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**MINUTES  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**Taos Town Council  
Town Council Chambers  
120 Civic Plaza Drive  
Taos, New Mexico**

**April 28, 2009  
1:30 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER: The Regular Meeting of the Taos Town Council was called to order by the Honorable Mayor Darren M. Cordova at 1:35 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
Asst. Town Manager	Abigail Adame
Town Clerk	Renee Lucero
Asst. Town Attorney	Jack Clough

**Absent was:**

Town Attorney	Allen Ferguson (Out of the office on personal leave)
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**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilmember Silva led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.**

*Mayor Cordova asked for a brief moment of silence for Mark Espinoza, a member of the community who lost his life in a tragic car accident over the weekend. He also commended the Police Department and Fire Department for their hard work in responding to the accident.*

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Councilmember Quintana seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

1 **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

2  
3 **B. Special Meetings**  
4 **April 9, 2009**

5  
6 **Councilmember Silva made a motion to approve the Minutes of the April 9,**  
7 **2009, Special Meeting as presented. Councilmember Quintana seconded the**  
8 **motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting**  
9 **AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta and Councilmembers Sanchez,**  
10 **Quintana and Silva.**

11  
12 **April 14, 2009**

13  
14 **Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta made a motion to approve the Minutes of the April**  
15 **14, 2009, Quarterly Departmental Briefing Meeting as presented. Council-**  
16 **member Silva seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an**  
17 **affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta and**  
18 **Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

19  
20 **6. Staff requests action on the following items. These items are for the purpose of**  
21 **taking action on the matters considered at the Public Hearing held on March 24,**  
22 **2009.**

23 **A. Discussion and approval of Minutes of March 24, 2009 (regarding the Men's**  
24 **Homeless Shelter Case)**

25  
26 **Councilmember Silva made a motion to approve the Minutes of the March**  
27 **24, 2009, Special Meeting as presented. Councilmember Quintana seconded**  
28 **the motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting**  
29 **AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta and Councilmembers Sanchez,**  
30 **Quintana and Silva.**

31  
32 **B. Decision & Order including Findings of Facts & Conclusions of Law (regarding**  
33 **the Men's Homeless Shelter Case). Vote on this item will be preceded by**  
34 **consideration of points made in the parties' briefs (if any are filed).**

35  
36 **Councilmember Quintana made a motion to approve the Decision & Order**  
37 **including Findings of Facts & Conclusions of Law (regarding the Men's**  
38 **Homeless Shelter Case) as presented. Councilmember Silva seconded the**  
39 **motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting**  
40 **AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta and Councilmembers Sanchez,**  
41 **Quintana and Silva.**

1 **7. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:**

2 Mayor Cordova proclaimed May 3 through May 9, 2009, "Building Safety Week"  
3 across the nation. Communities will promote the use and understanding of building  
4 safety and fire prevention codes to protect lives and property. The theme is "Building  
5 Safety: Where You Live, Work and Play."  
6

7 **8. CITIZENS FORUM**

8 **A.** Cindy Spray came forward and stated she has lived in Taos for 28 years and owns  
9 a shop on Teresina Lane. She stated she conducted work for the Town of Taos  
10 last year and found that 97% of people she spoke with loved the free parking plan.  
11 She stated she would like to see Taos Plaza become more of a gathering place for  
12 not only tourists, but locals as well. She feels the implementation of the new  
13 parking plan should be delayed until the merchants have been informed so they  
14 can be in agreement.  
15

16 **B.** Polly Raye came forward and stated she represents several Plaza merchants. She  
17 asked that the Town move slowly toward paid parking. She does feel the Town  
18 should charge for parking; however, she feels time should be taken to produce a  
19 good plan.  
20

21 **C.** Steve Fuhlendorf came forward and stated he is concerned about how the H1N1  
22 Flu epidemic will affect tourism in Taos; therefore, he feels the parking meter  
23 plan is an important issue. He feels the plan should be delayed so that a good plan  
24 can be implemented. He also stated the community needs to do more to  
25 encourage locals to come to the Plaza.  
26

27 **Councilmember Sanchez made a motion to suspend the rules to place Item 13**  
28 **next on the agenda. Councilmember Silva seconded the motion. The motion**  
29 **carried unanimously.**  
30

31 **13. MATTERS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**

32 Discussion and action regarding Town of Taos Parking Meter plan.  
33

34 Daniel Miera, Town Manager, presented the Town of Taos Parking Plan briefing  
35 prepared by Town staff with input from concerned citizens, Taos County Chamber of  
36 Commerce and representatives of the Central Business District Merchants. Mr. Miera  
37 stated the plan provides reasonable access to free parking while continuing needed  
38 parking turnover and preventing customer displacement through a managed paid  
39 parking program.  
40

