Mayor Herrera asked if they can have a meeting and let people know of the fines and maybe people can come in voluntarily, not to have to go door to door. Chief Romero said that is a good idea and they plan to go to the schools as well and then the children can tell the parents. Mayor Herrera asked if there is a number to call to report an animal. Chief Romero said there is. He said they can call Sandoval County and they will let them know, but at this time there is no way for Sandoval County or Cuba Police to pick up a dog. It would have to be something drastic for them to come out. He said part of the cost agreement is the Village would have to find a veterinarian to treat the dogs they catch. Mayor Herrera said it is going to take a lot of time and maybe they can create a position within the Village. Chief Romero said they are reallocating one of the officers that can specifically handle these problems. He said they need someone to take control of these problems. He said he is expecting 10 citations per month. Mrs. Alexandra Herrera asked about more free spay/neuter clinics. Chief Romero said there is an animal grant which may aid. He said that doing his research, cats have immunity to animal control. He said animal control will not pick up a cat, and if they do, they will have the cat spayed/neutered and then release it where it was found. Mayor Herrera said if there is anyone who has ideas regarding this to bring them forward. Council Member Herrera asked if they can make a one pager of this and mail it out because some people do not have social media. He said maybe a QR code as well they can scan on their phones. Mayor Herrera said maybe in the water bill. Chief Romero said that is a good idea and he will get with Council Member Herrera to work on that. Chief Romero said animal control is not what it used to be. He said they are taking the educational approach at this and they will get information out in the water bills. Mr. Richard Montoya said as a former law enforcement officer and also certified animal control in Corrales, the first thing they need is animal control ordinance. After the ordinance, the people need to be educated and then the ordinance can be enforced. Mayor Herrera asked Chief Romero if there is an ordinance. Chief Romero said there is and it is attached to the memo. Mayor Herrera asked for a roll call vote.

Update from the Cuba Police Department addressed by Chief of Police Romero

Chief Romero said he would make this brief. He said the guys are doing good. He said they have stickers of the new badges. Council Member Herrera asked how they can help the Police Department out to obtain grants, if they can attend meetings for support. Chief Romero said he would like to have a directors meeting so they are all on the same page. He said another thing is it would be a good thing to discussion overall ideas, such as a new building with everyone. Council Member Herrera asked if it would be a good thing for them to attend meetings whether they are in Cuba or out of the community.

Update from the Cuba Volunteer Fire Department by VFD Chief Romero: and for the proposed installation of a new WatchFire LED Message Center, Double sided Display and Hold Harmless Agreement property owned by Mr. Mark Martinez

Chief Romero said they are at 73 calls. He said the Department now has 4 Intermediates and 4 basic responders so they are advanced in life support with the new ambulance. He said they now have 2 red card certified wildland fire fighters who are ready to be deployed to help the wildland departments in the area. He said he is waiting on a return call from Senator Hinricks office who has offered to fund a \$500,000.00 Class A Pumper, which they will be able to match the grant with Fire Funds, and this pumper is very much needed. He said there has been a lot of tragedy in the area, which consists of 3 deaths. He said they provided support for that as well as clergy and chaplains. He said they worked with the State Police, Sandoval County Sheriff's Department and the Cuba Police Department on these scenes. He said communication is important and they are trying to assist the citizens of Cuba clear their properties. He said they have helped the forest service. He said they have helped patrol the area during the high wind conditions. He said he has completed the Fire Protection Application for 2023. He said they are now a ISO Class 4 and have 2 full stations and an Admin. Building so they applied for the funding of around \$200,000.00. The fire conditions are extreme and a stage one burn ban was administered. He is recommending to the Village that Fire Work Sales not be allowed. He said the Governor is asking each municipality to not allow the sale of fireworks this year.

Chief Romero said some of the activities are back. He said the Sandoval County Fair is back and he plans to help them with their parade. He said this is going to be good for everybody.

