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## **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2013 Town Hall Council Chambers 12:00 P.M.**

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – Mayor Aragon, Council Member Alley, Council Member Bunning, Council Member Cotton, Council Member Lattin, Council Member Schanzenbaker, Council Member Volger
- II. APPROVAL of MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 5, 2013** – Minutes were approved as read.
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT** - None
- IV. LIQUOR LICENSE**
  - 1. Liquor License Renewal** – Nello’s Inc at 135 Country Center Dr. Suite A
  - 2. Liquor License Renewal** – Springs Resort LTD dba Pagosa Resort & Spa 165 Hot Springs Blvd. – Council Member Volger moved to approve the liquor license renewal for Nello’s Bistro and Pagosa Resort & Spa, Council Member Lattin seconded, unanimously approved.
- V. NEW BUSINESS**
  - 1. Ordinance No. 799, First Reading, Revising LUDC Flood Plain Regulations** - The Town of Pagosa Springs adopted Floodplain Regulations in compliance with the State of Colorado. On January 14, 2011, the State adopted higher standards for floodplain management, which were incorporated into the States Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado. The State has given municipalities until January 2014 to adopt the new standards that include provisions for freeboard, critical facilities and floodway surcharge criteria. Council Member Volger moved to approve Ordinance No. 799, an Ordinance of the Town of Pagosa Springs amending portions of Chapter 21 of the Municipal Code, Article 6 of the Land Use Development Code regarding revised State of Colorado Flood Plain Regulations, with the correction to Section III on Page 2 to read section 6.2.3.B, Council Member Bunning seconded, unanimously approved.
  - 2. Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership 2014 Capital Fund Allocation** - The Geothermal Greenhouse Partners (GGP) had requested that the Town Council place \$25,000 in the 2014 budget to serve as matching funds for grants as they move forward with their fundraising goals. The group won a Musser grant of \$25,000 which in part has assisted in paying for the initial rounds of engineering. The GGP has completed a strategic plan and are working on a comprehensive business plan. Council Member Volger moved to approve a 2014 Capital Fund budget allocation of \$25,000 for the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership (GGP), available as match for grants that the Town may identify as viable funding mechanisms, Council Member Alley seconded, unanimously approved.
- VI. OLD BUSINESS**
  - 1. Ordinance 798, Second Reading, Amending Traffic Violations for Snow Route Regulations** - Approval of Ordinance 797 in October revised Chapters 17 & 18 regarding snow route prohibitions and delegated the Town Manager authority to place traffic control measures. In order to establish the fines to support Ordinance 797, the fine schedule approved by Ordinance 737 in 2009 must be amended to add the fine schedule for these snow routes.

- This ordinance establishes a \$50.00 fine for the first violation of the ordinance and \$100.00 for the second and subsequent violations within the same enforcement period. Council Member Bunning moved to approve Ordinance 798, second reading, amending the fine, surcharge, and point schedule for the traffic violations with respect to the snow route regulations, Council Member Schanzenbaker seconded, unanimously approved.
2. **Recreation Center** - Mrs. Kathie Lattin and Mr. Mark Weiler gave a brief on the recreation center budgets. The Town sales tax receipts over the last 19 years have been a positive 4.55% each year on average. The last ten years has seen an average of 2.42% increase annually. If the voters pass a 1 cent sales tax increase in April 2014, the estimated revenue and expenses including the debt to pay to build the recreation center in 2016 would be enough to keep the center in the black with a 52% recovery. Even a more modest 2% average sales tax increase annually over the next 20 years with a 52% recovery would be enough to maintain a recreation center with the 1 cent bond, without requiring the Town to subsidize the center. A public meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the community center will be held to let the public know about this project. Council Member Volger said he is in support of putting the question of a tax increase on the April ballot. Council Member Cotton does not support the recreation center and does not feel it is prudent at this time with the limited funds available to the town and county. Council Member Alley would like to see what the public has to say at the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and Council Member Bunning would like to see the results of the survey. Council Member Bunning is in support of putting the issue on the April ballot. Council Member Schanzenbaker said there is enthusiasm in the project and with the cash flow, it seems reasonable to put it on the ballot. Mayor Aragon doesn't want to burden the town and hinder the ability for future upgrades. Mr. Tom Beavers said the retail folks will be paying this tax and he said the retail people he has talked to do not want the increase. They do want a recreation center, but they don't want it paid for thru sales tax. Mr. John Ramsburg thanked Mr. Weiler for the clear presentation. He said the Community Center is not doing the work they presented, but would like to perk up the use of the Community Center. This agenda item will be continued to the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
  3. **Sales Tax Brief** – Sales tax receipt in November for sales in September were up 3.66% over November 2012. The year to date sales tax increase is 2.84% over 2012.