41 Councilmember Silva asked if the money generated from the parking meetings can be  
42 used to maintain the Plaza. Mr. Miera stated yes; however, merchants have asked  
43 that the funding be used for parking improvements. Mr. Miera stated concerns of the  
44 merchants are being taken into consideration.  
45

1 Councilmember Sanchez asked Ms. Spray if she endorses the proposed plan. Ms.  
2 Spray stated she does endorse the plan; however she would still like to see that the  
3 first hour of parking is free.  
4

5 Councilmember Sanchez stated he feels the Plaza is not user friendly and he would  
6 like to see more locals there. He would also like for there to be free parking, but it  
7 seems labor intensive for parking enforcement to monitor. Ms. Spray stated most  
8 people abide by an honor system and will not abuse it. Councilmember Sanchez  
9 stated people do learn how to cheat the system.  
10

11 Councilmember Quintana suggested implementing one hour of free parking between  
12 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to allow locals to visit the Plaza during their lunch hour to  
13 run errands or have lunch. She feels this will be easy to monitor.  
14

15 Councilmember Silva agreed with Councilmember Quintana and stated the Town is  
16 charging one half of what Santa Fe and Albuquerque charge for parking.  
17

18 Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta asked Ms. Spray, Ms. Raye and Mr. Fuhlendorf if they would  
19 support implementing the plan on July 1<sup>st</sup>. All stated they would support  
20 implementation on July 1<sup>st</sup> with a good plan. Ms. Raye also stated she would support  
21 Councilmember Quintana's idea of having one hour free parking from 12:00 p.m. to  
22 1:00 p.m.  
23

24 Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta asked Ms. Fambro if she feels comfortable with  
25 implementing the plan July 1, 2009. She stated revenues are definitely low; however,  
26 she feels comfortable with implementing the plan July 1, 2009.  
27

28 Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta asked Chief of Police, Daron Syling, if he feels parking  
29 enforcement could easily monitor the one hour free parking during the lunch hour.  
30 Chief Syling stated the parking could be easily monitored during this time.  
31

32 Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta suggested approving the plan effective July 1<sup>st</sup> and allowing  
33 one hour free parking from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
34

35 Councilmember Silva commended Mr. Miera for his work on the plan and feels the  
36 plan should begin May 15, 2009. Councilmember Quintana concurred with  
37 Councilmember Silva.  
38

39 There was a discussion between Councilmembers about compromising and  
40 implementing the plan on June 1, 2009.  
41

42 Mayor Cordova stated he does not believe the Town will ever get 100% support for  
43 the parking meter plan. He stated that as long as he can remember there have been  
44 parking meters and feels there are ways, other than free parking, to attract locals to  
45 the Plaza. He feels tourists are usually prepared to pay for parking.  
46

1 **Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta made a motion to implement the Parking Meter Plan**  
2 **June 1, 2009, and allow free parking from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
3 **Councilmember Silva seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an**  
4 **affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta and**  
5 **Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

6  
7 **Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta clarified the free parking from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. is**  
8 **easiest to enforce.**

9  
10 **Councilmember Silva stated he would like some of the revenues generated from**  
11 **this plan to go toward improvements and maintenance to the downtown area.**

12  
13 **9. CONSENT AGENDA**

14 **The Mayor Cordova presented the following consent agenda to the Council. He**  
15 **read each item on the agenda and advised the Council they could request any**  
16 **item be removed from the consent agenda if they desired to discuss such item:**

17 **A. Daron Syling, Chief of Police**

18 Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Taos County, Village of  
19 Questa, Village of Red River and the Town of Taos for grant funding for the DWI  
20 program in our county.

21 **B. Francella Garcia, Grants Administrator**

- 22 1. Authorization to submit an application in the amount of \$2,083 to the New  
23 Mexico Department of Transportation (DOT), Aviation Division which will  
24 provide funding for the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) at  
25 the Taos Regional Airport. Funding breakdown is as follows: State \$2,083;  
26 Town Match \$2,083.  
27 2. Approval of Resolution 09-21 to adopt a Procurement Policy for Community  
28 Development Block Grant (CDBG) Projects. In accordance with CDBG  
29 regulations the Town must adopt a procurement policy by resolution to apply  
30 for and administer CDBG Projects.

31 **C. MATTERS FROM TOWN ATTORNEY**

- 32 1. Approval of Out of State Travel request for Allen Ferguson, Town Attorney,  
33 to attend the Western Water Law, Policy and Management Conference, June  
34 3-5, 2009, at the University of Colorado Law School in Boulder, Colorado.  
35 Conference Registration \$370, Mileage \$202.32, Meals \$180 and Hotel  
36 \$413.46; Total cost is \$1,165.78. Workshop and training will be provided to  
37 Planning and Legal staff upon return.  
38 2. Approval of Out of State Travel request for John H. Clough, Assistant Town  
39 Attorney to attend Administrative Law Advanced Conference being held June  
40 8-11, 2009, at National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. Conference  
41 Registration \$1,220, Mileage \$82.56, Meals \$225 and Hotel \$406.60, and  
42 airfare \$260; Total cost is \$2,194.16. Workshop and training will be provided  
43 to Planning and Legal staff upon return.