Proposal from Mrs. Cynthia Herrera in regards to Main Street Improvements

Mrs. Herrera said a committee has been created to do clean up. She invited members of the community to come out and help. Council Member Herrera said the first clean up went well on the south end of town. He said a lot of people from the school are asking about it and he is coordinating with Ms. Dominguez to try and get something done before graduation. Mayor Herrera asked if this is a monthly thing. Mrs. Herrera said they are going to try to have a monthly meeting and a monthly clean up. Mayor Herrera said they should tell the school to have the students volunteer because the volunteering looks good on the applications for college. Council Member Herrera said the Village donated the trash bags for the first clean up. Mayor Herrera said to let him know if they need anything and the Village will do what they can. Fire Chief Romero said they will be helping the Veterans for Memorial Day. Mayor Herrera asked Mrs. Herrera if they are open to do other things. She said yes. Council Member Delgado asked for a phone number. Mrs. Herrera said it is in the Cuba News. Mrs. Alexandra Herrera said Ms. Carey Beam has located someone who paints murals, for the Continental Divide Trails. Council Member Herrera said he is heading up and taking control of the project to get new light fixtures for main street. He said he is not sure if it is open to the public but once he knows he will send out links. Council

Member Delgado said the lights on Hwy 126 belong to the city. Council Member Herrera said this is mainly for Hwy 550 but he will ask if others can be done not just main street. Mrs. Cynthia Herrera said there are grants for that. Mayor Herrera asked Mrs. Cynthia Herrera if they can communicate ideas and prioritize the things that need to be done. He said there are things that don't take a lot of money that they can do to decorate different parts of town. He said they are also waiting on bill boards for each end of town.

Review of the Municipal Court report for March 31, 2022

There was no discussion.

Public Comment

Mayor Herrera asked if there was any public comment. Council Member Delgado said she had one. She asked Mr. Herrera about the bid he put in the Journal and asked him if it would be brought to the Council or if he does it himself. He said he does it himself because it is for Housing. Council Member Delgado said that even that, they have always been taken to the Mayor and Council to be opened in front of witnesses. She asked if they have already been open. Mr. Herrera said no, the deadline is April 29th to receive bids. Council Member Delgado said that is the way it was always done and she wasn't aware it had changed. Mr. Rod Herrera said HUD is the one that approves what he does the Village just over sees them. He said he can bring them if that's what they want. Council Member Delgado said it was always done the other way and was not aware it changed.

Mayor Herrera asked if there was further comment.

Ms. Jeanelle Toledo handed out a letter to council, then read it aloud. She said she is 30 years old, 5'1" and 154 pounds. She said she is from Torreon and has lived in Cuba for over 16 years. She said she is present to tell her story and hopes to change the system. She read the letter that tells: At 7:15 on Saturday morning, after her wife left for work and after letting her dog back inside, she went back to bed. 15 minutes later she heard a knock on her door. She said she looked out her window and not seeing anyone she thought her grandmother had come over. She said she walked into her living room where she saw a 6-foot slim Navajo man wearing a sweater, dark blue jeans and black socks, when he asked her for help 2 times. She said she screamed at him 3 times to get out of her house and finally he began to put his boots on and told her he just needed help. She said she screamed at him that she was calling the cops and at which point he charged at her claiming he was going to kill her. She said she grabbed his wrist and threw him into a wall. Her dog rushed him, giving her enough time to run out her back door to her grandparent's house where she called 911. She said she was told the police was on the way, but was not told by dispatch the police officers were coming from out of town. She said the call she made to dispatch was at 7:43 a.m. and a sheriff responded to dispatch at 7:45 and arrived at her house at 8:15. As he was taking her report he told her he was waiting for his Sargent who arrived at 8:30. She said they checked her house and neighborhood and couldn't find anyone. The sheriff called her and left a voice mail stating they had not found anyone. Dispatch told Ms. Toledo they completed the search at 9:54 a.m. Ms. Toledo said her purpose at the meeting is to plead with the Village Council and the Village of Cuba Police to get more help to cover more area. She asked how they would have felt if this would have happened to their home, their grandmother or their daughter. She asked what would happen if they did not have the strength to fight back like she did. She said, in tears, she could be dead. She said she wanted to take 5 minutes of silence for everyone to think, 'what if it was my mother, what if it was my grandmother, what if it was my wife, what if it was my kids.' Ms. Toledo said things need to

