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**Special Meeting
Taos Town Council
Town Council Chambers
120 Civic Plaza Drive
Taos, New Mexico
October 27, 2009
1:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER: The Special Meeting of the Taos Town Council was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Darren M. Cordova at 1:33 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
Councilmember	Michael A. Silva

Also present were:

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

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

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Cordova asked to move Item 9.B. after Citizens Forum.

Daniel Miera, Town Manager, asked to delete Item 8.B. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Town of Taos and Kit Carson Electric Cooperative regarding the Regional Command Center. He asked that Council review the MOU which was just submitted to them for approval at the next Council meeting.

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 8, 2009 Special Meeting

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Councilmember Quintana made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 8, 2009, as presented. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta, and Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.

B. September 22, 2009

Councilmember Silva made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 22, 2009, as presented. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta, and Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.

C. September 28, 2009

Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 28, 2009, as presented. Councilmember Quintana seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta, and Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.

D. October 8, 2009

Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta made a motion to approve the Minutes of October 8, 2009, as presented. Councilmember Quintana seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta, and Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.

6. CITIZENS FORUM

A. Presentation by Sherry Hooper, Executive Director of The Food Depot, regarding The Food Depot’s food sources and its service to hungry people in Taos, including the food bank’s work with Taos food programs.

Ms. Hooper distributed information regarding The Food Depot. She stated The Food Depot distributed 428,982 pounds of food to Taos County in 2008 and to date in 2009 they have provided 556,934 pounds of food to Taos County which represents a 46% increase in the amount of food provided in 2008.

Mayor Cordova asked how the Town can support their program. Ms. Hooper stated The Food Depot needs to raise \$2.5 million to build a new building because they have run out of space to operate. They are hoping the new building can be built by 2011. She stated money can be donated on their website at www.thefooddepot.org.

B. Summer Wood, presentation regarding Big Read Program.

1 Ms. Wood stated The Big Read is a project of the National Endowment for the
2 Arts, and is sponsored here in Taos by SOMOS, in collaboration with the Taos
3 Public Library. She stated the big read will go on for one month and the book
4 "Bless Me Ultima" by New Mexico author Rudolfo Anaya, will be given away at
5 the planned events.
6

- 7 C. Shanna Chalker, a UNM Student, came forward and asked when the Chili Line
8 will be expanded to go to the UNM South Branch.
9

10 Mayor Cordova stated the Town is currently collaborating with UNM to expand
11 the service. Mr. Miera stated the Town is also evaluating how current resources
12 can be used to expand the route.
13

- 14 D. Mayor Cordova stated Governor Richardson announced yesterday that the Town
15 has been successful in securing federal stimulus funding in the amount of
16 \$490,490 for a solar electric project at Town Hall and energy audits of Town
17 owned buildings to increase energy efficiency. The Town of Taos was 1 of 21
18 local governments in New Mexico to receive funding.
19

- 20 9.B. Consideration and approval of appointment of Feliz Vigil for Town of Taos
21 Youth Council Representative.
22

23 Mayor Cordova stated appointing a Youth Council Representative is one initiative
24 that he believes is very important because our youth are our future. He stated the
25 Town sent out a Request for Proposals and received many responses. He
26 recommends Feliz Vigil because she submitted an outstanding resume and he
27 believes she will bring a lot of positive energy to the Council. Mayor Cordova
28 also stated Superintendent Gonzales is very supportive of this initiative.
29

30 Ms. Vigil stated she looks forward to representing the youth and thanked the
31 Mayor and Council for this opportunity.
32

33 Councilmember Quintana agreed that Ms. Vigil submitted a very impressive
34 resume.
35

36 **Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta made a motion to approve the appointment of Feliz**
37 **Vigil for Town of Taos Youth Council Representative. Councilmember**
38 **Quintana seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative**
39 **vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta, and**
40 **Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**
41

42 7. MATTERS FROM STAFF

- 43 A. Cathy Connelly, Public Relations Director (with Cindy Spray, Arts &
44 Cultural District Coordinator)

