



Town Hall 551 Hot Springs Blvd
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

MINUTES

Town Council Meeting
August 5, 2025 @ 5:00 PM

A regular meeting of the Pagosa Town Council was called to order on August 5, 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, and Council Member Martinez

COUNCIL ABSENT: Council Member Williams

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. DISCLOSURES AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST – None

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Bill Hudson said not to criticize staff, but that grants are being brought to the Town Council for approval at the last minute. He said the Town Council should consider public comment on grant projects before decisions to apply for grants are made.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the July 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Council Member Lindner moved to approve the meeting minutes, Council Member deGraaf seconded.

Carried.

2. Authorizing the Town Manager to enter into an Interlocal Contract for Cooperative Purchasing with the Houston-Galveston Area Council

Town Manager Harris provided background on the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) nation-wide purchasing cooperative. This allows member agencies to purchase items that have already been put out through a competitive bidding process with a small fee.

Council Member deGraaf moved to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an Interlocal Contract for Cooperative Purchasing with the Houston-Galveston Area Council, Council Member Lindner seconded.

Carried.

VII. PROCLAMATION

1. A Proclamation regarding the Public Works Utility Division

Council Member DeGuise moved to approve the proclamation, Council Member Lindner seconded.

Carried.

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation on Flock Camera System

Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux provided council a quick update on the current fire restrictions.

Sheriff Le Roux and Pagosa Springs Chief of Police Bill Rockensock presented the Flock camera system to the Town Council. Sheriff Le Roux said the county has four cameras already in use. Sheriff Le Roux wants to collaborate with the Town of Pagosa Springs and get two more cameras added within Town limits. Sheriff Le Roux said he is working on funding for the next two years at a cost of \$5,000 per camera per year. Chief Rockensock said it is best to collaborate and said it's a great tool to add for law enforcement. Council Member Martinez asked about the use of drones. Chief Rockensock said the Police Department and the Sheriff Department have successful drone programs currently running. Council is in agreement to move forward with the Flock camera system in joint efforts with Archuleta County.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Ordinance 1014, First Reading, Calling the Coordinated Election and Setting the Ballot Language

Ordinance 1014 brings a ballot question to the Town voters in November for a 1% sales tax to support upgrades and repairs to the failing sewer system. Several public meetings were held to educate and listen to the public's concerns and questions. Staff and the Town's municipal advisor agree that a sales tax is the most efficient way to obtain the funding needed.

Attorney Bob Cole said the proposed sales tax would begin January 1, 2026, in perpetuity, and to be used for the sanitation district. The municipal code language does not include a vendor fee or any additional exemptions above what Archuleta County currently exempts. Council Member Martinez said he has presented to 270 locals to provide information and understands the dire situation the Town is in. He said there is a sense of support for this community issue. He said there are a large number of election requests on the table, and the County Commissioners and the School Board were in favor of bringing the ballot question forward. He said there is an urgency to get the sewer issues brought to the voters.

Town Manager Harris said the District should have started on this long ago, and there is an urgency to move forward. Council Member Martinez said this is an important election question, and he wants to participate in the campaign. He said he is willing to take a step back from the council in order not to cause an issue with his participation. Attorney Cole said a campaign cannot use any public funds, and Town employees cannot participate in the campaign during work hours. Mayor Pierce said she appreciates Leonard participating in the campaign and said he is a valuable asset to this issue.

Council Member deGraaf said the response rate on the survey is very low and would have liked to have more participation. Mayor Pierce said she has talked with Town residents who have said a sales tax is the way to go. Ms. Kristen Knoll with Slate Communication said online engagement for the illustrated video and promotion of June and July meetings has reached between 937 and 1,194, and the paid YouTube ad reached over 9,296 people. Council Member Bergon said she has been asked about the pipeline and the former council's decisions. She is glad to be taking a step to move forward with improving the system. Council Member DeGuise said he is in favor of moving forward.

Mr. Bill Hudson said fundraising is going to be a problem from the poorest part of our community. He said a lodging tax on the same ballot could cover \$1 million and lower the property tax. He said the County will not be building an administration building in two years. He said the ballot measures that have passed, the committees have spent months and years selling the ballot question. He said now is not the time. Mr. Greg Giehl said the sewer improvements need to be done and suggested a 2% sales tax to get it done sooner. He said there needs to be a sunset in the ballot question and it should be presented in the spring election.

Council Member DeGuise said the campaign will be fighting online comments no matter when they begin. Mayor Pierce said the bonds the GID received were supposed to fix 4s and 5s, and then the pumps at the pump station went out, and the bond money was used to fix the failing pumps. Council

Member Lindner said the urgency is meaningless if it doesn't succeed. He said more time will give an idea of what the opposition will bring up. Council Member Martinez said there is an urgency in managing the risks the GID has currently. He said the Town Council is putting the community at risk by delaying moving forward to fix the system.

Council Member DeGuise moved to approve an Ordinance 1014, First Reading, Calling the Coordinated Election and Setting the Ballot Language, Council Member Bergon seconded.

Carried.

- X.** PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Greg Giehl said Town Council needs to put in place a moratorium on new sewer connections until all repairs on the sewer system are complete.
- XI.** MAYOR, COUNCIL, TOWN MANAGER COMMENTS/UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS – Mayor Pierce said she wants to thank the Town Council for being united on the election ordinance vote.
- XII.** UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS –
- August 6, 2025: Joint Town-Tourism-County Work Session
 - August 19, 2025: Regular Council Meeting
 - August 25, 2025: Joint Town-County Board Meeting
 - September 2, 2025: Regular Council Meeting
 - September 16, 2025: Regular Council Meeting
 - September 22, 2025: Joint Town-County Work Session
- XIII.** ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Pierce adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

Shari Pierce
Mayor