change with the police and about everyone's safety. Ms. Toledo addressed Mayor Herrera saying his daughter lives right down the road from her with her son. She addressed Mayor Pro Tem Dominguez by saying his sister-in-law lives right there as well. She said there are 2 elderly people who live behind her, and it could have been them and they would not have been able to fight back like she did. Ms. Toledo said there needs to be more coverage and to stop worrying about dogs. Ms. Toledo said she is not at the meeting for backlash or to get the police after her or her family, she is present to get her voice heard. She mentioned it also happened to Daniella and Esperanza Cordova. She said the difference between them and her is the man that attacked her is still out there. She said she still has to worry about him coming to her doorstep again. She said she is not able to walk anymore, and everyone knows and has seen her walk. She said she is now afraid to walk to the post office. She said she has been in Cuba for 16 years and this is the first time she needed help and not even one City Police was there to help. Mr. Kyle Sandoval said his fiancé got home from work and a meth-head was going through his truck, was wearing his jacket, and she called him. He said he had just got off work and he and his dad went, and the Sheriff's had to come from out of town. He said this was between 4 and 5. He said he agrees with Ms. Toledo and stop going after dogs and go after the criminals. Mrs. Alexandra Herrera said the same thing happened with her and her brother and asked what is going on? She said she understands they all get off at a certain time but "shit" happens after they get off work and a lot of "shit" happens at that time. She said she understands they are short staffed, and asked if there is going to be more officers? She asked why it is always the Sheriff's that respond, and why it is necessary for them to come this far. Mr. Kyle Sandoval said it is hard to see the Police officers coming into work in the morning, he is headed south and they are heading north and half the time they are following the IPS Officers that are working at the school right now, and on the way back, heading south, they are in front of the IPS Officers. He said he sees it almost every day. Mr. Richard Montoya said to the Mayor and Council that the Police Officers were hired to protect and serve the Village of Cuba. He said none of the Police Officers live in Cuba. He said when he got hired in 1984, it was himself, Joseph Gurule and Gabe Romero. He said he lived in Corrales and he was told in order to work here in Cuba, he had to live in Cuba, and none of the officers now live in Cuba. He said Cuba needs 24/7 law enforcement. Ms. Toledo said they have houses here. Mr. Montoya said they have houses but they don't use them. Mr. Montoya said that is up to the Council. He said now the administration is new and he hopes they take care of the problem. Mrs. Alexandra Herrera asked if there is a solution. Chief of Police Romero said the rebuttal on the accusation that they are never here, they have a time clock system that is GPSed so he can provide the times for all the officers for every shift. Mrs. Alexandra Herrera asked what time they clock in and out for every shift. Chief Romero said they try and stay as close as they can to the schedule, but things do change. Ms. Toledo said the criminals know the times they are here and not. Chief Romero said yes that is true and agrees with Ms. Toledo 100%. Ms. Toledo said it is not hard to follow simple schedules. Chief Romero agreed. Ms. Toledo said she didn't know if this man is watching her house. Chief Romero asked where it happened. Ms. Toledo said Miera Road, which is in Village district, and he was told there are people always "hauling ass" down that road and they are never there. She said her nieces and nephews ride their bikes there and she has never seen them pull anyone over there. She said people go 50 to 60 mph on that road, even over the speed humps, and they are never there. Chief Romero said those concerns will be addressed and they will take a look at the schedule see what can be done. Ms. Toledo said this was Saturday morning, and they should be coming off a shift at that time. She said Friday night is their busiest night and she knows that because she was in the Fire Department. Mrs. Alexandra Herrera said Sundays are bad too and no one is around then either. Chief Romero said he will take a look at the schedule and see when they are here and not here and change it, but if they go to Schedule B they will miss crime in Schedule A and vice versa. He said there are only 5 officers and that is barely enough to cover one shift. Mrs. Alexandra Herrera asked if they will be hiring more officers. Chief Romero said he understands and is not trying to come up with excuses. He said it is the same way

