

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46

**Special Meeting
Taos Town Council
Town Council Chambers
120 Civic Plaza Drive
Taos, New Mexico
September 28, 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 1:35 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
Assistant Town Manager	Abigail Adame
Assistant Town Attorney	Jack Clough
Town Clerk	Renee Lucero

Absent was:

Town Attorney	Allen Ferguson
---------------	----------------

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

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Change Executive Session to read as follows: The Council will adjourn to go into executive session to consider ~~competitive sealed bids~~ Requests for Proposals for the design services for the Alexander/Gusdorf Eco Park pursuant to NMSA Section 10-15-1.H.(6).

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

1 **5. CITIZENS FORUM**

2 **No one came forward.**

3
4 **6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

5 **A. Matthew Spriggs, Community & Economic Development Director**

6 Consideration of Ordinance 09-30, an Ordinance amending Section 15-08 of the
7 Taos Town Code regarding the use of V-shaped (portable "sandwich board")
8 signs, multi-tenant signs, informational signs and the number of signs permitted.

9
10 Mr. Spriggs stated Ordinance 09-30 is an interim ordinance to address specific
11 Council concerns with regard to certain aspects of the sign code. He anticipates a
12 full rewrite of the sign code to be presented to Council in November for adoption.

13
14 *Public Opinion*

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

16
17 After closing the public hearing, Mayor Cordova asked for questions from the
18 Council.

19
20 Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta asked if portable signs were not allowed in the past. Mr.
21 Spriggs stated they were allowed but only at restaurants; now all businesses will
22 be allowed to use portable signs.

23
24 Mayor Cordova stated he is concerned that 6 foot signs for a building 30,000
25 square feet or less is not enough signage. Daniel Miera, Town Manager, stated
26 staff will be evaluating the average height of the signs. Mayor Cordova asked that
27 all signs currently up be evaluated. He believes the majority of them are up to or
28 over 15 feet high.

29
30 Councilmember Silva stated the architectural structure of the building should be
31 the dominant feature, not the sign.

32
33 A discussion ensued about the maximum height of a sign based on the height of
34 the building. Mayor Cordova stated the intent of the ordinance is to make the
35 business community look vibrant. Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta believes the maximum
36 height of a sign should be the same for all businesses regardless of whether the
37 building is one or two stories. He also stated before the height restriction is set,
38 staff should do an analysis of the present height of signs.

39
40 **Councilmember Sanchez made a motion to approve Ordinance 09-30 with**
41 **the exception of Article 7, which will be continued at the October 15, 2009**
42 **Special Town Council Meeting at 1:30 p.m. Councilmember Quintana**
43 **seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative vote.**
44 **Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta, and Councilmembers**
45 **Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

1 **7. MATTERS FROM STAFF**

2 **A. Ron Yachinich, Convention & Visitor Services Department**

3 Recommendation to award Bid # 09-10-04 Rio Grande Hall HVAC Systems
4 Upgrade and authorization for the Mayor to enter into Contract # TT-10-103 with
5 Phoenix Mechanical, LLC in the amount of two hundred fifty thousand dollars
6 (\$250,000), inclusive of GRT.

7
8 Mr. Yachinich stated the original bid came in at \$266,931.60; however, after
9 negotiations, Phoenix Mechanical brought their bid down to \$250,000.

10
11 **Councilmember Quintana made a motion to approve Ordinance 09-30 as**
12 **presented. Councilmember Silva seconded the motion. The motion was**
13 **approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem**
14 **Abeyta, and Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

15
16 **8. MATTERS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**

17 **A.** Consideration and approval of Contract TT-10-16 with Taos Local Television in
18 the amount of \$29,160.81 inclusive of Gross Receipts Tax for public access
19 television. Contract expires April 30, 2010.

20
21 Mayor Cordova stated he is concerned with the quality of Council Meeting video
22 recordings. Tom Myers, of Taos Local Television, stated Comcast has isolated
23 the problem to a new section of Town Hall. He also stated the Town's IT staff is
24 aware of the problem and it is being addressed.

25
26 **Councilmember Sanchez made a motion to approve Contract TT-10-16 with**
27 **Taos Local Television as presented. Councilmember Quintana seconded the**
28 **motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE**
29 **were: Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva. Mayor Pro Tem**
30 **Abeyta stepped out of the meeting momentarily.**

31
32 **B.** The Town Manager will give a staff report regarding code enforcement issues -
33 nuisance properties.

34
35 Rachel Romero, Code Enforcement Officer, came forward and gave a detailed
36 presentation on unsafe structures and nuisance properties within the Town of
37 Taos. The properties identified were: Lujan's Funeral Home, Hacienda Inn, Dane
38 Bigbee, El Pueblo Café, a residence on Zuni Street, Mary D. Medina Building,
39 Toby's Restaurant, C.B. Trujillo (Jack Denver's), Mustang Gas Station, Stop n
40 Go Gas Station, a residence on Liebert Street, the old Arby's Restaurant, the old
41 Creamland Storage, and a residence on Camino de la Serna.

42
43 Councilmember Silva asked, in regards to Hacienda Inn, if the Town has a
44 liability even if there are ownership issues that are being dealt with. Jack Clough,
45 Assistant Town Attorney, stated yes, the Town can be held liable because staff

1 knows the building is unsafe. Councilmember Silva stated the buildings should
2 be fenced in so that there is no access to the building.

3
4 Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta thanked Ms. Romero for her presentation and believes
5 Lujan’s Funeral Home, Dane Bigbee’s and El Pueblo Café should be torn down.
6 He feels the Town needs to take action on these buildings.

7
8 Mayor Cordova thanked staff for their hard work and told the listening audience
9 that staff is willing to work with them if their building is not in compliance.

10
11 **9. MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

12
13 **10. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Councilmember Silva made a motion to go into**
14 **Executive Session consider Requests for Proposals for the design services for the**
15 **Alexander/Gusdorf Eco Park pursuant to NMSA Section 10-15-1.H.(6).**

16
17 **Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion was confirmed by**
18 **an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta and**
19 **Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

20
21 **At 5:27 p.m., Councilmember Quintana made a motion to come out of Executive**
22 **Session and stated discussion in the Executive Session was limited to the item as**
23 **it was called for. Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta seconded the motion. The motion was**
24 **confirmed by an affirmative vote. Those voting AYE were: Mayor Pro Tem**
25 **Abeyta and Councilmembers Sanchez, Quintana and Silva.**

26
27 **13. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by **Councilmember Quintana** and
28 seconded by **Mayor Pro Tem Abeyta** to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried
29 unanimously and the meeting adjourned at **5:27 p.m.**

30
31
32 **APPROVED:**

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

37
38 **ATTEST:**

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

42
43
44
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.