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**Special Meeting
Taos Town Council
Town Council Chambers
120 Civic Plaza Drive
Taos, New Mexico
April 22, 2008
9:30 a.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 **9:35 a.m.**

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

Those present were Mayor Bobby F. Duran, Councilmembers Darren Cordova Rudy Abeyta, and Amy Quintana. Also present were Interim Town Manager Abigail Adame, Town Attorney Renee Barela Gutierrez and Town Clerk Renee Lucero. Absent was: Councilmember Eugene Sanchez.

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

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Amend Item # 6.A. to read as follows: Consideration and approval of Amendment #2 to Contract # TT-08-148 with Griffin and Associates for a one year contract extension for fiscal year 2008-2009 and an increase in the amount of \$96,353. The terms of their contract allow for a three year renewal. This would be the second year.

ADD Executive Session to discuss pending litigation regarding the Airport Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to NMSA 1978 10-15-1-H.7.

Councilmember Abeyta made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended. **Councilmember Quintana** seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. MATTERS FROM STAFF

Ron Yachinich, Convention Services Director

Consideration and approval of Resolution 08-23 implementing a policy on food and liquor catering services at the Taos Convention Center effective July 1, 2008.

Mr. Yachinich presented Resolution 08-23 and gave the background on the catering services that have been provided in the past. He explained that Taos Catering Company is currently housed at the Convention Center and has remained the Town's

1 lessee for the Town's Governmental Liquor License since 1992. The governmental
2 liquor license can be used only at Rio Grande Hall and Bataan Hall. He feels that the
3 Town should either suspend their governmental liquor license temporarily and use
4 Special Dispenser Permits for parties and receptions instead, or keep their liquor
5 license and apply for another governmental liquor license to be used at Coronado
6 Hall. If the Council decides to keep the liquor license we'd need to go out for
7 Requests for Proposals for a lessee of the liquor license.

8
9 There was a discussion as to whether or not the Town would have to provide a waiver
10 for each Special Dispenser Permit issued because of the close proximity to Taos
11 Elementary School. Mr. Yachinich stated that he would do research and contact the
12 Alcohol and Gaming Division to get questions cleared up.

13
14 Ken Blair stated that he doesn't think it's fair that Taos Catering has continued to be
15 the lessee after all these years. Bob Zeminick stated that everyone was allowed to
16 participate in the original RFP process.

17
18 Mr. Yachinich asked Ernie De Herrera from the NMED Environmental Health
19 Division-Food Program to explain the criteria that needs to be followed in order to
20 become a caterer.

21
22 The Councilmembers agreed that the process needs to be fair for all vendors. They
23 asked Mr. Yachinich to brief them as soon as he knows which route he will take as far
24 as the liquor license is concerned.

25
26 **Councilmember Quintana** made a motion to approve **Resolution 08-23** as
27 presented. **Councilmember Abeyta** seconded the motion. The motion was approved
28 by an affirmative vote. Those voting **AYE** were: **Councilmembers Cordova,**
29 **Abeyta, and Quintana.**

30 31 **6. MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

32 **A.** Consideration and approval of Amendment #2 to Contract # TT-08-148 with
33 Griffin and Associates for a one year contract extension for fiscal year 2008-2009
34 and an increase in the amount of \$96,353. The terms of their contract allow for a
35 three year renewal. This would be the second year.

36
37 **Councilmember Cordova** made a motion to approve the item contingent upon
38 Fiscal Year 08-09 budget approval. **Councilmember Quintana** seconded the
39 motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting **AYE**
40 were: **Councilmembers Cordova, Abeyta, and Quintana.**

41
42 **B.** Discussion with Taos County Chamber of Commerce regarding Leakage Study
43 and proposal submitted to Town of Taos.

44
45 Steve Fuhlendorf handed out a proposal which would provide a practical and cost
46 effective approach to reducing leakage. 54 % of the Town's dollars is being spent

1 elsewhere. This is unacceptable. We need to address this issue. We'll never stop
2 all of our dollars from leaving Taos, but we can make a dent in it. Through their
3 proposal they would like to find out what products are being purchased out of
4 town and what products are available in town.

5
6 Cecilia Ciepiela reviewed the proposal. She explained their strategy which is as
7 follows: 1) Increase local buying from local government; 2) Stimulate
8 transactions from local firms, focusing on large buyers; 3) Increase sales to local
9 consumers; 4) Increase public awareness; 5) Develop a performance measure
10 system; and 6) Evaluate pilot efforts and develop a long-term strategy.

11
12 Mr. Fuhlendorf stated that their main goal is to support our businesses, whether
13 they're the ones who address the leakage or somebody else.

14
15 Councilmember Cordova asked if this is a request for a contract and at what
16 amount.

17
18 Ms. Ciepiela stated that the request is for a contract. For each task there is a
19 budget. The total amount is \$40,000.

20
21 Councilmember Abeyta and Cordova both stated that they support local
22 governments buying locally as much as possible.

23
24 Councilmember Abeyta explained his concerns with the leakage and how some
25 services are not as accessible or affordable in Taos.

26
27 Mr. Fuhlendorf stated that we all need to show that Taos is a good place to shop.
28 We may need to pay a little more money but when you take into account the
29 money you spend leaving Taos to shop you probably break even.

30
31 Councilmember Quintana stated that the hard part will be the transition to buying
32 local. We need to get our businesses to stay open later and on weekends.

33
34 Mayor Duran stated that, as a local businessman, he knows that part of the
35 problem is that we cannot get the volume of materials we need at a good price in
36 Taos. It's significantly cheaper to buy elsewhere. It would be great to address the
37 leakage before our people start moving away.

38
39 The Mayor thanked Mr. Fuhlendorf and Ms. Ciepiela for their presentation.

40
41 **7. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Councilmember Cordova made a motion to go into**
42 **Executive Session to discuss pending litigation regarding the Airport**
43 **Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to NMSA 1978 10-15-1-H.7.**
44

1 **Councilmember Abeyta seconded the motion. The motion was confirmed by an**
2 **affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Councilmembers Cordova, Abeyta,**
3 **and Quintana.**

4
5 **At 12:03 p.m., Councilmember Cordova made a motion to come out of Executive**
6 **Session and stated that discussion in the Executive Session was limited to the**
7 **item as it was called for. Councilmember Quintana seconded the motion. The**
8 **motion was confirmed by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were:**
9 **Councilmembers Cordova, Abeyta, and Quintana.**

10
11 **8. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by **Councilmember Cordova** and
12 seconded by **Councilmember Quintana** to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried
13 unanimously and the meeting adjourned at **12:05 p.m.**

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17 **APPROVED:**
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19 _____
20 **Bobby F. Duran Mayor**

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23 **ATTEST:**
24
25 _____
26 **Renee Lucero, Town Clerk**

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