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**Special Meeting
Taos Town Council
Town Council Chambers
120 Civic Plaza Drive
Taos, New Mexico
August 25, 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 1:32 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 Pro Tem Abeyta made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Councilmember Quintana seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**Special Meeting
July 28, 2009**

Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta made a motion to approve the July 28, 2009 Minutes 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.

1 **6. CITIZENS FORUM**

2 Peter Wengert, representing the Weimer Neighborhood Association, stated the
3 association recently held a meeting regarding the possibility of connecting to the
4 Town's water system. He thanked Councilmember Abeyta, who lives in the area, for
5 his attendance at the meeting and for addressing those who attended.
6

7 **7. RECOGNITIONS**

8 Introduction of K-9 Brady to the Town of Taos Council.
9

10 Daron Syling, Chief of Police, introduced Brady and stated she is 12 years old and is
11 trained to locate illegal substances such as drugs. She also assists with locating
12 weapons and tracking suspects. Mayor Cordova stated he looks forward to Brady's
13 assistance in keeping the schools drug-free.
14

15 **8. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

19 **A. Francella Garcia, Grants Administrator**

20 Authorization to accept a revised grant agreement No. 10-690-10494 from the
21 State of New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department in the amount of
22 \$111,360 for the provision of cost effective services and temporary, non-secure
23 alternatives to detention for the youth in Taos, Taos County, New Mexico. Town
24 of Taos to act as the fiscal agent on behalf of Taos County Juvenile Justice Board.

25 **B. Francisco "French" Espinoza, Public Works Director**

- 26 1. Consideration and approval to allow the Public Works/Transit Division to
27 apply for financial assistance under the USC Section 5311 of the Federal
28 Transit Act. Funding for Rural Transportation Services in the approximate
29 amount of \$530,050 for Federal Fiscal Year 2010/2011.
30 2. Consideration and approval to allow the Public Works/Transit Division to
31 apply for financial assistance under the USC Section 5317 of the Federal
32 Transit Act. Funding for New Freedom Program in the approximate amount
33 of \$50,000 for Federal Fiscal Year 2010/2011.

34 **C. MATTERS FROM TOWN MANAGER**

35 Consideration and action to allow Daniel Miera, Town Manager, to travel on
36 maximum actual costs at \$215 plus applicable taxes for rooms the ICMA Annual
37 Conference in Montreal, Quebec, on September 11, 2009 through September 16,
38 2009. Travel was approved by Town Council on June 16, 2009. Estimated cost
39 of travel is \$2,875.58.

40 **D. MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

41 Consideration and action to allow Michael Silva, Councilmember, who traveled
42 on maximum actual costs at \$215 plus applicable taxes for rooms for the NALEO
43 Annual Conference in Los Angeles, June 24th through June 27, 2009. Travel was
44 approved by Town Council on June 24, 2008. Estimated cost of travel is:
45 \$1731.10.

1 **Councilmember Sanchez asked to remove Item 8.B.1. and 8.C. from the Consent**
2 **Agenda for discussion.**

3
4 **Councilmember Silva asked to remove Item 8.D. from the Consent Agenda for**
5 **discussion.**

6
7 **Councilmember Silva made a motion to approve Consent Agenda as amended.**
8 **Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an**
9 **affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta, and**
10 **Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

11
12 **Item 8.B.1.** Consideration and approval to allow the Public Works/Transit Division to
13 apply for financial assistance under the USC Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act.
14 Funding for Rural Transportation Services in the approximate amount of \$530,050 for
15 Federal Fiscal Year 2010/2011.

16
17 Councilmember Sanchez asked Francisco “French” Espinoza, Public Works Director,
18 how the funds will be used. Mr. Espinoza stated the grant application is the annual
19 application for operations of the Chili Line. He also stated the Federal government
20 allots these funds to municipalities for transportation programs.

21
22 Councilmember Sanchez stated he is concerned about the double-tax burden of the
23 constituents and wants Council to consider using the North Central Regional Transit
24 District (NCRTD) as a form of transportation.

25
26 Daniel Miera, Town Manager, stated he has met with representatives from NCRTD
27 and is waiting for additional information from them. Mayor Cordova stated he will
28 also contact NCRTD regarding their transportation services.

