



VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE
TAOS SKI VALLEY, NEW MEXICO
FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025 1:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTICE OF MEETING

The regular meeting of the Village of Taos Ski Valley Council was called to order by Mayor Chris Stanek at 1:00 pm. The meeting was properly noticed.

2. ROLL CALL

Marlene Salazar, Acting Village Clerk, called the roll and quorum was present.

Governing Body Present:

Mayor Chris Stanek

Councilor Henry Caldwell

Councilor Chris Stagg

Councilor Tom Wittman

Not Present:

Councilor Doug Turner

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

DISCUSSION: Councilor Wittman made the motion and amended the agenda requesting item 12.B Consideration to approve **Ordinance 2025-002- AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING OVERNIGHT PARKING OR CAMPING ON OR IN MUNICIPAL PROPERTY, PARKS, TRAILS, EASEMENTS, RIGHT-OF-WAY, AND MUNICIPAL PARKING LOTS; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS; ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION; REPEALING PRIOR INCONSISTANT ORDINANCE, be removed from the agenda.**

Mayor Stanek commented that it's a good idea to postpone this Ordinance at this time. The Village has received a lot of public interest, and the Village would like to take all interest, comments, and suggestions into consideration.

MOTION: Councilor Wittman **SECOND:** Councilor Stagg **PASSED:** 3-0

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2025, REGULAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING AND MARCH 5, 2025 SPECIAL VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

MOTION: Councilor Wittman **SECOND:** Councilor Stagg **PASSED:** 3-0

5. A. CITIZEN'S FORUM –for non-agenda items only. Limit to 5 minutes per person (please email msalazar@vtsv.org to sign up)

Citizen Christoff Brownell stated he received a notification letter from the US Postal Service requesting confirmation of physical address and would like to get information as to whom should be contacted from the Village Office for this request to be processed in order to obtain a new mailbox in the new Post Office located on 9 Firehouse Rd. Mr. Brownell also suggested that the Village hold Village Council meetings in person again. Mr. Brownell spoke on Ordinance 2025-002, stating the Ordinance is complicated because there are no Village parking lots to allow citizens to park in already.

In Mr. Brownell's view the issue is overcrowding of the Hiker Parking Lot and suggests that discussion is made with the US Forest Service or TSVI on land use in order to expand the parking lot.

B. CITIZEN'S FORUM - Public comment on agenda items. Limit of 5 minutes per person. This is an opportunity for the public to comment on items appearing on the meeting agenda, except for Public Hearing items. Subsequent public comments by persons not directly affected will generally be permitted only at the discretion of the presiding officer during discussion of agenda items by and among the Council members and persons and entities who are directly affected.

Mr. Charlie Rafferty commented in regard to proposed Ordinance 2025-002. Mr. Rafferty stated that as an avid camper and hiker he would like to suggest a Trail Register be used rather than having to obtain a permit. Mr. Rafferty suggested that by using a Trail Register noting your license plate number, how long you will be gone, how many people are with you, and where you are going should be sufficient information in case of an emergency.

Mr. Rob McCormack commented in regard to proposed Ordinance 2025-002. Mr. McCormack stated that overnight parking is necessary for avid hikers and feels this Ordinance is designed to limit access to hikers. Mr. McCormack suggests what is needed is additional patrol and use of a Trail Register in case of emergencies.

Mr. Daniel Weeks commented in regard to proposed Ordinance 2025-002. Mr. Weeks thanked the Mayor and Village Council for postponing approval of proposed Ordinance 2025-002. Mr. Weeks expressed his concern about prohibiting overnight camping due to vandalism, defecation, and public safety concerns. Mr. Weeks suggest the Village gather community wide input before making a permanent decision, and as a member of the Taos Mountain Alliance he would like to join in the effort to create a solution.

Mr. John Russell commented in regard to proposed Ordinance 2025-002. Mr. Russell thanked the Mayor and Village Council for the opportunity to speak regarding the overnight parking issue. Mr. Russell feels this Ordinance is an attempt to limit access to the National Forest near the Village of Taos Ski Valley. Mr. Russell suggests a kiosk be used to obtain license plate information in case of emergencies rather than having to obtain a permit and asked that the Village reconsider the parking ban and do not approve it.

