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**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**Town Council Chambers
120 Civic Plaza Drive
Taos, New Mexico
January 29, 2008
6:30 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER: The Regular Meeting of the Taos Town Council was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Bobby F. Duran at 6:35 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL: Ms. Renee Lucero, Town Clerk, called roll and a quorum was present.

Those present were Mayor Bobby F. Duran, Councilmembers Erlinda S. Gonzales, Meliton Struck, Darren Cordova, and Rudy Abeyta. Also present were Town Manager Tomas Benavidez, Town Attorney Renee Barela-Gutierrez and Town Clerk Renee Lucero.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilmember Struck led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Councilmember Gonzales made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Councilmember Struck seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Staff Briefing & Special/Workshop Meeting

December 4, 2007 (*Briefing Meeting*)

Councilmember Cordova made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 4, Monthly Department Staff Briefing Meeting. Councilmember Struck seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

December 11, 2007 (*Special/Workshop Meeting*)

Councilmember Struck made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 11, 2007 Monthly Special/Workshop Meeting. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Regular Meeting

December 18, 2007

1 **Councilmember Cordova made a motion to approve the Minutes of**
2 **December 18, 2007 Regular Meeting. Councilmember Struck seconded the**
3 **motion. The motion carried unanimously.**
4

5 **C. Special Meetings**

6 December 6, 2007

7 **Councilmember Struck made a motion to approve the Minutes of December**
8 **6, 2007 Special Meeting. Councilmember Cordova seconded the motion.**
9 **The motion carried unanimously.**

10
11 December 27, 2007

12 **Councilmember Cordova made a motion to approve the Minutes of**
13 **December 27, 2007 Special Meeting. Councilmember Gonzales seconded the**
14 **motion. The motion carried unanimously.**
15

16 **6. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

17 **A. Ms. Brenda Cordova, HR Director presented the following appointments and**
18 **promotions made by the Mayor and respectfully requested the concurrence**
19 **of the Council:**

20
21 **NEW HIRE:**

22 Renee Fresquez
23 Part Time Temp
24 Youth & Family Center
25 12/15/2007
26

27 **Councilmember Cordova made a motion to approve the item as presented.**
28 **Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion.**

29
30 **APPOINTMENTS:**

31 Amos Torres
32 Full Time
33 Public Utilities Director
34 Public Utilities Department
35 1/1/2008
36

37 **Councilmember Cordova made a motion to approve the item as presented.**
38 **Councilmember Struck seconded the motion.**

39
40 Cathy Connelly
41 Full Time
42 Acting Assistant Town Manager
43 Executive Department
44 1/12/2008
45

Councilmember Gonzales made a motion to approve the item as presented. Councilmember Cordova seconded the motion.

RETIREES:

Patrick Vigil	Noella Romero
Full Time	Full Time
Public Utilities	Taos Police Department
12/31/2007	12/31/2007
28 Years of Service	25 Years of Service

Dorothy Kethler
 Full Time
 Taos Public Library
 12/31/2007
 5 Years of Service

B. Star Department Presentation

Mayor Duran and Joaquin Cantu, Chair of the Employee Awards Team recognized **the Finance Department** as the Star Department for the month of **January 2008**.

C. Team of the Quarter: Mayor Duran and Joaquin Cantu, Chair of the

Employee Awards Team recognized the Finance Department and Utility Billing Division as the Team of the Quarter for the months of October-December, 2007.

7. Citizens Forum:

The following people came forward:

A. Taos Youth Hockey League presented the USA Hockey Magazine, which featured Taos Youth Hockey players, to Mayor and Council. (*Magazine attached to Minutes*)

B. RL Stockard, New Mexico Municipal League Accreditation Program Coordinator, will announce if the Police Department has passed final inspection and have received Accreditation.

RL Stockard discussed what the accreditation is. He explained the process at New Mexico Municipal League. All services have been professional and accurate. The officers were knowledgeable and everything was well organized. He expressed how professional the Police Department is. He congratulated the Chief and wished him the best of luck. His recommendation is for accreditation. The municipal league will notify when accreditation is finalized and Taos will be recognized at NMML Conference. He also recognized Town Manager Benavidez for providing guidance to the Chief.

1 **Mayor Duran and Councilmembers** thanked the Chief, police officers and staff
2 for their hard work.

3

4 **Town Manager Benavidez** stated we are 7th of 103 cities in New Mexico to
5 receive accreditation.

6

7 **Chief Syling** thanked his officers and his staff.

8

9 **C. Vista del Canon Condominium Association** homeowners and developer Ray
10 Baehr, regarding hooking up to Town sewage.

11

12 **Ray Baehr** stated that he is here to ask if it is an option to hook up to Town
13 sewage.

14

15 **Town Manager Benavidez** stated part of the process is to meet with staff. He
16 explained issues that need to be considered. They would come up with an
17 analysis.

18

19 **Ray Baehr** stated he did meet with Pat and Rudy and they said the Town could
20 handle the capacity.

21

22 **Council Member Cordova** stated nothing seems to have happened since the last
23 meeting. He encouraged Tomas to coordinate the process so that they can bring a
24 recommendation to the council.

25

26 **Marvin Smith**, Condo Owner, stated that something needs to be done promptly.
27 They are just asking that the town supports them in finding a solution.

28

29 **Council Member Abeyta** stated the issue we're faced with is the funding to get
30 this done. We need to look for funding. We agree that something needs to be
31 done.

32

33 **Mayor Duran** stated we will get with staff and Management and see how this can
34 be addressed.

