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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 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**
- III. DELEGATIONS**
- 1. LPEA Future Substation – Jake Willis** – La Plata Electric Association is planning on building several substations in the future. Mr. Jake Willis explained LPEA currently has two transmission lines coming into Pagosa Springs and more are needed to increase redundancy and accessibility. The Ponderosa Substation will begin construction in May 2011. The proposed Alpha substation will be about one mile south on South Pagosa and Dichoso to increase redundancy with construction beginning late 2011. Additional substations are planned for Ignacio, Chris Mountain, Piedra River, Arboles and several other areas over the next 20-30 years. Mr. Mark DeVoti said the proposed substation in Meadows 1 will be located next to his home. He is in shock that these proposed substations would be located within residential areas and would hope the council would be in opposition of the placement of the substations.
- IV. NEW BUSINESS**
- 1. Resolution 2010-13, Supporting Approval of Ballot Measure 1B -Archuleta County Education Center** – During a recent Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation meeting, eighty Archuleta County citizens voted to support the county commissioners sponsored tax initiative dedicated to the Archuleta County Education Center, Ballot Measure 1B. The roughly \$637,000 raised from a 1.5 property tax mill levy will be used exclusively for the Education Center goals. These goals include sustaining and enriching core programs and services, expand and sustain education and training programs, secure and sustain technology, and enhance economic development within Archuleta County. These improvements would expand availability to multiple users including public schools, library, community center, business, government and medical facilities, with remote access from Arboles and Chromo. The new infrastructure provided by the education center will permit students to take college level courses here in Pagosa Springs, saving money on higher education costs. Mr. Don Goodwin and Mr. Mark DeVoti expressed their excitement to collaborate in a project to increase the educational opportunities to the students in our community. Mr. Bill Hudson said that he has overdue bills with the town sanitation and can't pay his county property taxes. He would like to see the plans to spend the \$6 million dollars over the next 10 years and would like the Council to get this information before they endorse this tax increase. Mr. Don Goodwin said this project will bring economic opportunities to every citizen in the county. Council Member Cotton believes this is benefit for economic development and supporting this measure will be good for the community. Mr. Glenn Walsh said the education center is trying to recreate itself, and would like to know the focus of the education center. He would like to have a three, five or seven year limit on this measure rather than permanent funding. Council Member Volger said the goals are to sustain and enrich core programming including after-school tutoring, alternative high school, GED and ESL and continuing education. These funds will

be leveraged to build a facility to accomplish the expanded education facility near the high school campus. Mr. Goodwin said it is difficult to get grant monies and other funding commitments if the duration is only seven years. If future boards or voters want to reallocate or look at this levy at a later date, they can bring an initiative to the voters. Council Member Jackson moved to approve Resolution 2010-13, supporting approval of Ballot Measure 1B, Council Member Volger seconded, unanimously approved.

2. **Resolution 2010-12, Opposing Amendments 60 and 61 and Proposition 101** – Three significant issues will be put before the state voters in November and all have a significant effect on the Town and County. Amendment 60 will mandate local government to reduce property tax revenue. Past voter-approved decisions to keep property tax revenue above constitutional limits (de-brucing) will be automatically undone passed years ago. Amendment 60 will cut over \$1 billion of local funding for public schools and will override the will of local voters. Amendment 61 places rigid limitations on local government borrowing, effectively halting public sector construction in Colorado. Proposition 101 will eliminate major funding sources across Colorado for schools, roads, bridges and other critical needs. Proposition 101 will slash state and local revenue and limit state and local governments the ability to provide effective public services and sustain an economically viable infrastructure. Council Member Cotton says these amendments give a wake up call to government that the taxpayers are tired of high budgets. He believes the local town, county and school district are running very lean. He can't support these measures because these measures go way beyond reasonable. Mr. Glenn Walsh agrees with Council Member Cotton and opposes these measures. He says the present funding system for the schools is way off base and would like the Council to recognize this. Mr. Mark DeVoti agrees with Mr. Walsh about the amount of the State's funding to the Archuleta County schools and says the local schools receive a large portion from the citizens and a small portion from the state. Other towns, Durango and Bayfield, get a large portion from the State and a small amount from property taxes. Mr. Bill Hudson believes the State froze the schools mill levy and says his taxes will increase in ten years should 1A go through. Council Member Holt moved to approve Resolution 2010-12, a resolution opposing Proposition 101 (related to motor vehicle, income and telecommunications taxes and fees) and Amendment 60 (related to property taxes) and Amendment 61 (related to state and local debt limitations) as stated in our resolution, Council Member Jackson seconded, unanimously approved.
3. **Review of Joint Town/County Meeting**
 - a. **Discussion of Ballot Initiatives 60, 61 and Proposition 101**
 - b. **Consolidation of Properties to Create a "Campus" for the Archuleta County Education Center**
 - c. **MOU between Town, County, PAWSD and Fire District**
 - d. **Sales Tax Disbursement Statement**
 - e. **Statement of Support for County's 1A Ballot Measure**
 - f. **Discussion of the Coordination of Codes for the Placement of Political/Campaign Signs**

