



**VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
EDELWEISS LODGE AND SPA CLUB ROOM
TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO**

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014, 2:00 P.M.

7 Firehouse Road
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MAYOR:
Neal King

COUNCIL:
Kathleen V. Bennett
J. Christopher Stagg
Barbara L. Wiard
Thomas P. Wittman

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:
Mark G. Fratrack

CLERK/TREASURER:
Vanessa N. Chisholm

1. CALL TO ORDER & NOTICE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Village of Taos Ski Valley Council was called to order by Mayor King at 2:00 p.m. The notice of the meeting was properly posted.

2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW GOVERNING BODY AND ROLL CALL

Vanessa Chisholm, Clerk/Treasurer, reported there were 31 voters for the Municipal Election held on March 4, 2014. The results for the unopposed incumbents were:

Mayor: Neal King, 30 votes

Councilor: Kathy Bennett, 30 votes; Chris Stagg, 31 votes

Chisholm called the roll and a quorum was present.

Governing body present were:

Mayor Neal King
Mayor Pro Tem Barbara Wiard
Councilor Kathy Bennett
Councilor Chris Stagg
Councilor Tom Wittman

Staff present were:

Village Administrator Mark Fratrack
Village Clerk/Treasurer Vanessa Chisholm
Public Works Director Raymond Keen
Community Development Director Don Schieber
Public Safety Director David Wallace
Village Attorney Dennis Romero

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Councilor Wiard requested that Item 12 B. under Old Business be moved to follow the Financial Reports.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as amended

Motion: Councilor Wittman **Second:** Councilor Wiard **Passed:** 4-0

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2014 VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the February 4, 2014 Village Council Meeting as submitted.

Motion: Councilor Wittman **Second:** Councilor Bennett **Passed:** 4-0.

5. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM AND APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

MOTION: To affirm Vanessa Chisholm as Village Clerk/Treasurer and David Wallace as Police Chief and Accept the Names of the Persons Employed by the Municipality

Motion: Councilor Bennett **Second:** Councilor Wittman **Passed:** 4-0

MOTION: To approve Councilor Wiard continue as Mayor Pro Tem

Motion: Councilor Wittman **Second:** Councilor Stagg **Passed:** 4-0

6. CITIZENS FORUM

No one spoke.

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Clerk/Treasurer Chisholm a Profit and Loss yearly comparison report. There were no questions from the Council. Chisholm reported that the GRT continues to be down from this time last year. Lodgers' Tax is about the same.

12. OLD BUSINESS

B. Consideration to Approve Resolution #2014-262, a resolution to strongly urge the U.S. Congress to pass legislation that levies an annually increasing revenue-neutral fee on the carbon in fossil fuels at the point of production and importation

Heidi Topp Brooks and Bill Brown gave presentations regarding climate change. Discussion was held and questions addressed. Councilors Wittman and Bennett expressed their concerns.

MOTION: To approve Resolution #2014-262

Motion: Councilor Bennett **Second:** Councilor Wittman **Failed:** 0-4

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning and Zoning Commission

Councilor Wittman reported on the March 3, 2014 P&Z Commission meeting. 80 to 100 people attended the meeting. The TSV, Inc. plan for improvements to the Village base area was presented. There were questions from the audience and discussion.

A public hearing was opened by Commissioner Wittman. Fifteen people spoke in favor of the plans and no one spoke against it. The conditional use permit was approved unanimously, with Chris Stagg recusing himself due to conflict of interests.

Administrator Fratrack reported that Peter Talty (Louis Bacon representative) expressed his appreciation for working with the Village staff, especially Don Schieber and John Miller. This summer there will be 40-60 construction workers on the TSV, Inc. project, with 150 or more next summer. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 31, 2014, at 1:00 p.m., at the Edelweiss Lodge and Spa Club Room.

B. Public Safety Committee

Councilor Bennett reported on the February 26, 2014 and March 10, 2014 meetings. The primary topic was the Firewise Community; formation of its Board of Directors, a proposed siren system, and educational materials available at the Village's Firewise Education Days. Only one response was received to the mass mailing sent to every property owner about the Firewise Community. A solution needs to be found for the Forest Service restrictions on the slash pile and burning. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, 2014.

C. Parks and Recreation Committee

Kerry Pattison gave an update on the Parks and Recreation Committee activities. Directional signage to and from Williams Lake and other signage have been installed. J.R. Trail benches have been refinished. Current bear proof containers will be switched out for better ones. The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2014 at the Bavarian at 2:00 p.m.

D. Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board

No report.

E. Committee Appointments

Mayor King recommended Susie Fiore be appointed to the Parks and Recreation Committee and Jim Woodard to the Public Safety Committee.

MOTION: To approve the appointments of Susie Fiore and Jim Woodard

Motion: Councilor Wiard **Second:** Councilor Wittman **Passed:** 4-0

9. REGIONAL AND STATE REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem Wiard reported on the February, 27, 2014 Taos Regional Landfill Board meeting. Souder, Miller and Associates, Landfill Board consultants gave an update on the permit modification process and timeline. There will be a Public Hearing in May or June. Cells 3b and 4 are being planned. An article and ad for public education on covered loads was reviewed. Tipping fee increases, schedule of days and hours of operation, and gravel rates were introduced for discussion prior to the budget process. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, 2014. The IGC did not meet in February and will also meet on March 20, 2014. Councilor Wiard also attended the NMML Legislative Reception, Municipal Day at the Legislature, and the NMML Board Meeting. She expressed her appreciation to Ann Wooldridge for all of her work behind the scenes for the March municipal election. The 2014 legislative session ended on February 20. The Governor has until March 12 to act on legislation. Future meetings include NMML District 2, NCNMEDD, and the DWI Grant Council.

10. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor King presented certificates of appreciation to Sheila Duffy, Holly Burger, and Barb Wiard for their work and dedication to the March 4 Municipality Elections. These judges worked from before 7 a.m. until after 8 p.m.

11. STAFF REPORTS

Administrator Fratrack gave updates on several topics:

- Met with the USFS about the Townsite Act. The Village was directed to either work through the local office or through the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness Act on the federal level. While Fratrack did not feel the meeting was productive, another meeting is scheduled for March 14. The congressional delegates are being asked for support.
- Mayor King and Administrator Fratrack wrote a letter to the New Mexico congressional representatives regarding the event that took place on February 22, 2014 in the Village base area involving the USFS law enforcement. Councilor Bennett sent an email to Senator Udall. Udall's representative telephoned and said that if it happened again to please call them immediately. The Forest Service has apologized for the harsh behavior.
- The van will be used by TSV, Inc. for the rest of the ski season. The Village would like an MOU.
- Eight companies responded to the RFP for the Village engineering contract. Four firms are being considered and will be doing their presentations on March 13 and 18.
- There were concerns about the water flow from the Phoenix Spring. A major leak was found and the water flow is improving.
- The budget planning process has begun with Fratrack meeting with the department heads.
- TSV, Inc. will have a meeting with Kit Carson officials on March 7 regarding the proposed multi-utility trench up the canyon.

Director Wallace reported on the scheduled May 15 meeting with the Insurance Services Office (ISO) representatives, who determine insurance fire ratings. The VTSV fire department currently has an eight rating, with ten being the worst. This figure is rated on 50% fire department, 40% water, and 10% communications. The Village has no control over communications. Wallace thanked Officer Ramey Stevens for a good job on winching a bus back on the road. Sheila Duffy wrote a nice thank you letter for Public Works employee, Barry Ireland's, help when her car was stuck.

Attorney Romero met with the Village Law Enforcement Department personnel to discuss the Fourth Amendment, illegal seizures, and other subjects.

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Consideration to Approve Resolution #2014-260, a resolution regarding designation as a Firewise Community**

The formation of a Firewise Community Board of Directors was approved by the Council in February. Attorney Romero prepared a resolution regarding the designation as a Firewise Community and the formation of a Firewise Community Board of Directors.

MOTION: To approve Resolution #2014-260, regarding designation as a Firewise Community and for the formation of a Firewise Board of Directors

Motion: Councilor Wittman **Second:** Councilor Stagg **Passed:** 4-0

Mayor King appointed Councilor Bennett as Chairman of the Firewise Community Board of Directors.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration to Approve Resolution #2014-261, a resolution requesting a permanent budget adjustment.

The Village rescue truck was unable to respond to a recent motor vehicle crash requiring extrication due to the underpowered motor in cold weather. This was the first wintertime extrication request for response. Director Wallace presented information and costs on proposed improvements including replacement of the gasoline engine with a Cummins diesel engine that has both the low-end torque and horsepower to get the vehicle to any scene as needed. The cost of \$9,700.00 is much less than the purchase of a different and smaller vehicle. The funds will come from the Fire Impact Fees.

MOTION: To approve Resolution #2014-251, a resolution requesting a permanent budget adjustment for the allocation of funds for improvements to the Village rescue truck in the amount of \$10,000.

Motion: Councilor Stagg **Second:** Councilor Wittman **Passed:** 4-0

B. Consideration to Approve a Collections Correction – Unit 2 Streamside Suites Trash Fee

Per previous annual audits, Council approval is required to write off past due billing balances. The account in question is Unit 2 at the Streamside Suites. The foreclosure and resale of this unit resulted in the new owners not being held responsible for the back payment of the trash bill in the amount of \$197.50.

MOTION: To approve a collections correction of \$197.50

Motion: Councilor Wiard **Second:** Councilor Wittman **Passed:** 4-0

C. PUBLIC HEARING: Consideration to approve Liquor License Application #704/899386, Rio Hondo H&R, Inc., dba Rhoda's Restaurant and the Martini Tree Bar, transfer of ownership of a liquor license

Mayor King opened the Public Hearing. No one spoke for or against the transfer of ownership of the liquor license from TSV, Inc. to Rio Hondo H&R, Inc. for Rhoda's Restaurant and the Martini Tree Bar. Mayor King closed the Public Hearing.

MOTION: To approve the application for a transfer of ownership of liquor license application #704/899386, Rio Hondo H & R, Inc. dba Rhoda's Restaurant and the Martini Tree Bar

Motion: Councilor Wittman **Second:** Councilor Wiard **Passed:** 4-0

13. MISCELLANEOUS:

None.

14. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL.

The Village Council Annual Budget Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Edelweiss Lodge and Spa Club Room. The Village Council Meeting is also scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2014, at 2:00 p.m. at the Edelweiss Lodge and Spa Club Room. For future scheduling, the May Village Council Meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2014, at 2:00 p.m. at the Edelweiss Lodge and Spa Club Room.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Councilor Bennett

Second: Councilor Wiard

Passed: 4-0.

Neal King, Mayor

Vanessa Chisholm, Village Clerk