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**TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2011  
Town Hall Council Chambers  
12:00 P.M.**

- I. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – Mayor Aragon, Council Member Cotton, Council Member Hart, Council Member Holt, Council Member Lattin, Council Member Pierce
- II. **LIQUOR LICENSE**
  1. **Liquor License Renewal – Bessie Montoya dba Elkhorn Cafe 438 C Pagosa Street**
  2. **Liquor License Renewal – Asset Management and Marketing LLC dba Oakridge Lodge 158 Hot Springs Blvd**
  3. **Liquor License Renewal – Mountain Spirits 135 Country Center Drive** – Council Member Pierce moved to approve the liquor license renewals for Bessie Montoya dba Elkhorn Cafe, Asset Management and Marketing LLC dba Oakridge Lodge, and Mountain Spirits, Council Member Hart seconded, unanimously approved.
  4. **Special Events Permit – Fred Harman Art Museum Fundraiser at 85 Harman Park Drive October 8, 2011**
  5. **Special Events Permit – NRA Foundation dba Pagosa Springs Friends of the NRA at Ross Aragon Community Center 451 Hot Springs Blvd October 8, 2011**- Council Member Pierce moved to approve the special events liquor permit for Fred Harman Art Museum Fundraiser October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and the NRA Foundation dba Pagosa Springs Friends of the NRA October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Council Member Holt seconded, unanimously approved.
- III. **DELEGATIONS**
  1. **4CORE – Teresa Shishim** - 4Core helps companies and individuals to advance resource efficiency with grant writers, weatherization program, sustainable building education, energy efficiency incentives and more. 4Core is asking for support from the Town to show their collaboration with towns in the four corners area that 4Core assists to help with future grant funding. 4Core is requesting a \$3,600 contribution in 2012 and/or letters of support.
  2. **Seeds of Learning – Lynn Bridges** – The center received National NAEYC accreditation on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011; only 8 percent of child care centers are nationally accredited. Seeds assists the school district with low income families providing 22 kids in the pre-kindergarten classroom.
- IV. **NEW BUSINESS**
  1. **Park User Fees** - Mayor Aragon tabled this item until legal staff reviews the permit and ask for more participation from FolkWest.
  2. **Pinon Lake Fountain** - The Pinon Lake fountain was installed in 2006 and has been operating every summer season since. The fountain has large public support including financial support. The Town has a large capital investment in the fountain. The fountain started having problems in July of this year with too much amperage draw on the motor. The problem could not be corrected with it in the lake; staff removed and disassembled

the fountain. The motor was sent off to Denver for inspection, the motor has an internal short in the winding. A new motor is approximately \$2,350. Council Member Cotton suggests putting the expense in the 2012 budget and Council Member Holt suggests the Town attempt to raise funds to purchase and support the new motor. Mr. Walsh suggests getting the financial need out to the community and asking the community to pitch in for the new motor. Council Member Hart moved to approve the appropriation of up to \$2,500 from the General Fund Reserves to purchase a new Pinon Lake fountain motor, motion failed due to lack of a second. Council Member Pierce moved to direct staff to contact the manufacturer of the motor and request further information regarding pricing and availability and bring this item back to Council at the next meeting October 4, Council Member Cotton seconded, motion carried. Council Member Holt was dismissed from the meeting 12:40pm.

3. **Archuleta School District Ballot Issue 3B** – Mrs. Robin Ball gave an overview of the proposed 3B ballot issue scheduled to be on the November ballot. If approved a bond authorization of up to \$49 million would provide for the construction of new kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade facilities located on the current high school campus located on 8<sup>th</sup> Street. The anticipated debt mill levy is 10 mills, adding about \$80 per year of property tax for every \$100,000 of assessed property value. The combined campus would improve transportation efficiencies saving approximately \$100,000 per year, combine athletic and recreational amenities, reduce energy by 20% with geothermal and solar capabilities, and enhance safety by removing the schools from Hwy 160. The school district is asking for support from the Town Council to apply for future grant funding and requests the Town and County have a joint meeting with the school district to be involved in the issue, ask questions and get answers. Mrs. Joanne Irons as a school board member would like to give regular updates to the Council and will keep the Council informed.
4. **Colorado Geothermal Work Group Meeting October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011** – The Governor’s Energy Office has established the Colorado Geothermal Work Group to advance the use of the state’s geothermal resources. This program aims to address barriers to geothermal utilization and identify opportunities for project development. At the Town’s invitation, the Colorado Geothermal Working Group has scheduled its next meeting in Pagosa Springs on October 6, 2011. In addition to Governor’s Energy Office leadership staff, national experts in geothermal exploration and geothermal systems design will make presentations to the Working Group. As a result we are expecting additional attendees (total of 70 or more) from across the state. As preparation for the Workgroup meeting has progressed and the expected number of attendees has increased, it is apparent that as much as \$2,500 additional funds may be expended to ensure the event is a success. Council Member Hart moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$2,500 from Geothermal Fund for the purpose of conducting the Colorado Geothermal Working Group meeting on October 6, 2011, Council Member Pierce seconded, unanimously approved.