35

36 **D. Doug Scott, Taos Coalition to End Homelessness Update**

37

38 Doug Scott updated on Men's Homeless Shelter. He gave statistics on the service
39 the shelter has provided. He reviewed legislative requests.

40

41 **E. Deborah McLean, regarding UNM Harwood expansion**

42

43 **F. John Staple, Taos Artist Studio Tour**

44

45 **G. Matt Foster, update on the SmartCode & Chamisa Verde**

46

1 **H. David Behrstock & Mark Kemper, Open Hearth – regarding Valentines Day**
2 **Celebration of Soldiers & Veterans on Taos Plaza.**

3
4 **Mark Kemper** stated that not enough is being done for our Veterans. He wants
5 the Town’s blessing to set this up.

6
7 **Councilmembers Cordova and Gonzales** thanked Mr. Kemper for coordinating
8 this.

9
10 **David Behrstock** stated that he appreciated Mark’s comments and stated that this
11 is just to recognize Veterans whether we are for or against war. He would like the
12 Mayor and Council to come.

13
14 **I. Julia Valerma** suggested Chamisa Verde the project include sustainable and
15 renewable plans.

16
17 **8. CONSENT AGENDA**

18 **The Mayor presented the following consent agenda to the Council. He read each**
19 **item on the agenda and advised the Council that they could request any item be**
20 **removed from the consent agenda if they wanted to discuss such item:**

21 **Mauro Rosales, Buildings Director**
22 Request approval of Contract Amendment No. 3 for Lee Gamelsky, Architects P.C.
23 for additional services for Town Hall Extension Project in the amount of \$148,400.00
24 plus \$10,000.00 - Reimbursable and GRT - \$10,890.00 for a total amount of
25 \$169,290.00.

26 **Councilmember Struck made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as**
27 **presented. Councilmember Cordova seconded the motion. The motion was**
28 **approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Councilmembers**
29 **Gonzales, Struck, Cordova, and Abeyta.**

30
31 **9. MATTERS FROM STAFF**

32
33 **A. Renee Lucero, Town Clerk**

34 Consideration and approval of a Special Dispenser Permit application for Liquor
35 License # 28031 for Taos Plaza Theater and Arts Centre, LLC for an Opening
36 Reception on February 8, 9, and 10, 2008 from 9 am to 8 pm at 125 Kit Carson
37 Road. 30-50 people/day are expected to attend.

38
39 **David Behrstock** stated that the applicant withdrew the request due to
40 cumbersome process.

41
42 **NO ACTION TAKEN**

43
44 **B. Matt Foster, Long-Range Planner**

45 Approval of out-of-state travel for Matthew Foster, Long Range Planner, to attend
46 the 7th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth conference located in

1 Washington, DC between February 6th and 9th. The US EPA is paying for all
2 costs of the conference except food expenses. The Town will pay for the actual
3 costs of Mr. Foster's food expenses (\$180). The EPA will reimburse the Town for
4 hotel expenses (\$690.43). The EPA will reimburse Mr. Foster for ground
5 transportation from the airport to the conference hotel. The EPA is paying for the
6 flight directly.
7
8

9 **Councilmember Cordova made a motion to approve the item as presented.**
10 **Councilmember Gonzales seconded the motion. The motion was approved**
11 **by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Councilmembers:**
12 **Gonzales, Struck, Cordova, and Abeyta.**
13

14 **C. Marietta Fambro, Finance Director**

- 15 1. Consideration and approval of Resolution 08-04 authorizing and approving
16 use of Funds from the Town and Reimbursement from Taos Regional Landfill
17 Board for Construction of Cell Improvements.
18

19 **Councilmember Cordova made a motion to approve the item as**
20 **presented. Councilmember Abeyta seconded the motion. The motion was**
21 **approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were:**
22 **Councilmembers: Gonzales, truck, Cordova, and Abeyta.**
23

- 24 2. Consideration and approval of Resolution 08-05 Budget Adjustment Request
25 related to Construction of Cell Improvements.
26

27 **Councilmember Gonzales made a motion to approve the item as**
28 **presented. Councilmember Struck seconded the motion. The motion was**
29 **approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were:**
30 **Councilmembers: Gonzales, Struck, Cordova, and Abeyta.**
31
32

33 **10. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 34 A. Renee Barela-Gutierrez, Town Attorney, presented Ordinance 08-01 changes to
35 the Uniform Traffic Ordinance to the Mayor and Council.
36

37 ***Public Opinion***

38 **Mayor Duran opened the public hearing. No one came forward**
39
40

41 **After closing the public hearing, Mayor Duran asked for questions from the**
42 **Council.**
43

44 **Councilmember Gonzales made a motion to approve Ordinance 08-01 changes**
45 **to the Uniform Traffic Ordinance as presented. Councilmember Struck**
46 **seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative vote.**

1 **Those voting AYE were: Councilmembers: Gonzales, Struck, Cordova, and**
2 **Abeyta.**

3

4 **11. MATTERS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

5 Appointment of Ms. Diane Grimshaw to fill the vacant seat on the Lodgers Tax
6 Advisory Board.

7

8 **Councilmember Gonzales made a motion to approve the item as presented.**
9 **Councilmember Cordova seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an**
10 **affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Councilmembers: Gonzales, Struck,**
11 **Cordova, and Abeyta.**

12

13 **12. ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilmember Cordova and**
14 **seconded by Councilmember Abeyta to adjourn the meeting. The motion**
15 **carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.**

16

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18

19 **APPROVED:**

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23 _____
24 **Bobby F. Duran, Mayor**

24

25

26 **ATTEST:**

27

28

29

30 _____
 Renee Lucero, Town Clerk