



551 Hot Springs Boulevard
Post Office Box 1859
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Phone: 970.264.4151
Fax: 970.264.4634

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2010
Town Hall Council Chambers
12:00 P.M.

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – Mayor Aragon, Council Member Cotton, Council Member Holt, Council Member Jackson, Council Member Lattin, Council Member Pierce, Council Member Volger
- II. LIQUOR LICENSES**
- 1. Special Events Liquor Permit – Dr. Mary Fisher Medical Foundation Fundraiser at Pagosa Mountain Hospital November 10, 2010** – Council Member Jackson moved to approve the special events liquor permit for Dr. Mary Fisher Medical Foundation, Council Member Volger seconded, unanimously approved.
- III. DELEGATIONS**
- 1. Fatherhood Initiative – John Vick** – Mr. Vick explained the fatherhood initiative program and how important it is to have an active father in a child’s life. He has been working in the community to change the focus in supporting fathers. “Building a Strong Pagosa” is the focus of the fatherhood initiative and building strong children with strong fathers. He asks council to be aware of fathers in the community and how the community can support these fathers, perhaps by father mentors.
- 2. Pagosa Springs Arts Council – Carol Schneider and Doris Green** – Mrs. Carol Schneider and Mrs. Doris Green asked the Town Council to support the arts council with \$20,000 in service organization funding. The Arts Council moved from the Town Park building this summer. They moved to the third floor of the Club building and several of the members are unable to climb the stairs the third floor. They are a non-profit organization and get their funds from dues, donations, and grants. They would like to be active in future tourism efforts and requests the Town’s financial support to make this happen. Council would like the Pagosa Springs Arts Council to submit an application for funding for the 2011 budget.
- 3. United Way – Teddy Finney** – Mrs. Teddy Finney gave a brief overview of the United Way activities in Archuleta County, and she encourages the Council to give to the United Way. She explained the United Way helps with several organizations including Archuleta County Education Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Girl Scouts of Colorado, American Red Cross, ACVAP Court Advocacy program, Pagosa Pregnancy Center, Habitat for Humanity, and many others. Mrs. Lynn Bridges with Seeds of Learning explained the United Way helps to support the “toddler room” and encourages the council and town staff to support the United Way.
- IV. NEW BUSINESS**
- 1. Salary Survey Committee Recommendations** – The salary survey committee, consisting of Council Members Cotton, Volger and Pierce, met on October 14th to discuss the data and develop a set of preliminary recommendations for development of the Town’s 2011 budget. Due to the economic challenges facing residents of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County, the committee is recommending no salary increases in 2011, and the gradual phase-out of the 50% dependent health insurance premium subsidy beginning in 2012. The committee will meet again in November to discuss the Town’s health insurance providers. Council Member Volger said the discussions have been difficult and wants the employees to know they are valued. He would like to tangibly show appreciation of the time, sacrifice and

dedication of staff. He says that the residents in the Pagosa Springs community are in need and are not receiving raises; therefore in support of the residents, town staff should not be given raises. Council Member Cotton believes the Town has the finest bureaucrats ever. Council Member Lattin said the town staff has gone above and beyond, and hopes to be able to show appreciation in the future. Council Member Holt said he would like to separate the insurance motion from the salary motion, and would rather wait to cut insurance coverage until after the insurance costs are received. Council Member Lattin and Volger agree with Council Member Holt to wait until November to decide on the insurance cut backs. Council Member Jackson asked about the phase out, Town Manager Mitchem explained the phase out would be at a 10% decrease each year for the following five years until the dependent subsidy is extinguished. Council Member Cotton and Pierce agree that it is not fair to the single employee who doesn't receive an additional 50% dependent care benefit that the family employee receives. Council Member Volger moved to not extend raises for the 2011 budget, Council Member Holt seconded, unanimously approved.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. **River Feature Expansion Plan – Riverbend Engineering** – Mr. Chris Pitcher went over the conceptual design of the river features and the expanded trail in the downtown area. This includes plans for additional whitewater features near Cotton's Hole, down from the Hwy 160 Bridge, and near and below the Apache Street Bridge near Yamaguchi Park. The next application to the Corps of Engineers will include these five features. Installation of two features at Town Park will begin this fall with a target date of December 1st. The plan includes areas to put boats in at the Malt Shoppe, Centennial Park, and Yamaguchi Park. Mr. Jerry Jackson expressed concerns with trespassing onto his property by kayakers and river users near the north end of Yamaguchi Park. He said one of the features is too close to his property line and will not be a supportive property owner of this feature. Town Manager Mitchem said the Levine Family has expressed interest in supporting the river trail along the east side of the river, and if this were to move forward might alleviate the use of the west side of the river and Mr. Jackson's property.
2. **August Sales Tax Brief** – August sales tax revenues increased 3.25% over August 2009. Year-to-date sales tax revenue is -4.11% below 2009 receipts for the same time. The 2010 budgeted sales tax is 10% below 2009 receipts bringing the 2010 receipts \$150,759 over budget. Council Member Holt asked about the Lewis Street project going out to bid, Town Manager Mitchem said Davis Engineering is working on the design and costs for the 2011 budget.

VI. APPROVAL OF AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND ACCOMPANYING SEPTEMBER PAYMENTS – Council Member Jackson moved to approve the August and September financial statement and September accompanying payments, Council Member Volger seconded, unanimously approved.

VII. NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 3, 2010 AT 5:00PM

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Upon motion duly made, the meeting adjourned at 1:15pm

**Ross Aragón
Mayor**