29
30 **Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta made a motion to allow the Public Works/Transit**
31 **Division to apply for financial assistance under the USC Section 5311 of the**
32 **Federal Transit Act. Councilmember Silva seconded the motion. The motion**
33 **was approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem**
34 **Abeyta, and Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

35
36 **Item 8.C.** Consideration and action to allow Daniel Miera, Town Manager, to travel
37 on maximum actual costs at \$215 plus applicable taxes for rooms the ICMA Annual
38 Conference in Montreal, Quebec, on September 11, 2009 through September 16,
39 2009. Travel was approved by Town Council on June 16, 2009. Estimated cost of
40 travel is \$2,875.58.

41
42 Councilmember Sanchez stated he believes conferences are a waste of time and
43 money and stated that these days any information can be obtained on the internet.
44 Mr. Miera stated he was invited to this conference to do a presentation as one of the
45 youngest city managers serving municipal governments.

46

1 Councilmember Abeyta stated networking is an important tool and believes these
2 conferences are pertinent to professional development.

3
4 **Councilmember Silva made a motion to allow Daniel Miera, Town Manager, to**
5 **travel on maximum actual costs at \$215 plus applicable taxes. Councilmember**
6 **Quintana seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative**
7 **vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta, and Councilmembers**
8 **Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

9
10 **Item 8.D.** Consideration and action to allow Michael Silva, Councilmember, who
11 traveled on maximum actual costs at \$215 plus applicable taxes for rooms for the
12 NALEO Annual Conference in Los Angeles, June 24th through June 27, 2009.
13 Travel was approved by Town Council on June 24, 2008. Estimated cost of travel is:
14 \$1731.10.

15
16 Councilmember Silva stated he pulled this item from the Consent Agenda for the
17 purpose of abstaining during the vote.

18
19 **Councilmember Quintana made a motion to approve Item 8.D. from the**
20 **Consent Agenda for discussion. Councilmember Abeyta seconded the motion.**
21 **The motion was approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were:**
22 **Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta, and Councilmembers Sanchez and Quintana.**
23 **Councilmember Silva abstained.**

24
25 Mayor Cordova suspended the rules to allow a presentation from Joe Campos, Mayor
26 from Santa Rosa.

27
28 Mayor Campos thanked the Mayor and Council for serving one of the most beautiful
29 cities in New Mexico. He stated in addition to being Mayor of Santa Rosa, he is also a
30 State Representative and wants to meet with each Councilmember and the Mayor
31 regarding his intention to run for Lieutenant Governor and issues affecting New Mexico.

32
33 **9. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

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

35 Consideration and approval of a new Restaurant Beer & Wine Liquor License
36 Application 601752 for Song's, LLC Song's Asian Restaurant located at 703
37 Paseo del Pueblo Sur.

38
39 Renee Lucero, Town Clerk, presented the liquor license application to the Mayor
40 and Council and stated all publication requirements have been met.

41
42 **Public Opinion**

43 Mayor Cordova opened the public hearing. No one came forward.

44
45 After closing the public hearing, Mayor Cordova asked for questions from the
46 Council.

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Councilmember Quintana made a motion to approve the new Restaurant Beer & Wine Liquor License Application 601752 for Song’s, LLC Song’s Asian Restaurant. Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta 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.

10. MATTERS FROM STAFF

A. Francella Garcia, Grants Administrator

- 1. Authorization to accept additional funding from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the amount of \$103,566. Additional funding is needed to acquire land for Runway 22 (approximately 4.885 acres) at the Taos Regional Airport, closing costs associated with the purchase, the preparation of a property map to include the property acquired and grant administration. The proposed amended project cost break down is as follows: State 2.5% (\$6,672); FAA 95% (\$253,566); Town Match 2.5% (\$6,672).

Councilmember Quintana asked where the land is coming from. Mr. Miera stated the land is being acquired from George Tune.

Quintana made a motion to accept additional funding from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the amount of \$103,566. 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.

- 2. Authorization to accept funding from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the amount of \$141,511 for taxiway and ramp pavement maintenance and taxiway reflectors at the Taos Regional Airport. Proposed funding breakdown is as follows: FAA 95% (\$141,511); State 2.5% (\$3,724); Town Match 2.5% (3,725). Proposed project amount is \$148,960.

Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta made a motion to accept funding from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the amount of \$141,511. Councilmember Silva 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. Loretta Trujillo, Human Resources Director

The Town is proposing to hire Tomasita Ramirez as a full-time employee within the Convention Department. Tomasita is not directly related to a Town employee, but does have a connection with Ron Yachinich, who will be her immediate supervisor. The intent of this request form is to notify the Mayor and Council of the connection in an effort to maintain our transparency in government.

1 Loretta Trujillo, Human Resources Director, stated Ms. Ramirez' interview was
2 conducted by a formal interview committee. The committee found her to be the
3 best candidate for the position.
4

5 *This item was presented for informational purposes only.*
6

7 **11. MATTERS FROM TOWN ATTORNEY**

8 Approval of Easement from Taos County to the Town of Taos for part of the
9 proposed Vista Del Canon Condos sewer line.
10

11 Allen Ferguson, Town Attorney, stated he placed this item on the agenda with enough
12 time for the County to approve it at their Commission Meeting; however, the item
13 was tabled at their meeting. He recommended that Council table the item because the
14 County Commissioners have several issues with it, including issues of annexation.
15

16 Mayor Cordova explained the area has several environmental issues. He stated the
17 Council's priority is to get as many sewer hook-ups to avoid ground and water
18 contamination. He feels it is unfortunate that the County tabled the item, but will
19 speak to Commissioner Duran, who represents the canon area, regarding the
20 Commissioners concerns.
21

22 Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta stated the Town's intention is to not annex anybody who
23 does not want to be annexed, including the canon area. He stated the people who live
24 in this area are facing environmental issues.
25

26 **Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta made a motion to table the item. Councilmember**
27 **Quintana seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative**
28 **vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta, and Councilmembers**
29 **Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**
30

31 **12. MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

32 Consideration and approval of Resolution 09-46: a resolution of the Town of Taos
33 supporting legislation to provide alternative publication methods for legal notices and
34 advertisements.
35

36 Mayor Cordova abstained from presenting and discussing this item because he is a
37 broadcaster; therefore Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta presented the item.
38

39 Mr. Miera explained the resolution specifies that the Town of Taos supports
40 legislation to provide alternative publication methods for legal notices and
41 advertisements.
42

43 Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta allowed the audience to comment on the resolution and no
44 one came forward.
45

1 **Councilmember Quintana made a motion to approve Resolution 09-46 changing**
 2 **paragraph 2) on page 2 to read as follows: “The Town Manager is hereby**
 3 **authorized to promote this initiative and advocate for such legislation”.**
 4 **Councilmember Silva seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an**
 5 **affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta, and**
 6 **Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

7
 8 Councilmember Sanchez asked for an update on the soccer fields. Mr. Miera stated
 9 the loan will be closing very soon.

10
 11 Councilmember Sanchez congratulated Marietta Fambro, Finance Director, on
 12 successfully closing the Fiscal Year 08-09 Budget in the positive; however, he
 13 believes the Town does not know how much money there really is in the budget. He
 14 stated the citizens are being deprived because there is not enough money being
 15 allocated for services. He also stated the Finance Department needs to convert to a
 16 more updated system. Mayor Cordova asked Mr. Miera and Ms. Fambro to evaluate
 17 the system currently being used for the preparation of the budget.

18
 19 Mayor Cordova stated ground breaking for the pediatric clinic will take place in about
 20 10 days and thanked staff for their hard work.

21
 22 Mayor Cordova also announced he is running for Treasurer of the Board of Directors
 23 of the New Mexico Municipal League. He believes he will do a good job as the
 24 Treasurer and also believes serving in this capacity will benefit the citizens of the
 25 Town of Taos.

26
 27 **13. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by **Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta** and seconded
 28 by **Councilmember Silva** to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously
 29 and the meeting adjourned at **3:00 p.m.**

30
 31
 32 **APPROVED:**

33
 34
 35 _____
 36 **Darren M. Cordova, Mayor**

37
 38 **ATTEST:**

39
 40 _____
 41 **Renee Lucero, Town Clerk**

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 45 *PLEASE NOTE: The Town of Taos records most Town Council Meetings via audio,*
 46 *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.