## V. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **September Sales Tax Brief** - In September, the Town of Pagosa Springs’ sales tax revenue increased by +3.79% or +\$11,793 compared to September, 2010 (base on July retail sales). Year-to-date (January through September) sales tax revenue reflects an increase of +5.04% or +\$109,148. If the audit related increases seen in July and August are excluded, the Town’s year-to-date sales tax revenue reflects an increase of +1% or +\$21,625 when compared to the same period in 2010.

## VI. **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

1. **Parks and Recreation Department Report** – The recreation department is keeping busy with soccer, the start of youth volleyball and basketball is quickly approaching. The parks crew has been aerating and fertilizing the turf in each of the Town parks for the final time this year. The outfield portion of Yamaguchi Park’s baseball field has been overseeded and should start to germinate within the next 7-10 days. The crew has also been working to overseed other portions of Yamaguchi Park which did not germinate this spring. There have been some minor delays of the Yamaguchi Park restrooms due to weather and

foundation issues (buried trash was encountered during excavation), but overall the project is on schedule and the major aspects should be completed before the end of the year. The Yamaguchi Skate Park had recent rains which have resulted in slight setbacks, but the project is about 45-percent complete. Barring further weather-related delays, the project should be completed in mid-October. Jim Miller, Parks Supervisor, met with a local arborist and local spray company who will spray Reservoir Hill for the western pine beetle. Tree thinning of Reservoir Hill will begin in October with grant funds from the Forest Service, approximately 30% of the trees will be taken down to facilitate a healthier forest.

2. **Town Tourism Committee Report** - Lodgers tax collections were up in July 2011, as compared July 2010, with an increase of 10.37%, or \$5,385.15. July 2011 was by far the strongest July on record, reflecting a 31% increase over 2007. Year to date in 2011, lodgers tax collections are up 3.52% over 2010. July 2011 saw a 23.2% decrease in fulfillment requests for printed materials versus July 2010 (or 588 requests). Traffic in the Visitor Center was up 8.09% in July, as compared to 2010 (or 748 people). The top 5 states requesting information in July include Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Missouri and Arizona. The TTC Director will attend the 2011 Governor's Conference on Tourism in Loveland, Colorado on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The TTC recently joined CADMO, the Colorado Association of Destination Marketing Organizations; which will hold a meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, research for possible new marketing / advertising avenues will be explored, as well as meetings with existing vendors, such as Colorado.com / Weaver Group, Texas Monthly and more.
3. **Planning Department Report** - Well Owner agreements, for installation of pressure and temperature monitoring equipment, have been presented to well owners at a meeting of the Geothermal Resources Assessment on September 1, 2011. There were some concerns presented as to potential damage to existing geothermal water rights from the proposed aquifer testing. Town staff has contacted the state of Colorado Division of Water Resources to review these concerns and has initiated a correspondence to them outlining the proposed aquifer testing that will give the agency an opportunity to comment on the proposed aquifer testing. The state staff has been kept verbally in the loop thus far with no red flags identified. Ecosphere Environmental has completed the wet land delineation report for the river walk extension trail project and has submitted to the Corp of Engineers. Davis Engineering is currently preparing a pre construction report for the Corp that will include a possible future pedestrian bridge at the rivers bend to 6th Street. The Hydraulic study for the bridge is being prepared by Davis Engineering and is almost complete. Staff has identified a GOCO grant available for the project and will be moving forward with the application. The REDT is currently reviewing the geothermal heating system grant application. The Lewis Street Reconstruction project constructed by TC Pipeline, is anticipated to have completed the 100 block this construction season. The 200 block construction may begin as early as next spring and the 300 block construction will occur during the 2012 summer school break. Staff continues to contact property owners between Pinon Causeway and Piedra Road for possible town to lakes trail route alignments. In an effort to identify a complete trail segment, staff is working with owners on both the south and north sides of hwy 160. Mayor Aragon suggests describing the trail differently to clarify area of the trail, Council Member Peirce suggests downtown to uptown classification. Staff has identified the fall cycle of the state trails grant, which if awarded, would contribute up to \$200,000 to the trail construction. Staff has initiated a request to PLPOA to participate in a 300 foot section of trail between Village Drive and Hwy 160. Staff is currently looking at options to improve the two pedestrian cross walks between 4th Street and 5th Street on Hwy 160. The Hwy 160 sidewalk improvement initiative looks to be completed in early springs 2012. Staff is working with CDOT regarding improving the downtown pedestrian crosswalks.

4. **Town Manager Report** – Town Manager Mitchem gave an update on the proposed Jobs Bill. He explained bill would reduce the demand for state and local securities and increase the interest cost of financing municipal projects. The town manager has applied to be re-appointed to the Colorado Workforce Development Council, after serving the past three years. The council helps people to find jobs and stimulate economic development.

**VII. APPROVAL OF AUGUST FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND ACCOMPANYING PAYMENTS** – Council Member Hart moved to approve the August financial statement and accompanying payments, Council Member Lattin seconded, unanimously approved.

**VIII. NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 4, 2011 AT 5:00PM**

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

**Ross Aragón  
Mayor**