where he lives. Mayor Herrera said maybe they need to coordinate with the County more when there are the dead spots when someone from the Village is not working. Mrs. Alexandra Herrera and Ms. Toledo agreed. Mayor Herrera said no one should have to wait 45 minutes, not even 5 minutes. Mayor Herrera said he will look at the policy and see how it can be worked out. He said he understands what they are talking about because he has lived here his entire life. Chief Romero asked for a solution. He said he will listen. He said they are here and the GPS can show at every single point where they are at. He said there are certified police officers and what would be the solution. He said they are here and it can be proved without a doubt. Council Member Herrera asked Chief Romero if they still have their meetings. Chief Romero said yes, they are at 6. Council Member Herrera said maybe that would be a good time to discuss this further. Mrs. Alexandra Herrera said to Chief Romero that she knows he has been reaching out for people to go to the meetings. Chief Romero said yes, he has tried to get people to the meetings and no one shows up. Fire Chief Romero said they have discussed this before they need to enhance and update the MOU's with other law enforcement agencies. He said he knows of offences that happened in town that he was never notified of. He said if the officers are not communicating with each other the MOU's are not in place and there will never be coverage when they are gone. Mrs. Alexandra Herrera asked why they do not work together. Chief of Police Romero said there are many reasons, and one of them is the insurances, are they going to have to front money to support the memorandums of understanding for insurance jurisdictions. He said he can write a MOU that state's Cuba PD will be fully staffed on certain days but yet Sandoval County SO will come in as well as the State Police. Police Chief asked where the money will come from. He asked if Sandoval County will dedicate the money to be here. Fire Chief Romero said the legislature that was there said Sandoval County has a lot of money. Mr. Richard Montoya said when he was here there were 2 police officers in Cuba and they did not have the problems they are having now. Mr. Montoya said he was here by himself with one deputy sheriff and 5 state police officers and they all communicated with each other and if the City police was not here then Sandoval county was here to assist as did the State Police but they left at 1 in the morning. Mr. Montoya said the criminals in Cuba do not care about GPS's. He said they know when the police are here and when they're not here and that's when they strike. Mr. Montoya said it is the responsibility of the new council members to make sure the Village of Cuba has protection 24/7. Mr. Montoya said the 2 Village officers, Joseph Gurule and Gabe Romero, along with 5 deputy sheriffs helped each other, and he is not sure what the problem is now between the Village, the Sheriff's office and the state police but they will assist. He said they need law enforcement in Cuba to protect the community. Chief of Police Romero asked how long ago this was. Mr. Montoya said he was here in 1984. Chief Romero asked Mr. Montoya if it is fair to say the crime rate may have escalated from then to now. He said he can provide statistics that they are going on calls and for the amount of officers they have and the population, their arrest rate is insane. He said they are here and they need to know how to bridge that gap, and that has always been an issue with the Cuba Police Department. He said they are looking for solutions and everyone has been invited to come and give suggestions. Chief Romero was told Ms. Toledo could be dead right now because of that issue. Mr. Silvestre Hurtado Jr. said he has had the problem before where Sandoval County has to come from Jemez. He said it is never known where the one officer is at. Mayor Herrera said the county should just be a backup plan not the priority plan. Mr. Montoya said the county has always been the backup plan. He said it is up to the Council members that hire the police officers, to make sure the police officers protect the Village, not to respond to calls outside the city limits. He said they need to be in the city limits and patrol the city limits. Council Member Delgado asked Chief Romero if there is someone on patrol 24/7 now. Chief Romero said no. Chief Romero was asked if there is not someone here in case something did occur. Chief Romero said on Thursday and Friday he covers from 6 p.m. to 4 a.m. He said Saturdays and Sunday's he covers the mornings and the officers cover the rest. Ms. Toledo asked him where he was on Saturday. He said he would have to look at the schedule, but they are there as much as they can. He

