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**Special Meeting  
Taos Town Council  
Taos Council Chambers  
120 Civic Plaza Drive  
Taos, New Mexico  
Wednesday, January 16, 2008  
2:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** The Special Meeting of the Taos Town Council was called to order by the **Honorable Mayor Bobby F. Duran** at **2:04 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, Rudy Abeyta and Darren Cordova.** Also present were **Town Manager Tomas Benavidez, Town Attorney Renee Barela Gutierrez and Town Clerk Renee Lucero.**

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

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Councilmember Abeyta made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Councilmember Cordova seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**5. Review of Taos SmartCode between Town Council and Land Use Development Code Revisions Committee.**

**Jim Thompson** gave a description of what the SmartCode is. He stated that the LUDC (Land Use Development Code) Revisions Committee concluded that there are good features in the SmartCode. The SmartCode is a different way of looking at zoning and has the potential of taking advantage of all the good things in the community.

**Jim Pollard** recommended that the Council adopt an ordinance for Chamisa Verde. The LUDC is not written for Taos. He gave a history of how the SmartCode came about and compared it to the LUDC. The SmartCode is a template with a proven success rate. It is designed to overcome urban sprawl. He described the process for applicants with the SmartCode. The process will be streamlined if an applicant has all proper requirements. It has already been customized and is ready to be adopted.

1       **Councilmember Abeyta** stated the issue we face today is that we have a Vision  
2       20/20 but there is a gap between it and the LUDC.

3

4       **Councilmember Cordova** stated that he has read through the documents. He likes  
5       the plan and thinks it shows we need neighborhood participation. He thinks this is a  
6       good starting point. It would be confusing to use old guidelines and new guidelines.  
7       He reiterated that the Town needs to get a planning director. He commended Matt  
8       Foster and Rudy Perea.

9

10       **Town Manager Benavidez** stated we need to move forward with getting more public  
11       participation. He would like to let Chamisa Verde be the experiment. He  
12       commended the staff for a great job.

13

14       **Jim Pollard** stated they are working on a plan on how to reach out to the community.

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16       **Matt Foster** gave a presentation.

17

18       **Jim Pollard** stated they would like some Councilmembers be part of an outreach  
19       group.

20

21       **Town Manager Benavidez** stated they could get a joint meeting between the Town  
22       and County.

23

24       **Rudy Perea** stated they would also need to get the State Highway Department  
25       involved since the main road is their jurisdiction.

26

27       **Councilmember Struck** stated the Vision 20/20 plan had a lot of input, but never  
28       really got together with the county to follow-up.

29

30       **David Diccico** presented how Chamisa Verde can be under SmartCode. There could  
31       be a lot more residential units.

32

33       **Jim Thompson** Summarized what has been presented. There are still a number of  
34       things that need to be integrated into this code. We really need to get aggressive in  
35       getting the community involved. He'd like to see the Council implement this plan for  
36       Chamisa Verde. This plan satisfies Vision 2020's goals.

37

38       **Councilmember Cordova** asked if this is the TND (Traditional Neighborhood  
39       Development).

40

41       **Matt Foster** said yes.

42

43       **Councilmember Cordova** stated he would support doing a special zone change for  
44       Chamisa Verde which would require a public hearing.

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46       **Mayor Duran** asked Jim to explain how this process would work. He then asked

1 the Council how they feel about this.

2  
3 **Councilmember Struck** wants to know how much this will cost.

4  
5 **Jim Thompson** stated we will work on a plan.

6  
7 **Mayor Duran** stated he thinks we need to work first on scheduling public hearings  
8 and then refine Chamisa Verde.

9  
10 **Councilmember Cordova** stated it sounds that to make Chamisa Verde a success we  
11 need to go this route. Continue with SmartCode, but also take the Chamisa Verde  
12 ordinance forward.

13  
14 **Councilmember Abeyta** agrees that we need to move the Chamisa Verde forward.

15  
16 **Councilmember Gonzales** asked how will they know who can apply to be eligible.

17  
18 **Judith Tamm** stated the Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO)  
19 would do that. That is the purpose of the organization.

20  
21 **Councilmember Gonzales** feels this is a great opportunity to show what SmartCode  
22 can look like.

23  
24 **Matt Foster** stated that Placemakers, under their current scope of work, would come  
25 and work with the CHDO to get this all accomplished. No additional money.

26  
27 There was a brief discussion on the importance of educating potential homeowners.

28  
29 **Mark Yarovitz** reiterated what Judith said. They meet daily about these issues. He  
30 assured Councilmember Gonzales that her concerns are being handled by CHDO.

31  
32 **Julia Valerma** thanked everyone. She suggested making a portion of the park area  
33 into a garden. Maybe allow a portion to be used by the community.

- 34  
35 **7. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by **Councilmember Gonzales** and  
36 seconded by **Councilmember Cordova** to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried  
37 unanimously and the meeting adjourned at **4:40 p.m.**

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**APPROVED:**

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**Bobby F. Duran Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**Renee Lucero, Town Clerk**