



Town Hall 551 Hot Springs Blvd
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

MINUTES

Town Council Meeting
January 21, 2025 @ 5:00 PM

A regular meeting of the Pagosa Town Council was called to order on January 21, 2025, at 5:00 PM in the Town Hall 551 Hot Springs Blvd.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Pierce, Council Member Bergon, Council Member deGraaf, Council Member DeGuise, Council Member Lindner, Council Member Martinez, and Council Member Williams

COUNCIL ABSENT:

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. DISCLOSURES AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST – Council Member Martinez said he is a member of the LPEA round up committee.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Eddie Archuleta said immigrants are moving in and bringing crime and violence. He said there should be diagonal parking on Lewis Street during church. Council Member Martinez said the emergency vehicles cannot get through with diagonal parking. There are temporary signs for Sunday services and funerals.

Ms. Sienna Hunter said she is the director at Wings ECE. She said they have used the Town's funding to increase childcare slots by 33 including 8 infant slots. She said 80% of their families receive tuition subsidies.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approval of the January 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes**
- 2. Quarterly Investment Report**
- 3. CDC 4th Quarter Report and Invoice Request**

Council Member Lindner moved to approve the consent agenda,
Council Member deGraaf seconded.

Carried.

VII. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

- 1. Sales Tax Brief**
 - a. Sales Tax Report - November 2024**

Sales tax for November received in January was up 3.1% or \$43,098 over November of 2023. Council Member deGraaf asked if 3% growth is sustainable. Town Manager Harris said the sales tax is keeping up with inflation.

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

- 1. Introduction of Chris Hansen, Chief Executive Officer of La Plata Electric Association**

Mr. Chris Hansen now serves as the Chief Executive Officer of La Plata Electric Association (LPEA), a cooperative utility based in Durango, Colorado. Mr. Hansen said LPEA is working on reducing fire risk by clearing vegetation and using drones for line inspections. Council Member deGraaf said he would appreciate the council being aware of mitigation done in the area or if opportunities for undergrounding lines are available. Council Member Williams said he would like energy audits for the Town's facilities. Council Member Martinez said the LPEA roundup funds are used for local support and more folks need to know about the roundup option. Mayor Pierce said she would like infrastructure mapping that LPEA could share with the Town. Mr. Hansen said he is happy to provide GIS files to show vintage lines. He said he is excited to see the community grow and stay ahead of the curve to provide service when customers are ready. He said new equipment is taking almost 2 years to receive and working together to get lead time is critical. Mayor Pierce said she would like to look at solar panels at the Trujillo site to offset the Town's electric costs. Mr. Hansen said he is happy to assist the Town in looking into the possibility of solar panels at that location. Council Member Williams said he would like to see a rate structure that assists with low-income customers. Mr. Hansen said they have a program to assist with low-income customers.

2. Pagosa Springs Community Development Corp Update

Ms. Emily Lashbrooke, CDC Director, provided information on the business forum results. She said the business forum brought many ideas from the business community. She said finding activities for shoulder season would assist the businesses. She said the community would like to understand the current infrastructure needs for the Town and County. She said a desperate need for housing came up several times during the business forum. She said the housing coordinator will be looking at rental assistance options. Council Member Martinez said he is on a committee that helps with rent and mortgage assistance to community members. Council Member Lindner said the ECE funding is based on new slots and underserved members. Ms. Lashbrooke said she is working with Build Pagosa to get the workforce housing center built and provide a location for training, but getting rid of the barriers for students to attend the training is another question.

Ms. Lashbrooke said the housing needs assessment should be completed at the end of February. The \$2 million infrastructure at Chris Mountain II is being installed and should be completed in August. She said the ten houses at Trails are closing at the end of January. These are at 100% AMI and below. The Phase II application has moved forward and the CDC will be working with the state for this next phase if awarded. Council Member Lindner said everyone needs to talk about these affordable houses. He said they are great quality and well-built. Council Member Williams said CDC has done a great job to keep the price down and BWD has done a great job on keeping on schedule. Ms. Lashbrooke said dealing with the State Housing Department with funding and grants, deed restrictions, and working with the holding fees for PAWSD was difficult. She said the permitting process went very smoothly. Council Member Lindner said the margins are very slim with this building project and he said this would not have happened without Ms. Lashbrooke and her dedication and ability to be nimble. Mr. Jeff Sams, Housing Coordinator, said he is working to get buyers and struggling with the high interest rates. He said he is working with developers and finding rental programs.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution 2025-01, Supporting the Submittal of a RAISE Grant Application for the Completion of the Town-to-Lakes Commuter Trail and Local Road Network Connectivity

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant application originally submitted in November has been revised to request up to \$20.5 million (originally \$17 million) towards funding the TTPL trail project. This is a no-match grant. The Town Council is very supportive of this project.

Council Member deGraaf moved to approve Resolution 2025-01, supporting the submittal of a RAISE grant application for the completion of the town to lakes commuter trail and local road network connectivity,
Council Member Lindner seconded.

Carried.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. Executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) to receive legal advice from counsel about pending water rights applications**
- 2. Executive Session pursuant to § 24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S. for the purpose of receiving legal advice regarding trespass onto Town property**

Council Member Lindner moved move to enter into executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) to receive legal advice from counsel about pending water rights applications and for the purpose of receiving legal advice regarding trespassing onto Town property, Council Member deGraaf seconded.

Carried.

Council left the regular session at 7:20 to go into executive session at 7:30 pm. Mayor Pierce called the meeting back in regular session at 8:28 pm.

- XI. PUBLIC COMMENT –** Mr. Bill Hudson said the planning commission could handle looking into the policies of a metro district.
- XII. MAYOR, COUNCIL, TOWN MANAGER COMMENTS/UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS –** Council Member Lindner said he was glad Emily Lashbrooke was here tonight to share the CDC's goings-on. Town Manager Harris said a joint Town and County meeting will be February 25th. February 19 and 20th for the strategic plan interviews, with the strategic plan session scheduled end of March or early April.
- XIII. UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS –**
 - February 4, 2025: Regular Council Meeting
 - February 18, 2025: Regular Council Meeting
 - March 4, 2025: Regular Council Meeting
 - March 18, 2025: Regular Council Meeting
- XIV. ADJOURNMENT –** Mayor Pierce adjourned the meeting at 8:32 pm.

**Shari Pierce
Mayor**