1 **Councilmember Sanchez made a motion to approve the consent agenda as**  
2 **presented. Councilmember Silva seconded the motion. The motion was approved**  
3 **by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta and**  
4 **Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

5  
6 **10. MATTERS FROM STAFF**

7 **Amos Torres, Public Utilities Director**

8 Consideration and approval to allow Juan Fernandez to connect to Town sewer main  
9 line. The property is located at Las Tusas Road and the sewer line is within the  
10 property. The owner will be responsible for all costs associated with the connection  
11 and all applicable fees. Connection will be one 4" gravity flow line.

12  
13 Mr. Torres clarified the request was to connect to each of the nine 1/3 acre lots on Mr.  
14 Fernandez' property, however, this approval is for only one connection.

15  
16 **Councilmember Silva made a motion to allow Juan Fernandez to connect to**  
17 **Town sewer main line. Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta seconded the motion. The**  
18 **motion was approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor**  
19 **Pro Tem Abeyta and Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

20  
21 **11. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

22 **A. Renee Lucero, Town Clerk**

23 Consideration and approval of Winers Offsite Liquor License Application No.  
24 592756 for La Chiripada Winery, Ltd., Co. located at 103 B. Bent Street.

25  
26 **Renee Lucero, Town Clerk, presented the liquor license application to the**  
27 **Mayor and Council and stated all publication requirements have been met.**

28  
29 ***Public Opinion***

30 **Mayor Cordova opened the public hearing. No one came forward.**

31  
32 **After closing the public hearing, Mayor Cordova asked for questions from**  
33 **the Council.**

34  
35 **Councilmember Quintana made a motion to approve the Winers Offsite**  
36 **Liquor License Application No. 592756 for La Chiripada Winery, Ltd., Co.**  
37 **located at 103 B. Bent Street. Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta seconded the motion.**  
38 **The motion was approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were:**  
39 **Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta and Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

40  
41 **12. MATTERS FROM TOWN ATTORNEY**

42 Review and possible approval of lease between the State of New Mexico and the  
43 Town of Taos for the Mary Medina Building and authorization for Mayor to negotiate  
44 terms and enter into lease.

1 Jack Clough, Assistant Town Attorney, stated the building is owned by the State of  
2 New Mexico who has offered a lease of the building to be used to house the Taos  
3 Police Department. He stated the lease is for a 5 year term in the amount of \$1 per  
4 year and approval will enable staff to immediately prepare for lobbying efforts for  
5 grant funding.

6  
7 Mayor Cordova stated the Chief is seeking law enforcement grants and encourages  
8 the Council to approve the lease.

9  
10 Chief Syling stated he is hopeful the Town will obtain funding from the Weed and  
11 Seed program to construct a community playground at the corner of the property.

12  
13 Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta asked how much is needed to make the building operational.  
14 Mr. Miera stated about \$200-300 thousand is needed to make the building operational  
15 and \$500,000 is needed for a state-of-the-art facility. Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta asked if  
16 Mr. Miera is planning to use any general fund money for improvements to the  
17 building. Mr. Miera stated no, they are hoping to obtain grant funding for all  
18 improvements.

19  
20 **Councilmember Quintana made a motion to approve the lease between the State**  
21 **of New Mexico and the Town of Taos for the Mary Medina Building and**  
22 **authorization for Mayor to negotiate terms and enter into lease. Councilmember**  
23 **Silva seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative vote.**  
24 **Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta and Councilmembers**  
25 **Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

26  
27 **14. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta made a motion to go into**  
28 **Executive Session to discuss limited personnel matters regarding the benefits of**  
29 **the Mayor and Town Manager as it relates to Town of Taos Ordinance 08-17**  
30 **(use of town-owned vehicles vs. personal vehicles) pursuant to NMSA 1978 10-**  
31 **15-1-H.2.**

32  
33 **Councilmember Silva seconded the motion. The motion was confirmed by an**  
34 **affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta and**  
35 **Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

36  
37 **At 3:55 p.m., Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta made a motion to come out of Executive**  
38 **Session and stated that discussion in the Executive Session was limited to the**  
39 **item as it was called for. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The**  
40 **motion was confirmed by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor**  
41 **Pro Tem Abeyta and Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva**

42  
43 **15. ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Councilmember Sanchez and**  
44 **seconded by Councilmember Silva to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried**  
45 **unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.**

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**APPROVED:**

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**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.*