said they have a meeting and he suggested they all show up to come up with a solution. Mr. Richard Montoya asked Chief Romero, if he could not have one officer on day shift, one on swing and one on graveyard shifts, and have a floater. Chief Romero said they can do that but the issue they have is backup for their officers. Mayor Herrera asked Chief Romero if they are on duty when they leave their house or when they arrive to city limits. Chief Romero said when they are in city limits, coming to work and when they leave as well. He said these are big issues and there is no easy solution to it. He said they are doing their best and doing what they can. He said they are dealing with the crime rate that is not what it used to be before. He said yes, they do have housing but is it adequate. He said that is other things they have discussed. Mr. Montoya said in 1984 there was 24-hour patrolling. He said the people know when the police is not here and that is when they hit, and when the crime goes up. He said that is why they have a lot of arrests. Mrs. Alexandra Herrera said it is necessary to get the houses fixed to get the officers here. Mayor Herrera said he as taken a look at the houses and one of them is livable and the other, the double wide needs work. He said the housing shortage in Cuba is unbelievable, there are even few places to rent.

Mayor Herrera asked if there was any further comment.

Chief of Police Romero said they have a "Drug-Take-Back" on Saturday. He said anyone that has medications they no longer need they can take them and they will be disposed of properly. Mrs. Alexandra Herrera asked at what time. Chief Romero said from 10 to 2. Mayor Herrera asked Chief Romero how he gets all this information out to the public. Chief Romero said they have public notice at the post office and the stores, high traffic areas. He said he gets the material from DEA. Council Member Herrera said the marquis will be a good source of getting the information out too. He said he wanted to end on a positive note. He said the new council and current members and the community need to get together and collaborate, and not get upset. He said everyone knows everyone and they all know where each other lives. He said they see each other daily and getting upset is not going to work. He said everyone needs to work together and figure out a solution, and not leave it up to 1 or 2 people to figure it out. Fire Chief Romero said they all need to take a look at the 311 system and have a better neighborhood watch. Mayor Herrera said priorities need to change and take care of the citizens in town. Fire Chief Romero said Cuba is not the only one strained, he said other cities are losing officers right and left. Chief of Police Romero said they can take suggestions at their meetings that people need to attend, not just attack sessions. He said they have been reaching out and no one shows up and they can only take problems as they come. He said it is hard to recruit people because the pay is so low. He said he is not here for excuses and he will be held accountable, and asked everyone to attend their meetings and together they can come up with a solution. He said anyone that wants to go on a ride along is welcome to do that as well. Mr. Montoya asked if the village council is in agreement with the ride along because they need to have insurance in case there is an accident and the ride along gets hurt so the village does not get sued. Mr. Montoya asked council if they agreed to a ride along. Chief Romero said they are damned if they do and damned if they don't. He said he has reached out and he will be at the meeting if anyone wants to go to discuss solutions. Mr. Montoya said all his is saying is the council and Mayor need to approve everything, that is why they were elected. Chief Romero said he did not want to argue, and there is a waiver the council has approved and if they want it at the next meeting to approve again, it can be done. Mayor Herrera said he would like to take a look at it. Mayor Herrera asked if there was any further public comment. There was none.

Adjourn

Mayor Herrera adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Approved Minutes for April 27, 2022

The minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 have been officially approved by the Governing Body on May 25, 2022.

Vandora P. Casados, Clerk-Treasurer

Vandora P. Casados

