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**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2012  
Town Hall Council Chambers  
5:00 P.M.**

- I. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – Mayor Aragon, Council Member Cotton, Council Member Hart, Council Member Holt, Council Member Lattin, Council Member Volger
- II. **APPROVAL of MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 6<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011** – Minutes were approved as read.
- III. **LIQUOR LICENSES**
  1. **Liquor License Renewal – Mark Leavitt dba Aspen Moose, 2800 Cornerstone Dr. in Pagosa Springs** – Council Member Volger moved to approve the liquor license renewal for Mark Leavitt dba Aspen Moose, Council Member Holt seconded, unanimously approved.
  2. **Special Events Liquor Permit – Pagosa Springs Facilities Community Coalition Fundraising Dance January 27, 2012 at the Ross Aragon Community Center** – Council Member Lattin moved to approve the special events liquor permit for the Pagosa Springs Facilities Community Coalition dance January 27, 2012, Council Member Holt seconded, unanimously approved.
- IV. **DELEGATIONS**
  1. **Announcement Regarding Large Format Retail Store – Josh Phair** – The Wal-Mart retail store has been looking at several towns to build new stores. Mr. Phair announced that they have chosen Pagosa Springs to be the town they have decided to open a new store. Wal-Mart has acquired land at Hwy 160 and Alpha Drive. A 93,000 square foot full grocery and general merchandise store is proposed. Approximately 200 full time employees at \$13.08 with full health care benefits after six months of employment. The construction phase will provide local employment as well. The Wal-Mart organization has donated much time and money to local communities and plans to donate to the community of Pagosa Springs as well. They are planning a store that is very eco-friendly and hope to proceed as quickly as possible with construction. This store would be the smallest prototype offering grocery and retail.
  2. **Small Business Support Services – Rich Lindblad** – The Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation assists new and existing businesses increase their sales, by providing classes and one-on-one support with the help of Fort Lewis College and Region 9. Scholarships are available for entrepreneur classes. The CDC is also able to give micro loans up to \$25,000 to new businesses through a program with Region 9.
  3. **Report Regarding Current Town Projects – James Dickhoff** – The planning department reviewed several projects the Town is currently working on to entice tourism and improved quality of life for the residents of Pagosa Springs. One project

is the Lewis Street reconstruction project. Another is the Majestic Drive partial pavement project with the help of CMAQ funds. The Town to Pagosa Lakes project should begin late fall of 2012 for the west side segment. The sidewalk trail segment between 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Street will begin this spring to connect to the 8<sup>th</sup> Street light CDOT project. The Lewis Street to Hwy 160 sidewalk connections as well as replacement of the sidewalk on Hwy 160 between 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street are slated for summer 2012. The Town will be applying for a major grant to bolster the river corridor improvements and downtown trail system. Equipment for the resource assessment project to obtain base line data from the geothermal wells in town and look into additional use of the geothermal system is in process. Construction of one geothermal greenhouse dome is slated for this year.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Ordinance No. 765, (first reading) Schedule Time, Date and Place of Regular Town Council Meetings** - Section 3.1 of the town charter requires the Town council to hold regular meetings at least once a month and that the schedule for those meetings are made by ordinance, setting a time, date and place for the regular meetings. This ordinance sets regular meeting for the first Tuesday and third Thursday of each month. It also sets the location of Town Hall where the agenda will be posted. Council Member Hart moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 765, identifying Town Council regular meetings dates, locations, times and agenda posting requirements, Council Member Volger seconded, unanimously approved.
2. **Letter of Support for Archuleta County's Public Lands Highways (PLH) Grant Application** - Archuleta County has requested support for its application for Public Lands Highways (PLH) grant funds to reconstruct Piedra Road [Forest Service Road Highway 631 (CR600)]. Archuleta County, the US Forest Service – Pagosa Ranger District, and CDOT Region 5 are jointly applying for these federal funds. Archuleta County has allocated matching funds for the project.
3. **Letter of Support for PAWDS Transfer of Water Rights** - Staff has been having discussions with the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) regarding the Town acquiring the water rights currently owned by PAWSD for the irrigation of Centennial Park and the charging of the customer side of the Geothermal Heating District system. The PAWSD Board is willing to convey these water rights to the Town. As this matter has move to fulfillment, PAWSD has requested a letter of support from the Town for its efforts to convey other water rights to the San Juan Water Conservancy District.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Downtown Pedestrian Crossing Update** - As many have witnessed near misses between vehicles and pedestrians in the two downtown mid-block pedestrian crossings over the years, their occurrence seems to be increasing. Staff has been directed by the Mayor and Town Manager to look at possible improvements to these two crosswalks, to mitigate the growing safety concerns. The equipment and facilities at these two crossings are CDOT maintained and owned. Staff has worked closely with CDOT to determine the best affordable pedestrian crossing improvement for the Town's two mid-block crossings. It has been determined that the newer LED perimeter Lit Pedestrian Signs would provide the desired affordable improvement. Staff has received permission to include a pedestrian flag program along with the equipment improvements. CDOT has not typically approved pedestrian crossing flag programs, but has agreed to allow if the final design of the program is approved. Originally estimated at \$44,000, staff has worked with CDOT and estimates the total Town expenses are estimated at \$18,000 for both crossings. Mayor Aragon has concerns with the removal of three downtown parking spots for these improvements. Town Manager Mitchem said most of the downtown business owners are supportive with the improvements for public safety. Council Member Cotton suggested a notice of pedestrian crossing on the outskirts of town, and perhaps a crook in the pole to get the flashing sign over the traffic lane. Town Planner Dickhoff said the costs for the HAWK system that is a lighted system that stops traffic completely cost

approximately \$80,000 per crosswalk. Public discussion commenced with ideas for cantilever systems, flags, taking out the crosswalk altogether, break-away center lights, vibrators in the asphalt, reduction in speed limits, and education. Mayor Aragon requested a worksession on this item with a CDOT traffic engineer involved. This item was tabled until further notice.

**VII. Next Town Council Meeting January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 12noon**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** – Upon motion duly made, the meeting adjourned at 6:08pm

**Ross Aragón  
Mayor**