## VII. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

1. **Community Center Report** - The Festival of Trees and advertising for the Hazel Miller concert has been the staff focus this month. A new color copier was installed on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, this will allow the center to offer full service scanning, printing, and faxing services.
2. **Parks and Recreation Department Report** - Youth basketball (ages 7-8) had 61 participants and the next season (ages 9-12) will begin in early January and run through early March. The gymnastics program is averaging 40 participants per session. The parks crew has been clearing underbrush along the River Walk and thinning adjacent thickets to improve access and aesthetics along the river corridor, also thinning on Reservoir Hill to improve forest health. A construction contract consisting of two phases and amounting to approximately \$39,000 has been awarded to Trophy Construction for the construction of the donated gazebo on Reservoir Hill and work on this project has begun. The Friends of Reservoir Hill are exploring the possibility of purchasing stock lumber for construction of the observation deck, the construction will not begin until next spring. Mr. Carosello said the Parks and Recreation Board heard the recreation center presentation, he said they are looking forward to receiving the survey results.
3. **Town Tourism Committee Report** – September reflects a flat month in lodgers tax receipts over 2012. Year to date collections are 4.17% above 2012. Visitor center traffic declined in September. TTC will bring recommendations for the Visitor Center transition at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Facebook fans now exceed 8,234 fans.
4. **Planning Department Report** – The Planning Commission held a worksession regarding LED signage in Town. The Planning Commission would like to consider revising the LUDC to apply to the LED signage as well as the requirements for metal sided buildings. Council Members Volger and Cotton would like to see a revision to the metal sided building requirement as well as changes to the LED signage. Council gave consensus to ask the

Planning Commission to recommend changes to these two items. The Historic Preservation Board approved a Certificate of Alteration for the former DeVore Home at 480 Lewis Street. Margaret Gallegos was hired as the associate planner/permit tech. Margaret brings much experience with computer programs, code enforcement and staffing advisory and decision making board. The McCabe Creek Culvert project slated to begin in 2015 has been in the planning stages and has recently been planned for a 50 foot bridge. Staff is working with CDOT to discuss detours and downstream properties. Town Planner Dickhoff said the information in the Sun newspaper regarding the DeVore home was incorrect and he said he will be meeting with the Sun to correct the information. Council Member Schanzenbaker said he is happy to see the historic DeVore property renovated rather than demolished.

5. **Project Manager Report** - Staff has received notification that the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Bridge and the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Land Acquisition GOCO grants were not recommended for funding at this time. Staff will reapply for the GOCO grant in April for the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Bridge. The fiber optic project is near completion in our area. Fiber has now been installed in both Archuleta County and Town of Pagosa Springs main buildings. Staff is working on the internal networking needs to connect the system which will provide the Town with a fully redundant network allow for near zero downtime.
6. **Town Manager Report** - On October 17<sup>th</sup>, the Council approved further research into the development of the community's geothermal waters for electricity generation. The Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County have elected to initiate a Town and County Geothermal Water and Power Authority (TCGWPA) ownership participation in an electric utility company. The partners in the utility ownership agreement will be Pagosa Verde, LLC, Archuleta County, and Town of Pagosa Springs. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, Bob Cole and staff reviewed the progress toward finalizing the Town, County and Pagosa Verde ownership agreement. The Town's share of the cost and grant matching funds for planning, management and drilling 500 foot to 1,500 foot core-sampling wells is \$65,500. The County has committed a similar amount to the project. The Town and County funds are being combined with state and federal grant funds. Grant acquisition for the balance of the funds is the responsibility of Pagosa Verde, LLC (with Town and County assistance). The total cost of this phase of the project is estimated at \$200,000. Council Member Schanzenbaker would like to look for ways to fund the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge if a grant is not awarded. He suggests a worksession to discuss options for funding. A worksession for prioritizing capital projects as well as financing for those projects will be held in the beginning of 2014.

- VIII. **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND ACCOMPANYING PAYMENTS** – Council Member Volger moved to approve the October financial statement and accompanying payments, Council Member Bunning seconded, unanimously approved.
- IX. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Mr. John Ramsburg thanked the Town for the removal of trees on South Pagosa Blvd. He also said he was not criticizing the operation of the Community Center. Mr. Tom Beavers said the tax increase for the Recreation Center puts a burden on the small group of business people.
- X. **NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 3, 2013 AT 5:00PM**
- XI. **ADJOURNMENT** – Upon motion duly made, the meeting adjourned at 1:25pm.

**Ross Aragón**  
**Mayor**