Mr. John Castillo commented in regard to proposed Ordinance 2025-002. Mr. Castillo thanked the Mayor and Village Council for the opportunity to speak. Mr. Castillo stated that after reading the minutes for the February 21, 2025 Village Council meeting, he understands that multiple parties were involved in creating the proposed Ordinance. The parties included TSVI, US Forest Service, VTSV and Taos Land & Cattle Assoc. The items discussed included Twining Road and overuse issues in Hiker Parking. Mr. Castillo would like to inquire what the interest of the parties was and how they are affected, and what is it in their interest to prohibit overnight parking and camping that would require a permit.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning & Zoning Commission: Commission Chair Wittman reported a meeting was held on March 3, 2025 at 1:00 pm. Discussion included input regarding P&Z Commission Membership and continuance, The Community Development & Planning Position, Designation of Village Administrator as the Code Official/Code Enforcer, Updating the Village Comprehensive plan, and discussion of the two current Ordinances 2025-001 Event Permits and 2025-002 Overnight Parking. The next meeting of the P&Z Commission will be held April 7, 2025 at 1:00 pm.

B. Public Safety Committee: Committee Chair Caldwell reported a meeting was held on February 3, 2025, at 10:00 am. Items of discussion included procuring new water meter utility billing

and replacing meters. The recycling program was discussed and how different items will be conjoined with the State and TSVI. Village Roads and Kachina Park were discussed, all ATVs are required to stay on Village Roads, No off-road riding. NM DOT has put a no passing sign up as you descend from the Village onto the main road HWY 150. Maintenance on the Gondo Lita crossing on Ernie Blake Road was discussed, regarding graveling and keeping the crossing safe for public crossing with the ongoing St. Bernard construction.

C. Firewise Community Board: Committee Chair Caldwell reported discussion included the KCEC microgrid and battery project. Committee members Woodard & Thomas spoke to NM Gas Company (Chris Baca) regarding extending gas lines in the Village and what the requirements are. Discussion regarding the burn piles on Hwy 150 and what the plan is due to the dry weather conditions. The next meeting will be held April 7, 2025 at 10:00 am.

D. Parks & Recreation Committee: Committee Chair Woodard reported a meeting was held on February 25, 2025 at 10:00 am. The Committee is seeking and encouraging new membership. The application if you are interested is on the Village Website www.vtsv.org Discussion with the Chamber, VTSV and The Enchanted Circle Trails Assoc regarding developing and posting of a comprehensive trails, parks and open space plan within the Village. The annual Spring Clean Up Day will be held on Tuesday May 27, 2025 at 9:00 am. Summer preparation will include the annual repair and improvements of Hiker Parking area Vault Toilet. The next meeting will be held on March 25, 2025 at 10:00 am.

E. Lodger's Tax Advisory Board: Board Member Stagg reported no meeting was held. Board Member Stagg reported a Lodgers Tax meeting time and date are currently being discussed. The meeting will be held before the Village Council Budget Workshop in April 2025.

7.REGIONAL REPORTS: Village Administrator Rick Bellis stated all information is included in the meeting packet. Administrator Bellis reported The Regional Landfill 5-year rate analysis has been reported with a 20% increase. Village Administrator Bellis and Finance Director Griesedieck will make sure this is in the budget for FY 25-26. The RFP to operate the Landfill is almost complete, and the Recycling proposal with TSVI regarding an 8-million-dollar Capital Outlay Appropriation is waiting to be passed at the Governors Office.

8. MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Stanek gave kudos to Administrator Rick Bellis on the handling of the Recycling Project and has no further reports.

9. ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF REPORT: Administrator Rick Bellis referred to VTSV Staff Member Robert Wooldridge who addressed the Post Office Address Verification inquiry. Mr. Wooldridge reported there are two surveys on the Village website www.vtsv.org . One is for Fire and EMS, in which the Village is requesting residents to update emergency contact information in case of emergencies and the other is for the new Post Office Address Verification letter being sent out. Once the address verification questionnaire is filled out it will automatically be sent to Mr. Wooldridge. Once Mr. Wooldridge verifies the information and requirements are met, a verification letter will be sent back to the resident.

