

Editorial

Commission avoided questions about new hotel

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The P& Z meeting on May 18 was a sham. One more in a long history of bad process. The Chair of the P& Z Commission, a volunteer who should be commended for his time and efforts, consistently violated established rules of procedure in an effort to interrupt, limit and disparage comments from those who had legitimate concerns regarding the plan. He violated state open meeting rules by holding secret deliberations in the back room just before voting.

The developer and commissioners avoided questions like: Where will the water come from and will the developer have to purchase water shares as other new businesses are required to do?; What was the deal Beilis made in advance of this project coming to the P& Z department?; How high will this construction actually be when the 10+ feet of site prep fill dirt is added and the parapet of the design added in?

Answer: in violation of the 48-foot ordinance created specifically to approve this project by creating a special zone just for this purpose.

Patchwork planning creates a town like Espa-ola - lots of influence by development without regard to citizen input. Every Taose-o should be concerned about lack of integrity in government process - we are seeing far too much of this on the national and state level. Party before country, power before process, money before people - are all symptoms of corruption.

Our Town needs this hotel to provide for tourism. Most of us agree on this. The obstacle to this project is the faulty process, and secret agreements, the “push” to approve rather than ensure a solid respectful process for all proposed developments in Taos. Our town should reflect the culture and spirit of this beautiful area - to continue to attract tourists. It’s not that hard to follow a sound procedure with transparency - if the mayor requires this, if he doesn’t then it’s up to the citizens to demand solid planning with no secret deals.