



TOWN OF RICO – MARCH NEWSLETTER

Town Board Approves Rezoning the Core of the River Corridor

At the regular meeting on February 16th, 2005, the Town Board passed the final reading of an ordinance to rezone the core area of the River Corridor from Residential PUD to Public Facilities and Commercial PUD. The rezoning is intended to begin implementation of the recently revised Rico Regional Master Plan which plans for a river lodge site at the former Pro Patria mill site and Town owned park areas around this site.

The rezoning ordinance was recommended by the Planning Commission with the condition that the Master Plan be amended to include specific design guidance language for the River Lodge and a covered ice rink facility. The proposed amendments also require a public hearing by the Planning

Commission and the Town Board to review actual construction prior to final approval of any hotel or ice rink proposal.

Town Board Approves Reducing the Minimum Distance from a School for New Liquor Licenses

The Town Board approved Ordinance No. 2005-2 which reduces the minimum distance from a school for a new liquor license from 500' down to 200'. The Rico Café requested the ordinance to reduce the minimum distance so they could apply for a liquor license to sell alcoholic beverages during lunch and dinner. The Town Board passed the final version of the ordinance with the limitation that the reduced minimum distance only applies for Hotel and Restaurant licenses and not Tavern

licenses. The Rico Hotel is closer than 500' but had their liquor license before the Rico Elementary School re-opened.

Last Issue of the Town Monthly Newsletter

This is the last issue of the monthly newsletter for the Town. Eric Heil (town attorney) and Deanna Belch are starting a monthly newspaper called The Rico Bugle which will be published on the second Friday of each month. The Rico Bugle will be a free newspaper and will include other community information in addition to town government news.

Dog Licenses

If you have not purchased a license for your dog for 2005 then *please* GET YOUR DOG LICENSE!!!!!! You will need to present the Town Clerk with proof of vaccination for your canine at the time of paying for a license. The Town Marshal will begin enforcing the dog license law this month (i.e. summons to court if there is no license).

Upcoming Meetings

Town Board: Wednesday, March 16th, 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Planning Commission – Special Meeting: Tuesday, March 8th, 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Planning Commission – Regular Meeting: Tuesday, March 29th, 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Town Board – Work Session: Wednesday, March 30th, 7:00 p.m.

Board Vacancies

No vacancies currently exist on the Town Board or the Planning Commission.

Economic Region 9 has a vacancy on their loan committee board. Please contact Ed Morlan at (970) 247-9621 if you have any interest in serving on this board. Meetings are in Durango. Mileage expenses are reimbursed and lunch is provided.

The Dolores County Development Corporation currently has vacancies on the Board of Directors. Please contact Clyde Church at (970) 259-2143 if you have any interest in serving on this board.