1 Presentation of plaque honoring Taos, New Mexico as one of America's Top 25
2 Arts Destinations for collectors and travelers who love art galleries, museums and
3 festivals.
4

5 Ms. Connelly stated American Style Magazine ranked Taos fourth among the top
6 small cities listed nationally with populations of less than 100,000 as one
7 of America's Top 25 Arts Destinations for collectors and travelers who love art
8 galleries, museums and festivals. She also stated Santa Fe, New Mexico ranked
9 first.
10

11 **B. Amos Torres, Public Utilities Director**

12 Consideration and approval of Amendment #4 to Contract # TT-09-115 to Waste
13 Management of New Mexico for the hauling and disposal of the sludge from the
14 Taos Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant to Rio Rancho Landfill in the amount
15 of \$65,000 including NMGR. This amendment is to cover services until new
16 contract hauler begins hauling services. Rio Rancho is the only landfill in the
17 region that is permitted to receive municipal sludge in the region.
18

19 **Councilmember Quintana made a motion to approve Amendment #4 to**
20 **Contract # TT-09-115 to Waste Management of New Mexico. Councilmember**
21 **Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion was approved by**
22 **an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta, and**
23 **Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**
24

25 **C. Marietta Fambro, Finance Director (with Amos Torres, Public Utilities**
26 **Director)**

27 Approval and acceptance of Resolution 09-60 authorizing the submission of the
28 2010 Water Trust Board application in the amount of \$1,680,000 for financial
29 assistance for the continuation of the Regional Water System Upgrade Project.
30 The scope of work to include Weimer Hills distribution system, regional tie-ins to
31 the communities of Talpa and Ranchos, SCADA security, SCADA flow
32 monitoring equipment, Well 9 completion and numerous pressure relief valves.
33

34 Ms. Fambro stated the overall project cost is estimated at \$4 million dollars.
35

36 Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta asked if this project will complete the installation of
37 water lines to the Weimer area. Mr. Torres stated yes, the scope of work does
38 include the Weimer area.
39

40 Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta asked Mr. Miera to evaluate the ordinance for water and
41 sewer connections to make sure they meet the needs of our current constituents.
42 Mr. Miera stated he has started evaluating the ordinance as part of the water and
43 sewer rate structure study.
44

45 **Councilmember Silva made a motion to approve Resolution 09-60 as**
46 **presented. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion was**

1 **approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem**
2 **Abeyta, and Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

3
4 **D. Marietta Fambro, Finance Director (with Amos Torres, Public Utilities**
5 **Director)**

6 Approval and acceptance of Resolution 09-59 authorizing the submission of the
7 2010 Water Trust Board application in the amount of \$3.4 million for financial
8 assistance for the Water Conservation, Recycling, Retreatment and Re-use Project
9 at the Taos Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility.

10
11 Ms. Fambro stated the funds will be used to continue the fourth phase of a four
12 phase project at the Taos Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility.

13
14 Mr. Torres stated the overall project cost is estimated at \$11.8 million for phases
15 two through four. He also stated the design will be complete by next month. Mr.
16 Miera stated having the design complete will increase the Town's chance of
17 receiving funding.

18
19 Mayor Cordova stated it is very important for funding agencies to see that
20 applicants have "shovel-ready" projects.

21
22 **Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta made a motion to approve Resolution 09-59 as**
23 **presented. Councilmember Quintana seconded the motion. The motion was**
24 **approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem**
25 **Abeyta, and Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

26
27 **E. Marietta Fambro, Finance Director**

28 Approval of Resolution 09-58 Budget Adjustment Request: **1) Community**
29 **Grants Fund (30) - Increase interfund transfer-in and expenditures in the amount**
30 **of \$10,000 for continuance of the Taos Express project through the end of**
31 **December, 2009; 2) Capital Improvements Fund (51) - a) Increase interfund**
32 **transfer-out - \$10,000 to cover the Taos Express project in fund 30 b) Transfer**
33 **from capital outlay expenses from Airport Substation project - \$24,156 to a new**
34 **project; the design of the Mary Medina building for the Police Department.**