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Winter 2010 Reservoir Hill Recreation Opportunities Update** – At the September 7th meeting, the Town Tourism Committee proposed the development of two features on Reservoir Hill, a sledding and snowboarding run, for winter use. The Town Council agreed with the requirement that the Parks and Recreation Commission were in agreement and that the Town's liability insurance would not increase. It was determined that the Town's liability insurance with CIRSA will not increase with the creation and development of these two features. Mr. Miller said that without a quorum, the P&R meeting was cancelled; he said that at this time he does not have an answer as to the support of the commission but will bring the information as soon as possible.
2. **Memorandum of Understanding – Pagosa Fire Protection District, Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District, Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County** – The Town, County, PAWSD and Fire District would like to enter into an agreement to work together to foster an excellent environment for business development and expansion by designing a more responsive development review. Issues including adequate water flows were discussed and agreed upon by all parties. Legal Counsel reviewed the MOU on behalf of the Town, Fire District and PAWSD. Town Building Department Official, Scott Pierce,

feels the MOU is a good document, he believes that contact with the Fire District regarding approval of a development is beneficial to all developments and entities involved. He said the modification of the code include the change of location of a hydrant from 250' to 1,000' because of the amount of hose the fire district has, additionally water flows will be addressed together and work through issues as they occur. Council Member Holt says there may be liability if the Town allows for a change of the code, but with the support of the Fire District and PAWSD, the liability can be diminished. Council Member Cotton said the fire part of the code should not have been approved. He suggests rescinding the code related to fire code and stop making regulations that costs people money. Council Member Holt said without the MOU the Fire District will not allow the Town to build/develop in the infill areas in Town. The MOU allows the building if the developer addresses certain issues. Mr. Pierce said he would expect insurance rates to go up if the MOU is passed. Mayor Aragon appointed Council Member Cotton and Council Member Holt along with Scott Pierce to a committee to investigate these issues, and tabled this item until the next month.

3. **July Sales Tax Brief** – July sales tax revenues decreased by -2.91% (-\$9,306) compared to July 2009. Should the next three months show a 20% decrease in sales tax, the annual revenues will be down only -8.87%. Council Member Jackson has concerns with the future of the economy and would like to stay at the 15% reduction, Council Member Pierce agrees with Council Member Jackson. Council Member Volger disagrees with the other members and would support a return to the original 2010 budget. Council Member Pierce stated that a committee should be formed to look at the capital improvements and the use of the \$1,000,000 correction in sales tax receipts. Mr. Jim McQuiggin said that he understands the policy to require a vote to stay at the 15%, and says the current rates should be at the 10% 2010 budget. Mr. Glenn Walsh said he feels the Town Council has put off projects, focused on maintenance; the staff has banded together and he feels the council is in the trenches with the public during this economic downturn. Council Member Cotton would like to leave the \$1mil as a nest egg. Council Member Jackson moved to maintain current 5% reduction, Council Member Pierce seconded, motion carried with one nay (Council Member Volger)

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

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Upon motion duly made, the meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.

**Ross Aragón
Mayor**