10. FINANCE REPORT: Finance Director Griesedieck stated all information is in the Village Council Meeting Packet. Director Griesedieck reported the budget numbers are decreasing for FY 25-26 compared to the previous year. A smaller beginning balance of funds is reported for FY 25-26, and this will affect all budgets. This item will further be discussed in the Village Budget Workshop to be scheduled in April 2025. The Interim Budget needs to be submitted to DFA by June 1, 2025, and will be presented at the Regular Village Council Meeting held on May 16, 2025.

11. CONSENT AGENDA- This item is placed on the agenda so that the Governing Body, by unanimous consent, can designate those routine agenda items that they wish to be approved or acknowledged by one motion. If any proposal does not meet with the approval of all Governing Body members, or if a citizen so requests, that item will be heard when reached under the regular agenda.

A. Consideration to Approve **Resolution No. 2025-14**, a Resolution to accept the first amendment for time extension of the FY24 NM DOT Municipal Arterial Program (MAP) Cooperative Agreement L500564.

B. Consideration to Approve **Resolution No. 2025-15**, a Resolution to accept the second amendment for time extension of the FY23 NM DOT Municipal Arterial Program (MAP) Cooperative Agreement L500522.

MOTION: Councilor Stagg **SECOND:** Councilor Wittman **PASSED:** 3-0

12. OLD BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC HEARING: Consideration to approve **Ordinance 2025-001:** AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A REQUIREMENT FOR AN EVENT PERMIT, PROVIDING FOR A PERMIT FEE, ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL, ESTABLISHING PENALITIES FOR VIOLATION, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 10-35.

A public hearing will be held, prior to Council action, in order to allow members of the public to provide comments and ask questions with regard to the ordinance under consideration.

DISCUSSION: (No citizens spoke at this time as citizens spoke previously during the Citizens Forum above)

Councilor Stagg commented on Ordinance 2025-001 and stated it would be beneficial for some entities to submit calendar year events for early approval. If the events are annually, they can be submitted to the Village all at one time at the beginning of the calendar year. This will allow Village EMS and DPS early planning. Some events may not require a permit, but it's always a good practice to inform the Village of events so EMS and DPS are aware.

MOTION: Councilor Wittman **SECOND:** Councilor Stagg **PASSED:** 3-0

(Item Removed)

B. PUBLIC HEARING: Consideration to approve **Ordinance 2025-002:** AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING OVERNIGHT PARKING OR CAMPING ON OR IN MUNICIPAL PROPERTY, PARKS, TRAILS, EASEMENTS, RIGHT-OF-WAY, AND MUNICIPAL PARKING LOTS; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS; ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION; REPEALING PRIOR INCONSISTANT ORDINANCE.

A public hearing will be held, prior to Council action, in order to allow members of the public to provide comments and ask questions with regard to the ordinance under consideration.

13 . NEW BUSINESS: No reports

14. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Discussion, schedule date and time to host a Budget Workshop Meeting in April 2025. Recommended dates are April 22 and April 25, 2025.

DISCUSSION was held between Mayor & Councilors present on meeting dates and times.

Councilor Stagg, Councilor Wittman and Councilor Caldwell were fine with either day, Mayor Stanek preferred April 22, 2025, All suggested to check in with Councilor Turner for final date and time.

15. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION

The following matters may or may not be discussed in closed session under the NM Open Public Meetings Act under exemptions 10-15-1.H (8): meetings for the discussion of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights by a public body.

16. Report on closed session by Village Attorney.

17. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATE, TIME & PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Village Council will be the Budget Workshop Meeting (**Possibly**) on April 22, 2025 (**Time & Date TBD**) followed by the Regular Village Council meeting on April 18, 2025, at 1:00 pm via zoom.

18. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Councilor Wittman **SECOND:** Councilor Stagg **PASSED:** 3-0



Mayor Chris Stanek

Attest: 

Acting Village Clerk, Marlene Salazar