35
36 Mayor Cordova asked how successful has Taos Express been. Ms. Connelly
37 stated the system has been very successful. She has attended a couple of meetings
38 with state officials and they are very impressed with the weekend average of 55
39 riders. She stated ridership usually increases after about a year. Mayor Cordova
40 stated unfortunately the Town was not able to get the Rail Runner to Taos;
41 however this system allows riders to connect to the Rail Runner in Santa Fe

42
43 **Councilmember Quintana made a motion to approve Resolution 09-58 as**
44 **presented. Councilmember Silva seconded the motion. The motion was**
45 **approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem**
46 **Abeyta, and Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

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2 **8. MATTERS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**

- 3 **A.** Approval of Contract TT-10-25 with Universal Professional Services, Inc. in the
4 amount of \$30,000 inclusive of GRT for lobbying services during the 2009
5 Special Legislative Session and the 2010 Regular Legislative Session that will be
6 held in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

7
8 Mayor Cordova stated the contract amount was approved during in the 2009-2010
9 Budget in June of 2009. He referred to the Scope of Services and stated items 9
10 and 10 were added because the lobbyist started during the Special Legislative
11 Session and will also be very active in assisting with other upcoming funding
12 opportunities.

13
14 **Councilmember Silva made a motion to approve Contract TT-10-25 with**
15 **Universal Professional Services, Inc. in the amount of \$30,000 inclusive of**
16 **GRT. Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta seconded the motion. The motion was**
17 **approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem**
18 **Abeyta, and Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

- 19
20 **B.** Consideration and approval of Resolution 09-57 - Opposing legislation to repeal
21 the hold harmless provision on food and medicine for municipalities.

22
23 Mr. Miera stated legislation repealing the hold harmless provision on food and
24 medicine for municipalities will likely be debated at the Regular Legislative
25 Session in 2010. If the legislation did pass it would be detrimental to the Town as
26 the Town would receive \$1.8 million less in gross receipts tax distributions.

27
28 Mayor Cordova stated Representative Bobby Gonzales and Senator Cisneros
29 believe this will be on the table at the Regular Legislative Session.

30
31 **Councilmember Quintana made a motion to approve Resolution 09-57 as**
32 **presented. Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta seconded the motion. The motion was**
33 **approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem**
34 **Abeyta, and Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

35
36 **9. MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

- 37 **A.** Re-appointment of Airport Advisory Board (AAB) members according to the
38 established Town of Taos AAB Ordinance and Bylaws:
39 Ken Blair - 4 year term
40 Richard Nichols - 4 year term

41
42 Mayor Cordova stated these board members have served for a number of years
43 and he believes it is important to keep continuity on the Airport Advisory Board
44 due to the Airport's Environmental Impact Statement.

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Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta stated he agrees with the Mayor about the importance of keeping continuity; however, he would like to revisit the structure of the advisory board in the future. He believes some of the members have been on the board for over 10 years and new members frequently offer new ideas.

Councilmember Silva made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Airport Advisory Board (AAB) members as presented. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta, and Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.

Mayor Cordova stated he, Councilmember Sanchez and Mr. Miera met with representatives of Taos Pueblo yesterday and the meeting was very positive. They met on several issues that affect the Town of Taos and Taos Pueblo including economic development and community development. He plans on continuing these meetings to keep the dialogue open with Taos Pueblo.

10. ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by **Councilmember Sanchez** and seconded by **Councilmember Quintana** to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at **2:41 p.m.**

APPROVED:

Darren M. Cordova, Mayor

ATTEST:

Renee Lucero, Town Clerk

PLEASE NOTE: The Town of Taos records most Town Council Meetings via audio, however, only Regular Town Council Meetings and some Special Town Council Meetings, with controversial issues, are video recorded. Copies are available upon request at the Town Clerk's Office located at 400 Camino de la Placita (575-751-2005) at a fee of \$5.00 for audio recordings and \$25.00 for video recordings.