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**Special Meeting
Taos Town Council
Town Council Chambers
120 Civic Plaza Drive
Taos, New Mexico
January 2, 2009
5:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER: The Special Meeting of the Taos Town Council was called to order by the **Honorable Mayor Pro Tem Rudy C. Abeyta** at **5:37 p.m.**

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

Those present were:

Mayor	Darren M. Cordova
Mayor Pro Tem	Rudy C. Abeyta
Councilmember	A. Eugene Sanchez
Councilmember	Amy J. Quintana

Also present were:

Town Manager	Daniel Miera
Asst. Town Manager	Abigail Adame
Town Attorney	Allen Ferguson
Town Clerk	Renee Lucero

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

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

5. MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

A. Oath of Office to be administered to newly appointed Mayor Darren M. Cordova by Municipal Judge, Richard Chavez.

Municipal Judge, Richard Chavez, swore in Mayor Darren M. Cordova.

B. Presentation of gavel to Mayor Cordova by Daniel Miera, Town Manager.

Mr. Miera, on behalf of Town staff, presented Mayor Cordova with a gavel and a name badge in appreciation for his commitment and dedication to the community.

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Mayor Cordova introduced his family and acknowledged dignitaries in the audience. He stated he has a passion for the community and a commitment that is unparalleled. He acknowledges tough times lie ahead but he is fully confident that he and the current Council will tackle the difficult issues. He thanked each of the Councilmembers for placing their confidence and trust in him and assured them he will not let them down. Furthermore, he stated he would not have assumed the position of Mayor if he did not have the confidence in the employees of the Town. He stated he is committed to work with staff and plans on being the Council's voice ensuring the vision and policies of the Council are carried forward.

Mayor Cordova stated he realizes he's taking over as Mayor during a difficult time in the Town's and nation's economy. He stated his priority will be to ensure there is economic stability in the community because when there is economic stability and economic development all other issues fall into place. He stated while tourism during the ski season is a major factor in our economy, the Town must also diversify its economic base so that we can be more prosperous year round.

Moreover, the Mayor stated he would like to make Taos an educational destination. The main element is already in place through UNM Taos and the next step is getting the infrastructure needed to make Taos a prestigious college Town. He thanked previous forefathers for their vision in making Taos unique.

Mayor Cordova plans on being a very aggressive Mayor in order to accomplish the Council's priorities. He believes in timelines, goals and objectives to measure progress and success. He also intends to establish a daily presence at Town Hall.

Mayor Cordova stated he has selected a new Councilmember to fill the vacant seat and will ask for the Council's approval at a Special Meeting on Monday, January 5, 2009. He recommends Michael Silva because he believes Mr. Silva is in harmony with many of his visions. He stated Mr. Silva comes from a generation of business owners and feels Mr. Silva will do a great job as Councilmember. Furthermore, he feels Mr. Silva's experience in serving on the Planning & Zoning Commission will be an added benefit.

In closing, Mayor Cordova stated he will never forget who he works for - the constituents of the Town - and pledges to be accountable to them. His priorities will be professionalism, customer service, integrity and accountability.

- 6. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by **Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta** and seconded by **Councilmember Quintana** to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at **5:48 p.m.**

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APPROVED:

Darren M. Cordova, Mayor

ATTEST:

Renee Lucero, Town Clerk